

Submission
No 72

INQUIRY INTO PUPPY FARMING IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Organisation: Perreux Consulting

Date Received: 28 February 2022

Dear Select Committee Members and Jenny Leong

I would like to lodge my strong objection to the "Draft NSW Animal Welfare Code of Practice: Breeding Dogs and Cats" Bill that I believe is being brought before the NSW Parliament soon.

Having read the document, I am very concerned about the catastrophic impact the Draft will have on my partner and I should it be passed.

We are hobby breeders of French Bulldogs and fear this Bill will bring a lifetime of dedication to our breed to an end. For over 2 decades we have poured our heart and soul into developing strong and healthy bloodlines that get the balance right between confirmation to the standard and fitness.

What this law will do is exacerbate the problems it attempts to fix by driving prospective owners into the hands of an unscrupulous and dangerous black-market who do not do health checks and their unregulated litters will be unregistered and untraceable putting their very lives at risk and causing untold cost and grief for their new families.

We take our responsibility to the families of our pups very seriously and provide lifetime support, emergency housing should they have a crisis and we even make new owners sign a contract that should they want or need to surrender their dog that they specifically agree to return them to us and never to a pound or rescue.

In fact, we often pick up the pieces for people who have been scammed or heartbroken in buying a badly constructed puppy. One of our owners bought a puppy from one of these unscrupulous breeders - a puppy who had a wretched life and survived less than a year.

We are members of the ANKC and the French Bulldog Club where we are recognised breeders. We understand that brachycephalic breeds need assiduous attention to how they are constructed. Hundreds of years have been invested in how to ensure the breed is not afflicted with the health problems that can come from irresponsible breeding of brachycephalic animals.

We are not a business and we do not treat our dogs or pups as a business. We breed to enhance the conformation and health of our dogs for the show ring where we test our skills at constructing good healthy Frenchies and are proud to demonstrate that in public to others who know and understand the breed. Backyard and underground breeders have no such compunction.

We are also concerned that powers will be put into place around a "prescribed standard" where the meaning is vague.

I understand and agree that stronger action is needed to safeguard both the welfare of breeding animals as well as the progeny they produce. Where I have major concerns is that good registered breeders, with the assistance of responsible veterinarians, have been getting very good results in terms of health and welfare for decades. Putting us out of action will not decrease the demand for puppies – and that demand will be met by unregistered breeders who care little about bloodlines, constructing healthy animals or the ongoing support of the families that these little beings become part of.

Any bill should ensure that breeders like us are protected from unscrupulous puppy mills who cause the reputation of our breeds to suffer.

We adhere to and believe that the current ANKC rules and regulations hold breeders to a high standard in caring for their animals and ensure that when breeding we use the best possible science and skill to produce progeny free from inherited diseases, as well as compelling us to continue selecting traits that will give the best possible health outcomes. While we are all vulnerable to the lottery that is genetics, ethical good breeders are investing every possible effort to protect their progeny and make sure that, as much as possible, every generation is healthier than the previous one. It takes passion to do this - and if you take this passion away from the overall breeding of puppies - all that will be left is profit and this will not be the best outcome for the animals or new owners.

Don't create legislation that makes it impossible for passionate responsible hobby breeders like us to continue breeding and exhibiting our dogs.

Regards



Lloyd Grosse
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