

Submission
No 125

**INQUIRY INTO ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY IN NEW
SOUTH WALES**

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

I am writing in response to the amendment being sought to the NSW companion Animal amendment (puppy farms) bill 2021 by the Animal Justice Party.

I am a registered breeder and a member of the MDBA and have been so for the past 3 years prior to that I was a member of AAPDB. I breed purebred toy poodles for pet homes. Prior to being a poodle breeder I was a paralegal for a number of years and worked for several solicitors and also worked for an accountant. I have also run two successful businesses. I made the decision to become a full time breeder when I saw the need for ethical breeders of pet dogs after being caught by a puppy farmer. I registered with mdba because I don't want to breed show dogs just healthy pets and they gave my breeding validity and I liked their stringent requirements to ensure the dogs were bred ethically and kept in the best environment.

The amendment as I have read it, in my opinion is detrimental to good ethical breeders and really does nothing to shut down puppy farms. In the same way that the animal Justice Party party were instrumental in implementing the rspca breeder audits which in theory was an excellent idea but missed the mark by only targeting registered breeders doing the right thing as they were easy to find. The true targets simply stayed under the radar and I highly doubt many were audited and fined or shut down.

I believe the animal justice party would like to see all breeders of any animal extinguished and that they tar all breeders with the one brush as being puppy farmers and don't ever acknowledge that there are good breeders. They believe that registered breeders contribute to the amount of animals in shelters but I believe this is not the case. There are very few purebred dogs from registered breeders found in shelters or pounds as registered breeders usually take any dogs which are not able to be kept back and rehome them. They also very carefully choose the homes making sure that it will be a forever home and don't just sell to anyone.

While there are a few bad breeders, there are many more wonderful kind ethical breeders, who treat their dogs as part of their family and only want the best for them and although they breed them and sell their puppies the dogs are kept in the best environment, they register their business, pay taxes and abide by the requirements set out by their chosen breeder body. The dogs have a limited number of litters up to 4 and they are retired early at around 4 years of age. They are then desexed and rehomed or kept. The suggestion to only allow 2 litters would lead to two things, there would be many more retired breeding dogs trying to find homes which could end up in shelters and many unethical breeders would just lie about the number of litters and keep doing the same thing.

I believe all breeders who own more than 2 dogs should be required to be registered with some form of breeder body who would hold them accountable if they did the wrong thing and who could be fined as well as the breeder if they breach the code of ethics just as MDBA do. As such they would be just as responsible as the breeder if the breeder does the wrong thing so it is in their interest to ensure everything is above board and weed out unscrupulous breeders.

These stringent amendments would result in fewer registered breeders because if they run it as a business it would not be viable. While the animal justice party may think this is a win for animals. It actually isn't because there would be more backyard breeders who fly under the radar and

would continue to do so. These are the puppy's that end up in shelters, often from unhealthy parents, not DNA tested, bred poorly and are sick from the start. It would also result in less puppies being born and the demand for purebred puppies not being met which would result in higher prices and more scams.

Not every family is suited to a rehomed dog so this not an option for everyone. For whatever reason they want a particular size or breed or want a dog for the whole of its life from the time its born so choose a puppy.

In finishing, let me ask you something, do you own a dog or cat and did you buy them from an ethical registered breeder? If so then you would acknowledge the value such breeders play in the community and if you own a pet rescued from a shelter you can equally appreciate a good breeder because as a good breeder their dogs are taken back and rehomed and never or very rarely end up in a shelter. Those poor unfortunate dogs are the result of unregulated unethical backyard breeders or puppy farmers.

In assessing the amendments I ask that you consider those ethical registered breeders who play a big part of any community providing healthy pets and contributing by paying taxes and using other services such as vets and pet transport and creating employment for them. No registered breeder wants to see an unethical breeder operating and giving all breeders a bad name and worse breeding unhealthy animals. These ethical breeders should have the same basic rights as every other individual in carrying on their chosen occupation and not be subjected to constant criticism and scrutiny unless there is grounds for it.