

Submission
No 173

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 25 February 2022

Partially
Confidential

Hello, I am writing to express my concerns about the puppy farm bill for nsw. I have had a good read through this document and am really worried about some of the proposed items mentioned. I too care for animals welfare and want the best for the dog breeding industry but feel some of these points will make it impossible for legitimate honest and ethical breeders to continue breeding their much loved dogs. I believe some things need to change but i don't think that some of these points are going to achieve what you are setting out to achieve. I feel that those doing the wrong thing on their large scale puppy farm factories around Goulburn and Dubbo will continue to do so but what it will do is ruin everything people like myself have worked soo hard to achieve. I have a small breeding program and concentrate on health testing and breed puppies for service/therapy and companion homes around Australia. These rules will finish me as a breeder. I have spent the past 6 years working soo hard to build my small program to raise properly health tested quality dogs. It's not an easy task finding well bred quality dogs who are suitable as breeding prospects, soo hard infact that im currently waiting on a dog to arrive from america at a cost of 45 thousand dollars to better my program. Sadly people haven't put enough work into breeding healthy quality dogs, the lack of health testing by most 'breeders' in nsw has resulted in alot of poor quality puppies. I think we should make it stricter on things like testing to ensure only the best of the best health and temperament dogs are bred not be reduced to such minimal numbers of breeding dogs that people will continue to breed regardless of health just because their numbers have been soo restricted. There will be no genetic diversity with breeds and the idea of testing to use the best dogs will be out of the window because people will be desperate to get their 2 litters whether they were fit for the role or not. These rules will finish soo many breeding programs and the demand for these puppies will be met by the underground dodgy people you are trying to stop.

Please dont punish us. The legitimate registered and vet audited breeders who are doing the best possible job to ethically raise the beautiful puppies who fill peoples hearts or have such special jobs to do in therapy roles. Concentrate on shutting those down who are selling puppies as dodgy cashies, those who fail to health test any of their breeding dogs resulting in heart break and costly vet bills for their owners not us who pay our tax , breed only the best dogs and live for making our owners life complete. For me to find a suitable dog for breeding takes years and alot of money once we find the perfect fit a 2 litter limit will mean I have to shut down my program. It's not viable to search for, pay alot of money for, train and wait until they are of age to qualify for health testing to see whether they are 'good enough' to be breeding from to be restricted to just 2 litters. There is vet evidence that says having a few litters doesn't reduce a female dog's life or affect their health negatively. My dogs genuinely love being mums. I currently have 2 dogs in guardian homes and what a perfect arrangement that is. They dont spend their life on concrete floors like some breeders in cages, they are adored family members who sleep in humans beds and lay around in front of fireplaces. That is a fantastic alternative to a commercial set up and a life in a cage. Everyone wins with that arrangement. A family who maybe couldn't otherwise afford a dog gets a forever family member, a breeder doesn't have to kennel their dogs and the dogs live a wonderful life and still get to enjoy being mothers. They never need to experience the stress of being rehomed after they have retired from their breeding role.

Please consider us small guys when making your decisions. We are not all criminals, some of us work night and day raising these beautiful puppies to gift them to wonderful deserving families. We have put our heart and soul into doing the right thing to breed the best temperaments and healthiest dogs we can. I have vets all over the country who have waited along time to secure one of my puppies as their family pets because of the way my program is run.

Please please please dont shut us down.