

Submission
No 184

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

I have been involved with animal rescue for more than 30 years, in particular, dogs.

I have observed first hand the impacts of puppy farms, not only dogs, but cats as well. Too often dogs are bred in appalling conditions, and the life of the breeding bitch and stud dog are entirely dependant on the number of puppies born alive (and many die within a short time of birth). The amount of money received by puppy farmers is enormous and usually obtained tax free, as cash is frequently demanded for payment of the puppies.

Frequently, these puppy farms operate on large properties and if the people involved in this cruel trade are prosecuted for animal cruelty, the fines do not impact the operators, and in fact the operators simply carry on at the same place, or re-locate and it's "business as usual". We need to ban puppy farms and backyard breeders.

These operators have no concern whatsoever for the welfare of the animals. It's all about dollars.

In addition to the above, animals in NSW need laws that will:

Recognise animal sentience and the intrinsic value of animals

Stop carving out exemptions for farm animals which allow continuation of cruel practices such as:

mulesing of lambs

hot iron branding of cattle

carrying out painful procedures without mandatory pain relief

intensive confinement (such as battery cages and sow stalls)

Establish well-funded and independent compliance and enforcement regimes, free from conflicts of interest through an independent NSW Animal Welfare Authority.