

**Submission
No 22**

INQUIRY INTO PUPPY FARMING IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Organisation: World Animal Protection Australia

Date Received: 4 March 2022

The Hon. Mick Veitch MP
Committee Chair
Select Committee on Puppy Farming NSW
Via: Online Submission Portal



4 March 2022

Dear Minister,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to the Select Committee Inquiry on puppy farming in NSW. World Animal Protection supports the provisions proposed in the Companion Animals Amendment (Puppy Farms) Bill 2021. The proposed provisions would help improve animal welfare outcomes for companion animals in breeding facilities and would help advance protections for consumers who are purchasing companion animals.

Currently, there are serious animal welfare concerns that arise from breeding practices within NSW under the current legislative framework. Investigations into puppy farms have shown dogs living in squalid conditions, sometimes housing over 100 female breeding dogs at a single facility. Female dogs are often repeatedly bred from their entire lives. Puppies sold from puppy farms are often reported to become sick or are found to have behavioural or medical health issues. This is often related to the poor conditions the dogs are bred in, inbreeding, or an intentional mutilation of features with no regard to the outcome that could cause the animal. Currently, there is no cap on the number of dogs a breeder can have, or the number of litters dogs can be forced to have over their lifetime, allowing mass breeding facilities to thrive in NSW. This results in the suffering of thousands of dogs each year.

World Animal Protection supports the proposed amendments in the Bill, including requiring mandatory annual vet checks, and a check both before and after breeding. We also support the introduction of caps, with a proposed maximum of 10 breeding dogs per facility and two litters per dog. This will help reduce



overcrowding and ensure animals are not bred excessively, resulting in health complications and welfare issues.

The current framework also fails to provide consumers with transparency when they are looking to purchase a companion animal. Dogs from intensive breeding facilities can be sold online through sites such as Gumtree or private pet shops. Without the requirement for a source number or breeder number there is no way for consumers to ensure they are purchasing from a reputable breeder. We support the amendments suggested in the Bill, including the requirement that pet shops only sell dogs sourced from shelters and pounds, as well as introducing a registration system with source numbers that can be tracked for each animal. We also support the proposed provision that will require all breeders to be registered with their local council. These reforms will help provide greater transparency and oversight to consumers, ensuring they are not inadvertently purchasing dogs from low welfare breeding facilities.

We thank you again for the opportunity to provide input on this important issue. We consent to our submission being published and would like to be kept informed of the progress of this inquiry. If any further information is required, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Ben Pearson
Country Director
World Animal Protection
Australia and New Zealand