

Submission  
No 92

**INQUIRY INTO PUPPY FARMING IN NEW SOUTH  
WALES**

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially  
Confidential

I am urging NSW Parliament to support a ban on puppy farming. I have personal experience of adopting a dog who was unfortunately a victim of a puppy farm in NSW. The emotional and physical turmoil these dogs go through, and in turn what I went through, weighs heavy on my heart and I will never forget what my dog endured for as long as I live. This is becoming a huge problem and it's about time the public were educated on where their puppies come from and the Mama's they leave behind, and those in power need to take a stand and stand up to what is not right in society.

We rescued Bella from a place on the Central Coast in 2017 via Pet Rescue and had expected to attend at a rescue facility. However, what we attended was a home where the "rescuer" was breeding pugs herself. It was a dirty place, and we knew from the start that Bella would be coming home with us - she was not staying there. We were told she was 5 years old at the time, and that she was rescued from a puppy farm. As Bella could no longer have puppies, the "farm" had agreed to let her go. From numerous vet visits, we now think Bella was closer to 7 years old at the time.

It transpired that Bella had a heart murmur, an enlarged heart and severe BOAS (she was a French Bulldog). Bella's lungs were extremely scarred and she had struggled to breathe for a long time. These are all health issues that will have been passed on to her puppies. Bella's abuser clearly did not do any health checks on Bella, or simply did not care. She should have been seen by a vet as a puppy and had regular checks.

Bella was also extremely small, the "rescuer" described her as a "micro bulldog" and she will have struggled to give birth. The fact that she was constantly pregnant will have pushed her lungs up in her tiny body and put severe strain on her breathing. Bella also had an enlarged ribcage and pot-belly caused by excessive breeding. She should not have been bred and certainly not to the extent that she was. My vet was horrified at the number of scars on her stomach from the number of c-sections she endured (French Bulldogs cannot give birth naturally). She went through all of this and was not even afforded vet care. She was malnourished and dirty when we got her. In our care she blossomed into a beautiful girl and we loved her unconditionally. She finally had the life she deserved and was supposed to have from day one.

Unfortunately, we lost Bella last year due to cancer, a cancer we could not treat due to her underlying health issues explained above. This could ALL have been prevented had she been given appropriate vet care from a puppy and was not bred over and over again for nothing but greed! This made her health deteriorate. Her life mattered and she was worth more than all of the money she brought to her abuser. She spent more years of her life in a cold, barren cage being exploited pumping out litter after litter by those who were supposed to look after her, than she got to spend with us. That is not right. All because people want cute puppies, she had to endure more than half of her life in constant pain and misery.

We spent the best 4 years we had with Bella concentrating on her health and giving her all the love in the world, and fortunately we were able to pay for specialised vets on the North Shore. She knew love in the end which many poor dogs do not get to experience.

The woman we got Bella from led herself out to be a rescuer, helping dogs from puppy mills find homes. I am now told that private individuals cannot rescue puppy mill dogs. I now therefore believe that she was involved in the puppy farm business directly, or at the very least knows a lot more about these abusers than she let on. She is misleading those looking to help rescue dogs and at the same time contributing to the problem by breeding dogs herself. The fact

that this is legal in NSW is extremely disturbing. You are allowing this to happen to dogs and people.

The fact that Bella's puppies could now be enduring the same grim start as she did, and some may never have a happy ending, is something that has to stop. Puppies should not be bred on large-scale farms where the welfare and health of those dogs cannot possibly be monitored, puppies should not be sold in pet stores (thereby profiting the puppy farms), and only licensed and fully regulated breeders with strict rules and procedures in place should be able to breed dogs for limited litters. Better yet, rescue centres should be the port of call for everyone wanting to add a family member to their pack. I therefore urge the people of NSW and Parliament to follow the lead of other member states and stop puppy farming. Do not allow NSW to become the state of cruelty and inhuman practices.