

**Submission  
No 102**

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

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You see a cute as a button puppy at a pet shop, quite often with their children. You have always thought how wonderful for your children to have the same childhood experience you had of growing up and taking responsibility for a puppy.

You talk about it, look up suitable breeds, research for the latest adorable addition to your family. Now days you search online and find so many posts for the sale of that beautiful pup you have decided on and purchase one according to your criteria. Or, as in my day, make that pet shop purchase.

Only after the purchase, sometimes years later, you have your eyes opened to the most horrific facts behind that most heart warming, loving purchase you made.

The puppy farm.

In most cases puppy farming is unspeakably cruel yet it remains completely legal in New South Wales. You find the most horrific stories of the abuse that went into mass producing that adorable puppy.

We as a community, State and country, need to step up and eradicate this "industry". Victoria and Western Australia have already banned the sale of puppies in pet shops and introduced laws to combat puppy farms. Other states are set to follow. Since legislation has been passed in these other states, New South Wales has seen a surge in puppy farm applications because we are lagging behind in stopping this lucrative but cruel industry.

Recent investigations into puppy farms in New South Wales have revealed extreme cruelty and suffering of dogs. Horrific photos and stories that you can never forget are there once your eyes are opened to them. You can't stop seeing them or ignore what is going on. You have to cry for those poor females forced to breed before they are even one year old. Then the most cruel and painful deaths when things go wrong. These are heartless, heinous backyard breeders and some registered breeders, who have no empathy for these poor, defenseless, innocent and voiceless animals totally under their control.

Laws to end puppy farms should involve restricting the number of animals a breeder can have, combat secretive online sales and ban the sale of animals in pet shops. This needs to be stopped by criminalising and introducing harsh penalties that are vigorously enforced. We and our children need to be educated across the board on this industry, in a manner the children can understand, empathise with and continue to make sure it is forever banned.

Do I still love that cherished puppy, now long gone? Of course I do.

Do I now regret that puppy farm purchase, even though at the time had no idea I was contributing to a cruel industry? You bet I do.

I'm sure there are thousands of people, families, just like me out there. Maybe they still don't know. Lets make everyone aware and make sure we put a stop to unconscionable breeding for profit through the democratic process of changing the law.

Beverley Robertson