

Submission
No 106

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 24 February 2022

Partially
Confidential

Puppy farms are cruel and I want them banned.

As a long time pet owner, companion animals enrich lives and offer so much more than they ever ask for. This is why I'm writing today. They don't have a voice and cannot ask for ethical treatment in return for their loving and loyal companionship.

I'm not against the breeding of companion animals, I would just like to see the practice be completely free of cruelty, abuse, neglect, misinformation and fear-mongering as well as regulated for animal welfare above profit.

I once adopted an ex breeding dog found wandering the streets – thrown out like trash. She was highly psychologically damaged to the point she would bite if you disturbed her sleep. She was highly unsocialised and couldn't be around other dogs without showing fear aggression and screaming. She didn't live a full life expectancy due to health issues stemming from an early lack of good food and vet care.

I once passed by a pet store where I saw a small puppy in the front window in a glass cage. It was in the sun and passed out breathing heavily. It had no water or ventilation. Others had also gathered around and a small discussion of concern started. I was so concerned I went into the shop and alerted the staff. They told me that puppies just sleep a lot and that it was fine – without even going to the front of the store to check on it.

I'm also aware of organisations like Oscars Law and the Animal Justice Party regularly inform the public about the lack of regulation and the cruel practices that continue. I'm aware that the recommendations of the 2015 Joint Select Committee on Companion Animal Breeding Practices in NSW has had minimal impact and included virtually no recommendations or impact on puppy farms.

The introduction of the Domestic Animals Amendment (Puppy Farm and Pet Shops) Act 2017 (Vic) on puppy farming in Victoria, instead of prevention, has caused operators to move over the border into NSW! This is why similar laws in NSW are necessary.

In summary, I support the following restriction and rules:

- All breeders (with 3 or more breeding animals) must register with their local Council, with mandatory pre-registration and annual inspections.
- Cap of 10 breeding dogs, to prevent large scale intensive factory farming-style operations.
- Limit of 2 litters per female – this is stronger than Victoria (which has a maximum of 5 litters), but was recommended by animal welfare experts to ensure that animals have the best quality of life after they cease breeding,
- Mandatory vet checks (annually, and before and after breeding) and a minimum of 1 staff member to 5 animal ratio to ensure proper care of each animal.
- Pet shops can only sell dogs or cats sourced from pounds and shelters to ensure they can't act as 'smoke screens' for puppy farming. Many pet shops already work from this model and have proved it is still a profitable business model.
- All animals must be advertised with a 'source number' that links back to the registration system and provides transparency and oversight for the public and enforcement agencies.

Thank you for your time, consideration and action on this very important matter.

Kind regards,

