

**Submission  
No 108**

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

**Name:** Ms Catherine Jennings

**Date Received:** 24 February 2022

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Dear Madam/Sir,

It has come to my attention that there will be a Parliamentary Inquiry to investigate the issue of puppy farms in NSW.

I whole-heartedly support a total ban on puppy farming.

As a dog behavioural trainer based in Sydney, I have frequently worked with dogs whose significant behaviour problems stem from receiving insufficient or inappropriate socialisation, during the Critical Socialisation Period (CSP) (3-16 weeks). This critical period is well known in dog circles.

It is also now well known that stress hormones such as cortisol, pass through the placenta from mother to her puppies, before they're even born. Breeding bitches kept in intensive conditions with little to no environmental enrichment or socialisation have been shown to have extremely high levels of cortisol, which is of course negatively affecting the neurological development of her puppies. This can result in permanent, negative changes to the puppies' brains.

I have worked with a number of puppies who are clearly not behaving as a normal puppy should. These puppies are extremely fearful and don't "warm up" to the new person, even after 2 hours. When questioned about the origins of the puppy, the answer is inevitably "Gumtree", "online" or "pet shop". Warning bells begin to ring.

A baby puppy should be inquisitive and confidently exploring their environment, engaging with people and the surroundings and these fearful puppies are very clearly not displaying normal puppy behaviour.

The incidence of this has never been more frequent than since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Unscrupulous people have taken advantage of the sudden surge in families wanting a puppy (and the increased price for one) and are breeding without health or temperament in mind. They only want to make a buck and this is all at the expense of unwitting people who now find themselves living with a dog with sometimes serious health and behaviour issues (and the high cost of ongoing veterinary and/or behavioural support and treatment) and at the expense of the dogs themselves, some of whom are surrendered to the pound or euthanased.

A dog is a highly intelligent, social animal and not a mere toy bought on whim to entertain the kids. Breeding of dogs is a specialist area and should be regulated in every way. Breeding dogs and bitches for the pet dog market should be chosen on the basis of sound health and appropriate temperament and the puppies born and raised in family situations. And breeders should 'vet' prospective homes carefully and only sell to people who are able to provide the appropriate life for the particular breed and therefore give the dog the life he deserves.

This does not happen in the puppy farming industry and therefore puppy farming should be banned immediately.

Yours sincerely,  
Cath Jennings  
Positively Rewarding  
Pet Dog Training