

**Submission
No 114**

INQUIRY INTO PUPPY FARMING IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Jessica Fredkin
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To the Select Committee,

I am writing to implore you to institute a ban on puppy farms and puppies being sold at pet shops, as has been done in Victoria and Western Australia. Since these common sense laws were brought in, the number of applications for puppy farms in NSW have increased- it is imperative we bring in laws to prevent NSW becoming a puppy farming capital of Australia.

There are many reputable breeders who operate with the highest levels of ethics and care for the puppies and dogs they bring in to the world and who bring joy to the families that adopt them, that is not what we are talking about - puppy farms operate on a basis of neglect and cruelty - dogs starved and dumped, not given vital medical treatment because it's cheaper to just let the dog suffer or die , some dogs - just puppies themselves- used as breeding machines, forced to carry litter after litter far beyond what is safe. This practice is not the exception, but rather the rule; it is a sad fact that where making money and animal welfare intersect, many if not most people (as indicated by the sheer volume of tragic cases such as Strawberry the Bulldog) cannot be trusted to act in the way that must be demanded - that humanity demands.

I have had the fortune to work with dogs through rescue organisations, at once a fulfilling joyful experience while also tragic and sad; a confusing cacophony of emotions. Luckily, some of the dogs rescued from backyard breeding situations were able to be 'fixed', requiring mostly physical vet work and nutritious food to 'put right' what neglect has caused, others though... other dogs are forever broken... fearful, aggressive, anxious... just broken - a heartbreaking word for a heartbreaking yet entirely avoidable situation.

Legislation on this issue must be clear, practical, and easily actionable. Some simple ideas are below:

- 1) Limiting the number of animals a breeder can have
- 2) institute a permit system with checks and balances
- 3) legal continuity across the country which means backyard breeders and people with convictions of animal cruelty cannot move across the border and pick up again where they left off
- 4) support pet shops AND animals in the time of transition by providing incentives and assistance to adopt out shelter dogs rather than sell puppies from puppy farms.
- 5) combat secretive online sales

I believe these ideas could vastly improve the lives of dogs and puppies in Australia.

Backyard breeding is cruel - there is simply no way of getting around it, and we cannot look away from it any longer. As the old saying goes, animals cannot speak for themselves, so we speak for the animals. Please, I beg you, do your duty as representatives of NSW and pass laws to BAN puppy farms in New South Wales.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Jessica Fredkin