

**Submission
No 119**

INQUIRY INTO PUPPY FARMING IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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I am a long term member of a companion animal sanctuary. So many pups and pregnant mothers arrive at the sanctuary because they have either been dumped, or surrendered, many of these pups and pregnant mothers are from puppy mills/ backyard breeders and arrive with health problems, anxiety problems and are often emaciated because of lack of proper food. These types of breeders (there are many out there) do not consult Veterinarians for health checks, if pups and their mothers are ill or injured, the only priority they have is making money at the expense of the suffering of pups and mothers who are constantly pregnant without a break, no matter how ill they are. Living conditions for these pups and mothers are mostly appalling, living on concrete floors and their own excrement. The sanctuary I am a member of pays for Veterinary fees (this includes de-sexing of every animal as required), vaccinations, flea and worm treatments, food and comfortable living conditions. We have a no-kill policy (except under extreme circumstances), all pups and dogs of varying ages are nurtured and rehabilitated in the hope they will find loving forever homes no matter how long it takes. We are also a non-profit charity relying on adoptions and donations and volunteers for the wellbeing of all companion animals, our no.1 priority is the already compromised animals in care to ensure they get the best possible care.

In my local area I have personally seen 2 backyard breeders, putting the pups up for sale undesexed on gumtree. I don't need to spell out what happens to many of these pups and their mothers, unscrupulous people buy them for breeding purposes.

Unfortunately pups are sold in local pet shops from puppy mills and backyard breeders too. Nobody checks on these puppy mills and backyard breeders unless a member of the public contacts authorities about their concerns for the sake of the animals, not many people will alert authorities.

The euthanasia rate within NSW is shameful, many shelters euthanise perfectly healthy pups, juvenile and older dogs for convenience.

For too long now, the suffering of defenceless pups and dogs has been ignored, strong laws need to be introduced and acted upon in the hope that puppy mills and backyard breeders will be stamped out.

I personally have seen the horrors of defenceless pups, mothers and other dogs from puppy mills, backyard breeders, farmers and many members of the community for too many years, the Government continues to ignore their plight, this is unforgivable, no living animal deserves such shocking physical, neglect or mental abuse.