

**Submission
No 140**

INQUIRY INTO PUPPY FARMING IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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I am so pleased that a bill has been introduced by the Animal Justice Party because ‘Puppy farms’ have long operated with virtually no effective regulation across NSW. This bill could help change that.

I understand that a parliamentary inquiry into the industry will be held this month, and now is the chance for people to speak out about the awful conditions that thousands of dogs and cats – who are used as lifelong breeding machines – can be forced to endure purely for the sake of profit.

Tragically, just like any other factory farming industry, these businesses thrive on shielding the suffering that underpins their operations.

Most people are unaware that dogs and cats inside these farms are often kept in the most basic conditions that deprive them of everything that makes their life worth living.

Some investigations have uncovered dogs living in barren and putrid pens without adequate food, water, exercise, vet care, or socialisation -- their only ‘purpose’ is to produce puppies and kittens for breeders to sell.

Unlike the animals we share our homes with, they spend every waking moment without enrichment or companionship. Forced to produce litter after litter, they may be disposed of when their exhausted bodies slow down and produce fewer puppies.

The laws and regulations governing puppy and kitten farms are woefully inadequate.

There is no state-wide licensing or registration scheme in place, no minimum staffing requirement to ensure proper care, no limit on the number of litters dogs or cats are forced to have, and no qualification requirement for breeders.

Beyond the direct cruelty involved in using animals in these facilities, puppy and kitten farms contribute to the constantly growing issue of companion animal overpopulation and abandonment.

Victoria was the first state to take a stand against these large-scale breeding operations in 2017, and Western Australia followed in 2021. Although a huge win for animals within the borders of those states, many breeders simply relocated, capitalising on the lack of laws in NSW.

NSW needs to urgently follow Victoria and Western Australia’s lead. With puppy farming finally under review, I now call on the government to end intensive breeding cruelty in our state?

In summary I wish to say that companion animals deserve better protection, and there is no place for puppy farms in our community.