

**Submission
No 141**

INQUIRY INTO PUPPY FARMING IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Ms Stef Fetzter

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Please make sure that the new regulations are strong enough to shut down puppy/kitten mills for good. Penalties must be harsh enough to really serve as deterrent. Owners of puppy/kitten mills must be able to be prosecuted.

Web pages and stores who sell puppies/kittens from puppy/kitten mills need to be accountable. They need to properly and transparently trace where the animals that they sell come from. This information must be displayed in any ads and be verifiable by prospective buyers. If they sell any animals from mills, harsh penalties that deter must be applicable for whoever sells animals from puppy or kitten mills on.

Platforms like Facebook, Gumtree, etc. need to be accountable as well. If they allow sale ads for animals coming from mills, harsh penalties must apply.

There needs to be a proper definition to distinguish registered, legitimate breeders from mills. Registered breeders should have to be accredited by an animal welfare body (e.g. the RSPCA) and this body needs to perform regular UNANNOUNCED checks to make sure the registered breeder has animal welfare at their center of their operation.