

**Submission
No 143**

INQUIRY INTO PUPPY FARMING IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Ms Aruna Manandhar

Date Received: 1 March 2022

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Aruna Manandhar. 'Puppy farms' have long operated with virtually no effective regulation across NSW, and a bill introduced by the Animal Justice Party could help change that. There are 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.

Our 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.

Each year in Australia, thousands of healthy dogs and cats are euthanised in pounds and shelters, simply because there aren't enough homes for them. Consumer demand for buying companion animals rather than rescuing strengthens a market for unscrupulous operators and the cycle of suffering continues.

Kindly please protect companion animals and end intensive breeding cruelty.