

Submission
No 154

**INQUIRY INTO PUPPY FARMING IN NEW SOUTH
WALES**

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

Inquiry into Animal Welfare Policy in NSW: Submission on the Draft Animal Welfare Bill 2022

As a DogsNSW member holding a Breeders Prefix, I hereby submit my concerns regarding the ambiguity of some sections of the draft Animal Welfare Bill 2022 namely;

- a) The inaccurate classification as ‘commercial’ for DogsNSW Registered Breeders (Prefix holders).**
- b) The lack of differentiation between Puppy Farms (breeding for profit), and DogsNSW Prefix holders / Registered Breeders (breeding to preserve bloodlines & genetics).**
- c) The lack of differentiation between a licensed exhibition of animals and the activity of dog showing and dog sports.**

a) DogsNSW registered breeders fall into a different category to Puppy Farms and provision needs to be made in the new legislation to protect the important role of preservation, protection, physical monitoring and improvement of pure bred dogs that these registered breeders perform.

- 1) As a registered breeder, my **role is that of a custodian of the genetics** of a ‘threatened breed’, the Tenterfield Terrier (commonly known as the mini foxie). Developed in Australia by the early pioneers, this breed has a gene pool limited to Australia.
- 2) There are **small numbers** of DogsNSW Tenterfield Terrier breeders in NSW, with even smaller numbers in other states. These breeders **undertake genetic testing** of their dogs to ensure health is maintained in the breed whereas Puppy Farms are NOT interested in the genetic or physical health of any breed.
- 3) The number of breeding dogs required by a DogsNSW registered Breeder in order to maintain and preserve lineage of a breed would exceed the current suggested limits submitted in the Puppy Farms Bill. The number of entire dogs & bitches must be amended to allow for the preservation of bloodlines.
- 4) No profit is generated from breeding Tenterfield Terriers (or other pure breeds) to preserve bloodline. The sale of companion puppies generates funds to maintain and care for show and breeding dogs.

Recommendations:

- **An additional pedigree dog breeder category** should be formed to protect the important role that registered breeders of pure bred dogs perform. It could be named for example, ANKC Registered Breeder or DogsNSW Registered Breeder and should be managed by their state controlling body, DogsNSW.
- DogsNSW Registered Breeders should have ‘pure breed specific’ regulations, with any inspections & monitoring processes being carried out by their governing body, DogsNSW.
- Leave ANKC registered breeders to be managed by the state controlling body DogsNSW, as they already operate under strict regulations and Code of Ethics that work and where dogs are part of the family and our hobby.

b) Lack of differentiation between Puppy Farms (breeding for profit), and DogsNSW Registered Breeders (breeding to preserve lineage & genetics)

- 1) DogsNSW breeders **DO NOT condone Puppy Farming** or breeding purely for profit.
- 2) Registered Breeders **DO NOT** make a profit from breeding. Pups are sometimes ‘run on’ as part of the selection process but do not form part of the breeding stock. Puppies of companion animal quality are

sold to carefully selected pet homes. Any funds generated are used to maintain and care for breeding and show dogs.

- 3) The majority of breeding dogs are housed in the family home and pups are whelped in the home for close monitoring and socialization. Among DogsNSW breeders there is great concern about the abuse of power of inspection authorities entering homes and seizing genetically valuable bloodlines. It seems that these new legislative changes are targeting DogsNSW registered breeders who are 'soft targets' (easily identified & located).
- 4) If the concerns about the welfare of puppy farmed dogs is genuine then the focus should be on discouraging the establishment of such businesses and locating underground businesses not penalizing genuine caring breeders of pure bred dogs.

Recommendations:

- Inspections of premises to be carried out by officers of DogsNSW inspectors **NOT** by local councils or other bodies.
- DogsNSW inspectors would have better knowledge of the requirements of breeding to protect breed genetics and maintain and improve the physical health of pure bred dogs.
- Bi annual inspections could be carried out by appointment, with DogsNSW setting the penalties for any breaches of the Breeding Code of Ethics.

c) Lack of differentiation between a licensed exhibition of animals and the sport/activity of dog showing.

1) Companion animals are displayed at dog shows to be assessed by an independent judge in order to continually monitor and improve the breed. Dog shows are not a 'static' exhibit but rather a set of exercises that displays the cooperation between handler and dog.

2) Dog Shows and dog sport activities provide socialization and stimulation for pure bred dogs. These activities provide both social and emotional enrichment for both dog and their owner.

3) Other sporting activities for pure bred dogs include Agility, Obedience, Dances with Dogs & Earth dog trials. These activities develop trust and cooperation between handler and dog, and are rewarding for both.

Recommendations:

- NO new license fee imposed for dog showing and other pure bred dog activities. DogsNSW already maintains a register of pure bred dogs, and fees are payable for puppy registration and Pedigrees. Fees are also payable to host a dog show or dog sporting activity. 12 months of study into dog health, structure, care, breeding, code of ethics & legal responsibilities is required before a sitting a supervised DogsNSW exam is required before a Prefix is awarded to a DogsNSW breeder. Annual fees are payable to hold a Breeders Prefix with DogsNSW.

A failure to address the above concerns and the enforcing of a 'commercial' status for DogsNSW breeder and pure breed enthusiasts will see a sharp decline in the number of registered breeders as additional fees become prohibitive. This will create even greater demand for companion animals from puppy farms thus encouraging the establishment of more of these commercial operations.

It is my hope that changes to the Animal Welfare Bill, in particular with regards to Puppy Farming will be done in such a way as to assure a future for DogsNSW Registered Breeders and thus enhance the welfare of companion animals.

Regards,