

Submission
No 158

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 2 March 2022

Partially
Confidential

Companion Animals Amendment Puppy Farming Bill 2021

As an individual who has worked in pharmaceuticals, retail, and pet related services within the companion animal pet industry for 20 years and a Dogs NSW Registered Dog Breeder for 8 years and an active committee member of my breed club. I acknowledge that action against puppy farming is needed, however to at the cost of respected and responsible breeder. I welcome the opportunity to make this submission AGAINST Companion Animals Amendment Puppy Farming Bill 2021 for the following reasons I will outline below.

61D.2. Meaning of “companion animal business” & 61E.2 Meaning of “companion animal breeding business”

In this section—

dog means a dog other than a registered greyhound.

1. Dogs NSW as an organisation will audit its members and sets strict guideless via a code of ethics, I recommend a change to:

In this section –

dog means a dog other than a registered greyhound or Registered DOGS NSW Breeder’s dog.

61ZC Proprietors of companion animal breeding businesses must not have more than 10 fertile female dogs or cats

2. Further clarification around visiting or temporary stay of fertile bitches. When attending Dog Shows within NSW it is not uncommon for me to travel with 4-6 fertile bitches and stay for up to two (2) weeks at fellow breeder's home which could impose on a friends' hospitality it could cost them 1,000 penalty units or imprisonment for 2 years, or both.

61ZG Proprietors of companion animal breeding businesses must ensure ratio of staff to companion animals kept on registered premises.

3. A staffing ratio 1 adult to 5 dogs is ludicrous, this would completely wipe out any person’s ability to breed dogs as a hobby and maintain employment to pay for their dogs' upkeep. This will also make services such as veterinary, grooming, boarding and day-care also financially unaffordable due to increased wage costs. This ratio is also far greater than what is required for day-care and in special need schools and regular schools.

61ZK Proprietors of companion animal breeding businesses must comply with certain requirements to cease breeding and retire and rehome dogs and cats

4. As a Dogs NSW Registered Breeder who campaigns and shows a small breed. It is not uncommon for me to allow my fertile females to have their first litter at 3 or 4 years of age. We breed only a few puppies 2-3 pups in a litter, of which is we are lucky if we will have 1 suitable pup from that litter to keep and show, which enables us to continue exhibiting our dogs.

On occasion, if the Dam is a wonderful mother and healthy, we may have three or four litters under veterinary approval and in accordance with our strict Dogs NSW Code of Practice. This will ensure our breed's ongoing history and maintain a healthy gene pool. If breeders are limited to 2 litters, we will see a decline in healthy breeding aged specimens, resulting in more inbreeding and a weaker gene pool.

5. In my breed, it is not uncommon for them to live to 20 years old. At 6-year-old male is considered young and in their prime and a very willing participant when offered at standing. I have used very healthy happy 12-year-old dogs which still have a lot to offer, often exceptional

males like this are in forever homes with their breeder and serve as a very loved companion pet also.

Division 3 Powers relating to companion animal businesses

69J Enforcement officers to have the functions of authorised officers

69K Enforcement officers may issue compliance notices and enter property

6. The term 'Enforcement Officer' is far too broad, there appears to be no defined qualification. There is no standardised industry training including background checks to ensure a person has no 'conflicts of interest' in enforcement of their duties to ensure they have no political affiliations and/or affiliations to any Animal Rights groups, have suitable conflict resolution and communication skills, have a suitable veterinary background to be able to assess the animals appropriately and are of a stable mindset.

7. At present, 'Enforcement Officers' are able to interpret their own definitions from the code, are poorly qualified and are not answerable to any oversight committee in the engagement of their duties.

8. There are no repercussions for enforcement officers who lie or exaggerate claims to justify entering my private residence and seizing animals and / or possessions which 'Enforcement Officers' deem as evidence.

In conclusion, being a registered Dogs NSW breeder and an active committee member of my breed club, I am accountable to my peers, as am I to them. We health test, study pedigrees, import a new breeding line, train, and socialise our dogs, so they are comfortable in public settings. All this can allow us to compete in sporting activities with our dogs. We advocate for our breed, and we help each other to become better by advocating better practices. We ALL CONDONE PUPPY FARMS. Our dogs are our world. We are the ones with the knowledge, history and experience. We should be the ones who set the quotas.

This Bill, if approved, will have a massive consequence for owning companion animals, resulting in legitimate, caring, ethical breeders to quit breeding dogs all together. Enabling flashy 'commercial business' to flourish where buyers 'add to cart' their next puppy. Rather than going through a screened process from an experienced, dedicated Registered Breeder.

Prices will become a premium, where owning a companion animal is a luxury item, unobtainable to the average person. Thus, encouraging the 'Puppy Farmers' to set up underground breeding facilities where no vet attention would be provided to evade getting caught, attracted by ludicrous prices and easy money given by desperate unknowing to-be pet owners.

We need to educate the buyers and push responsible pet ownership and teach buyers who to obtain a puppy through trusted, ethical breeders. That clicking 'add to cart' is not the way to shop for a living companion animal.

If Companion Animals Amendment Puppy Farming Bill 2021 is approved and the breeding of Dogs and Cats is reduced significantly due to cause and effect. What would the government do with the shrinking \$12.2 billion a year pet industry, and 13,465 veterinarians, 4000 pet groomers no longer required in these roles? I have worked in the Pet Industry since I was 16 years old, I am not impressed that this Bill would threaten my livelihood, based on the false precedence of ending Puppy Farms. I am an Ethical Breeder, I am NOT a PUPPY FARM and my hobby should NOT be criminalised.