

Submission  
No 170

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially  
Confidential

## I STRONGLY OBJECT TO 'COMPANION ANIMAL AMENDMENT PUPPY FARMING BILL'

I am a dog breeder, so I will speak from a dog breeder's perspective, but feel that cat breeding is totally a duplication of what we do in dog breeding.

I have been a breeder of Labrador Retrievers for 22 years. From 2002 to 2012 I bred puppies for Guide Dogs NSW/ACT and was considered an ethical breeder by Guide Dogs. The reason for the Ethical Breeder Status is one where the whole picture is analysed, firstly the dam and sire, suitability as parents, their non relationship, importantly their hip and elbow scores and DNA testing, eye testing etc. All of these things are always addressed including the general health of the two dogs involved.

I feel the whole of this bill is just doubling up of what is in place with Dogs NSW already (in short bea racy), and giving overloaded Councils further demanding operations to carryout. All of the proposed new laws are already carried out by Dogs NSW in their membership regulatory requirements (all this policy is already covered and regulated by this organisation with realistic requirements, not those stated in this bill)

I feel with female dogs only allowed two litter (currently regulated at five with Dogs NSW), the cost of a pedigree dog will go to \$20,000. No family can afford this type of money for a pet. With so few puppies born this will be the result. 2 litters instead of 5 is a 60% reduction in available puppies this will only aid the breeders in for the cash from non ethical, non registered breeders!

You do realise that almost all members of the Dog Breeding Organisations are individuals who have an interest in the betterment of their breed, they also involved in show circuit, or obedience, agility, and many other arms of Dog Organisations.

In my case I was just interested in breeding and the betterment of my chosen breed, and the satisfaction of my puppies being trained to guide a blind person, the satisfaction of seeing a puppy go to a loving family, the satisfaction of seeing a child with a new puppy and the impact of that puppy on that child's development into an adult, caring and sharing special fond times with their family dog. In 99 percent of cases these dogs are part of your own family, you nurture these animals like your own family. You tend to their health, exercise, grooming, food etc as you do your own children.

When I started breeding 22 years ago the breed average for Labrador Retrievers in hip dysplasia, was 13.4, in that time with careful genetic selection, the breed average is now around 9, my current female Labrador is 2!. (the lower the number the better). All that has come by careful selection of males with my females over 22 years. This is for the betterment of the breed resulting in far less major health issues for my lineage of dogs, something to be very proud of. In my 20 years we have also seen the introduction of DNA testing, an example being EIC (exercise Induced Collapse) DNA test become available some years back, this problem has been eradicated from my strain as a result. A small price to pay to check on the suitability of that new puppy as a breeding female. So my point is we are already responsible breeders currently governed by Dog Organisations which we have to answer to already with checks in place.'

THIS BILL IS OVER LEGISLATING AN AREA THAT IS ALREADY CONTROLLED BY RELEVANT ORGANISATIONS and there will be very limited ethical dogs available to families in time to come. This legislation also seems to me to pertain to registered breeders, what about the backyard dog, belonging to people as pets, these pets will still breed unaware of these laws, these pets will not be hip scored or DNA tested and in time the quality of these dogs will reduce and be 'unhealthy' compared to our current system of responsible breeders of families purchasing pedigree dogs.

I understand the wish by some to restrict the breeding of poor quality pets for profit, however DON'T PENALISE the ethical / responsible people. I would like to point out that rules/regulations won't stop unethical breeders, or two dogs breeding for the sake of it.

This new bill is problematic as it stands and should NOT be passed into law in this format, it is far too severe. Let the current laws of RSPCA be enforced on people who do the wrong thing in animal care.

Happy to answer any questions you may have