

**Submission  
No 178**

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

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I would like to lodge a personal submission in relation to the upcoming parliamentary enquiry into puppy farms. I am writing to you today to add my voice and concerns towards the current lax laws in NSW surrounding the handling and treatment of companion animals that are bred for sale in this state.

Thought the term "puppy farm" conjures up images of "free range" puppies bounding and rolling around playfully on verdant green pastures under a blue sky dotted with fluffy white clouds, then being lovingly adopted by caring people who come to the 'farm' to 'pick' a fresh puppy from the patch for a happy ever after....nothing could be further from the truth.

For too long the atrocities and wilful neglect of cats and dogs in these breeding "farms" has been allowed to continue unchecked and unabated, all the while thousands of cats and dogs lose their lives in animal shelters all across Australia. And it is not because these animals in the shelters are unable to be re-homed because of temperament issues (though this does occur in a small percentage of cases), but it is because these animal welfare organisations (in spite of their best efforts with advertising themselves), are competing directly with pet stores and 'puppy farmers' in their efforts to find forever homes for these once loved but now abandoned animals (one wonders how many of these abandoned animals came from these horrendous "farms" in the first place!).

If an individual wishes to adopt a cat or dog of a specific breed, then that is their prerogative to do so, going through reputable breeders with full checks and certifications, that include limits to the number of litters and animal can have, and a retirement plan for the animal when its breeding days are over (just to mention a few key elements).

If an individual wishes to expand their family by adopting a companion animal, then they should go to an animal shelter in the first instance. However, many of these shelters are not near metropolitan areas due to size, and are not easily accessible to many (hereby missing our on a big market share). These shelters should be supported by pet shops in their efforts to find forever homes for the animals surrendered to them.

If pet shop owners really do care about animals, then this should be a logical partnership (the only partnership) they should have if they wish to have animals for sale/adoption in their stores, and I give my voice and support to this as a workable and ethical, solution to one of the problems we face in this state.

As for the other issue of puppy "farming" - it should be banned once and for all. All reputable breeders look after and care for their animals; they are registered and certified, and give their animals proper care and attention.

Anyone who has had a dog or a cat in their lives knows how funny, how special, how loving, how individual, and how naughty they can be - all reasons why we love them. So knowing this about them - why would we, in all good consciousness, allow them to be treated the way they have been in these 'animal horror factories', when irrefutable evidence has come to light regarding the horrendous living and health (and mental health!) conditions that they have been subjected to in these so named "puppy mills." If animals were found to be kept in the same conditions in a residential arrangement – there would be swift fines and/or jail time for animal cruelty...we need to end this hypocrisy NOW.

Dogs and cats are sensitive, intelligent beings who deserve better – so much better, and I believe that NSW can be a leader in this important area of animal welfare, by banning puppy "farms" once and for all.

And by initiating clearer laws and regulations regarding the sale of animals in pet stores, banning sale of pets on-line, and ensuring a partnership approach with animal shelters to find forever homes for all the abandoned animals in their care. Every one of them should find their forever home.

Respectfully Yours,

N. Chonka

P.S. In reviewing my records in preparation for this submission, I discovered (to my dismay) that I had lodged a submission on this very issue, way back in June 2015.

All these years later, all the suffering that was allowed to happen, all the anonymous deaths and the thousands of dogs and cats that never new a day of love or comfort in their lives...just brings me to a level of grief that is beyond words....all these years later and you still have not acted...Why??!