

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

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At 'best', puppy factories use dogs as breeding machines – and deprive them of the love and companionship they crave. At worst, they can be living hell for the animals confined within them. Dogs in puppy factories will never chase a ball at the park, never run on the beach and never have the opportunity to curl up on the couch at night with their human family. In puppy factories, these animals are deprived of the very thing they have evolved to crave: companionship. Investigations have revealed dogs being kept in what can only be described as 'upright tombs', denied sunlight and forced to eat, sleep and 'live' in faeces-littered cages.

Sadly, the cruelty inherent in puppy factories — lack of exercise, minimal human interaction and social enrichment — can be entirely legal. Victoria is the only state in Australia with meaningful legislation that mitigates some of the problems associated with puppy farming, however this does not prevent animals from puppy farms interstate being shipped into Victoria to be sold. While some Australian puppy factories breach cruelty laws, many others operate completely within regulations. It can be legal to keep a mother dog confined to a barren concrete cell in a shed for 23 hours a day, churning out litter after litter of puppies, and denying her everything that makes a dog's life worth living.

How many puppies come from puppy factories in Australia?

It comes as a shock to caring dog lovers to discover that many Australian puppies sold online or in pet shops were born in inhumane puppy factories.

According to the Pet Industry Association of Australia (PIAA), around 450,000 puppies are sold in Australia each year. Only around 15% of puppies are sold through breeders registered with Australia's peak companion animal breeding associations.

Approximately 15% of puppies are sold through pet shops, with the vast majority of sales occurring online. Online sales are totally unregulated. Each day sites like The Trading Post and Gumtree offer thousands of puppies for sale, with concerns that many of these puppies come from puppy factories. Why does puppy factory cruelty continue?

Puppy farmers know that caring people would be horrified to know the conditions their dogs are living in.

Selling through pet shops or online allows unscrupulous breeders to hide from unsuspecting customers where these puppies are born, and how their parents are treated. They may employ fancy websites and glossy ads of happy, healthy dogs, which couldn't be further from the truth.

What about 'registered' breeders?

Many people look for 'registered' breeders to avoid buying from puppy factories, but the term in itself is no guarantee. Current laws are inadequate and oversight of these laws is minimal.

Investigations into puppy factories have revealed that both purebred and mixed-breed dogs are victims of puppy farming. No breed or cross-breed is safe from unscrupulous breeders, which is why dogs need the community to be vigilant if inhumane puppy factories are to be stamped out.