

Submission
No 183

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

Being a small preservation and recreational breeder, I find myself extremely concerned by the Animal Justice Party's recommended Companion Animal's Amendment. They say they want to stop the puppy farms but this is not stopping puppy farms. It will only succeed in stopping the true ethical, responsible breeders from pursuing their passion. I believe that if this legislation goes through, it will be the end of pure bred dogs as we know it. Puppy farms will continue to flourish as they always have so New South Wales families will be left with poorly bred, unsocialised animals with very questionable health! This saddens me greatly!

These people, the AJP, appear to be out to destroy hundreds, if not thousands of years of the development of pure bred animals. They have no concept of what is actually involved in preservation breeding.

To limit a breeding female to only two litters before being desexed will only succeed in limiting and reducing the gene pool, encouraging more not less health issues. Breeders need genetic diversity in order to improve health and type in their breed.

To desex a healthy male breeding dog at the age of six years is totally ludicrous! In my chosen breed, a six year old fully health tested, healthy, sound stud dog is extremely valuable and should be kept in a breeding program for as long as possible in order to help improve the health of my chosen breed.

To enforce that only out crossing be allowed will fill pedigree breeds with dogs that are not true to their standard or purpose. Clearly the AJP has no understanding of anything to do with healthy breeding. Linebreeding has been practised by farmers for centuries and depends on breeding related animals and every so often breeding in unrelated animals to freshen the gene pool. Present breeders still do the same.

The AJP really need to study healthy animals who have been planned and bred by people who understand breeding and then come back with a sensible proposal like the legislation Victoria has implemented.

This proposed amendment the AJP are trying to push through is lacking in sensibility and is very poorly thought out. They are tarring all breeders with the same brush but breeders are NOT all the same!!! Until they have consulted recognised experts in the breeds they intend to affect or are qualified themselves by experience as well as education, they must at all costs be stopped!!!

I agree a clear Code Of Practice must be applied but needs to provide some differences according to the type of breeder ie micro breeder as opposed to a large commercial facility.

Victoria's companion animal legislation makes a LOT of sense and I believe New South Wales should adopt something similar. Please see below:

Micro breeders

If you own one or two fertile female cats or dogs and breed to sell you are classified as a as micro breeder.

Micro breeders do not have to register as a domestic animal (breeding) business (DAB) with their local council or comply with the Code of practice for the operation of breeding and rearing businesses 2014 (revision 2018) (Code).

Recreational breeders

If you are a member of an Applicable Organisation (such as, Dogs Victoria) with up to 10 fertile female cats or dogs and breed to sell, you are classified as a recreational breeder.

Recreational breeders do not need to register with their local council as a Domestic Animal Business (DAB) or comply with the Code. Instead, recreational breeders are required to comply with their organisation's rules and code of ethics.

Breeding domestic animal businesses

If you have between 3 and 10 fertile female dogs or cats, are not a member of an Applicable Organisation, and breed to sell, you are classified as a DAB. DABs must be registered with local council and comply with the Code of practice for the operation of breeding and rearing businesses 2014 (revision 2018).

The Code outlines minimum welfare standards for the housing and management of dogs and cats in breeding and rearing businesses.

DAB's must also comply with their council's local laws and planning laws.

Commercial dog breeders

Commercial Dog Breeder approval is required if you wish to keep more than 10 fertile female dogs on your property.

Breeders with between 11 and 50 fertile female dogs must first be registered as a DAB with their local council, after which they can apply to the Minister for Agriculture to obtain commercial dog breeder approval.

All commercial dog breeding businesses will be subject to audits and inspection by departmental authorised officers, must comply with the Code and requirements set by the DA Act and supporting regulations.

Speaking for myself, my dogs are first and foremost very much loved members of my family. Puppies are born and raised in a loving environment inside my home and offered age appropriate handling and stimulation to ensure they grow up to be confident, happy, well adjusted dogs. Mine are the type of puppies that families want. They don't want an unknown entity from a shelter that may or may not be a suitable addition to their family. It is not feasible and also not lawful to take away the general public's right to buy and own a pet of their choice.

Very few pure bred dogs, especially my breeds, end up in shelters because breeders such as myself insist that if at any time a family can no longer keep their dog, they must return it to the breeder to be rehomed. The majority of strays in shelters are of larger mostly cross bred types with an unknown history. These dogs would not be suitable pets for a lot of families; in fact, they could pose a danger in the wrong or inexperienced hands. I fully support rehoming of shelter dogs but it should not be a case of 'that is all that is available until shelters are empty'!!! The AJP CANNOT be allowed to halt all breeding of dogs! It is not only ridiculous but screams of a dictatorship!

My breeding females are bred a maximum of three times before they are desexed. My dogs do not live in kennels; they are my beloved pets so always have in and outside access to my home. Most of the Dogs NSW breeders that I know are just like me and just as passionate about their dogs. We are feeling like our rights to own, love, show case and breed our dogs is being taken from us and that our breeds will be at risk of extinction if the Animal Justice Party's Companion Animal Amendments are accepted. I thank you for taking the time to read my submission.