

Submission
No 196

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

Inquiry into Companion Animals Amendment (Puppy Farms) Bill 2021

Dear Sir/Madame,

We are grateful for the opportunity to comment on the amendment of the *Companion Animals Amendment (Puppy Farms) Bill 2021*.

Australians have shown a strong interest in Animal welfare. The report, *Australia's shifting Mindset on Farm Animal Welfare* by Futureye documents **95% of Australians** expressing their concern for farm animals. The protests at Cottesloe Beach against catch and kill Shark policies as well as the protests against horse cruelty during Melbourne Cup are all examples of Australians wanting better for animals. Animal welfare continues to grow in the interest of the Australian public and it's important our laws reflect the values we hold as a society.

We hold the position the legislation should be amended to ban the cruel practices of puppy mills and raise the standard of care for animals being bred commercially.

Upon observing the laws and practices of various other states and countries we've come up with a list of suggestions that are proven to better the standards currently in place for animals.

We've divided our suggestions into two categories:

Animals

- Ensure pet shops are able to identify the breeder every animal came from.
- Pet shops that sell commercially bred dogs to partner with animal rescue organisations to find all animals a suitable home.
- Stop the sale of animals in commercial pet shops that are bred in puppy mills.
- Proper and safe transition of animals already living in breeding mills/farms.

Conduct of Registered Breeders

- A limit on the number of animals under the care of a breeder. No more than 10 female animals and no more than 50 animals all together.
- clear definitions on the standard of living for animals that are being bred.
- A raise in the standard of living for those animals- this can no longer be cannot be the bare minimum.
- Compulsory medical and environmental checks for the animals.
- A breeding exemption for all breeder or compulsory neutering for all dogs by a minimum age such as two years old

Oscars Law

Our neighbours in Victoria have set an example to be followed. In 2017, Victoria passed the amendments to the *Domestic Animals Act* also known as **Oscars Law**. The legislation mandates the following:

- A ban on selling animals in pet stores.
- Puppy farmers to have no more than 10 females and those with more than 50 will need a special licence.
- The introduction of a pet exchange registrar.

Western Australia

Most recently, Western Australia has amended their legislation regarding puppy mills. The *Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Bill 2020* compels pet shops to work with animal rescue shelters, makes the neutering of animals that are not registered for breeding by the time they are two years old mandatory and places a requirement for an approval process for all breeders. In addition to this, the bill also introduces a centralised registration database for all cats and dogs.

It is our recommendation that NSW follow Victoria's and Western Australia's example.

Transition

We recognise the transition period to implement these laws will be a challenging process for current pet stores and breeders who will need to adjust to comply with the proposed legislations. Therefore, upon the ban of puppy mills- all animals currently placed under those conditions need to be transferred to a safe environment as a **priority**.

Better Care

Animals are sentient beings. Subjecting them to such harsh conditions is cruel to their emotional, physical and mental states. If animals are to be bred commercially, then let's make this process as ethical as possible.

We've all seen horrible conditions puppies are bred under. The mothers are treated appallingly. Lack of proper medical care, confined and dark spaces, bare minimum nutrition and outright cruel practices have been documented by photographs of various puppy mills. We strongly feel regulating them and placing limits on their functions is necessary to stop the atrocities from continuing.

As the *Australian Animal Welfare Standards* remain optional, the amendments need to include a higher standard of care for animals that are bred commercially.

Animals need freedom and space to run outside. They require a proper diet and clean drinking water. To live good lives, they need to be safe and cared for. This includes medical attention when needed and regular check-ups. Their coats need to be maintained so they feel

comfortable. People who breed keep animals need to have adequate space for them and funding for their care.

Before we allow people to own animals, we need to ensure these creatures who cannot advocate for themselves have the highest possible living situation life can provide for them.

Greater Focus on Shelter Animals

Ultimately, we'd like to see more people adopting pets from shelters who desperately need homes. Ideally, this legislation should contribute no more animals being born under the cruel conditions of puppy farms and more animals being adopted from pet shelters as an effect of this.

Thank you for your interest in animal welfare.