

**Submission  
No 197**

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

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Submission for Companion Animals Amendment (Puppy Farm Bill) 2021.

Preamble:

If there are already legislated processes in POCTAA, it makes no sense to have the same information nominated in separate legislation. Logic dictates that the standing legislation be referred to rather than duplicated.

Submission:

There is NO DATA on the number of individuals or groups of individuals who are making a profit on the sale of animals and have never complied with the current legislation. The ability for those officially involved in this legislation undertaking might realise the greater problem if they bothered to source the following data from the current animal holding facilities, RSPCA and rescue organisations:

1. Numbers not microchipped against numbers microchipped,
2. Numbers not registered against numbers registered,
3. Of the microchipped animals, how many have been updated to the current owner,
4. The type or mixes of breed, and
5. Have not been afforded the level of veterinary care that the legislation nominates and that responsible animal owning requires.

This Committee is ignorant of the actual numbers and perception regarding intent to comply with the law.

Legislating new laws for lawful breeders (of cats or dogs) is not going to fix the illegal Puppy Farm/illegal backyard breeder problem. The only thing that will be achieved by new regulations is that the responsible, lawful breeders/registered breeders/ legal puppy factories will be so over regulated that, pedigree dog/cat breeders ( microbreeders, if you will ) will cease to exist because they have been regulated out of the business.

Meanwhile, the illegal backyard breeders and illegal puppy/kitten farmers are not following the laws now. How is making new laws going to do anything about them? None, repeat, none of this legislation is going to change an illegal breeder into becoming a legal breeder. What is needed is more money for Councils and other nominated officials to police ownership of all animals, whether they are registered, and, if not, why not, and issue fines and/or remove the animals. You maintain the illegal process as illegal and financially unviable.

Mega scale puppy farms will continue to operate and they will have enough money (from their huge operations) to pay lawyers so they can get around

the regulations whilst the hobby, pedigree microbreeder who has maybe one or two litters per year (or even per lifetime) will not be able to follow the added legalities imposed on them and will just give up. Note, the reason that pedigree microbreeders BREED, is to ensure that the genetic quality/line of the breed is maintained/improved and not compromised (not for profit).

Dogs NSW already has a code of ethics which breeders of pedigree dogs are required to follow. These dogs are part of a family, they have their puppies in the lounge room or laundry with the owner curled up on the floor next to them. They are loved and cared for. They are genetically tested, heart and eye tested, checked for any hereditary diseases and constantly checked by a Vet as a valued family member, not just breeding stock. These micro breeders also involve themselves in breed quality/standards around the world (noting that we are an island continent).

Dogs NSW advocates the age for each breed as to when they could be mated, and it is certainly not the young age of 12 months. The requisite for animals to not be mated to an animal that is blood related is ridiculous. How far back in the breeding do you want to go? As a prime example:

I have an endangered breed (it is an endangered breed around the world). Even if I import semen from Russia, I can't guarantee that the dog is not related. The only way that you would get an outcross, would be to breed to another breed altogether and that will certainly not preserve or improve my breed.

The Committee might consider actually READING the DogsNSW Code of Ethics ([dogsnsw.org.au/media/4103/part-13-code-of-ethics-july-2021.pdf](https://dogsnsw.org.au/media/4103/part-13-code-of-ethics-july-2021.pdf)).

Noting the requirements pertaining to inspection of licenced breeders in the Code of Ethics, an inspection without warning should only relate to non licenced breeders (you know, all those unlicenced backyard breeders and illegal puppy farms that you expect will disappear through legislation).

There is no need for a dog to be desexed at 6 years of age. I would say that, waiting until 6 years, would be traumatic for the dog. If he is owned by a reputable owner or breeder, then he is under control and there is no need for this at all. Also, the stipulation that microbreeders may only have two breeding bitches is also ridiculous. If you have two bitches and then can only have two litters from each, which obviously would not be in consecutive seasons, then you can only have maybe four litters in a ten year period. There is then a stipulation that the bitches be spayed after their second litter. Under the proposed legislation, if I wish for my bitches to remain entire for health reasons, then I cannot have another bitch in my household until the previous ones die.

Aspects of the amended legislation would appear to be in breach of contractual law as a breeding contract is a contract, agreed to by both parties.