

**Submission  
No 198**

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

**Name:** Ms Pauline Worthington

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Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide a submission on the Companion Animals Amendment (Puppy Farms) Bill 2021.

I am a registered breeder of Pedigree dogs and member of Dogs NSW and as such comply with their code of ethics, and also with the Animal Welfare Code of Practice Breedings Dogs and Cats. Showing dogs is my hobby and pedigree dogs have been a lifelong passion for me. I breed the occasional litter of puppies in order to further my hobby, my dogs are primarily my pets and I certainly don't see myself as a commercial breeder or a puppy farmer. The bill as proposed will absolutely decimate my hobby and that of many other good responsible registered breeders and in actual fact it won't do anything to stop the abhorrent puppy farms that pump out large volumes of puppies that are bred and raised in squalor.

61F This bill will see us all being classed as either commercial or individual breeders many individual (hobby) breeders live in suburbia and have not been afforded the opportunity to live in rural settings on acres, this doesn't mean that their dogs are not looked after or housed adequately, many have dogs that live in our homes as part of our family. Giving local councils the powers to register or revoke applications will leave many unable to pursue their hobby which we love as it would prove difficult to comply with council regulations for the individual breeder.

61S I trust that the powers that be issuing these source numbers will also target the backyard breeders who have a litter of puppies or kittens advertised in shopping centres on notice boards, when microchipping became compulsory I chipped all of my dogs only to go in to shop at my local shopping centre and found numerous adverts for unchipped litters on the notice board, no one was policing that at the time and they still aren't, but it was the registered breeders that did the right thing and the rogue operators get away with it and I suspect the source number business will be the same!

61ZF a) I am particularly concerned about the proposal that will only allow a female to have no more than two litters of puppies, I have imported dogs at great expense to further my hobby and introduce new bloodlines, mandating only two litters hardly gives a breeder the opportunity to utilise those bloodlines for the betterment and health of the breed if the litter only resulted in say one or two puppies, the choice should not be taken away from responsible breeders who strive to do the right things with their own dogs.

b) This again concerns me, all animals have heritable defects (including humans) and to not allow a breeding if a defect has been identified in a previous litter is absurd, most responsible registered breeders test for heritable diseases and are striving to ensure that we don't breed with affected animals so that we can provide healthy well bred puppies to families that want a pedigree healthy pet this proposal is extreme and dangerous and if we applied this principle to the human race we would soon become extinct or is this what the bill is wanting? A world where there are no companion animals!

c) this would completely obliterate pedigree dogs, most breeders linebreed to maintain type, however Dogs NSW code of ethics prevents the breeding of close relatives, linebreeding offers those of us with knowledge of our breeds to breed quality animals of good type, temperament and health. Another concerning aspect is that males must be desexed after the age of 6 years, this is absolute rubbish, many breeding males are just coming into their prime at this age and to desex would be a tremendous loss to the breed(s) concerned and likewise desexing females after 2 litters is subjecting the bitch to unnecessary surgery, as a responsible, registered breeder many of my dogs don't have more than two litters in their lifetime, that is my choice and should always be my choice as the owner and breeder.

This bill will do nothing to target the bad puppy farms which none of us want to support but it will certainly see many hundreds of good registered responsible breeders unable to pursue a hobby that

we love and live for. Dogs contribute so much to society and this bill is extreme and I do not support it in any way.

Pauline Worthington