

Submission  
No 203

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially  
Confidential

In 2015, I had the opportunity to meet with a number of the Members of this current Select Committee to address very similar issues.

At that time, the then Select Committee canvassed many animal welfare concerns, including the ongoing problem of “puppy farming”. Our organisation provided workable solutions to this particular problem, and indicated our willingness, in conjunction with the Government, to develop and participate in a licensing programme for all dog breeders, similar to that which our Members MUST be part of in order to breed dogs.

First and foremost being they MUST abide by our stringent Code of Ethics or risk losing their membership. A COE that the then Select Committee found very extensive.

It’s is my opinion that many of the current proposals and changes being considered by your Committee, in the main, will not address the ongoing problems of welfare for animals, and in particular the breeding of dogs, but which will certainly affect the ethical and responsible members and breeders in our organisation, and, sadly, but very importantly, the general public’s right, in a democracy, to own a dog of their choosing for their family.

One thing which should be of particular concern to your Committee, and which it should be considering, is the enormous waste of taxpayer money given by the Government to the RSPCA to “solve” the puppy farming problem, which it has patently failed to do, despite knowing for years exactly where the bad puppy farms are located.

Why should a charity be given such a huge extra sum by the Government to do the job their charter requires, and which they have sadly failed to do over many years.

A charity which encourages in their employment requirements such things as gun licences and policing experience, yet in those of the other major welfare charity, the Animal Welfare League, a requirement for Vet nurse training certification .

And who has been on the ground in the North of our state in the last week with their treatment vehicle...the Animal Welfare League. Yet the Govt did not see fit to include them in the \$22million handed to the RSPCA.

As I explained to your Committee 7 years ago, our organisation operates and regulates our breeders solely on the funds provided by our membership fees. Our enforcement programme is also funded by those fees. We receive no assistance from anyone, yet we have an extensive and exemplary track record for the care of the animals for which our members are responsible.

I would encourage your Committee to look to, and listen to, the “grass roots” organisations, like ours, which know what is needed to regulate and enforce what is necessary for the welfare and breeding of, in particular, dogs in this State.

To make the POCTA Act all encompassing is unworkable. Although unwieldy in its current form, to say regulations that will apply to chickens or pigs should apply equally to dogs and cats simply will not work, and will ultimately create more problems than it is attempting to fix.

In conclusion, as a Member for 50 years of the organisation the NSW Government called the “ peak body for dogs in NSW”, it is truly disheartening to see the very existence of ethically bred pure dogs

and the joy and comfort their ownership provides to the thousands of people who own them, threatened by the proposals of ill informed, If well meaning, individuals with no experience or education in the areas they seek to change so drastically.

I am available at anytime to speak to the current select Committee should my input be of any interest.