

**Submission
No 206**

INQUIRY INTO PUPPY FARMING IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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Submission Against Puppy and Kitten Farming

The current framework regulating dog and cat breeders in NSW allows for the existence of abuses of animal rights such as the completely inhumane practice of puppy farming.

In NSW, there is no limit on the number of female dogs any breeder can have, no limit on the number of litters any dog can be forced to endure and no mandatory vet checks or staffing ratios to ensure animals are given proper care. Anyone can set up an intensive dog farm with hundreds of dogs and force them to pump out litter after litter for their entire lives until they die. The facility could have one person assigned to care for all the animals who are housed in tiny, squalid, filthy cages. Dogs may receive inadequate food and water and no exercise, spending their entire lives in these cramped cages, their feet never even touching the ground. All this would currently be perfectly legal.

The current legislation is, therefore, completely outdated and must be revised so that companion animals cannot be continuously bred while housed in filthy and horrific conditions, all so that unscrupulous breeders can make large profits from the animals' misery. Our government's Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act and Regulations and the Code of Practice for Breeding companion animals must be updated to protect dogs and cats from breeders abusing and neglecting animals for profit. The NSW community completely condemns puppy farming and the NSW voters will not support a government that allows this practice and its associated cruelties to continue.

Legislation must: impose limits on the number of dogs that can be housed at a breeding facility, impose limits on the number of litters a female dog can have to prevent them from being continuously bred, impose mandatory vet checks to ensure that adequate veterinary care is provided to keep dogs in good health, ensure that staffing ratios are sufficient to provide an acceptable level of care for dogs, ensure that all dogs have kennelling that provides space, safety, a solid floor and protection from weather, ensure that all dogs have sufficient food and have clean water available at all times, ensure that all dogs have exercise time out of their kennel each day, ensure that when they are no longer required for breeding all dogs are found new homes and are not cruelly disposed of.

The NSW RSPCA and the Animal Welfare League NSW must be consulted on and agree with the above Bill. The Inspectorates of these two major animal welfare organisations must also be provided with enforcement powers.

The sale of dogs and cats online, in marketplaces such as Gumtree, and in pet shops must be much more stringently regulated to protect the rights of both the animals and the consumers.

The NSW community condemns puppy and kitten farming, the only people who could possibly support such cruelty are those making a profit from the suffering of these defenceless animals.

This is the opportunity for the NSW Government to listen to the voice of the community and the voters. The community condemns the intensive factory farming of companion animals for profit. Puppy and kitten farming must be made illegal.