

Submission
No 215

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

I'm writing this submission as I am concerned for the puppies which are bred for profit in NSW. Anyone wanting to make a quick \$50,000 should just have one litter of french bulldogs at the moment. The demand is very high, particularly during the pandemic. Lockdown helped puppies in Sydney rise to never before seen costs as buyers were unable to travel to regional areas and the only option was to buy a puppy and arrange the transport of a puppy to Sydney, sight unseen. How is this a responsible way of choosing a pet?

I was hoping to buy a rescue. I have two young kids (5 and 9), so I didn't want to risk adopting a dog that I didn't know the history of. I wanted my kids to have the chance to experience owning a puppy, but all of the rescue puppies were large breeds, mostly staffordshire bull terriers and bull arabs.

Some animal shelters had puppies that may have been suitable for our family but wouldn't give any information until they were ready to adopt, one shelter had two Jack Russells for \$2500 each - as much as a breeder - and they were snapped up. As it was the pandemic, a few regional shelters had puppies but I couldn't inspect them. It was devastating to hear that puppies and dogs were being put down in country towns when there were people like me who were looking for them.

Most registered breeders had very long waiting lists, as much as three years. I turned to Gumtree and the Trading Post. I bought a Jack Russell puppy in Western Sydney, in which prices have more than doubled since the pandemic started. Breeders are more than happy to take your money, clear their litter and start the breeding process again straight away.

As a buyer, you are not permitted to inspect where the puppies have been raised as it's somebody's house or a shop. I did most of my research by Google Earth, trying to see whether the people I contacted had a nice house, grass in the backyard. Quite a few just had corrugated iron sheds in the backyard. I would ask for microchip numbers, but when I looked them up on the pet registry website, the numbers were mostly invalid.

It was disappointing that there are no checks and balances in this market. It is completely unregulated. There is no information to help make an informed choice - I had no one to ask for information on how to make sure a puppy was from an ethical breeder, that the parents were well looked after and not inbred, how many litters the mother endured, that a puppy would be free from inherited diseases, that I was even paying a reasonable price. Backyard breeders seem to charge whatever they like and even as much as purebred dogs from registered breeders - who usually provide guarantees on their dogs' health.

Every dog has become a designer dog commanding top prices, yet backyard breeders are not subject to any conditions/checks/vet approval as is required by the Dogs NSW Association or other 'ethical breeders' clubs that I have seen online.

I commend the Committee for looking into this issue. I hope your report includes recommendations on ways to eliminate puppy farms, register all breeders and provide ratings systems for breeders so that individuals can make an informed choice when purchasing a new pet.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my submission.

Kind regards,