

**Submission  
No 515**

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

**Name:** Dr Dorothy Wood

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My submission concerns the lack of a state-wide licensing or registration scheme for breeding of dogs and cats in NSW. Some years ago I adopted two small dogs through the Animal Welfare League. They had been used as breeding dogs in a puppy farm that the AWL had closed down. I was told these animals had been kept in a backyard with little or no shelter and all 22 of these dogs were in an appalling state – filthy and heavily matted. Of the two dogs I adopted, both have severe anxiety issues and one had to have half of his teeth removed - this was due to the poor diet and lack of care they had suffered in their first four years of life. As an example of the depth of trauma such animals kept in these conditions suffer I can testify that after about four years of giving my two dogs as much loving care as possible they still suffer from anxiety and one still has anorexia issues. I have been tempting him to eat by hand feeding him pieces of chicken or steak and he is only now starting to develop the confidence to just go to his food bowl and eat. I feel that breeding of all pets by backyard breeders should be banned and all pet breeders should be licensed and regulated with regular inspections required to ensure proper care, limits on the number of litters dogs or cats are forced have and qualification requirements for breeders. Breeding these animals leads to an oversupply which means excessive numbers of animals in pounds with little hope of adoption. I live near the ACT border and have observed that pet shops in Canberra can now only sell animals sourced from rescues or pounds. This is an example I think NSW should follow to close off an avenue of sale of puppies and kittens by these irresponsible breeders. The sale of these animals online needs be banned or carefully policed as well.