

INQUIRY INTO POUNDS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

In response to TOR (d) - the adequacy of laws and codes in NSW - The fact that there are no standards in place for NSW pounds must be addressed. The requirements for boarding kennels are completely different. Animals may be held in boarding facilities for a couple of days to a couple of months. The situation in pound/shelter housing can be entirely different with animals being held for many months, and sometimes years. Any standards being developed in NSW for pounds/shelters needs to consider this requirement to provide long-term care and housing. As a bare minimum, consideration should be given to adopting the 'Victorian Code of Practice for the management of dogs and cats in shelters and pounds'.

In response to TOR (e) - the factors causing animals to end up in pounds - I volunteer with Friends of the Pound Tweed, who rehomes animals which are unclaimed through Tweed Council Pound. My experience working with the dogs is that most people do not want to surrender their dog. Councils should be investing in 'Surrender Prevention' Funds. When owners come up against unexpected things such as rentals not allowing pets; the high costs of non-routine veterinary treatment; or the emergence of challenging behaviours in their dog requiring the assistance of a behavioural trainer, then Council should be in a position to assist in a financial and advocacy sense, to prevent the family and dog being split up. Leading to a smaller scaled down pound, supported by a strong foster care network which can focus on the dogs that have no other option. And overall this will cut costs to Local Councils.