

INQUIRY INTO POUNDS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

The NSW Government needs to implement stricter controls on domestic animal breeding (ie no puppy / cat farms). Further, desexing of all cats and dogs needs to be subsidised (or free), to reduce unwanted breeding (for example, if the pet is abandoned, it cannot then breed more stray or feral animals).

There need to be more animal shelters not less. The recent announcement of the NSW RSPCA that it will close the shelter in Katoomba due to a lack of need is madness. At the same time, the NSW RSPCA is sending emails that the numbers of unwanted and surrendered animals has never been higher. The Blue Mts LGA is one of the largest in the state; there are thousands of domestic animals and wildlife animals here; they do not mix well. No shelter = more strays / feral animals, resulting in harm to wildlife.

Further, there needs to be a way for people in financial distress to receive support (eg via temporary sponsorship), so that they can keep their animals and not surrender them in the first place. For example, you could sponsor a pet for \$15 a week, to help pay for food and so that the pet can stay with their family. This is something an animal charity could coordinate, if assisted by Government.

We need more shelters and incentives for people to adopt pets not buy from breeders; the idea that perfectly healthy animals are being killed is horrendous. Pets are vital for well-being and health of people, which ultimately reduces the burden on the healthcare system.