

**Submission  
No 227**

# **COMPANION ANIMAL BREEDING PRACTICES IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

**Organisation:** World Animal Protection  
**Name:** Ms Nicola Beynon  
**Date Received:** 15/06/2015

The Chair  
Joint Select Committee on  
Companion Animal Breeding Practices  
Parliament House, Macquarie Street  
Sydney NSW 2000



To the Chair,

12 June 2015

**Re: Submission into the Companion Animal Breeding Practices in New South Wales Inquiry,  
by World Animal Protection**

World Animal Protection commends the NSW Government for organising an inquiry into Companion Animal Breeding Practices within this state. With over breeding leading to high rates of pet abandonment and euthanasia in NSW, this issue is of grave concern to our supporters and the community at large.

We are also extremely concerned by reports of cruelty within breeding facilities where animals are confined in inhumane and filthy conditions and bred intensively.

Intensive animal breeding and rearing practices are not acceptable to the majority of Australians, nor animal behaviour and health experts. After several consultation processes on this issue, we look forward to the government acting promptly and decisively to reflect the community's wishes and the science, to ensure humane and responsible standards of animal welfare are upheld.

Our main area of concern for the companion animal industry, is the lack of robust regulation. To improve this, World Animal Protection supports the notion of a Breeder Licensing Scheme. We recommend that for such a scheme to be effective, it must include these four elements:

1. Mandatory licencing to breed
2. Monitoring of animal welfare standards through unannounced inspections, by independent animal welfare bodies/body
3. Requirements of quotation of a licence or microchip number when advertising, transferring or selling pets
4. A publicly accessible online register which enables the public to understand where their puppies have come from, including what conditions they and their parents are kept in

We also recommend that consideration is made to:

- a limit for animals per breeding facility,
- limits of animal to staff ratio, and



- the number of times and frequency females can breed.

World Animal Protection recommends laws are updated to legislate the above. In addition, tougher penalties should be created to deter people from breeding without a licence and to increase compliance with standards.

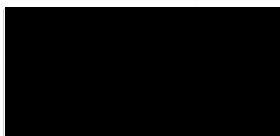
To further ensure better compliance, triggers need to be put in place for enforcement agencies to regularly inspect breeding facilities. In Victoria, they have developed an annual renewal process so that puppy farms are inspected regularly, we recommend that the same occurs in NSW.

World Animal Protection is against the sale of live animals in pet shops due to welfare concerns, as well as the impulsive purchases this environment encourages. The exception to this should only be to rehome rescue pets, in which every care is taken for the welfare of the animal and most facilities usually apply additional checks and balances to ensure the animals are placed appropriately. We are extremely concerned for internet sales and recommend that this area is much more heavily regulated. A well-resourced and independent regulatory body is needed to oversee the industry.

Currently oversight of all animal industries and the development of standards and codes for animals in NSW is under resourced and not well coordinated. World Animal Protection supports the establishment of an Independent Office of Animal Welfare, to sit within the NSW Governance structure. This Office could assist with enforcement coordination efforts and should have its own regulatory capacity also.

Thank you for inviting us to participate in this inquiry, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me. World Animal Protection and our supporters look forward to being kept up to date with the progress of this inquiry and subsequent regulatory improvements.

Kind Regards,



Nicola Beynon  
Head of Campaigns for Australia  
World Animal Protection

