

**Submission
No 288**

COMPANION ANIMAL BREEDING PRACTICES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Name Suppressed
Date Received: 15/06/2015

Partially Confidential

To the Companion Animal Breeding Practices in New South Wales Parliamentary Committee Inquiry,

With an estimated 39% of Australian households owning one or more dogs, and 29% of Australian households one or more cats, and approximately 4.2 million pet dogs and 3.3 million pet cats in Australia, there is huge demand for these pets – this has led to profitable puppy and kitten ‘farms’, many of which have shockingly bad and often cruel animal welfare conditions – legal reform is needed so that all cat and dog breeders must comply to basic animal welfare conditions.

The number of animals allowed to be kept by breeders should be limited. A breeder licensing system should be established without exemption, including no exemptions for members of breeder associations. The Companion Animals Register should be updated to capture breeder licence information for each animal record.

Compulsory microchipping of cats and dogs prior to sale or transfer must be implemented. The breeder's details must be attached to the animal record on the microchip register.

If the sale of dogs and cats in pet stores is banned, many of the welfare issues in pet stores would disappear and an avenue for the sale of puppies and kittens from puppy and kitten farms would be removed. More pet stores may take the opportunity to then promote the adoption of rescue dogs and cats.

The NSW Animal Welfare Code of Practice - Breeding Dogs and Cats should be revised to ensure that the existing guidelines it contains become enforceable standards. Enforceable standards for other species must be developed. All sellers should be required by legislation to display an animal's microchip number or the licence number of the breeder of the animal in all advertisements, and at the point of sale. The Companion Animals Regulation should be amended to remove the existing provision that allows recognised breeders to sell unmicrochipped cats or dogs to pet shops.

Monitoring and enforcement operations should be shared between local government animal management officers and state and territory RSPCA Inspectors. A targeted inspections regime including both proactive (unannounced) inspections and reactive inspections should be developed. State and territory animal management and welfare legislation must provide mechanisms for the relevant prosecuting agency to apply for effective court orders relating to the ongoing ownership of the animals, the costs associated with ongoing care of the animals, and prohibiting the defendant(s) from continuing to engage in breeding activities while the matter is before the court.

I sincerely hope you will fully consider all these proposals and implement them in order that breeding companion animals have basic animal welfare conditions established for them by law.

Regards,

