

INQUIRY INTO PUPPY FARMING IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 24 February 2022

Partially
Confidential

My name and I work as a science teacher and for a rabbit adoption rescue. I don't own a dog or a cat. This does not mean I don't know what goes on behind the companion animal scene.

Pets are an expensive business. Some breeders are genuinely trying to conserve species and maintain healthy animals. Others are opportunistically making profits, and ignoring inbreeding, genetics, and what life their puppies and kittens endure once they leave their care.

As a WIRES rescuer, and through my work reaching rabbits (another companion animal that shares the fate of puppies and kittens), I see first hand the cost and suffering our beloved pets endure. Vet costs stack up and become continual, people abandon their pets, and vets inevitably have to put them down. This impacts vet mental health, to see suffering and a lack of care by owners, or worse, the desperation of owners without the funds to care for a poorly "designed" pet.

Firstly, to tackle this growing issue, and it is growing, we need to mandate desexing for all sold puppies and kittens (and rabbits!). This will halt new farms forming and flooding the market with inbred genetic lines through poorly managed breeding.

Secondly, and we do this with zoo animals, there needs to be laws surrounding genetic lines. The medical conditions affecting companion animals is becoming unmanageable. The costs to both owner and pet are cruel. Watching an animal suffer and not being able to explain to it why it's happening is heart breaking. We don't allow inbreeding of humans for this exact reason, recessive traits become standards, and require complex medical management and funds. It's unfortunate that there's no public system for pets suffering similar fates.

Through these mandates and educating breeders on genetic crossing and having a team of investigators responsible for managing breeders, we can have our companion pets, and see them live out long and healthy lives. The exploitation of animals for profit is not okay, and needs laws enforced around cruelty, minimum levels of care, desexing, and number of pregnancies. Genetic lines need to be recorded and monitored for recessive traits appearing that cause undue suffering in the pet. And finally, more education for pet owners prior to purchase from breeders needs to occur. A multi-faceted front to tackle a growing issue.

Thank you for considering my requests.