

**INQUIRY INTO PUPPY FARMING IN NEW SOUTH
WALES**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 3 March 2022

Partially
Confidential

The Hon. Wendy Tuckerman MP

Re: COMPANION ANIMALS AMENDMENT PUPPY FARMING BILL

Dear Ms Tuckerman

Once again I am seeking your assistance, this time in relation to The Companion Animals Amendment Puppy Farming Bill. I am against this Bill for the reasons stated below.

1) This Bill potentially means that rarely will you be able to purchase a family companion, rather you will have to re-home from an animal shelter, if there are any dogs up for re-homing. I can assure you that one of our war veterans, or any other person who is unfortunate enough to suffer with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Autism, or a physical disability, would generally not be able to have one of these dogs trained to meet the complexity of their requirements and the costs involved for training would be even more inhibitive.

2) There is no definition of what a "Puppy Farm" is.

I am a responsible breeder who loves and cares for the psychological and physical needs of all my dogs, not a puppy farmer. My girls are only allowed to have their first litter at around three years of age to ensure they are mentally mature enough to be wonderful mothers, who spend their time nurturing their babies. This greatly assists my puppies to have an excellent temperament and be confident, happy, outgoing little individuals. Puppy farms breed the dogs as soon as they come into season, when they themselves are still pups in my eyes. My girls have a maximum of two or three litters, depending upon how many puppies in each litter and how well they recover. They usually have eighteen months between litters to ensure they are in peak condition mentally and physically. When they are back in peak condition after their last litter, my girls are spayed and become one of my house dogs. They stay with me forever so that as they get older the additional care they need is always there for them. Whether it be snuggling up on an orthopaedic mattress near the fire or air conditioner, cuddles and more cuddles, following me like a shadow, going visiting, helping with dinner, veterinary care, or additional medication, they are ensured a wonderful life. They are not euthanized, dumped, or sold off like puppy farmers do, as they are no longer worth what they are fed.

As a special education teacher, my forte has always been behavioural disorders and my philosophy for teaching appropriate behaviour is identical with my dogs and babies. I also hold a DELTA Certificate IV in Canine Behavioural Instruction. A substantial percentage of my puppies are now being sought for PTSD via referral, due in part to the 100% success rate of my pups' graduating the PTSD training programs, and the difference in cost to the individual.

Although there are a couple of commercial breeding facilities that train puppies after they are eight weeks of age for the cost of \$10,000 dollars for three months training, plus the purchase cost of the puppy. Even after this expense the pups require private training for another year and the success rate is low.

2) There is no definition of what a "Puppy Farm" is. Cont.

These pups are bred from institutionalised breeding stock of poor temperament and quality that have never experienced the quality of life, love, and care that my dogs take for granted, as they should. I am the only breeder who implements such an extensive puppy training program, with an option for people suffering from any disability to have their puppy trained for an additional month or two, to reach a more advanced level, with no fees involved.

I am extremely careful when selecting families for my pups and do not sell my puppies by internet or phone. I conduct an interview with the entire family to ensure that they understand and can provide the amount of time, patience, love, attention, and money that is required to raise one of my pups, to become the best companion and family member that they could ever wish for. I need to be comfortable with the people who will be having one of my pups as well as ensure they are aware of what being a responsible dog owner means within our community.

3) I am a DOGS NSW registered breeder, who breeds and rears my pups in my home, so under this Bill I will be non-compliant.

My mother and babies live solely inside for the first four weeks whilst going through the first three stages of the rearing program. Repetitive daily handling, neurological stimulation, positive socialisation with people of all ages and animals, familiarisation with an extensive range of sounds that commonly occur in and around the average home, learning how to play with toys and toilet training. At around four weeks of age, depending upon the weather, they are then allowed outside during the day, in our special puppy area to complete their next stage of training which is designed to provide a range of mentally stimulating activities whilst also assisting in their physical and gross motor skill development. Now in an unfamiliar environment, everything they have been taught up to this stage is transitioned to a different environment and continually repeated and reinforced. Toy training advances and the sound program extends to encompass a variety of environmental sounds and garden equipment such as mowers, blower / vacuum, and whipper snipper.

Over their time with us the babies further their education with learning to come to their name when called, sit to get human attention, make eye contact on request so that you know when they are focused and listening to you, kiss on cue to counteract puppy play nipping, learning that stuffed toys are great to sleep with and oh so snuggly and how to have fun with toys, We teach the phrase Leave It, for an inappropriate object being grabbed and Ouch for teeth making hard contact with skin whilst playing or being cuddled. The aim is for the babies to open their mouth and let go, resulting in being rewarded with Good Ouch / Good Leave It, and being cuddled

The vast majority of this training could not take place if the pups were reared outside in kennels all day and night. The welfare of the babies would be at risk as well. How is it possible to monitor which baby has been on the best milk producing teat they are outside? I rotate all the babies on their mother while she is recuperating, and producing more milk, with much needed sleep. How is this possible if they are outside? How can I be nursing and cuddling each puppy throughout the day and night, if they are outside? The mother would not have the full-time support of me being with her constantly and my girls would feel abandoned and unable to be the brilliant mothers that they are. Even if I stayed outside at night with them, the pups would then not be used to all the sights, sounds and activities that take place inside a family home as they had only ever been in a concrete cage.

In anticipation of your assistance, I thank you again!

Yours Faithfully