

INQUIRY INTO PUPPY FARMING IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Ms Ruth Hardy

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Select Committee on puppy farming in New South Wales: Examining provisions of the Companion animals amendment (Puppy Farms) Bill 2021.

I submit my following concerns on the proposal:

The proposal requires a dual oversight under POCTAA and from Local Councils. It requires 'double accounting' in the areas of breeder records, the welfare of animals and animal husbandry and takes no account of existing but differing Local Council plans and DCA's.

Well recognised bodies such as Dogs NSW already require registered breeders to pay an annual fee for a breeders licence. They have regulations around the ethical breeding of animals in NSW, which members are required to adhere to. They also provide member and general public education in ethical welfare/breeding of canines.

Allowing 2 only bitches under a Microbreeder designation assumes all female dogs/cats have the same breeding cycle and non would experience long timeframes to successful breeding. A bitch may cycle at 9 months and the next time at 15 months, she may not conceive and not have a successful pregnancy outcome 'on cue' - just like us humans!

Requiring a health check 4 weeks prior to breeding would be impossible, given the fluctuations within a breeding cycle (and the 'season' is for only 3 weeks).

The health and improvement of the animal and breed is foremost. A good breeder looks at the strong points within the bitch and seeks a dog likely to improve on the overall qualities and strengths of the breed.

It may be 3 years from being a puppy to maturity to breed.

Requiring a dog to be desexed at 6 years does not recognise that breeding maturity can be of several years, a dogs interest in breeding may not come until they are several years of age, even at 6 years!

Requiring puppies/kittens over 8 weeks to be classed amongst those 2 only breeding animals does not make sense. It would also severely restrict opportunity to ensure reputable breeders can maintain healthy improvements to the breed.

Recognised bodies such as Dogs NSW require their members to confirm to a raft of regulation in the health, welfare and breeding of their animals.

Heritable defects are not defined clearly under this proposal. Again, just like humans, these may be of a minor nature. Registered breeders are more likely at present to undertake health checks, often via veterinarian specialists but this may not be of importance to 'backyard breeders'.

A requirement for out-crossing of breeding only would limit improvement to a breed and at times, undermine the health of a litter/animal. Perhaps the committee could look at current restrictions that reputable dog/cat entities already have?

For a former bankrupt or Director of Body Corporate (liquidation) to be excluded from approval as a Companion animal Business seems too harsh e.g. someone who worked in an industry and previously being declared Bankrupt because of the collapse of a company they worked for as sub-contractor, years ago.