

INQUIRY INTO PUPPY FARMING IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Organisation: Dogs NSW

Date Received: 7 April 2022

6 April 2022



The Hon Mick Veitch (ALP, LC Member)
Chair, Select Committee on Puppy Farming (NSW)
Parliament New South Wales

PATRON:
Her Excellency General The Honourable
Margaret Beazley AO QC,
Governor of New South Wales

Dear Mr Veitch

RE: COMPANION ANIMALS AMENDMENT (PUPPY FARM) BILL 2021

DOGS NSW welcomes the opportunity to provide our concerns on the above amendment and appreciate the premise behind the creation of the Companion Animals Amendment of NSW. Therefore, DOGS NSW supports the best breeding practices of animal welfare in making every effort through our own code of ethics and practices to ensure the best breeding and welfare outcomes.

Consequently, we do not support the type of breeding referred to in the Bill as "Puppy Farm". The wording Puppy Farm suggests a breeding practice such as Puppy Mills which is intensive breeding. Where in this Bill is the definition of a Puppy Farm?

DOGS NSW does not find any area in this Bill which addresses how to outlaw the rogue breeders who, it would appear, go under the radar.

We find that this Bill is not fit for purpose; it does not address the actual issues, it does not make any persons or litters or Puppy Farms more traceable.

The points we raise against this Bill are:-

1. This Bill focuses on restricting numbers of animals, of 2 breeding age females per property - over this becomes a commercial entity, mandatory desexing of males over the age of 6 years, this does nothing to improve conditions of animal welfare by the way of limiting a numbers.
2. DOGS NSW does not support this Bill as this amendment does not apply to the Companion Animals Act. In fact, it duplicates the POCTAA document.
3. This Bill enables penalties without a right of appeal.
4. Excessive staffing of a ratio of 1 staff per 5 animals.
5. Local council will have the power to reject applications for a small breeder who has more than 2 entire females, requiring a DA for a commercial premise. Therefore, totally stamping out the ability for smaller breeders wishing to preserve and continue in breeding for genetics. Council officers will have the authority to seize all animals from those caring owners when they are not granted a DA approval for a commercial license. This draconian Bill will not outlaw the "Puppy Farms" but will destroy the dedicated small selective breeder of companion animals not reared in large commercial facilities.
6. Victorian laws allow up to 10 breeding females with Dogs Victoria self-auditing., however, local councils are, in some cases, refusing to renew the annual permit, therefore, advising that they must remove any number of dogs over 2 on the premises.

If you require further information in relation to this matter, I can be contacted directly by email via president@dogsnsw.org.au

Kind Regards

Lyn Brand
DOGS NSW President

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Promoting Responsible Dog Ownership