

INQUIRY INTO PUPPY FARMING IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Organisation: German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia

Date Received: 12 May 2022

German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia



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12th May, 2022

The Hon Mick Veitch MLC

Chair

Select Committee into Puppy Farming in NSW

Parliament House,

Macquarie Street

SYDNEY NSW 2000

Supplementary submission for Committee consideration

Dear Mr Veitch,

Further to your invitation at a recent hearing attended by the German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia, (GSDCA) we submit herewith some further comment for your consideration.

Throughout this process of inquiry, our organisation has argued that there is a distinct difference between the puppy farmer and the registered, purebred dog sector. As purebred German Shepherd breeders, we are appalled at the proposition that mixed breeding will create hybrid vigour lacking in purebred animals and the suggestion that these random crosses will provide a better consumer outcome and consumer protection.

We suggest that in fact the opposite is quite likely to apply and that many of these poor animals will in fact endure years of pain and discomfort, whilst their owners will be faced with some very expensive and distressing outcomes.

We argue this as being a major claim for your support of what we do and a case against the puppy farmer model that we have previously referred to.

To support this position we offer:

THE RESULTS OF PUPPY FARM BREEDING

- Attachment 1 – An extract from a well known dog food company. They are now marketing food specifically designed to support the care needs of Poodle cross bred dogs – Cavoodles, Moodles, Spoodles, Labradoodles and others.*
- It is argued that very early in the history of this type of breeding, significant health issues are already apparent, sufficient in number to warrant tooling up for a line of food products to support health needs*
- Within the DOGS NSW ranks, those conditions that can be screened against in breeding partners are, so the incidence of clinical disease is reduced and breed outcomes improved over time. This is largely because of knowledge, data and regulation. .*
- As a breed that has previously been reputed to have extensive incidence of hip dysplasia, we note some of the breeding being produced – Labrador x Poodle, Cavalier King Charles Spaniel x Poodle, Cocker Spaniel x Cross Poodle – each individual breed has noted incidence of hip dysplasia.*
- In order to improve and drive down the severe incidence of hip dysplasia, there is a singularly successful approach – the screening of prospective breeding partners and informed use of any animal with a higher score.*

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- *Reduction of scores intergenerationally will improve clinical outcomes and prevent chronic pain and discomfort for the dogs and puppies produced.*
- *For our organisation, this has been a 50 year mission.*
- *For the puppy farmer, the concern for the resulting animal will not even arise if there is a large enough price for the puppy. And these puppies will be produced on the puppy farm and just be considered wastage or the consumer's problem.*

THE CASE FOR STAKEHOLDER RECOGNITION

At a recent hearing, our representative was asked whether we supported puppy factory operations. Our response will always be **NO** because of issues such as we have outlined above. And we also argue that this is the very reason organisations such as ours should be recognised and provided with support to carry on with responsible breeding.

PUPPY FARMS IN RURAL AREAS

At the recent inquiry, our representative was asked about the potential for puppy farming operations to take up residence in rural or outer areas.

To illustrate our concerns, we offer reference to the DA to be found at the following address:

At the same time as this proposal is being considered, Upper Lachlan Council has the attached Draft DCP ***stipulating limits of 15 breeding bitches.***

We again challenge the fact that it appears being clearly visible, transparent and responsible for our activities leads to targeting of those who are already regulated, whilst those who would house **50 breeding bitches** in the same LGA can seem to be able to do so with the correct documentation.

Throughout this inquiry, our aim has not been to “white ant” good intent. Rather, it has been to highlight the realities and argue for distinction and acknowledgement of those already conforming to standards and practices that we believe lead the way forward.

Thankyou for your consideration.

Kind regards

Lyn Phillis
Honorary Secretary
German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia Inc.

c.c. GSDCA Executive