

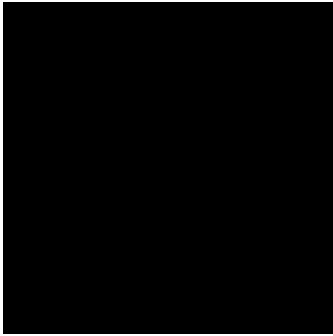
**Submission
No 336**

COMPANION ANIMAL BREEDING PRACTICES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Name Suppressed

Date Received: 29/06/2015

Partially Confidential



Non-shedding/Hypoallergenic

Companion and Therapy Puppies

Developed since 1996

Companion animal breeding practices in New South Wales:

a) The current situation in New South Wales in comparison with other jurisdictions

- The current situation mirrors other jurisdictions in that there are no enforced regulations regarding the breeding of companion animals. There exists no Government Licensing System nor Management Standards – no Monitoring System
- Currently there are no consequences/Penalties which are regularly enforced for any person Breeding and Keeping – Companion Animals for the purpose of Breeding in poor and acceptable conditions

b) Proposals to limit the number of animals allowed to be kept by breeders

- Breeders must demonstrate their ability to keep, maintain and breed multiple companion animals. This should include the ability to offer all/any breeding dog under their care the opportunity of daily Social Integration with other dogs and humans. Housing of Approved Breeding Dogs needs to be clean, warm, relaxed and draft free. Companion Breeding Animals and their progeny need to be fed an adequate diet and fresh water available at all times. Companion animals are not “livestock” and to treat them as such is disrespectful and places the animal’s Health and Wellbeing at risk.
- Companion Animals require activities to stimulate their minds, regular exercise to maintain their fitness, regular veterinary examinations to ensure that their health and wellbeing is maintained.

c) Calls to implement a breeders’ licensing system

- There exists - an urgent need for all/any breeder of companion animals to be required to submit an application for a Breeding License via a regulatory body – be that at a Local, State or National Level.

- Any breeder/facility applying for Certification/Licensing must be inspected and their standards, Management Systems, Record Keeping and Housing Facilities must meet standards.
- Any Licensed facility must be regularly monitored and “Spot Checks” (Unannounced Visits by Appointed Officers) included within that Monitoring System.
- Breeders must provide information regarding care, maintenance, wellbeing and feeding recommendations to all/any buyer prior to a puppy leaving their Breeding Facility
- All/Any Puppy/Kitten must be Microchipped prior to leaving the Breeding Facility and appropriate records kept and maintained by the breeder.
- All Breeding Animals need to be Health Checked by a Licensed Vet and Health Standards met prior to being considered for Breeding. Temperament Assessment should be included.
- Genetic (DNA) and X-ray Testing should be conducted on any Companion Animal being considered for the purpose of Breeding.

There exists – the facility to DNA Test any animal for a series of testable Health Issues – Ideally any Breeder who has been licensed to breed Companion Animals should adhere to DNA Testing and X-rays of Hips/Elbows prior to any animal being considered for Breeding purposes.

d) The implications of banning the sale of dogs and cats in pet stores

- The sale of companion animals via Pet Stores risks the health and wellbeing of the young animals being sold.
- It has been proven that these young animals are often bred under less than acceptable conditions and mass produced to provide companion animal pet Puppies and Kittens for sale via Pet Stores.
- Companion Animals (Puppies and Kittens) – are often purchased based on emotion with buyers whom regret this decision soon after purchase.
- Buyers are not offered any after sale opportunity to make contact with the breeder regarding any health or genetic issues.
- The facilities by which puppies/kittens are secured for sale via Pet Stores are often less than acceptable in standards and management systems.
- Puppies/Kittens are often sold when they are too young – which in turn risks their health and wellbeing. Puppies and Kittens are often too young to survive independently and become ill soon after sale or develop lifelong and ongoing health issues at a later stage.

- Companion Animals (Ie: Puppies and Kittens) are often exposed to over stimulation and handling at an age where they still require nurturing and care from their natural mother. This in turn can lead to ongoing Psychological issues if they survive the experience of being sold via a pet store.
- Companion pet Parents are often unhealthy – parents have not been offered a history of Health Checks prior to being used as a Breeding Dog and are often housed in less than acceptable facilities when raising puppies/Kittens.

e) Any legislative changes that may be required

- There is an urgent need for Breeders of Companion Animals to comply with a Code of Ethics, Conduct and Standards – which include a list of Penalties for a disregard to the Standards which have been set – these penalties need to be enforced and Breeders who disregard the “Code” held accountable for any Breach – approved Officers must reserve the right to enter any property which they suspect may be acting in breach of the Code of Breeding Practices
- A Database/Registry should be posted/maintained on a Government Approved Website listing all/any breeder who is licensed by law to operate an approved Breeding Facility – which has been inspected and licensed to operate under Government Standards. This will lessen the incidence of “Associations” accepting payment from Breeders whom they are unfamiliar with and whose Facilities have not been inspected
- Guidelines and Standards must be adhered to and action taken if these standards are not met and adhered to
- Consumers/Buyers should be able to contact a regulatory body and report any issues that they find concerning and these issues need to be inspected and reported upon by appointed Officers/Inspectors.

f) Any other related matter

Health Standards and lack of Health Testing allows animals who are not of Breeding Quality to be used as Breeding Dogs – this often results in progeny that are less than healthy and in turn are not able to live a life of Health and Happiness – this thus leads to unnecessary cost and heartache to unsuspecting buyers/customers.

Prepared by:

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