

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Agriculture and Environment Committee](#)
Subject: Submission - Animal Management (Protecting Puppies) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016
Date: Tuesday, 8 March 2016 11:22:09 PM

I wish to lodge a submission in connection with the *Animal Management (Protecting Puppies) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016*.

I have been associated with animal welfare for over 15 years. I have been a foster carer of dogs seized from puppy farms for over four years and for a number of years along with my husband I have assisted with the rehabilitation of cruelty case/protective custody dogs for the peak animal welfare organisation in Queensland. I am involved in a puppy farm rescue carers' network and am also an active member of several animal welfare organisations.

While the government is to be commended for initiating legislation to address the trade in misery that is puppy farming, it is my view that unfortunately the bill as it stands does little to achieve this objective.

May I suggest that the name of the proposed Act "Animal Management Protecting Puppies ..." is symptomatic of the problems with this legislation. Of all those suffering from breeder cruelty, "puppies" probably suffer the least. Apart from pre-disposition to genetic disorders, puppies tend to be looked after better because they are the breeders' income and remain in the often appalling conditions of puppy farms for a relatively short time. The dogs who undoubtedly suffer the most are the female dogs who often are bred continuously for the whole of their lives without even basic welfare, before being disposed of. Some may argue that the name of the proposed Act shows no understanding of the puppy farm industry and its provisions show little intent to effectively combat this trade in misery.

I ask you to consider seriously the adoption of the legislation recently introduced in Victoria, which had serious intent to stop puppy farming, and had wide-ranging effective legislation to arrest breeder cruelty and poor breeding practices.

Based on my animal welfare experience, I appeal to you to include the following in the Queensland legislation:

1. A Breeder Code of Practice, which must include mandatory standards for physical, mental and social health, mandatory vet checks, capping the number of litters per dog to three (3), minimum housing, feeding, exercising, prohibition of cruel breeding practices, e.g. so-called "rape stands", in-breeding, etc., mandatory de-sexing of progeny, re-homing of breeder stock when of no further use, and mandatory record keeping.
2. The legislation and code must apply to ALL breeders of ALL dogs and ALL breeders of ALL cats. Membership of a breeder organization must have no influence on relaxation from any conditions of the legislation or code.
3. Sufficient resources for effective compliance checking of ALL breeders, and where necessary prosecution must be provided as well as sufficient resources for the care and re-homing of seized animals.
4. Appropriate penalties in the legislation for non-compliance of provisions of the legislation or code, e.g. breeder permit revoked, appropriate financial deterrent and seizure of animals.
5. Corresponding changes to local government permits and regulations, e.g. limiting number of breeder dogs on any property to ten (10), compliance checks on all breeder facilities before issuing permits and during permit currency.
6. Transition of pet-shop sale of animals away from animals obtained from breeders to animals from responsible rescue organisations. And also the prohibition of sale of animals on-line.
7. Rename the amended legislation from *Animal Management (Protecting Puppies) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2016* to "*Animal Management (Breeding Farms) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2016*", or similar, to reflect the true intent of the legislation.

Please consider these recommendations along with the Victorian puppy farm model in order to provide Queensland legislation which has the potential to effectively combat the misery and cruelty of breeding farms. I sincerely look forward to amended legislation which satisfies the government's election promise to end puppy farming.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Lindy Carter

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