



ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE OF QLD INC

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Agriculture and Environment Committee
Queensland Parliament.

Dear Sir/Madam

The Animal Welfare League has shown strong commitment and success in reducing the numbers of unwanted cats and dogs in Queensland, producing the lowest euthanasia rate of cats and dogs in a large city (Gold Coast) in Australia through its Getting to Zero model. This model includes community veterinary clinics which provide low cost desexing and assistance to those who cannot afford veterinary treatment, along with intensive desexing campaigns, proactive rehoming and shelter policies, a stakeholder coalition and community education, and development of legislation with local and state governments.

AWLQ worked with the Queensland Government from 2004 – 2008 to introduce the Animal Management Cats and Dogs Act. In 2009/10, AWLQ played a leading role with Gold Coast City Council in developing a Breeder Permit system with desexing support, with funding from the Queensland Government. This involved breeders being inspected based on Standards in a Code of Practice developed by Queensland stakeholders including Dogs Qld, GCCC, AVA, RSPCA Qld, AWLQ, Qld Feline Association, Wildlife Preservation Society, Wildcare. Our six biannual National Summits have introduced successful companion animal management and welfare strategies from other countries.

This background is provided to show our experience and expertise in effective strategies to prevent unwanted cats and dogs.

We congratulate the government on the Animal Management (Protecting Puppies) Amendment Bill 2016. We fully support:

- a requirement for a Breeder ID number to be on the microchip at point of sale/transfer, and published with all animals advertised and provided to the new owner;
- that the Breeder ID system applies to anyone with a breeding dog, even if it is only one. This is essential so that consumers know that all breeders should provide an ID number when they purchase a dog;
- a strong consumer awareness campaign to encourage checking for Breeder ID numbers and using these so that governments can follow up with breeders when animals are in a poor

state; and also report to government authorities those that do not have Breeder ID numbers;

- higher penalty points (50 penalty points) for not registering as a breeder, compared with not registering as an owner (20 points) due to the significant welfare impacts breeders can have on many animals.

We also fully support the Bill clarifying

- that it is an offence to keep or use an animal as a kill or lure for blooding or coursing a dog.

While this is a good start, we do not believe the Bill proactively resolves:

- impacts on animals of breeding with poor standards, over-breeding, failure to rehome animals at the end of their breeding life and other welfare issues.

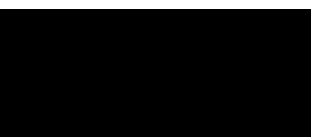
We therefore urge the Queensland Government to also finalise and introduce a **stronger Breeder Permit system, including:**

- Breeding Standards for both cats and dogs which set out:
 - the requirements for the physical and mental well-being of animals used for breeding;
 - limits on the age and number of litters each dog and cat used for breeding can have (e.g. in 2015, the ACT introduced that dogs could only be used for breeding between 18 months and six years with a limit of 4 litters, and only one within an 18 month period; and cats between 1 and 7 years with a limit of three litters within any two year period;
 - a requirement for all kittens to be desexed prior to sale or transfer due to their faster breeding rate and greater proportion of cats being euthanized
- Breeder Permit Fees to cover the cost of initial inspections of all breeding establishments to check that breeders meet the Breeding Standards, with a lower annual renewal fee for further annual and random inspections.

Such a Breeder Permit system based on Standards in a Code of Practice has been introduced by a number of Queensland local governments i.e. Moreton Shire, Brisbane, Gold Coast and Logan City Councils. It would be helpful if this system could be introduced state-wide for consistency of standards. We also support consistency nationally. A 2014 NSW government stakeholder taskforce and 2015 SA citizens' jury have also recommended a Breeder Permit system.

We look forward to the passing of this Bill through Parliament and working with you further to develop a stronger breeder permit system as described above.

Yours faithfully



Strategic Development Officer
Animal Welfare League of Queensland

