

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Agriculture and Environment Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Submission on Puppy Protection Bill  
**Date:** Tuesday, 8 March 2016 2:41:14 PM

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As a concerned resident of Queensland, I am genuinely worried about the very serious issue of puppy farming throughout this State and Country. To protect dogs, I am pleased to learn of the Governments Puppy Protection Bill, but the Bill needs to address all the issues regarding this disgusting practice or else it is like putting a bandaid on a festering sore - it will continue to fester unless dealt with properly in the first instance. As such, I firmly believe the Bill needs to be majorly strengthened, so that the legislation does properly protect these innocent, voiceless animals.

Having rescue pets of my own and being a loving and responsible owner of many dogs over my life, I want to see change that works, with the focus on stamping out such cruel practices. As such I suggest, aside from regulating permits you include legislation covering:-

1. Health checks for puppies, prior to sale, and the breeding dogs need to be given thorough and comprehensive vet checks on a routine and regular basis, with records of such. No dog should be allowed to carry any more than 3 litters in her life. At the same time all puppies should be desexed prior to sale to stop unwanted litters in the future and protect dogs from backyard breeders, whose incentive is to make a quick buck. Most have no knowledge of breeding and breed health issues into poor pups, or through inbreeding. Of course who suffers? The Dog!!! Yes I know from health issues in my own pets.
2. There needs to be a rehoming scheme for retired breeding dogs to secure them a caring and loving future in a forever home. As we all know the rescue organisations, funded through charity, couldn't possibly handle the number of dogs, which would otherwise come under their care. This is a real issue requiring positive solutions for the animals.
3. Any breeder needs to provide clean and adequate conditions for dogs. They need proper quality nutrition, clean water, vet care, exercise with adequate space to enable normal animal behaviour and they need both dog and human socialisation. This has been a horrific consequence of practicing puppy farms till now and numbers of breeding stock per farm or premises needs to be contained to no greater than 10 dogs for this to be manageable. This is in need of monitoring routinely on a regular basis and recorded.
4. Legislation must cover all dogs without exemption of working dogs.
5. I believe anyone guilty of an animal welfare offences, including unregistered breeders, need to be severely punished. They deserve at the very minimum their permit revoked including on their property, and to be heavily fined. Welfare laws need to be enforced to be effective and surely this is what legislation is designed for. Their animals should be seized and cared for by welfare groups with the animal's best interest at heart.
6. Pet stores should never be puppy points of sale. I know from experience the owner's knowledge of the breeder's practices is not reliable or adequately researched and the greatest sufferers here are the animals. Unsuspecting owners, who have to pay high vet bills to address health issues of their pet are also victims. That of course is assuming the owner is responsible and provides care for their pup. Animals are wrongly put to sleep, because owners cannot afford vet fees or are irresponsible in their duty of care to their pet when something goes wrong. This is totally unacceptable and no animal should suffer this end.
7. Councils need greater power to respond to puppy farm reports. The rules have to be strict to contain animal suffering and I feel the RSPCA should be given power to seize dogs into their care and protection, when rules are broken.
8. There needs to be effective programmes in place aimed at resocialising dogs back into the community in a forever home. This does sometimes take extended time, but well worth the results. These animals, given a proper and decent start in life would have been integrated into society given difference circumstances and it is clearly not the animals fault they have never been given the chance to mature into happy, loving and trusting pets. I have seen footage of a wonderful American initiative which rehabilitates dogs with patience, positive reinforcement, time and care by qualified animal behaviouralists. Rescued animals deserve this chance at the very minimum and most people I know would agree.

All in all I want to see positive and comprehensive change. Humans have a very long and sad history of subjecting animals to obscene cruelty to earn them an easy dollar for minimal effort. This includes breeding purposes, entertainment and racing industries. It is time all of these issues were addressed especially if we care to call ourselves a civilised society. Here's to strict legislation and compassion as society and Government moves forward to stop animal exploitation. Please broaden the legislation to totally address the serious issue of puppy farming and stamp out this secretive, abusive industry in one clean swoop. Regards Roslyn Dorrington

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