

Submission to

Agriculture and Environment Committee

Chair: Glenn Butcher MP

Deputy Chair: Stephen Bennett MP

Parliamentary inquiry to investigate puppy protection Bill.

I wish to add my voice to those currently working towards a humane, workable legislation to protect puppies.

The main points I would like to be considered are:

1. A puppy farm stand alone code of practice/ standards is needed- to ensure comprehensive standards are upheld for animal welfare it must include:

Maintaining physical, mental and social health

Provision for mandatory vet checks prior to breeding, after each litter, with mandatory checks prior to sale of puppies.

Capping of litter numbers to 3 litters per breeding female in their lifetime, and introducing mandatory desexing, vet checks and rehoming plans on retirement.

Mandatory record keeping of all information pertaining to every dog must be kept.

2. Widening/ changing council rules and responsibilities

Capping numbers of breeding females per breeder - bring in new legislation to only allow council permits to 10 females for all breeders, whether Government ID or Dogs Qld entity registration to ensure standards are upheld.

Compliance checks - of all breeding facilities before ID numbers are approved, with random annual compliance checks made to be paid for by application fees.

Proven compliance to standards - All breeders must abide by the introduced legislative changes and standards of practice; those already belonging to a breeder association should not be exempt, and proof of pre and annual compliance checks of standards, in line with the government standards, must be obtained. Any found illegally housing more animals than permitted, should immediately have them seized by the RSPCA, and given directives on welfare standards and fines issues.

Indefinite ID cancelation if found guilty of any animal cruelty and all animals seized - any person under suspicion of animal cruelty is to have their ID suspended, their animals seized, and removed indefinitely if found guilty.

They then must have their permit and ID cancelled indefinitely to both their person, and property associated with where the cruelty occurred.

3. More funds directed to aid work of RSPCA

Education scheme - ensure public knowledge of the public registry system of ID numbers, and to ask to visit the premises, never at a different meeting point, so as to view the parents first hand, the conditions their potential puppy lived in and where to make complaints when suspicious.

Extending the reach of the RSPCA or task force, and allow employment of more officers, to aid complaint handling, and investigations.

Help house seized animals - pounds and shelters are at capacity a lot of the time, that makes the homing of surrenders or seized animals difficult. Use of funds directed at implementing help from private kennels and rescues for potential increased seizure of animals, would be a necessity in this amendment.

4. Banning the sale of all animals in pet stores, unless supplied from a registered charity or rescue

This would effectively change pet stores into adoption centres, thus helping to minimise the exhaustive numbers through shelters and pounds, and aid in minimising euthanasia rates across the state.

Sincerely

Maria Cristina Sagarzazu

Bellevue
Tauranga 3110