

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Agriculture and Environment Committee](#)
Subject: puppy farming
Date: Tuesday, 8 March 2016 3:30:10 PM

In regards to the upcoming Puppy Protection Bill I would like to see additional issues covered for the health and wellbeing of the animals involved. People involved in the puppy mill industry are engaged in a profit making process, therefore profit can and often does drive cost savings to the detriment of the animals involved.

In addition to identifying and licensing breeders and the proposed public education program I would like to see included in this bill the following:

1. Banning of all practices that cause health issues and/or distress to animals including :

- lack of clean water and good food,
- lack of space and interaction for healthy body and minds
- in-breeding (as this results in congenital long term issues that are then passed into the entire dog population)
- lack of transparent records (no ability to follow up on practices that contravene minimum standard of care)

2. Implementation of legislation backed by substantial penalties for non-compliance, including :

- A breeding life limit and maximum number of litters per queen of 3 with mandatory de-sexing and re-homing at retirement to ensure breeding bitches have a quality of life before, during and after breeding age.
- A maximum number of 10 breeding bitches per licence holder. Most quality private breeders have no more than 3 or 4 queens breeding at any one time to ensure quality care for a reason.
- Annual vet checks mandatory to ensure animals are not in distress due to undiagnosed health issues.

3. In addition I would request that :

- Regular random checks are made to ensure licence holder compliance and that any transgression is dealt with immediately.
- Compulsory compliance records for all breeders, regardless of affiliation. Non compliancy punishable by immediate fines and, if health or cruelty involved, immediate removal of animals.
- If any breeder is found guilty of cruelty then they have a permanent loss of licence and ban on animal keeping.
- The RSPCA be given funds to investigate and police the new standards and implement regular checks.
- Animal adoption agencies have access to grants to facilitate re-homing.
- Petshops are banned from selling puppies except for rehome or rescue animals, following Victoria's lead.
- A serious public information program is instigated regarding how to find a healthy happy puppy and what to look for.

I also believe this bill needs to be applied to all breeders whether they are 'puppy mill' or 'best in show' or 'home' breeders. I have had a personal experience of the similar profit

over health and wellness from a high end private breeder that led to devastating outcomes.

We have 2 dogs, our first purchased as a puppy while we were in ignorance of the issue of puppy mills, the second a rescue to ensure we were not contributing to that industry. I understand that many people want a puppy and are willing to pay any amount. We were horrified to think that we may have inadvertently contributed to an animals suffering had our first puppy come from a puppy mill. And because we had no idea of what to ask or look for, or even that there was a 'puppy mill' issue, we can only hope that was not so.

I do understand that breeders want to make a profit out of what they do however I also believe that there is no excuse for an animals suffering and that legislation must be passed to ensure the health and well being of all puppies and their bitches and sires.

Thank you,

Gay Landeta



highgate hill, 4101