

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [Agriculture and Environment Committee](#)  
Subject: Puppy farms proposed legislation  
Date: Tuesday, 8 March 2016 3:33:25 PM

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Premier Palaszczuk described puppy farms as *"dogs kept in squalor, and forced to have litter after litter, in conditions that don't meet the dog's behavioural, social, psychological and physical needs."*

Dear AEC

I request that you consider the following issues that are absent from the current proposed amendments to legislation introduced to end the cruel and ruthless exploitation of breeding dogs for profit. I find the proposals inadequate and do not position QLD as a national leader in this area, which is where it ought to be. The key issues absent from the current amendments are as follows:

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

**Maintaining physical health** via nutrition, access to water and food and vet checks, and **mental and social health** via enrichment, positive human contact, exercise, capping litter and animal numbers, housing and allowance of the ability to display normal behaviours.

Provision for **mandatory vet checks** prior to breeding, after each litter, yearly for males and after their litter cap is reached. It should also mandate checks prior to sale of puppies.

It is imperative to both physical and mental health to establish **breeding rules** that would include the ban of inbreeding (ie no breeding siblings/ with parents etc).

**Capping of litter numbers** to 3 litters per breeding female in their lifetime, and introducing **mandatory desexing**, vet checks and **rehoming plans** on retirement. Fraser Coast has been the first council in Qld to [implement changes regarding desexing](#), and we urge all councils to follow suit.

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

Establishing breeding rules that would include the **ban of inbreeding** (ie. no breeding siblings, with parents, etc.) is imperative to both physical and mental health of dogs.

**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 cancellation 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. This change has occurred overseas, ([Las Vegas](#) very recently changed these laws) and also in [Victoria](#). With optimal laws in place, an issue of increased number of animals seized could put an exhaustive load on pounds and shelters as mentioned above. Making pet shops new "adoption centres" would help to house rescued animals.

This would also limit the necessity to rely on pet shops "here-say" information on standards at a breeders business, and allowing only reputable rescues and shelters would offer more safety to consumers and animals alike. More social, healthy puppies with happier owners means less end up in pounds and shelters!

I implore you to consider adding these issues to the proposed legislation.

Yours faithfully

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