

MEDIA RELEASE

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Promoting
Responsible
Dog
Ownership



Dogs NSW says no to puppy farms

Dogs NSW is strongly opposed to sub-standard dog breeding operations, which sell either pure-bred or mixed breed dogs to unsuspecting buyers to the detriment of the dog. “Puppy farms” or “mills” are often characterised by substandard health, welfare, breeding, and socialisation practises of puppies and concentrate on volume and large-scale breeding to maximise financial profit.

“It’s a sad fact that some dog breeders are trying to make a quick profit by cutting corners when it comes to properly raising dogs. Such puppy farms can put at risk the dog’s wellbeing through overcrowding, unsanitary conditions, and cause dogs to miss out on the socialisation aspect of growing up. Dogs often lack interaction with humans in these establishments.”, explains veterinarian and **Dogs NSW** spokesperson **Dr Peter Higgins**.

“Many breeders I work with treat their litters as honorary members of their own family, and spend a lot of time getting them ready for life with other humans. Puppy socialisation is one of the most important aspects. Unsocialised dogs can have all sorts of behavioural problems that can worsen later in life, and it’s just unacceptable for them to miss out.”, argues **Dr Higgins**.

Such substandard practises can potentially cause great suffering to the dogs kept on the puppy mill premises and lead to unsuspecting purchasers buying dogs that may have temperament and costly health problems in the future

Dogs NSW recommends the following when buying a puppy:

- Visit the place where your puppy was raised and meet its parents
- Assess for yourself that the parents are happy to meet you, and appear well trained and cleanly kept.
- Assess that the dogs at the kennel are social and that the property and any kennels are on display for you, and well maintained. This is unlikely to be the case at a puppy farm or mill.

“Prospective owners need to take their time when deciding on whether a puppy has been properly raised. It sends a strong message to those who exploit dogs in this way that what they do is totally unacceptable.”, advises **Dr Higgins**.

Dogs NSW looks forward to continuing to work with responsible welfare organisations to promote high standards of breeding.

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