

21 October 2021



PATRON:  
Her Excellency General The Honourable  
Margaret Beazley AO QC,  
Governor of New South Wales

(MP)

Dear Sir/Madam

**RE: Animal Justice Party - Companion Animals Amendment (Puppy Farms) Bill 2021**

DOGS NSW is strongly opposed to the Companion Animals Amendment (Puppy Farm) Bill 2021 Private Member's Public Bill, of Emma Hurst of The Animal Justice Party and Alex Greenwich (Ind).

This Amendment Bill, if enacted, will decimate the breeding and exhibition of Pure Bred Dogs and Cats, whilst having a minimal effect on puppy farm operation.

The proposed Amendment Bill neglects to address the real issues of puppy mill operations, but instead will obliterate the hobbyists and those that breed for the preservation of particular breeds as well as improvements to their health, however, the greatest impact will be the difficulty in sourcing a suitable Companion Animal, leading to the escalation of the cost of acquiring a pet for the average family. All one needs do is look at the uptake of pet ownership during COVID to appreciate the reality of this scenario.

Prior to the COVID pandemic, the percentage of pet ownership, nationally, was 63%, which has significantly increased due to the lockdowns. Australia has one of the highest per capita of ownership of Companion Animals in the world.

The value of pets in supporting mental health and wellbeing is a matter of demonstrable fact. Access to Companion Animals is essential to the emotional and mental stability of our society. Companion Animals are of value to society in a plethora of ways and to eliminate them and the activities associated with them would be seriously damaging to a significant portion of our society.

The statistics of companion animal ownership in NSW is corroborative of the importance of Companion Animals in our society.

The effect on our society of this Bill, will remove, or at the very least severely limit, the ability for the positive impacts and outcomes of Companion Animals, as studies have demonstrated in both scientific studies and statistical evidence. In fact, it will change our way of life and our freedoms.

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**Promoting Responsible Dog Ownership**



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Breeder registration/licensing is an unjustifiable attempt at shifting the costs of welfare and companion animal management to breeders who have done the right thing - simply because they are an identifiable target, placing the costs of a hobby and responsible dog ownership beyond the reach of most. In turn, destroying a legitimate pursuit, significantly lowering the standards of animals produced for sale, whilst increasing the cost of animals to the average Australian.

Further, the associated restrictive impact on numbers of breeding bitches or queens that may be kept will make preservation of a blood line impossible, thus decimating gene pools, particularly, with rare breeds simply disappearing. The end result will be genetic suicide for all breeds of Dogs and Cats.

The flow on effect of these restrictions will impact businesses supplying ancillary services to responsible breeders of Companion Animals, leading to a significant loss of jobs in the industry and related suppliers and services, such as, Veterinarians, feed establishments, and other animal suppliers. The Animal Care Industry was worth approximately \$13 billion in 2019 which expands to \$21.9 billion when associated industries are considered.

We submit this is a blatant attempt to destroy a culture and social environment of many years standing. For many members of DOGS NSW, Dog Breeding, exhibition and sporting activities provide the social network for their life and, for many, the loss of this backdrop will lead to social isolation, loneliness and the loss of sense of community.

The reality is that The Companion Animals Amendment (Puppy Farm) Bill 2021 Private Member's Public Bill of Emma Hurst Animal Justice Party and Alex Greenwich (Ind) will limit access to Companion Animals as a whole which will have a seriously destabilising effect on our society.

If you require further information in relation to this matter, I can be contacted contact directly by email via [president@dogsnsw.org.au](mailto:president@dogsnsw.org.au) or by telephone on 0407 258 521 or you can contact the DOGS NSW Office on 02 9834 0222 or email [secretary@dogsnsw.org.au](mailto:secretary@dogsnsw.org.au).

Kind Regards

**Dr Karen Hedberg BVSc**  
President  
DOGS NSW

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