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those who keep, care for and breed animals”

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**AJP's NSW PUPPY FARM BILL MISSES THE MARK**

Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2021

## ***FORGETTING TO INCLUDE PUPPY FARMS?***

### ***AJP's proposed anti puppy farm bill doesn't mention puppy farms, nor does it stop them.***

**Sydney, NEW SOUTH WALES, (20th October 2021)** For months the Animal Justice Party's Emma Hurst has been making announcements stating NSW welcomes puppy farmers and their keeping of dogs and cats in deplorable conditions. Ms Hurst frequently states that substandard breeding establishments are legal in NSW, are inundating Councils with DA applications and overtaking small towns of terrified residents. Pictures of dirty, matted, sad eyed dogs usually accompany these announcements.

It's not true, of course. NSW has laws to protect animals from cruelty.

Now that we have finally seen the overly-touted ***NSW Companion Animal Amendment (Puppy Farms) Bill 2021***, we find a glaring omission. No mention of puppy farms. Why is that?

Normally, in a legislative amendment, one would expect to find a list of critical definitions, followed by a list of itemised amendments to the current legislation. So while the amendment is called ***NSW Companion Animal Amendment (Puppy Farms) Bill 2021*** and Ms Hurst claims to be ending puppy farming and backyard breeding in NSW, her amendment includes no definitions of a puppy farm or backyard breeder, nor any kind of definition matching the description of the filthy, heartless puppy farm establishments that Ms Hurst has been vividly painting to gain our tearful support.

“There is no puppy farm definition because the truth is the AJP believe anyone who breeds and sells puppies or kittens is a puppy farm, and that won't sit well with voters,” says Michael Donnelly, President of Animal Care Australia (ACA). “ACA has consistently defined a puppy factory or more accurately an unethical breeder as any person who is breeding an animal with poor welfare outcomes in defiance of the animal welfare standards. Unlike the AJP – ACA puts animal welfare first over ideologies and rhetoric designed to garner votes and supporters,” Mr Donnelly continued.

The amendment instead describes ‘companion animal businesses’, and ‘animal breeding businesses’ and, that's it. Within the 21 pages of the Bill there is nothing about raising standards from the 3rd world conditions NSW supposedly allows. Vet certification is mentioned, not to check that an animal is healthy and fit and free of genetic flaws, but just to ensure it is of age to breed. There are limits on how many fertile females a person can own, regardless of whether they are actually used for breeding or not. There is mandatory desexing or else mandatory surrender of any female who has had two litters.

Despite the blind support given to the AJP by shelters and rescues, they are not spared, being lumbered into the same Animal Business category as pet shops, boarding facilities and dog trainers. Ms Hurst knows that most of her ‘following’ will never actually READ the document they are supporting. She doesn't even need to be subtle.

In fact she doesn't even need to hide her own contradictions within her Introductory speech for this Bill, in one bold statement Ms Hurst declares “At the end of the day, adopting from rescues, shelters and pounds is the truly safe and ethical option when it comes to finding a companion animal,” while in the very next mouth full she declares “.. puppy farm industry contributes to the oversupply of companion animals, many of whom end up in our already overcrowded pounds.

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So which is it Ms Hurst? Are the animals in our shelters and pounds the ethical option or are they the deplorable, gaunt, unhealthy, unethically bred problem of NSW? Are you stating it is ethical to obtain an unethically bred animal – simply because it's not from a breeder or a pet shop?" Mr Donnelly questions.

"This Bill is counter-productive because it requires the removal of all breeding females after two litters. Public demand requires a constant supply of puppies or kittens," Mr Donnelly warns. "If breeding females are retired or surrendered or worse still dumped, then MORE females will be needed to maintain a level of breeding that keeps up with demand, that protects genetics and that continues to allow for breeders to responsibly

breed any health issues out of a breeding line. This will not decrease the numbers of animals in shelters - or being bred – it will increase both. People will get desperate and underground breeding will flourish – just as it has in Victoria. Ethical breeding and welfare standards will not be the norm."

For all of Ms Hurst's promises to end backyard breeding, unregulated, unethical breeding is exactly what this amendment supports. By making it impossible to breed dogs and cats to healthy breed standards with genetic diversity, the amendment makes it easier for inexperienced people to breed random, unsuitable animals in their home without regulation, standards or registrations.

This is exactly what the Animal Justice Party want! This will justify further restrictions in the future to eradicate those remaining breeders because their animals are unhealthy and have been flooding the market unregulated.

This is what PeTA and animal rights activists advocate - to stop all use of animals. Humans should not OWN animals they say. Selling animals is never ok - unless you call your animal business a "sanctuary" and then suddenly it's ok to keep animals in captivity.

Emma Hurst is a former PeTA employee, she really believes this.

This Bill is not about Puppy Farms. You just need to read beyond the title to see it. "This bill is about regulating puppy breeding so restrictively to ensure honest people with high welfare standards will stop breeding. The AJP's approach simply incentivises a black market puppy trade at the expense of animal welfare standards, as is occurring now in Victoria due to similar legislation."

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For further information contact Animal Care Australia Inc

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## **About Animal Care Australia**

Animal Care Australia (ACA) is a national incorporated association lobbying for and advocating for higher welfare outcomes for animals by educating hobbyists and keepers and lobbying governments.

ACA was founded in early 2018 to establish an organisation run solely by volunteers to lobby for real animal welfare. With extreme animal rights and animal liberationist ideologies influencing government legislation, regulation and policy at our expense and to the detriment of our animals and pets, it has become necessary to provide government with a balancing voice.

By uniting the broad spectrum of animal groups, collectively we offer an experienced, sensible approach to animal welfare. We estimate our foundation ACA clubs currently represent well over 150,000 members and that is just in NSW alone!

By educating our members and the general public about the importance of treating animals with kindness and respect for their needs, and promoting the humane treatment of animals to improve animal welfare outcomes, Animal Care Australia is in the unique position of lobbying and advocating for all animals within our care.

Animal Care Australia provides priority to the following:

- lobbying government for stronger welfare outcomes
- lobbying government to increase education of the public in animal welfare and best care techniques
- educate the public on handling their animals with kindness & respect and the importance of their needs
- educate the public in the differences between animal welfare and animal rights