

11th June 2021

Dear Minister,

RE: Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Bill 2020

Animal Care Australia (ACA) is a national incorporated association advocating for higher welfare outcomes for all animals by educating hobbyists and keepers, and lobbying governments. We represent some 200,000 individuals via our member clubs and supporters.

ACA strongly opposed the Bill in 2020 and we continue to recommend you do NOT support the ***Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Bill 2020*** (the Bill) in its current form. Further scrutiny and consultation is required.

This Bill will not achieve its desired outcomes, rather it will likely achieve the opposite as evidenced by experience in Victoria and now emerging in NSW.

- In Victoria, supply is no longer able to meet demand for puppies. This has led to enormous increases in puppy prices, resulting in the expansion of puppies imported from other states, together with an incentive for illegal operators who are now entering the market en masse. All leading to an increase in unhealthy puppies requiring treatment by veterinarians, RSPCA and shelters.
- Abuse of the recently introduced Breeder Identification Number (BIN) system in NSW is occurring due to poor system design and lack of compliance resources. Verification of BINs is not robust, it allows unethical breeders to obtain a BIN and appear trustworthy. Poor welfare outcomes are now coming to light.

Should the Bill become law it will punish, restrict, and discourage legitimate responsible breeders without any real means to expose or prevent those irresponsibly breeding dogs and cats.

In the event the Bill is likely to pass, then proposed committee amendments in *Supplementary Notice Paper No. 162, Issue No. 4* providing concessions to the Canine association of Western Australia (Dogs WA) should be extended to other registered breeding associations. Exemptions should be based on the capacity to uphold high welfare standards.

We encourage education over regulation. Please see our Puppy Factory document attached for further information supporting our position.

We look forward to further consultation on this matter.

Kind regards,



Michael Donnelly
President, Animal Care Australia Inc.
E: president@animalcareaustralia.org.au
M: 0400 323 843