

29 April 2013

Ms Michelle Williamson
By email: shel@petrescue.org.au

Dear Ms Williamson

Ending puppy farms in Australia

Thirty six per cent of Australian households have a dog as a pet, giving a pet dog population of around 3.4 million. This creates a substantial market for thousands of individuals to legally breed dogs. With this in mind, the RSPCA must work to improve the lives of these animals.

While you may disagree with the RSPCA's definition of puppy farms, where I hope you do agree is that legislative amendments are required to state and territory animal management and welfare laws in order to address some of the serious animal welfare issues associated with the breeding of dogs. This includes activities that will result in:

1. Registration of dog breeders
2. Compulsory microchipping of all dogs before 12 weeks of age and prior to sale or transfer of ownership
3. Recording of microchip information including microchip ID number of the puppy's mother and the breeder registration number
4. Compulsory display of the breeder registration number at the point of sale and in advertisements
5. Mandatory standards for the conduct of dog breeding
6. Power for courts to make interim ownership, costs and prohibition orders while any legal proceedings associated with breaches of the animal management and welfare laws are before the court.

More information is provided in the RSPCA's *Legislating to End Puppy Farming - The Way Forward* <http://kb.rspca.org.au/afile/508/99/>

If your intent is to improve the lives of dogs and puppies in the future and save them from being bred and raised in substandard conditions, I hope you can join in a collective voice from the animal welfare movement to state and territory governments for these rapid legislative changes. I look forward to seeing your advocacy in this area.

Yours sincerely



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