

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Cat and Dog Review](#)
Subject: Submission of Opinion on the Review of the Cat Act (2011)
Date: Sunday, 4 August 2019 6:13:02 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am emailing to submit my opinion on the Review of the Cat Act (2011).

I am not a breeder of cats, however, I am a responsible cat owner and have a good relationship with ethical and responsible breeders of both cats and dogs. This email is to submit my views on how the proposed changes to the Cat Act will negatively impact responsible cat breeding.

In my experience of responsible, registered breeders of cats:

- Are dedicated to the health and welfare of their entire cats - they ensure that their animals have all the necessary vet checks and vaccinations and worming treatments. They also ensure that their kittens are fully vaccinated, microchipped and desexed prior to going to their new homes, not before 12 weeks' of age. Backyard breeders do not practice this.

- Do not contribute to the unwanted cat population. They ensure that those adopting their cats are carefully screened and often take cats back to rehome. Large numbers of cats and kittens being euthanised are not caused by registered breeders who breed for the love of their chosen breed and their breed's standard. Many breeders do not earn a profit because they put the needs of their animals first. Backyard breeders breed purely for profit.

- Provide their cats with the best possible environment to ensure their health and safety, including providing a loving, enriching environment, regular vet checks and maintenance of vaccinations and worming, and extensive DNA testing of their foundation cats to screen out major diseases. Backyard breeders do not do this.

In regards to my opinion on the Review of the Cat Act (2011), I believe this should:

- Allow minor registered cat breeders to have 12 entire cats in residential areas or any number they can maintain and love if they are a larger cat breeder in a kennel or cattery zone. The reason for this recommendation is that in many local government areas, a breeder can only have 9 cats which is too limiting for best breeding practice. The Cats WA Breeding Guidelines state clearly that to avoid issues with inbreeding and line breeding, breeders need access to at least 12 cats.

- Raise the kitten age requirement from 6 months to at least months of age, preferably 12 months. Many registered breeders need more time to see how a chosen kitten develops and whether it has the potential to be part of their breeding program. 9-12 months is a better time frame for the breeder to make an assessment of the kitten as they are more developed. Attend any cat show and you will find that the kitten class is for cats up to 9 months of age due to considerations that need to be made for their still-developing bodies. Adopting out

a kitten at a later age substantially reduces its adoption price, which breeders accept. However, this demonstrates that these breeders are breeding for the love of their breed and not for profit.

- Registered breeders should insist on indoor cats or cats confined to their property to ensure that their cats cannot be a public nuisance.
- All shires should consider adopting the same model for breeder applications as the City of Joondalup as this is easy to locate and complete.
- Registered cat breeders should be provided with a checklist for council ranger visits to ensure transparency and mutual cooperation. A pre-arranged visit should be made as many registered cat breeders are women who either live alone or have dependent children and many work full time. This is about personal safety for breeders as anyone can appear to be a ranger to gain access to a home. The health requirements for breeders should be taken into account when visiting - shoes off at the door, F10 disinfectant for hands etc. (All registered breeders I know do this to ensure the utmost health and safety of their animals).

And finally, it does not make sense to combine The Cat Act and The Dog Act due to the fact that these are two very different species and should each come under their own Act. Knowing both cat and dog breeders, I can see how detrimental this revised combined Act would be to the people who do the right thing by their animals. By all means, backyard breeding needs to be better policed, but this shouldn't be at the expense of those who are genuinely doing the right thing.

Thank you for allowing the opportunity to submit my opinion on this matter.

Yours faithfully,

Catherine Hodgson

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