



Dear Lisa Baker,

I am writing to express my concerns about your plan to stop puppy farmers.

I will start by saying that I despise puppy farmers and anyone who breeds dogs unethically. I am a purebred enthusiast and fully support registered breeders who are guided by the rules and ethics outlined by the ANKC. I agree with you that dogs should not be sold in pet shops and that buyers should know exactly where their puppies are coming from and the conditions the parents have been kept in.

However, I have friends who are registered breeders and they are deeply worried about policies restricting how they raise their puppies. Puppies should be born and raised in the breeder's home, not in a concrete kennel setup outside of the home. Most say they will stop breeding if they must keep their dogs and puppies in kennels. Without registered breeders, there will be no more purebred dogs and dog ownership will definitely decrease. This would be incredibly unfortunate as Australians are known for their love of canine companionship.

Another concern I share with my breeder and dog-owning friends is that of mandatory desexing. Early desexing can cause health problems for male and female dogs. More and more research is telling us that dogs must be allowed to fully mature before these important hormones are removed. In some countries, like Norway, they take the health effects of desexing very seriously and you are not actually allowed to neuter male dogs unless there's a medical reason for it. Keeping dogs entire doesn't necessarily mean they will be bred and I firmly believe that whether or not to desexed, or when to desex, is an important decision to be made by the owner and breeder, not the government.

I urge you to ensure that puppies will be raised by ethical registered breeders in their homes, where they will be socialised and nurtured while being exposed to the everyday household life that they will eventually be living in. I also encourage you to read and evaluate recent research about the consequences of early desexing and remove mandatory desexing from your plan.

I know that you will consider my points and I hope that you will make these adjustments to your plan. Thank you for your time and understanding.

 sincerely,
