



MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

Peak bodies say no to pet bill

Peak animal groups have announced today that the proposed Animals (Regulation of Sale) Bill could mean more harm than good for the dogs and cats of New South Wales.

In a historic first, the Australian Veterinary Association, the Animal Welfare League NSW, the Australian Small Animal Veterinary Association, Sydney Dogs and Cats Home, Dogs NSW, the Pet Industry Association of Australia and Waratah National Cat Alliance have joined forces to speak out against the proposed Bill.

“The proposed Bill could actually cause more unnecessary deaths of dogs and cats and drive the development of a black market in pets,” Dr Mark Lawrie, President of the Australian Veterinary Association said.

“This Bill assumes that all people who buy a pet are irresponsible. That is not true,” Dr Lawrie said.

The group also spoke out against the idea of a parliamentary inquiry.

“This issue needs sound scientific research, not a costly parliamentary inquiry,” said Maryann Dalton, CEO of Animal Welfare League NSW.

“We support a well-regulated pet industry that protects the welfare of animals and preserves the right of people to own a pet of their choice. This Bill does not do that,” Ms Dalton.

“The danger of this Bill is that it gives the appearance of solving a problem when it may actually make things worse,” said Dr Peter Higgins, spokesperson for Dogs NSW.

“Pets are good for communities and good for your health, and their benefits are well documented. Our principle concern is animal welfare. This Bill is not in the best interests of animal welfare,” he added.

The peak bodies have a common objective of promoting responsible pet ownership, which benefits both pets and the community.

“We are united on this issue because we all agree that animal welfare will suffer if this Bill becomes law,” Dr Graham Swinney, President of the Australian Small Animal Veterinary Association said.

The CEO of the Pet Industry Association of Australia, Dr Joanne Sillince said, “We do not need draconian laws that won’t work. Responsible pet ownership is about education not legislation.”
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