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**Working to stop the oversupply and euthanasia of healthy
pets in Australian Pounds**

Date: July 2009

**The Premier of NSW
Hon Nathan Rees
Level 40 Governor Macquarie Tower,
1 Farrer Place,
SYDNEY NSW 2000**

Dear Mr Rees

For personal attention: submission of petition calling for Inquiry into NSW pet industry

We are an information and advocacy group dedicated to halting the un-necessary destruction of healthy animals in NSW Pounds and Shelters.

The reality is that there are far more animals in the pet market than there are available homes. As you are likely aware breeding of companion animals is not regulated, and profit motivated entities have little interest in slowing down the numbers entering the market.

There is much debate about the causes and responsibilities related to this problem. For this reason NSW is in urgent need of a full Inquiry to determine causes, responsibilities and possible solutions. Only with an honest and open assessment of all the factors that create pet overpopulation and pound killing can solutions be developed for once and for all.

With all the vested interests of profit motivated organisations in the 4 billion dollar (total Australia) pet market, we believe that only a Parliamentary Inquiry will be honest and transparent enough to satisfy all stakeholders.

We respectfully present you with 1000 signatories of concerned NSW citizens who petition you personally to intervene and support the call for this Inquiry.

We would ask you not simply to hand this over to the Minister for Primary Industries, Mr Ian MacDonald, as from past experience we will get a standard form letter explaining that the Government is doing enough to fix the problems.

Thousands of voluntary Rescue workers who work tirelessly 7 days a week to save an increasing number of cats and dogs who enter the Pound system each year in NSW will tell you that any "fixes" Government have initiated are NOT working. Codes of Practice that Minister MacDonald believes in are not workable solutions in the main simply because there are not the resources to police them. There needs to be other ways of thinking about the problem and possible solutions.

Please take the time to read some of the heartfelt comments that some signatories would like you to see.

Please let NSW show leadership in the massive problem that results in (our) State sanctioned killing of over 60,000 healthy animals in NSW.

Yours Sincerely

Paul Archer

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Please reply to info@deathrowpets.net or PO Box 292 Frenchs Forest NSW 1640



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WE, THE UNDERSIGNED PETITION NSW PREMIER NATHAN REES TO ESTABLISH A FORMAL AND OPEN GOVERNMENT ENQUIRY INTO THE NSW PET INDUSTRY

We call for an enquiry through an unbiased government Upper House committee that is empowered to obtain the truth. The enquiry needs to establish:

- Real data, real pound figures and the real statistics on breeding, dumping and animal management and disposal / rehoming.
- The inter-relationships between government officials and all the entities in the commercial pet industry.
- What goes on in the mass production breeders, registered or unregistered by Dogs NSW, the backyard breeding industry and through pet shops.
- How and from where animals are sourced, and the treatment they receive at all steps in the supply chain.
- Why people surrender or dump their animals in increasing quantities.
- Why and how NSW hi-rise housing policies prevent people from keeping pets at their homes.
- The cost to the NSW taxpayer of this supply chain that produces more animals than it can find homes for.
- The human and emotional costs to the thousands of pound workers, rescuers, volunteers, foster carers and euthanasia technicians involved in a broken system.
- What PR and marketing influences have been applied to government by vested interests in the pet supply chain.
- Why vested interests continue to obfuscate the reasons for mandatory desexing at point of sale or at the correct age called upon by animal welfare groups.

The NSW companion animal system kills unnecessarily thousands of healthy animals a year. It requires a complete overhaul.

The only way for this to occur openly and for the best outcomes is for all the facts to be tabled under oath in a formal Parliamentary enquiry.

Only then can unbiased policy be developed without the influences of the associations and industry groups that have hitherto guided and influenced policy to continue this broken system.

- The pet industry is freely allowed to mass produce and sell undesexed animals to anyone who has money.
- The pet industry encourages buyers to have litters of babies; they encourage backyard breeders and puppy and kitten mills (mass producers) to produce for them; so they can continue their revenue stream
- The cost to the NSW taxpayer is massive - managing (poorly) an estimated 60,000+ animals that are kept and then killed in council and charity pounds and shelters.
 - Thousands of people are subjected to massive human issues of trauma and emotional damage from a system that euthanizes healthy animals through lack of homes.
 - NSW charities and rescue groups need to dedicate millions of dollars to try and stem the tide that is caused by unregulated breeding.

Why does all of this need to occur in a modern, compassionate and humane society?



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Clover Moore has introduced an Animals (Regulation of Sale) 2008 Bill in NSW Parliament. In 2007 a similar Bill was effectively squashed by government and industry interests who oppose regulation that would create the badly needed balance in the supply chain of cats and dogs in the pet industry.

Mr Rees, we therefore call upon you as a NSW Premier for a full parliamentary enquiry to be held BEFORE voting on the current Animals (Regulation of Sale) Bill 2008 in the Legislative Assembly. This will ensure that members are able to consider and make an informed and representative decision based on the full, honest facts of the enquiry's determinations.

The pet industry creates revenue at every step of an animal's life. The motivation by the pet industry to keep things as they are is very high.

This must not be allowed to get in the way of the true facts behind the NSW terrible record of companion animal destruction, and a workable solution to fix the problem.