



www.DEATHROWPETS.net

Let's stop the oversupply and euthanasia of healthy pets

Date: 23 January 2009

Christine Davis
CEO Dogs NSW
PO Box 632 St Marys NSW 1790, Australia
Cc Deathrowpets readership

Dear Christine

Your support of PIAA in opposition to the Animals (Regulation of Sale) Bill 2009

Recently your organisation wrote a joint letter to NSW Government Ministers (19 November) declaring your opposition to the proposed Bill.

The purpose of my letter is to provide you with a balanced perspective on one of the issues raised:

- *“The real agenda appears to reduction in responsible pet ownership”.*

We were seriously wondering why Dogs NSW would side so openly with an organisation that is overtly and unambiguously promoting increased and expanded sale of un-registered mixed breed animals, often from dubious and non-regulated breeding sources (including puppy farms with all that that entails), and which invariably is damaging your Member's own market and reputation.

The answer was provided by one of your members when he wrote:

“PIAA see Clover Moore's bill as taking away their members livelihoods. And they managed to convince the management of Dogs NSW that it was only the beginning of a much grander plan - one to limit registered breeders as well.”

Further:

“We have some great registered breeders in Australia but we also have a lot of duds. And a lot of the duds are our backyarders and puppy mills.”

Firstly here is a wrap on the main groups supporting Clover Moore in her efforts- we are all people who are unequivocally interested in and love our animals. We ourselves have 3 dogs, with 2 deceased a few years ago. If you want to see who we are, please visit the “who are we” section of our website – we have nothing to hide.

All the other groups and people involved all have their cherished pets, in many cases quite a few animals. We know who all the groups are –not once have we ever had any conversation remotely connected with any sort of “grand plan” as dreamed up by PIAA. The majority of those involved on our side of the fence spend countless hours weekly in rescuing and having to work on the mess created by the over-supply problem. I spend hours each week fielding desperate enquiries for help in saving deathrow animals. I have had rescuers in tears on the other end of the line because they couldn't save a particular animal.

Please hear me – we would love every responsible family in Australia to have one or two dogs.



www.DEATHROWPETS.net

Let's stop the oversupply and euthanasia of healthy pets

The issue, as you well know is that supply and demand by far outstrip demand – to the tune of a quarter of a million animals a year. That means even if we CUT BACK back-yard breeding and unregulated breeding by a quarter of a million dogs and cats, there would still be the same number of homes with animals – more or less. We are not asking to limit registered breeders – we are demanding that society gets the supply and demand equation right.

Do you know that the UK kills about 60,000 cats and dogs a year (from UK Dogs Trust and Council information) with a population of 63 million, and we manage to kill that number in NSW alone with a population of only 6 million or so. How does that happen Christine? It's a disgrace.

PIAA's agenda

You may know that PIAA have a relatively small membership of pet shops in this country. There are something like 1,700 pet shops (Sensis) and if you look at PIAA'S website, you can see how many they have as members – 400 or so when I last looked. Jo Sillince has avoided a direct answer to my question on this many times

PIAA are clearly using this as an opportunity to scare monger and frighten / coerce more membership from pet shops. As the CEO of an Association, I'm sure I don't need to explain to you the importance of membership.

That's their agenda – simple as that.

They claim that we are trying to take away their livelihoods – why would we, we support hundreds of pet shops across the country? Where does PIAA imagine we buy our own pet supplies from? We, along with our colleagues actively support pet shops that don't sell live animals (see Pet Shop Stars on www.wheredopuppiescomefrom.com.au).

The total complement of people across the country involved in rescue and volunteering, and a growing number of the public studiously avoid spending a cent in any pet shop that sells puppies or kittens. So in fact, PIAA by pushing pet shops to sell animals are even losing their members money.

So, what's the “grand plan”?

Our 5 point strategy says it all:

“In Australia, we have a system that perpetuates a cycle of breeding to excess, impulse purchasing of pets and then quiet killing of the surplus 250,000 mainly healthy cats and dogs year after year. (We kill 60,000 every year in New South Wales alone...)

This is not justifiable, not ethical and not acceptable. These animals are not just statistics, each one is a live sentient being that suffers immense stress and then death. Surely we have the ability to fix the problem and stop the oversupply and consequent unnecessary euthanasia of healthy cats and dogs by tackling all the reasons for it?



www.DEATHROWPETS.net

Let's stop the oversupply and euthanasia of healthy pets

Here are 5 ideas we at DEATHROWPETS want to turn into a reality:

1. **Restrict the sale of cats and dogs to ethical registered breeders,** pounds and animal shelters
2. Stop all sources of mass production of kittens and puppies for profit
i.e. stop puppy and kitten farms and backyard breeders
3. Make de-sexing mandatory for all pets at the point of sale
4. Increase the re-homing rate in pounds and shelters via better low-kill policies
5. And of course educate everyone on responsible and caring pet ownership...

PIAA recently have been proclaiming very hard that our agenda is based on some imagined PETA's grand plan.

PETA are not involved in this movement – they don't even operate here. I don't know anyone of us who is remotely involved with PETA. I don't know a single person who is calling for reduction for responsible pet ownership. I do however know many many people and groups who are calling for increased responsible pet ownership.

It's a figment of PIAA's imagination designed to scaremonger and coerce more membership. It's an outrageous and un-ethical lie.

I have written to all the PIAA Board to ask them specifically who they accuse of being a PETA puppet, or who is sponsoring or supporting their purported "grand plan" – no reply. I wonder why don't you?

I find it very sad that a respected, responsible and influential organisation like Dogs NSW has seemingly succumbed to this falsification of the situation. And we know that many of your members agree with us.

As a significant part of the supply chain that does supply animals, I hold that your organisation has a responsibility to play an active part in creating a solution. That solution is not difficult:

- Regulate and professionally manage breeding
- Stop sales of puppies through pet shops, markets and unregulated newspaper /internet advertising
- Put a stop to mass production breeders and back yard breeders (yes, also those pushing thousands of puppies overseas)
- De-sex appropriately so as to reduce unwanted litters

I hold that if we are able to accomplish the above, not one of your ethical responsible and registered breeders would be compromised. Those that will be compromised, you surely don't want on your books anyway – do you?

Please let me know if you disagree with any of these 4 points.

If you are at this stage unclear about the effects of the proposed Bill, then surely you will support the need for a full, open and independent Inquiry. An inquiry that will establish all the facts that



www.DEATHROWPETS.net

Let's stop the oversupply and euthanasia of healthy pets

Ministers need in order to make an informed decision in Parliament. What do you have to lose by such an Inquiry?

I would like to ask you here if you will support this proposed government led independent Inquiry.

If you do not, we would like to understand why.

Finally, I would just add that the public are now becoming increasingly wise to the problem and its sources. This groundswell is growing.

I do hope that Dogs NSW in the final outcome will be seen as having had a significant contribution into resolving this dreadful and unsustainable situation that results in the unnecessary killing of all these animals. If you can take positive and contributing actions, we would be happy to support you in any way we can.

I look forward to hearing from you.

**Yours Sincerely
Paul Archer**

www.deathrowpets.net

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

PS 1- I have written to Peter Higgins asking him to supply some of the "scientific" data that supports the propositions put forward by the party of 3 in the November letter to Ministers.

I do hope you will encourage him to reply.

PS 2- I have to add that your President's comments on your website concerning the motives of the Bill being underpinned by a desire to take away the rights of breeders is so far off the mark as to be laughable. What a vivid imagination!