

Leigh Jensen
The Paw House Boarding Kennels



August 2nd, 2018

TWIMC,

I am writing to express my concerns over the proposed Puppy Farming Legislation. Essentially I feel that the proposals will only affect people who are already doing the right thing by, and it will have little to no effect on Puppy Farm activities.

However – if I am wrong, and by some miracle this legislation does work, then it will devastate my industry. Many of my customers have “designer dogs”, that they often paid frankly ridiculous sums for. They know they could purchase a Labrador AND a Poodle from a registered for less than they paid for their Labradoodle, or purchase (insert any 2 purebred dogs) for less than they paid for one of the resulting offspring. As the son of breeders of purebred dogs, and an infrequent breeder myself, this pains me a little, but these people are getting the dog they want. You will now be forcing them to settle for a dog that is the best they can hope for. In many cases this will result in a dog entering the rehoming cycle. There may be less of them if your legislation works, but then without the network that currently supports this re-homing process, what happens to the dogs themselves at that point? Euthanasia? Gumtree, and then Gumtree again? As these dog numbers drop what happens to everyone else involved in the process? Dog trainers, and groomers, and boarders, and legitimate breeders, and vets? Without a population of dogs to service we will all go into decline. The training, investment in equipment and infrastructure, time to establishment of networks and procedures and customer bases, all of it will be wasted. Not to mention that the cost of these dogs will rise as they become scarce, which will then encourage a new round of puppy farming because it will be lucrative for dishonest people to find a way around the legislation. You are establishing Prohibition styled legislation for pet ownership, which has never worked in any country for any product.

You could simply work on a National initiative to identify active Puppy Farmers and target just them. A coordinated nationwide initiative, more focused. This combined with some public education about sourcing puppies from known sources only, where buyers can meet the breeders and parents of their new puppy will be doubly effective. It will be cheaper, more effective and cause less unintended grief to the community, and most of the required legislation is already in place.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leigh'.

Leigh Jensen

