



# SUE PENNICUIK MLC

Member of the Legislative Council  
Southern Metropolitan Region

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24 November 2014

Ms Susan Chandler  
Executive Officer  
Australian Veterinary Association (Victorian Division)  
Suite 12.19, 401 Docklands Drive  
Docklands Vic 3008

Dear Susan,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Australian Veterinary Association's 2014 Victorian Election Platform.

I am responding to you on behalf of the Australian Greens Victoria.

## **A parliamentary review into the effectiveness of the restricted breed legislation**

The Greens support a parliamentary review on the effectiveness of the restricted breed legislation.

## **The Code of Practice for Breeding and Rearing Businesses be reverted to prior revision**

The Greens agree that the revised Code of Practice for Breeding and Rearing Businesses (the Code) falls well short of what is required for the welfare of animals. Indeed the welfare of animals is barely considered. The law and the Code as they stand – both the revised and the prior version, allow large scale puppy farms to operate where hundreds of animals are caged for up to 23 hours a day for the purposes of breeding animals for profit. It is estimated that 95 per cent of puppies sold in pet shops are produced in puppy factories or by backyard breeders.

The Greens want to see the sale of companion animals banned from pet shops as this encourages impulse buying of animals, many of which are later abandoned because they are not suitable or no longer wanted. No puppy factory whether it is 'clean', 'model', 'state of the art' or otherwise is an acceptable environment for animals.

Whilst ever the current situation prevails, the Greens agree that the code should include mandatory pre and post partum health checks of breeding dogs and a limit on the number of litters a female dog can produce rather than a discretionary provision that allows unlimited breeding based on 'certificates of fitness' to keep breeding.

The Greens will continue to push for the complete abolition of puppy farms.

## **Restricted acts of veterinary science returned to the Veterinary Practice Act 1997**

The Greens are happy to consult further with the AVA on the issue of restricting acts of veterinary science to registered veterinary practitioners.

**Veterinary practices be exempt from registering as a domestic animal business if running puppy socialisation classes**


The Greens are happy to consult further with the AVA as to whether veterinary practices should be exempt from registering as a domestic animal business if running puppy socialisation classes.

**Legislation to address tail docking of cattle**

The Greens are supportive of legislation to address tail docking of cattle and would like to work with the AVA and others as to the best way to achieve this.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you require further information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sue Pennicuik', with a long, sweeping horizontal line underneath it.

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