



30 October 2009

Dear New South Wales Parliamentarian,

Unwanted companion animals

With the voting down of the Animals (Regulation of Sale) Bill 2009 in the Legislative Assembly, it is important that companion animal welfare, including the problem of unwanted pets, is not taken off the agenda.

As the peak animal health and welfare organisations we recommend that the best way forward now is to commission an independent expert to evaluate the information available in New South Wales on unwanted companion animals and recommend policy options that will help address the problem.

The review should expand on the scientific framework established by Dr Linda Marston from Monash University and others for the Queensland Government in the report [*Review of strategies for effectively managing unwanted dogs and cats in Queensland*](#).

This approach will provide the most comprehensive, time- and cost-effective approach to help you in future deliberations on these important issues. We support a science-based review, rather than a parliamentary inquiry, to save money and time while obtaining well-researched policy recommendations.

An independent expert consultant should be appointed immediately to examine policy options including those known to be effective overseas, and make recommendations for implementation in New South Wales.

Our group of organisations would also support the outcomes of these policy trials being presented to the parliament.

We would be happy to work with such an independent scientific review to provide the best outcome in the shortest possible time.

Australian Veterinary Association
Animal Welfare League NSW
Sydney Dogs and Cats Home
Dogs NSW

Australian Small Animal Veterinary Association

Pet Industry Association of Australia
Waratah National Cat Alliance Inc
Australian National Kennel Council