

I urge you to support the Animals (Regulation of Sale) Bill. The Pet Industry must be regulated to ensure that consumer rights and animal welfare are respected.

Below is an account of just one of the many tens of thousands of animals abused at the hands of the pet industry.

Name: Milo

Species: cat

Breed: domestic short hair

Sex: female

Approximate age: 9 weeks

Condition upon rescue: emaciated and dehydrated



Milo's Story

I bought Milo from a Pets Paradise shop in Sydney because as I walked past her cage I could see that she was dying.

When I entered the shop Milo was huddled up under the bright lights and gently rocking. Her fur was matted and unkempt and her nose, mouth and eyes were drained of colour. She was so thin that I could actually see the individual shape of her ribs beneath her fur. She looked like she was in pain, but was too weak to move.

The member of staff who I approached about buying the kitten seemed nonchalant about her condition. After my questioning, she did admit however that Milo was a 'bit underweight' but excused the fact by saying that when they have a lot of kittens in the one cage 'not all of them get enough food'. I was horrified. It is not enough to just recognise that the animals are not all being fed, the people responsible for the animals have a duty to fix the situation and guarantee the appropriate care of the animals.

After not being asked for ID, and not being interviewed or supplied with any care information, I quickly paid the money and left the pet shop to get Milo to a vet.

The vet was shocked by her appearance, and diagnosed Milo as being emaciated. She weighted less than half of what she should have weighed at her age. When I checked the microchip papers, it indicated that Milo had been in the care of Pets Paradise for a few weeks. It is during this time that she almost starved to death. Milo also required injections of fluid to hydrate her.

After many weeks, and many vet visits, Milo is now looking more like she should – a healthy and happy kitten. I shudder when I think about what she endured at the hands of the pet shop; slowly starving to death. I feel even angrier to know that they are still entrusted with the care of other animals. The only way that we can ensure their safety is through the introduction of the Animals (Regulation of Sale) Bill.