I urge you to support the Animals (Regulation of Sale) Bill. Each year in NSW more than 60 000 cats and dogs are euthanased in council pounds. The bill is committed to reducing this tragic statistic by regulating the pet industry and promoting responsible pet ownership.

Below is an account of just one of the many animals abandoned each year in our state, he is one of the lucky ones able to have been saved.

Name: Pumpkin

Species: cat

Breed: domestic medium hair

Sex: male

Approximate age: 6 weeks

Condition upon rescue: very thin, fleas & worms

Pumpkin's Story

At just 5 weeks of age Pumpkin and his siblings were abandoned. After spending days on the street without food or shelter, this family were picked up and taken to a pound. As their time came to an end (un-microchipped animals are held for seven days only) they were fortunate enough to be taken in by a rescue group and given a second chance to live.

Pumpkin and his family were very thin and had a severe infestation of intestinal worms and fleas. They were showing the early stages of cat flu, and although they were responsive, they had terrible diarrhea and vomited after eating.

It's incredible what the impact that neglect can have on an animal – just simple flea and worming treatment could have prevented so much suffering. Pumpkin seemed to have been effected the most.

During the first few days after being rescued Pumpkin required intensive nursing. He had very bad vomiting and diarrhea, and was painfully thin. This is a frightening combination, because he really could not afford to loose any more weight. But the volunteer who nursed him showed incredible patience and determination. After many weeks of making small gradual improvements, Pumpkin finally reached a stage where he could feel like a normal kitten.

Pumpkin is lucky. Many more kittens are not given this chance to live. What would have happened if he had not been found? What would have happened if he had not been rescued from the pound? More than 60 000 cats and dogs are killed in NSW council pounds every year. Something must be done to stem the tide of unwanted animals and to encourage responsible pet ownership. The Animals (Regulation of Sale) Bill promises to achieve this. How many more animals like Pumpkin will loose their lives before this progressive legislation is introduced?