

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: Sandy

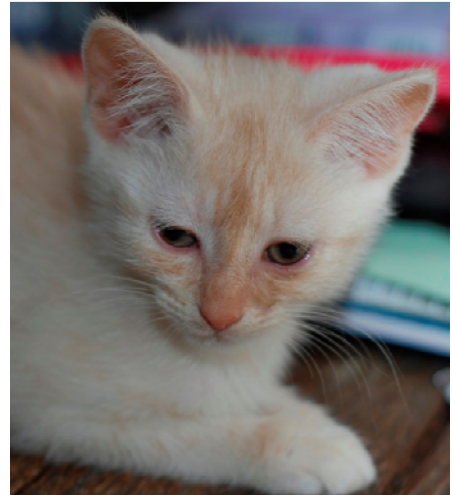
Species: cat

Breed: domestic short hair

Sex: female

Approximate age: 8 weeks

Condition upon rescue: cat flu and conjunctivitis



Sandy's Story

Sandy was 'rescued' from Pets Paradise. I was just walking past the shop when I saw that her eyes were weepy, and one was partially glued shut. I spoke to the shop assistant, but she didn't seem to care, so I bought the kitten and took her straight to my local vet.

Aside from the condition of the kitten, the actual procedure (or lack of) for purchasing an animal horrified me. *I could have been anyone.* The shop assistant did not ask me for ID, she offered me no advice on how to care for the kitten, and I was not asked to fill out any paperwork – in fact the kitten was not even microchipped (it is illegal to sell un-microchipped animals in NSW).

After the quick sale, I immediately took Sandy to my vet where she was diagnosed with cat flu and secondary infections. Secondary infections usually result when the primary infection is not treated. In fact, given her state, she had probably been sick for a while. On top of having cat flu, Sandy was very underweight and had intestinal worms.

What is worrying is how contagious cat flu is. Sandy was in the glass display cage with ten other kittens, who will now all be sick. What will happen to them? It is well known that sick kittens get euthanased or taken to pounds. Pet shops will not pay to have animals treated at their own expense.

Sandy is one of the lucky ones. She now has a really wonderful home and is given the care and love that she deserves. But there are many tens of thousands of animals who are not so fortunate. I don't think it is right to leave their welfare to chance. The Animals (Regulation of Sale) Bill will make this a guarantee.