

# Pet Shops = ANIMAL ABUSE



How many times have you walked past a pet shop and seen a sick or distressed animal for sale, or an animal who looks too young to be away from its mother, or an animal without access to food and water? *What you have witnessed is cruelty.*

**Animal cruelty and pet shops are two sides to the same coin.** This is because pet shops are businesses, and like any business, they are primarily concerned with **making money** and **reducing their costs**. This is not a problem when selling shoes or furniture, but when it involves the sale of infant animals there is a serious conflict of interest. For example:

- Pet shops actively encourage impulsive behaviour in customers. The following excerpt has been taken from the Entrepreneur Business Centre: 'Pet Shop Business Start Up Guide'.

*"The scenario is simple: Someone will walk by, fall in love with an animal and buy it. These sorts of impulse sales can add dramatically to your profits.*

*First-time browsers in a pet shop will not necessarily jump at the thought of spending \$50 to \$500 to bring a dog home... However, if your shop is accessible and your sales and service ability is convincing, it will not be long before you convert walk-in traffic into buying customers."*

- To avoid losing potential customers by 'burdening' them with the expected costs and responsibilities of animal ownership, pet shops rarely provide people with care information. In this way pet shops set people up to fail in living



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- Animals are sold to **anyone** with money. ID is rarely sighted, people are not interviewed and there are innumerable accounts of animals being sold to minors.



- Animals are housed 24hrs a day in tiny display cages. During the day they are surrounded by bright lights, noise and excited shoppers; at night they are alone and unsupervised. This seriously compromises their welfare.
- Pet shops sell animals to people (often impulsively and without care information) un-desexed. This combined with a lack of education leads to more unwanted

- If an animal becomes sick while in the care of the pet shop it is common practice to not seek vet treatment. Animals are either left to die, taken to a pound or sold at a discounted rate. All this to avoid the business incurring additional costs.

- The animals sold in NSW pet shops are sourced cheaply from 'puppy farms' or backyard breeders, where the parents are housed and bred in appalling conditions at minimal cost.

These animals will never be walked, cuddled or played with, and they will never know the comforts of a home. As soon as they stop making money (if they become sick or stop producing litters) they are discarded as they are useless to the breeder.

The backyard or commercial breeder has no understanding of or concern for breed standards, genetics, socialising, or animal health. The animals sold are usually suffering as a result.



### What You can Do to End this Abuse

Tell your local MP to **support** the Animals (Regulation of Sale) Bill. If introduced, pet shops (and market places) will be prohibited from selling cats and dogs. Puppy farms and backyard breeders will also be made illegal.

Visit [www.pawsforaction.com](http://www.pawsforaction.com) for ways you can help.