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Taking It to the Next Level

Uniform national legislation to crack down on puppy farms and irresponsible breeding practices can't come soon enough for animal welfare organisations and rescue groups. Shelters across Australia take in, rehabilitate, foster and adopt thousands of unwanted pets each year.

As each state grapples with codes of practice and permit systems for breeders, differing regulations between states provides an environment where unscrupulous operators can thrive.

While encouraged by several states currently working on tightening regulations around the breeding and selling of companion animals, Animal Welfare League Australia is calling for uniform national regulation to more effectively eliminate cruel or irresponsible breeding practices.

"We encourage voters to lobby their federal members for a nationally consistent breeder permit system to reduce the numbers of unwanted dogs and cats." Grant Robb, AWLA President

In addition to calling for consistent legislation to better protect animals, AWLA is partnering with G2Z (Getting to Zero), a national program aimed at preventing the unnecessary euthanasia of thousands of unwanted pets.

G2Z Coordinator Nell Thompson is convening a national summit to be held next month on the Gold Coast. Held every two years, this fifth summit is a leading forum for the exchange of ideas and solutions to saving the lives of abandoned companion animals.

"The summit is a rare opportunity to tap into the wealth of knowledge and expertise of international and local experts in the field...it's a must attend for anyone involved in the area of companion policy or practice, including government, shelter and rescue organisations, vets, the pet industry sector and the research community". Nell Thompson

Speakers include veterinary behaviourist Professor Paul McGreevy (University of Sydney) who will present current research on the genetic factors that influence aggression in dogs, also what makes a good human-dog bond and the matching of dogs with appropriate owners.

International and local speakers will share community alliance models involving welfare organisations, rescue groups, businesses, vets and elected representatives – alliances formed to benefit animals, pet owners, shelters and the community.

“AWLA is proud to be conference partner for the G2Z Summit. Australia’s widespread affection for dogs and cats means saving lives is a goal most people share. Joining forces at the frontline and lobbying for stronger companion animal legislation, means a brighter future for more animals.”

Grant Robb

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