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MEDIA RELEASE

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PET IDS SET TO IMPROVE ANIMAL WELFARE

Families about to buy a dog or cat will have more information about the animal and the breeder selling it under new laws set to be introduced to NSW Parliament this week.

Minister for Local Government Gabrielle Upton said the *Companion Animals and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018* is the first step in the Government's Animal Welfare Action Plan.

"At the moment we have multiple acts governing various aspects of animal welfare and most of the related legislation is more than three decades old," Ms Upton said.

"As part of the proposed legislation, a new pet register will be launched later this year which will allow pet owners to access critical information on the animal they plan to purchase.

"We know just how important animals are in the family home and we want to make sure that people can easily access information to ensure their pet has been well looked after.

"The register would allow people to search for the microchip number and find the pet's breed, age, registration and whether or not it has been de-sexed.

"This information will go a long way to making sure families are fully informed on the history of the new member of their family."

Breeders selling or people giving away dogs and cats will be required to include a relevant identifying number in all advertisements – either a microchip number, a breeder identification number, or a rehoming body number.

The pet register has a dual function for animal welfare enforcement agencies which will enable a crack-down on those breeders doing the wrong thing.

Penalties will apply for not advertising or falsifying an identity number, however exemptions will apply for animals under 12 weeks of age and for working dogs that are not required to be microchipped.

Breeder identification numbers will continue to be available for free through the register.

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