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To whom it may concern

Recently a newspaper article was published in the Warragul & Drouin Gazette reporting issues of noise pollution and allegations of mismanagement of the Warragul Boarding Kennels and Rutland Manor Labradoodles. I would like to dispel some inaccuracies mentioned in this article and provide some information from my association with Warragul Boarding Kennels and Rutland Manor. I would also like to outline the benefits of having a major boarding kennel and cattery for the community of Warragul and Drouin.

Firstly, I would like to disclose that the Warragul Boarding Kennels and Rutland Manor have been clients of the West Gippsland Veterinary Centre since April 2007. During this time I have found the attitude of Beverley Manners and her staff towards animal health to be of an extremely high standard. Relative to many of our breeders, Rutland Manor practices up to date breeding practices. They have led the way in Gippsland for the PennHIP screening test for the elimination of hip dysplasia in dogs and DNA testing for the elimination of many hereditary diseases. I know of no other breeders using these advanced screening tests. The dogs are regularly vaccinated and wormed and their diet is of a high quality.

As a veterinary practice we have regular visits to the Warragul Boarding Kennels and Rutland Manor for routine procedures, such as vaccination, and to attend sick animals. During these visits we have found the premises to be clean, well organized and the animals well cared for. We are in regular contact with Beverley and her staff to offer advice and support for the boarding and breeding animals.

The importance of providing a locally accessible boarding kennel for the Warragul community and their pets cannot be underestimated. From an animal welfare perspective, a boarding kennel ensures animals are not left unsupervised, unfed and uncared for when their owners are away for prolonged periods. Without our local boarding kennel I feel the community of Warragul will be lacking an essential service and subsequently their pets potentially placed at risk.

Sincerely,

Dr Benton Smith BVSc MACVSc