

**INQUIRY INTO ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY IN NEW  
SOUTH WALES**

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially  
Confidential

I am a veterinary surgeon in NSW, who performs artificial inseminations on dogs, including using frozen semen. I strongly support the move to ban surgical inseminations, from an animal welfare point of view. I believe that the general public would generally support such a move too, as they don't want to see animals put through painful surgical procedures (such as a laparotomy for insemination), if there is not a strong need to do so, nor a benefit to that individual animal. Happily, there exists a completely suitable alternative to surgical inseminations. It is called transcervical insemination (TCI).

We perform artificial inseminations using this technique at our practice. It is painless, avoids surgery, and can be performed with a bitch either conscious, or under a sedation to reduce any potential stress on the animal from being handled on an examination table. It has been proven that for frozen artificial insemination, TCI achieves equal (or better) pregnancy rates, than surgical AI. So there is no reason to choose surgical AI over TCI. Data compiled by specialist reproduction vet Dr. Stuart Mason from Monash Vets in Melbourne, has consistently shown that results from TCI are better than those from surgical AI, when comparing hundreds of frozen inseminations. Admittedly, TCI is a more difficult skill to learn for vets. However, training courses will need to be offered, to allow vets who wish to continue performing frozen inseminations on dogs, to upskill. I strongly encourage you to ban surgical inseminations.