

Submission
No 149

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

I am a registered Dogs NSW Breeder, who made sure to review the Code of Practice - Breeders of Dogs and Cats before commencing breeding in 2012, and who endeavours to comply with it. I have spent significant amounts importing semen and putting it away from my own and imported dogs in order to improve the gene pool of my breed in Australia, as well as upgrading my facilities so that my dogs can live as pets in my home but also have clean spacious safe facilities suitable for breeding and management.

The draft bill raised a number of issues that demonstrate an ignorance of responsible breeding practices by the draftsmen, and a lack of regard for those who endeavour to maintain high standards.

These issues include:

- the proposed prohibition on surgical insemination by frozen semen. DPI made the point when contacted that there is no surgical insemination in Europe anymore. Do the draftsmen understand that Australia is much further away from the rest of the world than Europe and the USA, and that we are fortunate not to have many of the diseases the rest of the world have because of our biosecurity? All this means that unlike Europe, using chilled semen imported from another country is not an option in Australia because the semen will not last more than 48 hours and it cannot even be imported from NZ and clear Quarantine and get to a bitch to be used with her within that timeframe. I am told that this prohibition has been removed, so I will not continue to explain the differences in required amount of frozen semen for successful surgical insemination v transcervical insemination. Suffice to say those of us who have put away semen for over a decade relying on being able to breed by surgical insemination would be significantly adversely affected, as would the breadth of the gene pool in Australia. This is still relevant to the Bill because it shows a lack of research and understanding by those who drafted it of a significant area to the gene pool in Australia.

- The current bill refers to regulations yet to be drafted, and provides enforcement powers entitling anyone with the urge to enter breeder's residential premises to do so under the pretext of being concerned about welfare of animals. Having been bullied by an ex-Federal Policeman acting as a ranger for my Local Council, who breached a number of provisions of the Local Government Act, you should understand why reasonable people are alarmed at the broad entry powers that the proposed bill provides. Those entry powers should not be permitted unless there are sufficient grounds for a warrant to be obtained for police, as is the current situation. Otherwise, those entry powers must provide sufficient notice for a witness to be organised so that when the uneducated authorities make false allegations and falsely represent what they saw, and threaten to report breeders as non-compliant for simply exercising their legal right to refuse entry, the breeder has a witness able to film and corroborate their version of events.

There is a flood of animal welfare legislation right now, and a push by animal rights extremists who want to destroy all planned responsible breeding in favour of adopting animals from shelters. Only 5% of purebred dogs end up in shelters, which should indicate that the breeders of purebred dogs are generally more careful about the homes their dogs go to, and take responsibility for the animals they have created if needed.

If you want to legislate for animal welfare, that legislation should be well considered and clear, so that breeders like myself who work independently to support our hobby, and invest every spare cent we have to have as good a life as we can for our animals, do not simply walk away and abandon our efforts to provide healthy predictable well-constructed animals to make the lives of the Australian population better. The irresponsible people aren't troubled by these ongoing efforts to legislate, because they don't try to comply in any case. Those of us who do try to comply deserve not to be continually assaulted by poorly executed or poorly considered legislation that requires us to spend hours reviewing and responding to it.