

Submission  
No 180

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 26 February 2022

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Partially  
Confidential

I am a dog owner (4 Cardigan Corgis) and breeder - 1 breeding bitch, 2 desexed previously-breeding bitches, mother and daughter, and one male dog. I breed on average one litter every 3 years and have never bred more than 2 litters from the one bitch.

I am a member of Dogs NSW and of 2 dog training clubs. Most of all I am a dog lover, and a believer in the view that dogs improve human quality of life and that humans and canines are a natural partnership. In the pure-bred dog world of ANKC and its state organisations like Dogs NSW the vast majority of breeders are small scale like me up to at most 3-4 breeding bitches. We mostly consider ourselves hobby breeders. Pre-covid it was unusual and always a surprise if I broke even from a litter and only once have I made an actual cash profit!

My dogs live in the house with me, and litters are raised in my back bedroom.

The dog world is under siege, on the one hand by professional breeders who breed dogs as livestock, sometimes correctly and professionally, but sometimes in conditions that are or ought to be criminal. On the other hand we are under siege by groups like PETA whose underlying agenda is to separate domestic animals from humans definitively. Both extremes are nicely spoken but quite fanatical.

Human-dog sports in which people participate in the community (everything from competitive obedience to Agility, to tracking to conformation dog shows) are legitimate activities that should need no more government intervention than Rugby League and need a lot less intervention that horse and dog racing need!

So my issues with the draft are:

+ "commercial" dog breeding should be literally that .... dog breeding from which an individual or organisation make their living. So any breeder who has an annual post-tax income derived from dog breeding and sale of dogs of (say) a minimum \$60,000 or more. Treating hobbyists in the same way is both unjust and punitive.

++ in particular the idea that an officer has right of entry into my home at unspecified times without having to specify cause or have a warrant is completely unjust. A commercial premises is a different story. But my dogs are family members who live in the house. There are no kennels or other livestock paraphernalia, nor need there be.

+++ In the past inspections by RSPCA and Council officers have been idiosyncratic. The rules seem to have been very much open to interpretation, rights of appeal are almost non-existent, and in a couple of cases of which I have heard dogs have been treated by the officers as if they were livestock, which is a disgrace. Very careful regulation is needed (especially if they are tramping into MY HOME) and where are those regulations? And will anyone have the right to challenge them when they do appear.

I acknowledge the right to protect animals and to regulate human activities. I strongly support the need to eradicate irregular, inhumane large-scale breeding but that needs to be done based on expert knowledge and careful drafting so the baby is not thrown out with the bathwater.