

Submission
No 183

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

Issues include

1) Powers of officers to enter premises.

Under the draft legislation, any officer can enter any premises other than residential for reasonable cause, with no notice. Many breeders raise their pups within a home environment, so it seems breeders who raise dogs in their home may be subject to violation of privacy by ignorant unskilled officers claiming the right to enter at any time. Do you want to buy your next dog from it having been raised in a shed, because hobby breeders are not going to accept their homes being treated like a thoroughfare for officers claiming a right to enter? At least provide training to officers who are doing inspections, and if a registered breeder is being investigated, provide them a timeframe in which an inspection is taking place.

2) "Commercial" is defined as any breeder who receives income from a dog.

There needs to be a difference between a 'hobby' and a 'commercial' breeder. Commercial breeders have their sheds full of pens full of bitches whose life is living in a cage and producing pups, and their food and vet care on a very strict budget.

Do you think breeders who breed occasionally for the continuation of their lineage and the preservation of their breed but not for the pursuit of profits should be treated the same way as large scale commercial operations?

Do you want your next dog to be raised in a shed?

3) The Bill refers to regulations, but those regulations have not been drafted yet.

It's appalling that the government has thought through legislation when it does not know what regulations it needs, or is it avoiding people commenting on those draft regulations. A collaborative effort between communities such as DogsNSW or Animal Care Australia Inc. and registered DogsNSW (and other state) breeders should be made to ensure that all grounds have been covered within these bills.

4) The Bill prohibits surgical insemination.

Chilled semen only lasts 48 hours, and getting anything to Australia and past quarantine generally takes 7 days. So the only option for importing semen to Australia, unlike Europe and the US who have a lot of diseases we don't, is frozen semen. Surgical insemination needs only 100M frozen sperm to succeed, Transcervical insemination needs 150M frozen sperm as a minimum. The Australian gene pool will be reduced by 50%, because breeders who do use frozen semen for years have relied on surgical insemination. This can also dramatically increase the incidence of inbreeding by not having new genetics available.

Pet owners may not care how their pup has been created, but this can create long term impacts on animals bred without the introduction of a new gene pool. Speak to any scientist that works on animal reproduction and genetics and they will tell you the same.

5) DOGS NSW, as an organisation, provides a system which registers breeders based on the breeder having sufficient knowledge, abiding by a Code of Ethics, and having suitable premises.

The breeders registered there are not commercial breeders breeding dogs to make a living, they breed them because they value the breed and want people to have access to them. They also try to breed the best dogs they can. Breeders like do not want to compete with commercial operations, so onerous legislation treating individuals like companies and hobbies like a commercial operation will

force breeders either to stop breeding, or to become less hands on and focussed on quality of everything in order to meet the costs of compliance.