

Submission  
No 198

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 27 February 2022

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Partially  
Confidential

Dear Members.

I write to you with great concern over the proposed Animal Welfare Policy Draft 2022

I have key areas of concern which relate directly to my right to conduct my hobby and recreation of my dogs in several areas in relation to this draft. I wish to state that it is not illegal firstly to own dogs and it is in also a good thing to be involved in dog sports. The communitys of this great state are enhanced through the activities of dog sporting clubs and breed clubs by which several thousands of people contribute to in time spent volunteering, competing and assisting people with their chosen hobby with Dog sports. Dog sports cover all ranges of age groups of people, from school age children learning good sportsmanship and animal handling practices to retired people enjoying the travel and their dogs, providing an outlet for them which is gentle and rewarding personally. Many people in this dog world have been involved like me for 2 or 3 decades. the knowledge and skills passed on to younger generations who wish to take up the sport.

The world of heritage dog breeds ( you may know as pedigree dogs) has a basis for many hundreds of years. I can trace my dogs back to the 1940's. I own the iconic Australian Cattle Dog. A dog that has no peer in its role for working stock long distances and assisting the stockman with moving cattle that may prove to hard for other dog breeds. It is this breed that I own, show and enjoy. My part time hobby will also mean that from time to time I will breed a litter of puppies for which the only reason is to improve and maintain a line of pedigree dogs which I believe has qualities that are important to maintain for the future. I see myself as a guardian for this breed. it is not a popular breed with people generally since their requirements for exercise rule it out generally as a back yard pet. But on large property this breed can easily be the family companion and many a Cattle dog has saved a child on a farm of which we are all aware of the the great stories of the working dogs in our country.

But here I am today finding myself defending against a Government proposal to tell me that what I am an expert on is now under some threat of extinction. Why. I do not earn an income from my breed. In fact I work and take care of them. I am responsible and abide by the laws of this state. I insist that I be heard and I know there are many other families asking the same questions. Why are ANKC Dogs NSW breeders being placed into a Commercial business model when we are not. A commercial kennel requires a business policy and an ABN, registration with the ATO and an approval to operate a business. I am not a business. I simply wish to own and take care of my dogs. I have bred a total of 3 litters in 12 Years. Sometimes that litter is only 3 puppies. I keep a puppy and the remaining 2 puppies may cover vets bills and other necessities for the dogs. Have you any idea how much a vet costs on a public holiday ?

I can tell you I do not even break even if I have a litter of Cattle Dogs. I can prove it. Why is my sport and my hobby under attack. Do you wish to see an entire breed dissapear. There are laws to protect wild animals from extinctions and from developers. What you are asking me to do is akin to destroying not only my work but the work of hundreds of people over 200 years developing and improving the greatest herding breed in the Country.

And then there is this for which I have concerns in the following areas

What are the distinctions between exhibition of animals at zoos, wildlife, parks, as opposed to the exhibition of dogs at a dog show which is a dog sport, like agility, obedience , flyball etc. Do you propose to stop children's pony club also ? there is no difference there.

2) And the use of powers of officers to enter premises. Many breeders raise their pups within a home environment that is setup to be cleaned and so that the owner may monitor and keep puppies safe, mothers warm thieves from stealing puppies, so is My house subject to powers of entry at any undefined time. I am not doing anything illegal. it is better than cold hard concrete in a shed

3) Then there is the BIGGEST problem you are creating and that is around the definition of "commercial". I may breed occasionally for the continuation of my lineage and the preservation of the breed but not for the pursuit of profits as in all fairness when breeding for a heritage breed I am in fact not seeking to run in the black. I only wish to love and caretake my breed for the next generation and to partake in my hobby at the same time which is not based on Commerciality, it is based on Ethics and Sport. I am a BASTION for my breed the Australian Cattle Dog. Why does this Government believe I am running business. Stop it. And Stop it for the thousands of other like me

4) There are no regulations that have been established in this paper. Where and why is that so.

In closing:

I dont believe you are in touch with your people. I dont believe you understand that what drives some people (money) is not what drives all people (sport/friendships and pride in preserving a breed). I know that this will have an affect on thousands of people, this will have an affect on towns that enjoy the dog sports community travelling to them for the Agricultural shows, the money that dogs sports people generate in small towns like Cudal and Gunnedah NSW. The support that the community in Gunnedah has, the Council that sponsors prize money to Gunnedah dog grounds, seriously do you not understand that WE are not business people and not interested in being so either !! and Where does this stop - Are you going to go throught the Poultry people and tell them they cannot have Chickens / the Cat people and tell them they cannot show their beautiful Persians to the world or educate people on responsible pet ownership. YOU the Government should embrace us- we spend out lives teaching people how to properly manage and care for their pets. 26 Years I have been with this breed. I know a blood line by sight before I see the piece of paper in my hand. I know their parents, their grand parents and I have seen them with my own eyes. I DNA test all my dogs so that people never get a puppy from me that may be subject to a disease in its lifetime. You wont see a Commercial breeder doing this because they dont.

Please do not ruin my life and that of many Thousands of people because someone thinks we are a commercial and business enterprise. For the vast majority heritage breeds is a Hobby, Its sport with our dogs and its our recreation no more than kids pony club or the local football club.

Go and invest your (our taxpayers money) into something that is serious, like Health and Legal matters. We are already regulated with councils and with annual inspections with the DPI. We already have laws in place to regulate us, companion animal regulations and consumer laws with fair trading.

There are people who's lives will be devastated if you go ahead with these reforms. Many who can - will pack up and move interstate rather than give away their beloved pets. MY dogs are my pets, they just happen to go to shows with me and sometimes I will have a son or daughter who I will continue on with and so the family line remains intact and the quality continues and a lucky person WHO I CHOOSE will share that opportunity to maybe have one of my puppies when and if that happens and the legacy of one of the greatest dog breeds in the world will continue while I am at the helm.

And lastly remember this if you remember nothing else I have written to this Government about, please etch this into your mind.....

A heritage dog breed breeder will do tests, echos, xrays, analysis, emergency c sections, vaccinations, register puppies and litters, research pedigrees, deworm, as well as microchip their puppies and get them evaluated by specialists.

A heritage dog breed breeder CHOOSES the family lucky enough to have one of their puppies.

A true heritage breeder chooses who they sell to because they are not making a living off the sale. There is no compensation that can offset the investment a Breeder has made often for decades so they need to be confident its the right fit for the family the puppy is going to. Many times saying more no's then yes...its not about the money !

Because breeding or dog sports is not a responsibility to ever be taken lightly, it's a choice set aside for ONLY the few devoted people willing to sacrifice their personal time and those wishing to maintain heritage listed dog breeds.

Because the Australian Cattle Dog dog is never "just a pet" it's the Breeder's legacy, a little boy's best friend, a little girls protector, an elderly persons therapy, a member of the family, someone's whole world!!! This is our reward people in Government. Please listen to us !

So dont you dare tell me I am a business. We request a distinct difference be recognised and declare that I am not a commercial business under the law. I also request that the bullet points above be addressed. You will destroy everyone of us if you proceed.

Thank you for your time,

Your Citizens