

Submission
No 219

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 28 February 2022

Partially
Confidential

As a voter who owns dogs, I strongly object to the Animal Welfare Policy draft 2022 being brought before the NSW parliament. As it stands the draft bill doesn't serve animal welfare as intended and will ensure the end of some breeds as well as pet ownership for many average Australians. The Animal Welfare Policy draft 2022 is extremely restrictive and believe it would have the effect of driving a lot of breeders out of the hobby and have the opposite effect of the intention of the policy by creating an environment where puppy farmers will thrive and those trying to do the right thing will no longer be able to continue the work they have dedicated their lives to up until now. This policy is, in parts, an over-reach, confusing and difficult to understand for the average Australian, and I am extremely concerned that if passed, we will be bound by this Policy which will put powers into place without telling us what those powers are before-hand. Much of the Policy is extremely vague and confusing and the parts that are clear do not serve to increase animal welfare. Those who are to be bound by these policies should be properly consulted before something like this is passed. It is clear that those who drafted this bill have no understanding of the detrimental effects it would have on the future of dog ownership in this country. The current Animal Welfare code of practice outlines standards of care for breeders without being overly restrictive whereas if the Animal Welfare Policy draft 2022 came into effect it would have a detrimental effect on breeders who are trying to preserve and improve their breeds by further reducing the gene pool in already small gene pools and further reduced number of well-bred pets available will drive up the prices of pets even further, ensuring the average family will no longer be able to afford pet ownership. We own a toy breed that typically only produce small litters. Often these litters are singletons or up to 3 puppies. We tend to keep or "run on" much of what we breed for ourselves and don't primarily breed to make an income, although being able to sell the occasional pup to recoup some of the expenses associated with breeding is critical to being able to continue. Restricting litter numbers to two would make it impossible to continue a breed such as ours which may only have one pup per litter. We currently have people sometimes waiting a few years for one of our puppies and the two litter limit would ensure buyers would have a much longer wait, if we ever had anything available for them at all. Some other of the areas of the policy which would be detrimental to breed preservation include: 61ZC Proprietors of companion animal breeding businesses must not have more than 10 fertile female dogs or cats... including a fertile female dog or cat that is the subject of a breeding arrangement. These arrangements exist to give the dog or cats a quality of life that they might not otherwise have as part of a bigger group of animals and area valuable way to preserve a gene pool whilst also ensuring animals get the quality of care they require. The purpose of including these animals as part of the breeders limit doesn't support the aim of this policy, which I assume is to ensure all breeding animals are kept in humane conditions unless the animals which are part of the breeding arrangement are part of a larger group of animals as well. 61ZK Proprietors of companion animal breeding businesses must comply with certain requirements to cease breeding and retire and rehome dogs and cats (1) A proprietor of a companion animal breeding business must cease breeding

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61ZK Proprietors of companion animal breeding businesses must comply with certain requirements to cease breeding and retire and rehome dogs and cats
(1) A proprietor of a companion animal breeding business must cease breeding and retire a dog or cat of the business if—

(b) for a dog—the dog is male and is 6 or more years of age.

There is no medical reason to support this. The longevity of a dog is something that should be sought after in any good breeding program, in our breed dogs don't mature completely in terms of structure and coat until they are 4 or 5 years of age, it might take that long to assess the dog properly. As long as the dog isn't over-bred it makes no sense not to keep it in the gene pool while it's still in the prime of it's life.

There is also no medical reason to neuter a healthy male, in fact there has been research in the last decade or so to suggest that neutering dogs can increase health problems such as hypothyroidism, incontinence, bone cancers etc. I strongly believe that it's animal cruelty to perform such a procedure without reason, particularly if the animals are kept by responsible breeders who don't allow unintentional litters to happen.

There are many other parts of this bill that simply make no sense, are confusing, are an over-reach, do not serve the purpose of animal welfare, will limit the long-term health and viability of many breeds in the country, will affect ownership and the right and ability for the average Australian to own pets, do not properly understand the framework required to preserve breeds and will essentially wipe-out well-bred dogs and create an environment for puppy farmers to thrive.

This policy really needs to be rethought and I am particularly concerned that it doesn't protect hobbyists such as myself or the animals it is supposed to be protecting and will make pet ownership so much more difficult for the average Australian. and retire a dog or cat of the business if— (b) for a dog—the dog is male and is 6 or more years of age. There is no medical reason to support this. The longevity of a dog is something that should be sought after in any good breeding program, in our breed dogs don't mature completely in terms of structure and coat until they are 4 or 5 years of age, it might take that long to assess the dog properly. As long as the dog isn't over-bred it makes no sense not to keep it in the gene pool while it's still in the prime of it's life. There is also no medical reason to neuter a healthy male, in fact there has been research in the last decade or so to suggest that neutering dogs can increase health problems such as hypothyroidism, incontinence, bone cancers etc. I strongly believe that it's animal cruelty to perform such a procedure without reason, particularly if the animals are kept by responsible breeders who don't allow unintentional litters to happen. There are many other parts of this bill that simply make no sense, are confusing, are an over-reach, do not serve the purpose of animal welfare, will limit the long-term health and viability of many breeds in the country, will affect ownership and the right and ability for the average Australian to own pets, do not properly understand the framework required to preserve breeds and will essentially wipe-out well-bred dogs and create an environment for puppy farmers to thrive. This policy really needs to be rethought and I am particularly concerned that it doesn't protect hobbyists such as myself or the animals it is supposed to be protecting and will make pet ownership so much more difficult for the average Australian.