

Submission
No 220

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

Standing Committee on State Development Parliament of NSW

Inquiry into Animal Welfare Policy in NSW: Submissions on the draft Animal Welfare Bill 2022

We, _____ and _____ welcome the opportunity to provide feedback to the Draft Animal Welfare Bill 2022

This submission is based on our 54 combined years of knowledge and experience as exhibitors and breeders of ANKC registered purebred dogs.

We feel it is important to point out the differences there are in dog breeders, we feel this important point is often overlooked and as we are the most visible, we come under fire often.

What is a breeder? A breeder is someone who intentionally breeds an animal for a variety of purposes.

We would like to point out the 'different' types of dog breeders and why as Dogs Australia (Dogs NSW) breeders we will be affected by these regulations and the puppy farmers will not. Dogs will still be massed produced in sub standard conditions resulting in physical and mental health issues and overcrowding of shelters. We are all for regulations that will make dogs lives better but they must cover all breeders do not target those doing the right thing already.

Dogs NSW Registered Breeders – Purebreds only (This is a very basic breakdown we are much more than just this)

The only registry recognised the world over.

Bound by a code of ethics. Bitches can only have a limited number of litters in her life within a specific time period to make sure they are not overbred.

Breed Standard. A blueprint to the physical and mental characteristics of the breed which helps preserve breeds as they were intended.

Breed Clubs. Most breeds have their own breed clubs for education and information on their chosen breed, but also breed rescue, this is not limited to only Dogs NSW bred purebreds, breed clubs will help with the rescue and rehoming of any purebred for their chosen breed. Less than 1% of registered purebreds end up in shelters. Actively involved in breed education, grooming and training.

Most breeders carry out extensive health testing before using any dogs for breeding.

Research. Dogs NSW breeders put a lot of time, energy and \$\$\$'s into researching pedigrees to produce the healthiest and soundest dogs.

Importing – Most Dogs NSW breeders have imported dogs or frozen semen to improve the gene at great cost.

Participate in dog sports such as conformation, agility, obedience, weight pull, endurance tests, fly ball, earthdog, lure coursing just to name a few.

Pet Education Program. This program is run in schools and preschools in Victoria and NSW it is to help lower the incidence of dog bites in young children and promote responsible dog ownership. This program is presented in the majority by Dogs Australia members and Dogs Australia bred dogs due to their suitability.

Most members have a full-time job to pay for their hobby.

We do acknowledge that there are Dogs NSW breeders that don't do the right thing, but they are the minority, and we would be happy for them to be weeded out.

Other registries Such as MDBA

MDBA register purebreds and cross breeds, but purebreds are usually the non-standard colours that Dogs Australia will not register.

They do have their own code of ethics

Some do carry health testing

No breed clubs

Puppy Farmers

Purebreds and cross breeds who are massed produced

No code of ethics

Bitches are mated every season (usually every 6 months) with no break.

An alarming amount of these puppies have physical and mental health issues that require costly specialist intervention.

No breed Clubs

Backyard breeders

Purebreds and cross breeds

An alarming amount of these puppies have physical and mental health issues that require costly specialist intervention.

No breed clubs

A very interesting point is that most Dogs NSW bred dogs are considerably cheaper to purchase than the other breeders.

Only 1% of Dogs NSW Puppies end up in shelters where the other 3 groups attribute to the other 99%.

As long-standing dog breeders, we are most concerned about the following.

1) What are the distinctions between exhibition of animals at zoos, wildlife, parks, as opposed to the exhibition of dogs at a dog show? Our dogs are not in cages and on display to the general public everyday they live normal lives, some on large properties and get to be real dogs everyday and they are shown on the weekends. They are also members of our families and a lot of them sleep on the bed with their owners.

2) We are very concerned to the use of powers of officers to enter premises. We raise our puppies within our family home, they are born and raised with our family and the day-to-day noises, so they are well adjusted when they go to their new homes. So, does this mean our house is subject to powers of entry at any undefined time? And by who? My husband is a retired NSW Police Sergeant, and this concerns him greatly

3) There is no definition of a "commercial" breeder, as far as we are concerned any Dogs NSW member who breeds and is actively involved in the pedigree dog world should be exempt from being labelled a commercial breeder. Dogs NSW breeders who are active breed for the continuation of their lineage and the preservation of their breed but not for the pursuit of profits. I was always taught that if you bred correctly, you were always in the red never the black and this is very true.

4) We are also very concerned that no regulations have been established in this paper. They are basically asking you to pass a bill and we will add in the regulations later, there is no transparency and, but it is asking that we are all transparent as breeders.

5) General recovery of fee for action. The compliance checks in their current form are very flawed. The RSPCA should never be tasked to carry out compliance checks on the breeders that they are against, how can they be impartial? You just must have a look at their website

their moto is 'Adopt Don't Shop' it could not be clearer. They have already proven with checks already been carried out on Dogs NSW members that they are not impartial and imposing large fines as they have interpreted the rules and regulations how they see fit.

If this Bill is allowed to pass in it's current form it will be the end of companion animals as we know it, the dumpage rates will be through the roof (so will RSPCA profits) mental health of breeders and exhibitors will worsen (they are already suffering with the current DPI inspections). This will also affect businesses such as vets, produce, supermarkets, and small businesses that are already finding it hard with covid. We are all for animal welfare and making sure they are well looked after but that won't happen with the bill in it's current form, puppy farms and the RSPCA will flourish.

Thank you for your time

Proud ANKC exhibitors and breeders of

Elluje Toy Poodles &

Chihuahuas