

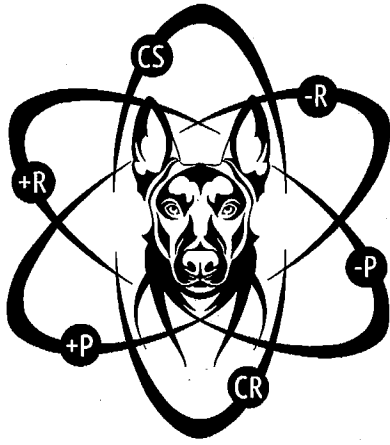
**Submission  
No 230**

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

**Name:** Mr Pat Stuart

**Date Received:** 28 February 2022

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Web: [www.operantcanine.com.au](http://www.operantcanine.com.au)  
ABN: 86846508251

## OPERANT CANINE

I am writing in regards to the NSW Animal Welfare Reform Discussion Paper.

I am concerned about the Animal Welfare Reform Discussion, specifically the section relating to training an animal to fight.

I 100% support the idea that animals should not be trained to fight one another and that humans should not willingly engage in any real fight with an animal. However I am concerned that dog sports and prep of a dog for police, military and security work was not specifically named as being exempt the same way Rodeo's are.

NSW has 3 main competitive dog sports where the dog engages in a biting activity on a human. These are IGP, PSA and Mondio. All three sports are practiced around the world and are considered the gold standard in animal training. They are the breeding and selection grounds for animals that would be used for such purposes by police, military and security forces.

In these games the dog bites equipment being worn by a helper. That equipment can range from a full body bite suit to a biting sleeve to protect the helper. The dogs that participate in these games are highly trained and focused. Each game also has tests of temperament as well as control to ensure that it is impossible for a dog trained in these sports to become dangerous to the general public.

The people who compete in these games also tend to be people who raise train and prepare dog for the police, military and security forces.

I am very concerned that the wording of this draft legislation as it stands could result in over reach and the standards designed to protect the welfare of animals could by accident be used to decrease them.

I ask that it be amended to also name "protection sports" as being specifically allowed.

If you have any questions it would be my great honour to provide more information if needed.

Regards

Pat Stuart

