

**Submission
No 297**

INQUIRY INTO ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Dr Michelle Haron

Date Received: 27 February 2022

Re draft Animal Welfare Bill 2022 (NSW)

I do not support this draft bill. Some issues identified are outlined below, although these are not exhaustive.

- 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 officers claiming the right to enter at any time. I do not want to buy a dog from it having been raised in a shed (hobby breeders are not going to accept their homes being treated like a thoroughfare for officers claiming a right to enter).
- 2) "Commercial" is defined as any breeder who receives income from a dog. For many hobby breeders, the price of their puppies does not cover their costs to raise, manage and show their dogs (I know of some breeders who must supplement their breeding costs by up to 40%, and this is from their incomes). I would not prefer to get a dog from a breeder who is forced to calculate prices of their puppies and how they look after them, based on making a profit. That is what the truly commercial breeders do, with their sheds full of pens full of bitches whose life is living in a cage and producing pups, and their food and vet care is on a very strict budget. That, in my opinion, is animal abuse, and this draft policy would encourage more of it.

I do not think that breeders who breed occasionally for the continuation of their lineage and the preservation of their breed (and not for the pursuit of profits) should be treated the same way as large-scale commercial operations.

- 3) The Bill refers to regulations, but those regulations have not been drafted yet. I am not comfortable that government has come up with draft legislation when the details of regulations are unknown. Will we be able to comment on the draft regulations?
- 4) 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 to breed puppies. Breeders who belong to Dogs NSW are not commercial breeders breeding dogs to make a living, they breed dogs because they value the breed and want people to have access to them. They also try to breed the best dogs they can. They do not want to compete with commercial operations, therefore onerous legislation treating individuals like companies and hobbies like a commercial operation will have adverse effects on these breeders. They will either be forced to stop breeding, or to become less hands on and less focussed on the quality of their breed and dogs in order to meet the costs of compliance.

Michelle Haron