

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

I am a member of Dogs NSW and have been since 1982. I occasionally breed under the Dogs NSW Code of Ethics to maintain my bloodlines for the future and I exhibit my dogs at shows and obedience trials. I am a longstanding member of a number of specialist breed clubs and provide puppy and adult training for the general public's dogs.

I am concerned at the overreach of this draft Bill and how it will affect my hobby and the purchasers of my puppies and anyone that desires to live with and enjoy the benefits of, a companion animal. I already comply with the Companion Animals Act and POCTA and in fact I spend considerable sums of money and time in order to study ongoing scientific developments in the areas of canine breeding, welfare and training. It is of concern to me that this Bill ostensibly attempts to further control commercial breeders, "puppy factories" and "back yard breeders" yet these people already do not comply with the current acts that have been in force since 1999. How will a new Bill affect those who already chose to do the wrong or illegal thing? It won't. It will only affect those breeders who are visible and easy to find - Dogs NSW members, who are already the target of intrusive inspections by the RSPCA where we are treated like commercial puppy factories instead of the loving homes for our dogs that we are.

My first specific concern is the way that the Bill refers to Regulations that have not even been drafted yet and cannot be sighted for comment, This applies to the Exhibition of An Animal - what is the regulation for this? Will this include dog shows/agricultural shows/obedience or agility trials or does it only apply to zoos, circuses and the like?

Prohibited procedures in the draft currently includes surgical artificial insemination on a dog. Being geographically isolated in Australia from other bloodlines overseas and also from animals interstate within Australia, surgical insemination with frozen semen is a minimally invasive procedure that ensures access to the best and healthiest stud options for our breeding. In fact, surgical insemination is a much less invasive procedure than a spay for a female or neuter for a male dog. So why aren't they prohibited? Surgical insemination is only performed by veterinarians and should not be included in this Bill.

Division 3 Tethering - please be specific as to what is a reasonable amount of time that an animal can be tethered? Where will this be defined?

Division 4 Transport of Dogs - transporting a dog in cold weather or in the rain, snow or hail on the back of an open ute is apparently OK? Why is it not prohibited?

Part 5 Licensing - what a colossal waste of time. The "breeders" that need to be controlled by this Bill will not be the ones that are subjected to Licensing. They already don't comply with existing laws. This will just mean more stifling paperwork and overreach for small hobby breeders who do the right thing. Exhibiting animals at a dog show or other recognised canine activity MUST be excluded from licensing requirements. Dogs shows, obedience trials and the like are already covered by extensive Dogs NSW regulations.

Division 3 Power to Enter Premises allows for authorised people to enter your premises, including your home, if you are undertaking a commercial or licensed activity. So these people can enter my home whenever, for no real reason, because licensed activities are not defined to EXCLUDE dog shows, breeders etc and commercial activity is also not defined, but may include any breeders who sell their puppies whether or not they make a profit and are not commercial enterprises? The ATO does to include hobby breeders as commercial so why does this Bill? So the RSPCA can enter my home at will but even the police would need a search warrant? I am a hobby breeder, not a commercial puppy factory! Commercial must be correctly defined and not

left to Regulations that we haven't seen and that have not yet been drafted. I do not believe that it is appropriate for the RSPCA to be able to enter my home just because I occasionally raise puppies in my house.

In addition, the RSPCA etc may seize animals and keep them indefinitely while court proceedings have been initiated. This is wrong and should not be allowed to happen where there is no right of appeal for the individual to get their dog back while the court proceedings occur. This is not natural justice.

Overall, I find that this Bill does not allow proper discussion due to the Regulations not being drafted and included. It also seems to be over reach for hobbyist dog breeders and will cause people that love their animals to leave the hobby and for no new young people to want to join. My friends and I should be allowed to pursue and enjoy our hobby without being targeted like criminals. We are ordinary people enjoying our canine family members and their activities, not large scale farms with breeding dogs jammed into horrible conditions bred for maximum profit.

Please leave us alone to be governed by the Dogs NSW regulations and rules that we already operate under, as well as the other current legislation such as Companion Animals Act. We don't need anymore stress in our lives.

Many thanks.