



# Olivia and Helen HETHERINGTON



30 Main Street, Dallarnil, QLD 4621  
0411367801  
0438077285  
[olivia\\_hetherington@hotmail.com](mailto:olivia_hetherington@hotmail.com)  
[hetherington.helen@hotmail.com](mailto:hetherington.helen@hotmail.com)

15/02/2018

To Whom It Concerns,

I am writing to you in regards to the proposed Australian Animal Welfare Standards & Guidelines for poultry proposed draft.

As breeders and exhibitors of Exhibition Show Fowl of we are writing to voice our concerns regarding certain aspects of this document.

We are active exhibitors and breeders of poultry and as such utilize the process of dubbing and toe marking on our fowl.

We have dubbed numerous birds over many years and believe that the long term benefit of dubbing far outweighs the short term discomfort caused by the process. All fowl after being dubbed appear to have had a weight lifted off their shoulders. They stand prouder and taller and appear completely unaffected (other than of course the obvious removals) by the process. Dubbing not only aids in the removal of excess weight on the head but also reduces exposed skin area where certain diseases spread. It further prevents the chance of excess wattle and comb grows interfering with the fowl's sight and ability to consume water and feed. Dubbing also reduces the likely hood of infection due to flesh folding and injury due to surface area reduction.

Our dubbing procedure consists of majority of comb being removed and full removal of wattles and lobes. This is performed during the fowl's first six months and at the time where these portions are fully grown as this prevents re-growth of the comb and the need of possible re-dubbing.



We utilize toe marking as a means of blood line identification so that we eliminate interbreeding and can mate appropriate fowl together. We have found this to be the most effective way of maintaining identification as it cannot be removed or fall off like strategies such as leg banding. We toe mark our fowl by making a small punch or nick in the foot web/s. We perform this when the fowl are any where up to eight weeks and not before they are big enough to ensure we do not disrupt the webs of their feet.

After reading the Australian Animal Welfare Standards & Guidelines for poultry proposed draft we feel that it is directed more towards the large commercial breeders and not the backyard exhibition hobbyist who only breed up to a few hundred chickens each year. In saying this we make suggestion that a section be included that allows exclusion for the backyard exhibition hobbyist so that we might continue with our current or similar practices.

We have attached a photo of one of our dubbed male Old English Black Red Cock Birds in full exhibition condition. If this is not an indication of how unaffected fowl are by our dubbing and toe marking processes we're not sure what is.

Submitted for your consideration in the update of the Standards & Guidelines for poultry.

Regards,



Olivia HETHERINGTON  
Exhibition Fowl Breeder and Exhibitor



Helen HETHERINGTON  
Exhibition Fowl Breeder and Exhibitor



