

# South and Central Queensland All Game Club Inc.



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To Whom It Concerns,

I am writing to you on behalf of the South and Central Queensland All Game Club Inc. In regards to the proposed draft Australian Animal Welfare Standards – Poultry Public Consultation Nov 2017.

The South and Central Queensland All Game Club Inc. was formed 14 years ago. This club was formed so that game fowl breeders could exhibit their fowl in a specialized show arena. Game fowl showing has been around for centuries and is a tradition that came to Australia with our forebears from England. While it is a tradition it is also a social forum, hobby and competition for participants.

As a specialist game club, we are concerned that if some of these changes were to be implemented clubs like ours that are directly affected would become obsolete. Our main concerns lie with those surrounding the changes to dubbing and toe marking.

The dubbing process of the removal of combs, lobes and wattles aids in the prevention of flesh spread diseases such as fowl pox, with the reduction of flesh surface area available that can be affected by infection. The reduction of excess flesh also aids in the minimizing of injuries sustained to the males when in the breeding pens. This is achieved due to there being less flesh available to injure. If fowl choose to fight, when penned together, dubbing reduces the points for which the opponents can attach onto and use as purchase to inflict damage with their feet and spurs. If dubbing was banned the combs would grow large increasing the chance of the comb folding over and thus increasing the likelihood of infections and sight problems.



Along with dubbing toe marking is another practice utilized by our members and associates. This process is used as a means of identifying different blood lines to allow optimal breeding and prevent in-breeding. This process is performed by making a small nick or punch to the web/s of the foot of the fowl.

All of our club members are avid animal lovers and always have their flock's best interest at heart. No member would inflict a procedure on their fowl unless it was in their best interest.

Our current Australian Poultry Standard states that it is customary and permitted to dub young game males. As such if dubbing was to be banned the standard would need to be altered to align and would mean a change to the showing standards that have been utilized for centuries.

The majority of the breeds exhibited in our shows are dubbed and if these new laws were to be implemented they would significantly affect our club as many breeders would not breed or show un-dubbed fowl. If this were to happen, as being a specialized game club, our entries would drop, and it would not be financially viable to run our show and ultimately could lead to the closure of our club and the annual show we run.

If forced to shut down other industries would be impacted such as livestock transport, grain producers, veterinary clinics and many other industries and services.

Our members are in agreement with the concerns and views expressed in this submission.

Regards,



Helen HETHERINGTON  
Secretary South and Central Queensland All Game Club Inc.



Errol HETHERINGTON  
President South and Central Queensland All Game Club Inc.