

Stephen Kavanagh

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Animal Welfare Standards Public Consultation

Po Box 5116

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To Whom It May Concern,

Public consultation for the draft Animal Welfare Standards & Guidelines for Poultry.

I am a poultry enthusiast. My passion is Game fowl. I comprise my thoughts from my personal experience owning, breeding, exhibiting and Judging poultry. I am an advocate for the promotion of purebred game fowl and a full time active member of poultry clubs. As an exhibitor it's imperative to me that my fowl's welfare takes priority.

Handling and Husbandry

SA9.10 "A person must only perform de-snooding, dubbing, de-spurring and web marking on day old hatchlings selected as potential breeders."

Dubbing –

Dubbing is an important procedure to maintain the welfare of male Game fowl with naturally straight combs.

Disturbing chicks hatching under hens could have catastrophic ramifications. Hens could damage, abandon and very likely kill the returned chicks.

Dubbing at day old would result in unnecessary dubbing of females that otherwise would not require dubbing later in life.

Dubbing of exhibition fowl should be acceptable up to the age of 16 weeks of age, which is prior to sexual maturity, and to be done by experienced personnel.

Web Marking –

Web marking is often an important part of record keeping and is more reliable than leg bands, which could come off or break. Disturbing chicks hatching under hens could result in hens destroying hatchlings.

SA9.12 – “a person must use appropriate pain relief when carrying out surgical procedures on poultry.”

There is no current registered veterinary product for pain relief in poultry. It would be considered poor practice for vets to prescribe off-label products without knowing the possible future ramifications for the fowl later on.

I feel that the current draft focuses muchly on commercial poultry and doesn't cater for situations that everyday poultry keepers face, in particular that of Game breeders. I ask that our views be heard and the draft be modified accordingly.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Kavanagh