

# **TASMANIAN GAME SPECTACULAR**

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23<sup>rd</sup> February 2018

Animal Welfare Standards Public Consultation  
PO Box 5116  
BRADDON ACT 2612

To Whom It May Concern,

**RE: SUBMISSION FROM EXHIBITION STUDY POULTRY AUSTRALIA INC PERTAINING TO  
DRAFT AUSTRALIAN ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR POULTRY AND  
THE POULTRY REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The Tasmanian Game Spectacular is a specialist poultry breed club with 50 financial members and affiliation to the Tasmanian Poultry Fanciers Association. The Club holds an annual 'Tasmanian Game Spectacular', which showcases all breeds of hard feather fowls and bantams. As such the Tasmanian Game Spectacular is an integral part of the Tasmanian exhibition poultry community and represents a wide cross section of Tasmania's purebred poultry fanciers.

The Tasmanian Game Spectacular wishes to comment on a specific aspect of the proposed *Standards and Guidelines* and the *RIS*, specifically: Section 9 – 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.*

In relation to dubbing, this is currently practised by the exhibition poultry community on young males of game breeds with large 'single' combs, such as Old English Game and Australian Pit Game. The intention is to prevent these birds injuring each other during the later stages of rearing, which can occur due to their pugnacious natures. It is not necessary to dub females of these breeds. Given that all birds hatched by poultry fanciers are potential breeders, and that these particular breeds cannot be sexed at day old, the proposed requirement to "*only perform dubbing on day old hatchlings selected as potential breeders*" would result in the completely unnecessary dubbing of female birds. We propose that for exhibition poultry, dubbing is to be performed as soon as possible after birds can be accurately sexed, which is generally around 16 weeks.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit our comments on the Draft Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Poultry and the Poultry RIS.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Greg Symons  
President,  
Tasmanian Game Spectacular