

To the.
Animal welfare review panel.

Edward Vaughan.
13-02-2018.

Please find my contribution to the review of dubbing of game birds for exhibition.
SPECIFIC STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES PROPOSED.

1. S.A.6.4 &6.5. Exhibition poultry should be exempt from these standards. Exhibition birds are some times reared under artificial light and this light is also used as a heat source without which the chicks would not survive.
2. S.A. 7.3 Exhibition poultry are not kept under intensive conditions so should be exempt from this condition.
3. S.A.9.10. Exhibition poultry should be exempt from this standard as .
Dubbing of day old chicks would be detrimental to the welfare of day old chicks as.
A. The wound would be a catalyst for attack and predation by other chicks and potentially the broody hen where hens are used as the heat source.
B .Significant numbers of female chicks would be unnecessarily dubbed as females do not get dubbed.
C. Given the statistics 50% of chicks are female and do not require dubbing and would be unnecessary.
D. Allowing the remaining 50% to develop to say 16 weeks would allow the natural culling of unsuitable birds which would further reduce the number to be dubbed.
E. Cockerels chosen for the show pen are cared for extremely well with treatment for internal and external parasites.
F. Cockerels that are dubbed are isolated and given the utmost care to ensure a speedy recovery every care is taken to ensure the birds welfare.

The Australian pit game club have been sponsoring a peacomb project to reduce the number of birds that need to be dubbed.

The peacomb project is a WORK IN PROGRESS and will take a number of years before we can safely say we have achieved our goal.

There are a number of health issues to be considered with the extremes within our country the occurrence of frost bite and sunburn to the combs can be quite harmful to the birds.

Older breeding males will suffer from oversized combs that will render them unable to feed or mate.

Regards Edward (Ted) Vaughan.