

401

Out of Scope

**From:** paul oconnor s 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 May 2016 10:37 p.m.  
**To:** Animal Welfare Submissions  
**Subject:** 'Submission on Animal Welfare Regulations'  
**Attachments:** Dewclaws.jpeg

Hello ,My name is Paul O'Connor ,From Mountridge Kennels and a member of the NZKC membership number s 9(2)(a) Please find attached my submission for the removal of dew claws

Contact details ;

s 9(2)(a)  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

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Ministry for Primary Industries  
Manatū Ahu Matua



Animal welfare proposed regulations feedback submission form

Your name: Paul O Connor / Mountridge kennels

Your organisation (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Your contact details: \_\_\_\_\_  
S/ \_\_\_\_\_  
9 \_\_\_\_\_  
( \_\_\_\_\_  
2 \_\_\_\_\_

Your feedback: I have been breeding Rhodasian  
Ridgebacks for 30 years.

They are a very athletic dogs who love to run/  
jump/swim & dig. Which they were bred for except the digging part  
I feel that keeping dewclaws would cause problems  
and injury to my dogs ie as they climb/pull themselves  
out of rivers, or catching on things when jumping or  
going through fences, or running through the bush.

Being a long way from the nearest vets, could mean  
a ~~staty~~ deadly outcome.

I have a vet remove the claws from any puppies  
within the first 2 day of birth.  
They show no discomfort after the procedure.

Feel free to continue your submission on additional paper and staple it to this form.

Please place your feedback inside the feedback box. Alternatively, take this form with you and post your feedback to Animal Welfare Policy, Ministry for Primary Industries, PO Box 2526, Wellington 6140.

You can also email your feedback to [animal.welfaresubmissions@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:animal.welfaresubmissions@mpi.govt.nz)

Submissions close 5pm 19 May 2016.

Any submission you make becomes public information. Anyone can ask for copies of all submissions under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). The OIA says we must make the information available unless we have a good reason for withholding it. You can find those grounds in sections 6 and 9 of the OIA. Tell us if you think there are grounds to withhold specific information in your submission. Reasons might include, it's commercially sensitive or it's personal information. However, any decision MPI makes to withhold information can be reviewed by the Ombudsman, who may require the information be released.



Out of Scope

**From:** Lindy Kelly s 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 May 2016 10:23 p.m.  
**To:** Animal Welfare Submissions  
**Subject:** Submission on animal welfare regulations  
**Attachments:** Submission to MPI -May 2016.docx

Please accept the attached submission on the animal welfare regulations  
Sincerely,  
Lindy Kelly



Virus-free. [www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)

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18.5.2016

## SUBMISSION ON ANIMAL WELFARE REGULATIONS

My submission concerns the welfare of cattle and horses in transit and the welfare of cattle at the freezing works.

I have been a farmer for 45 years and have a beef fattening farm in the Nelson/Tasman area. Since the freezing works in Nelson stopped killing cattle, the only options for beef farmers here are to send their cattle to outside freezing works such as in Blenheim, Christchurch, Wellington and Kokiri.

The regulations require farmers to take their stock off feed and get them into the yards the night before they go so they empty out and there is less effluent spilled on the road. They are picked up the following morning but then they can and usually do, spend the WHOLE of that day in transit picking up other stock to arrive at the works sometime late in the afternoon. During this time they've had no food or water and as they usually go in summer, they are subjected to extremely high temperatures (it was over 30 degrees most days last summer in the Top of the South). They are packed in so there's little air circulating and there is no shade for any animals on the top deck, nor any rest because of the swaying. They reach the works and are given a drink but no food.

You would think that at this point they would be killed and their misery would be over but no, they are held overnight and killed SOMETIME the next day. It is therefore up to 48 hours since they've eaten. This is very cruel.

I have weighed my animals before leaving and of course we get the weights back from the works and my animals have lost up to 50kg between leaving and being killed.

When I have voiced my concerns and asked why they couldn't be killed on arrival I've been told that by law they must have at least 12 hours *at the works* to empty out before they're killed. Yet I find that this can't be true as some works kill as soon as they arrive routinely (eg Greenlea Premier Meats in Morrinsville) and most works do what they call 'tail-gating' (killing on arrival) when they are short of stock to keep the chain going and when it suits them.

Farmers who have visited the Works say that the animals are sprayed with big jets of water as they come up to be killed and are then driven up the race with powerful electric shocks from cattle prods which are so strong they make a loud crack and the animal bellows in pain. I have not witnessed this myself, but have first-hand experience of everything else in this submission.



In summary, cattle are being transported for far too long without water or rest and held too long in freezing works without food. This is primarily an animal welfare issue but also of course an economic issue for farmers who are losing money due to the weight loss.

I would also like to mention the transportation of horses. There are horse transporters going and up and down the country all the time with mostly thoroughbred racehorses but also sporthorses. There doesn't seem to be any time limit placed for keeping horses on board without food, water or rest. In Australia, I hear the maximum time a horse is allowed to be confined on transport is 3 ½ hours, after which they must be taken off, watered and walked around. As you probably know, horses have 'frogs' on the soles of their feet which act like pumps to help circulate blood back up their legs. If unable to move for long periods of time the legs swell and become incredibly painful. One thoroughbred I brought up from Christchurch was dropped off last after being on the truck for 7 ½ hours. It took him over a week before he could walk properly again and he is so terrified of travel now we haven't been able to get him on a horse float since.

My point here is that keeping horses on these trucks for long periods of time is taken as normal in New Zealand and I believe that if we are serious about animal welfare then this has to be stopped.

In summary

- Cattle are being held far too long without food and water and there should be maximum allowable times for both. There should be penalties for breaching these minimum standards.
- Horses are being transported for too long without rest, exercise and water. Minimum standards must be set and penalties for breaching them.
- The use of cattle prods on wet animals should not be allowed.

Sincerely,  
Lindy Kelly



Out of Scope

**From:** weicanine s 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:**  
**To:** Animal Welfare Submissions  
**Subject:** Tail banding  
**Attachments:** Animal Welfare proposed regulations feedback submission open form.doc

See attached submission

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Please Note your Submission needs to be into MPI by 5PM Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May  
Email To: animal.welfaresubmissions@mpi.govt.nz

## Animal Welfare proposed regulations feedback submission:

s 9(2)(a)

My Views and Responses as Below.

62. The proposed regulation states: Must be performed by a veterinarian or a veterinary student under the direct supervision of a veterinarian.  
Must only be performed for therapeutic reasons  
Pain relief must be used at the time of the procedure.

I disagree with this proposal in its entirety and advocate for the status quo and these are my reasons:

I am a member of the New Zealand Kennel Club (NZKC).  
Within the NZKC is the NZ Council of Docked Breeds who operate as a fully audited and regulated group under the umbrella of the NZKC with the approval of the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC). There accredited Members carry out the Banding and Dew Claw removal under strict and Measured Standards.

I am of the understanding that the procedure of tail banding (described by the NAWAC approved scheme) is vastly different from the process of tail amputation and an accredited bander will only perform the tail banding procedure under the Animal Welfare Act (No2) 2015 and this is not a surgical procedure.

The breeds that I am associated with and that are banded are traditionally docked dogs that still perform their duties that they were designed for.

I understand that in 2012 NAWAC agreed and suggested a study should be completed to dispel any myths around the process of tail banding, yet to date, this has not been carried out by NAWAC so I am surprised that this proposal has taken shape.

I understand that MPI partly funds both the RSPCA and NAWAC, yet they are both major stakeholders in writing this proposal which I see as being extremely one sided and is not factual. I also understand that the governing body of the professional dog world Namely the NZKC has over 6000 members, but NZKC were not included as a major stakeholder when writing these proposals and nor are they funded by the Ministry.

I understand that over 170 countries do not ban the tail shortening procedure however these countries are not spoken about in any documentation produced by MPI.

I understand that breed specifics are not taken into account when this proposal was documented and the groups largely involved in writing these have dealings mainly with crossbred non-pedigree (no registration with the NZKC) dogs. I would sincerely question the stakeholder's ability to answer



such detailed questions around form and function of a specific breed for the purposes of this proposal.

I understand that another major stakeholder is an offshoot of the RSPCA namely HUHA. This group also deals with crossbred non-pedigree dogs yet they felt qualified to once again offer their opinion on pedigree dogs and the reasons for tail shortening.

I am of the belief that there is currently a process in place for the SPCA to act on individual cases that perform a tail shortening procedure illegally on a litter of non-registered NZKC members neonate puppies, however in the last 4 years I only know of 2 cases where the SPCA has acted on this information.

I believe the Shortening of a Dogs Tail has Absolutely no effect on their ability to Communicate, Swim or Run and is purely an emotive argument which is impossible to base on fact as the over whelming evidence proves otherwise.

Currently Tail injuries are only a small percentage of why Dogs are presented to a Veterinary Clinic and this is because a lot are shortened and if they were left long there will be a huge increase in this issue which can be a very drawn out and painful experience for the Dog.

61. The proposed regulations states: Front limb dew claw removal and articulated (jointed) hind limb dew claw removal:

Must be performed by a veterinarian or a veterinary student under the direct supervision of a veterinarian;

Must only be performed for therapeutic reasons; and

Pain relief must be used at the time of the procedure

Hind limb dew claws: non-articulated (greater than or equal to four days of age)

Must be performed by a veterinarian or veterinary student under supervisions; and

Pain relief must be used at the time of the procedure.

I disagree with this proposal in its entirety and advocate for the status quo and these are my reasons:

When performing a dew claw removal, The process is completed in a neonate puppy 4 days of age or under. At this time it is a well-recognised fact that the toes and tail are the last part of the neonate puppy to calcify and develop into bone. The neonate dewclaw is removed without cutting through bone (has not calcified) and does not bleed when performed correctly.

No other country in the world has proposed this procedure should not be practiced as the health and welfare of the dog will be compromised.

As a caretaker of my chosen breed, I am fully versed in the damage that a dew claw can cause to the dog if left on. My chosen breed has been bred to be used in its traditional purpose and the dew claw if left on would result in significant pain and suffering to the dog.

I understand that breed specifics are not taken into account when this proposal was documented and the groups largely involved in writing these have dealings mainly with crossbred non-pedigree (no registration with the NZKC) dogs. I would sincerely question the stakeholder's ability to answer such detailed questions around form and function of a specific breed for the purposes of this proposal.



I understand that another major stakeholder is an offshoot of the RSPCA namely HUHA. This group also deals with crossbred non-pedigree dogs yet they felt qualified to once again offer their opinion on pedigree dogs and the reasons for dew claw removal.

I understand that MPI partly funds both the RSPCA and NAWAC, yet they are both major stakeholders in writing this proposal which I see as being extremely one sided and is not factual. I also understand that the governing body of the professional dog world Namely the NZKC has over 6000 members, but NZKC were not included as a major stakeholder when writing these proposals and nor are they funded by the Ministry.

There have been many incidents of dew claws growing back into the skin of the dog as the pet owner doesn't understand how to trim the nails and often as the dog is of a coated variety, they are not aware of a dew claw being present.

I understand that not all front dew claws are articulated and once again the breed specifics have been ignored in this instance and MPI have been advised incorrectly.

I understand that the Groomers Association have not been contacted for information from their large membership to dispel the myths displayed in the proposed regulation and I further understand that the largest governing body (and only – NZKC) have also not been included in the proposal to not allow this process to remain as is.

Ironically both the Shortening of Tails and Removal of Dew Claws are done at Birth for the Dogs best interest and long term Health. WE care for our dogs more than any Vet or Government Agency and would never do anything to them we didn't believe was in there best interest.

Thank You,



Out of Scope

**From:** Aynsley Downie <§ 9(2)(a)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 May 2016 10:16 p.m.  
**To:** Animal Welfare Submissions  
**Subject:** Animal Welfare Regulations Submission  
**Attachments:** Animal Welfare proposed regulations feedback submission form.docx

Please find my submission in regards to your proposal of taking away our rights to Band our docked breeds and the removal of dew claws.

Regards  
Aynsley Downie  
Kadence Boxers  
[www.kadence-boxers.com](http://www.kadence-boxers.com)

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Re: Animal Welfare Regulations Submission

This submission is made by  
Aynsley Downie

s 9(2)(a)

The following organisation support this submission  
**New Zealand Council of Docked Breeds (NZCDB)**

I have been involved in the breeding and showing of purebred Boxer's and Dobermann's, and all have been either docked surgically by my veterinary or banded by myself as an accredited bander with the NZCDB.

In my 12 years of being involved in both of these breeds I have seen nil issues in the banding experience /procedure when done in a professional manner. Just a little history behind myself, I am a Certified Veterinary nurse that has been involved in both procedures of surgically removal of the tail and the banding procedure. In my honest opinion the puppies that have been banded, is a much kinder experience for all puppies under 4 days of age and all puppies that have had this performed are happily nursing minutes later, and tail falls away cleanly 4 to 6 days later, in a clean hygienic environment.

Boxer's & Dobermann's along with many other docked breeds are man-made species that have a wide variety of breeds involved in their making/ history and in doing so have designed a dog with a straighter top line and a very high tail set that is not designed to carry a thick tail and in doing so causes problems later on with back injuries and spine stress as well as a tail that rotates instead of wags and this has been proven to cause nasty bloody split to the end of the tail when the high speed rotating tail connect with a solid structure. Surgical tail removal is normally 9 out of 10 end results when this happens in older dogs as once spit they never heal or really hard to get to heal through continually re injuring this area.

Boxers in particular were named because of the common trait they provide with playing and interacting with their front legs and the tendency to have a clingy action with their front paws. Dew claws provide a lot of discomfort to the dog as well as humans involved in their play.

This action also make these breeds susceptible to a higher rate of ripping their dew claws which causes inflammation, infection and unnecessary major surgery to have fixed or removed which after 4 days is a fixed bone to the metacarpus.

62. The proposed regulation states: Must be performed by a veterinarian or a veterinary student under the direct supervision of a veterinarian.

Must only be performed for therapeutic reasons

Pain relief must be used at the time of the procedure.

I disagree with this proposal in its entirety and advocate for the status quo and these are my reasons:

I am a member of the New Zealand Kennel Club (NZKC) and am a registered breeder of pedigree dogs.

I am an accredited member of the New Zealand Council of Docked Breeds (NZCDB) and have had my animal husbandry skills signed off by a veterinarian, who must complete my application for



accreditation by either witnessing neonate puppies being banded or being in the presence of another accredited bander to enable me to perform tail shortening.

The NZCDB as an organisation was established in 2004 and our membership is focussed on the welfare of tail shortened breeds. We operate as a fully audited and regulated group under the umbrella of the NZKC with the approval of the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC).

I have never had a complaint or issue arise from any litter that I have completed banding on and to the best of my knowledge I understand that as an accredited group, we have performed tail shortening on over 10 500 neonate puppies without incident since 2005.

I am of the understanding that the procedure of tail banding (described by the NAWAC approved scheme) is vastly different from the process of tail amputation and as an accredited bander I only perform the tail banding procedure under the Animal Welfare Act (No2) 2015 and this is not a surgical procedure.

The breeds that I am associated with and that are banded by me are traditionally docked dogs that still perform their duties that they were designed for.

I understand that in 2012 NAWAC agreed and suggested a study should be completed to dispel any myths around the process of tail banding, yet to date, this has not been carried out by NAWAC so I am surprised that this proposal has taken shape.

I understand that MPI partly funds both the RSPCA and NAWAC, yet they are both major stakeholders in writing this proposal which I see as being extremely one sided and is not factual. I also understand that the governing body of the professional dog world Namely the NZKC has over 6000 members, but NZKC were not included as a major stakeholder when writing these proposals and nor are they funded by the Ministry.

I understand that over 170 countries do not ban the tail shortening procedure however these countries are not spoken about in any documentation produced by MPI.

I understand that breed specifics are not taken into account when this proposal was documented and the groups largely involved in writing these have dealings mainly with crossbred non-pedigree (no registration with the NZKC) dogs. I would sincerely question the stakeholder's ability to answer such detailed questions around form and function of a specific breed for the purposes of this proposal.

I understand that another major stakeholder is an offshoot of the RSPCA namely HUHA. This group also deals with crossbred non-pedigree dogs yet they felt qualified to once again offer their opinion on pedigree dogs and the reasons for tail shortening.

I am of the belief that there is currently a process in place for the SPCA to act on individual cases that perform a tail shortening procedure illegally on a litter of non-registered NZKC member's neonate puppies, however in the last 4 years I only know of 2 cases where the SPCA has acted on this information.

(from the Act) anything cutting the bone is a significant surgical procedure.

Banding does not cut the bone!



The Act allows a lifestyle farmer with no previous experience the ability to band. We should have special dispensation under the Act for recognition and continuation of the Accredited Banders Panel.

Why are there rules for one species and not for another, irrespective of if they are production or companion animals? Dogs are born with undeveloped nervous systems and there is no scientific evidence to suggest they feel any pain at all when banded - vs. production animals that are born to flee so have fully developed nervous systems - yet removal of the tail is permitted by lay people (in the case of sheep, up to 6 months of age and pigs up to 7 days of age). The reason for the procedures are the same - to prevent the animal from suffering.

The banding procedure should be recognised the same as lay people can remove a pig's tail and lambs' tail.

The docking of dogs' tails has been the subject of parliamentary debate in 1999 with the Animal Welfare Act and again in 2004. Then in 2012 the subject was debated yet again under the Code of Welfare Act and now it returns under the guise of a Significant Surgery Procedure undertaken by the Animal Welfare Amendment Act (No 2) in 2015?

So in the last 17 years the owners and breeders of traditionally docked breeds have been forced to defend their historical rights to shorten tails on traditionally docked breeds on four separate occasions - this is bureaucratic harassment!!!

Owners and breeders who take the role of guardians of the breed extremely seriously and breed, work, hunt or show their dogs as a hobby/sport (a voluntary unfunded role) vs the funded fight of SPCA/NZVA/NAWAC, this should be considered bureaucratic bullying!

In 2012 NAWAC agreed and suggested a study should be completed specifically around the banding process, in part to refute or confirm our assertions.

During the last public debate around the Code of Welfare in 2012, the NZCDB and NZKC adopted an accreditation and assurance scheme for suitably qualified members of the NZCDB who wished to be recognised as Accredited Banders. This was accepted by the NAWAC committee as an appropriate solution.

With apparent disregard to the previous NAWAC committee, this committee along with NZVA and SPCA have given way to the fantasy of a tail docking ban by the inclusion of the banding procedure in the Significant Surgery Procedure category.

In doing so they have:

- a) ignored a successful accredited banding programme
- b) failed to acknowledge the practical experience breed specific knowledge of owners and breeders of traditionally docked dogs.
- c) Failed to acknowledge or recognise any variations in the tail structure/form and function between dog breeds. (There is over 150 different breeds)
- d) Failed to provide any proof of pain either scientific or anecdotal, as requested by the 2012 NAWAC committee
- e) Failed to acknowledge that in excess of 170 countries in the world DO NOT have a ban on the docking/shortening of dogs tails
- f) Relied on their own credibility by accepting the anecdotal evidence provided by NZVA and SPCA, most of who are not experienced dog breeders yet do not afford the same credibility to our members who are.

This can be remedied by aligning the banding with the exemption, the committee has been prepared to give to Production Animals, namely pigs and sheep.



61. The proposed regulations states: Front limb dew claw removal and articulated (jointed) hind limb dew claw removal:

Must be performed by a veterinarian or a veterinary student under the direct supervision of a veterinarian;

Must only be performed for therapeutic reasons; and

Pain relief must be used at the time of the procedure

Hind limb dew claws: non-articulated (greater than or equal to four days of age)

Must be performed by a veterinarian or veterinary student under supervisions; and

Pain relief must be used at the time of the procedure.

I disagree with this proposal in its entirety and advocate for the status quo and these are my reasons:

When performing a dew claw removal, I complete this process in a neonate puppy 4 days of age or under. At this time it is a well-recognised fact that the toes and tail are the last part of the neonate puppy to calcify and develop into bone. The neonate dewclaw is removed without cutting through bone (has not calcified) and does not bleed when performed correctly.

No other country in the world has proposed this procedure should not be practiced as the health and welfare of the dog will be compromised.

As a professional dog breeder and caretaker of my chosen breed, I am fully versed in the damage that a dew claw can cause to the dog if left on. My chosen breed has been bred to be used in its traditional purpose and the dew claw if left on would result in significant pain and suffering to the dog.

I understand that breed specifics are not taken into account when this proposal was documented and the groups largely involved in writing these have dealings mainly with crossbred non-pedigree (no registration with the NZKC) dogs. I would sincerely question the stakeholder's ability to answer such detailed questions around form and function of a specific breed for the purposes of this proposal.

I understand that another major stakeholder is an offshoot of the RSPCA namely HUHA. This group also deals with crossbred non-pedigree dogs yet they felt qualified to once again offer their opinion on pedigree dogs and the reasons for dew claw removal.

I understand that MPI partly funds both the RSPCA and NAWAC, yet they are both major stakeholders in writing this proposal which I see as being extremely one sided and is not factual. I also understand that the governing body of the professional dog world Namely the NZKC has over 6000 members, but NZKC were not included as a major stakeholder when writing these proposals and nor are they funded by the Ministry.

## Conclusion

Our organisation seeks both appropriate care and welfare standards for all animals including dogs. We however consider that the proposals as set out may have other unintended implications which in and of themselves will not meet the intent or care standards proposed. We suggest that as long standing dog breeders we and our members will be well placed to assist officials and at the very least should not be ignored.



We welcome any questions the Ministry may have with respect to this submission. We are available also to meet should this be helpful.

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**From:** Shayne John Rusbatch s 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 May 2016 10:15 p.m.  
**To:** Animal Welfare Submissions  
**Subject:** Submissions on Proposed Animal Welfare Regulations

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my support for the prong (aka Pinch) collar. I have used them for 10 years with fantastic results. Before buying my first one, I did extensive research as to how to use them properly. I have used various sized collars on many dogs of different sizes and temperaments with immediate results. The dogs were not injured nor did they show any distress, in fact, just the opposite. They were more attentive, happy and acted more in keeping with a pack structure. With regards to injuries, I think it would be difficult to injure a dog with a properly fitted prong collar. They have a stop on them so the correction only allows for a small amount of travel on the collar, unlike the commonly used choke collar which can strangle a dog. Also, prong collars are not designed to have lead tension acting on them. If the collar is used properly, the dog won't pull and the lead is always loose. How often do you see an owner being dragged along by even a small dog, and the poor dog panting, gasping and straining. This will not happen with a properly used prong collar. Surely that is better for the dog and owner. For people with physical handicaps or a lack of size or strength, these collars are fantastic as they are like having power steering. I once fitted a collar to a young dog at a dog show. The very experienced owner and breeder was having trouble getting the dog to walk alongside her. I fitted the collar and within 2 minutes had the dog walking perfectly. This process was observed from a distance by the previous president of the Kennel club. She came over to see how such miraculous results were achieved in such a short time and with no distress evident on the dog. I feel very strongly about this issue and I think that far more dogs are mistreated and injured by their owners through cruelty and neglect than would be injured through prong collar use. A better idea would be to more severely punish the owners that mistreat animals and leave prong collars available to those responsible owners and trainers that use them properly.

Many thanks.

Shayne Rusbatch

s 9(2)(a)



Out of Scope

**From:** Pete FAMILTON s 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 May 2016 10:15 p.m.  
**To:** Animal Welfare Submissions  
**Subject:** Submission on Animal Welfare Policy

To the Ministry of Primary Industries,

I would like you to conduct a full and thorough review of factory farming as a whole, including all the animals trapped indoors in permanent confinement. We should not be regulating practices that breach NZ's own Animal Welfare Act, we should be looking into the future and creating a plan to ban them.

Please remove the regulations you have created regarding factory farmed animals, such as the ones that relate to farrowing crates and colony cages. Then set a date to review these and all other factory farming practices.

**Factory farming is an abhorrent practice, and New Zealand needs a long term strategy for phasing it out.**

A factory farming review will send a message to industry to guide future investment, as well as give an opportunity to address the largest animal welfare issue facing New Zealand.

I also ask that you consider the evidence that rodeos are cruel, and ban them. The animals will not perform if not distressed by a variety of means, such as the flank strap.

Finally, I would like to you to ban the use of exotic animals in circuses. There is ample evidence that these animals suffer in captivity, and there is no reason to allow that suffering for entertainment purposes.

Kind regards  
Peter

Peter FAMILTON  
s 9(2)(a)



**From:** Jo W § 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 May 2016 10:14 p.m.  
**To:** Animal Welfare Submissions

*To the Ministry of Primary Industries,  
This is my submission on the regulations released for consultation in April 2016.*

*I would like you to conduct a full and thorough review of factory farming as a whole, including all the animals trapped indoors in permanent confinement. We should not be regulating practices that breach NZ's own Animal Welfare Act, we should be looking into the future and creating a plan to ban them.*

*Please remove the regulations you have created regarding factory farmed animals, such as the ones that relate to farrowing crates and colony cages. Then set a date to review these and all other factory farming practices.*

*Factory farming is an abhorrent practice, and New Zealand needs a long term strategy for phasing it out. A factory farming review will send a message to industry to guide future investment, as well as give an opportunity to address the largest animal welfare issue facing New Zealand.*

*I also ask that you consider the evidence that rodeos are cruel, and ban them. The animals will not perform if not distressed by a variety of means, such as the flank strap.*

*Finally, I would like to you to ban the use of exotic animals in circuses. There is ample evidence that these animals suffer in captivity, and there is no reason to allow that suffering for entertainment purposes.*

Thank you,  
Jo West



**From:** Victoria Young § 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 May 2016 10:10 p.m.  
**To:** Animal Welfare Submissions  
**Subject:** ANIMAL WELFARE REGULATIONS SUBMISSION

Name: Victoria Young

Email: § 9(2)(a)

Relating to the welfare of cats, I would like to see all 11 Minimum Standards set out in the Companion Cat Code moved forward into Regulations. The advantage in having these as Regulations is that MPI and SPCA inspectors would be able to issue immediate infringement notices and if necessary request immediate fines of \$300 or \$500 for more severe transgressions. Cats are the most popular companion animal in New Zealand with 1.6 million being owned, but not always by fully responsible and fully caring owners. Regulations would greatly assist the inspectors in improving the lives of cats in New Zealand.

I ask that you therefore create such Regulations from all the Minimum Standards in the Companion Cat Code.

I thank you for this opportunity to make this submission.

Victoria Young



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**From:** emily manning § 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 May 2016 10:04 p.m.  
**To:** Animal Welfare Submissions  
**Subject:** Animal welfare regulations feedback submission form  
**Attachments:** animal welfare submission pg1.jpeg; animal welfare submission pg2.jpeg

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Animal Welfare proposed regulations feedback submission form

Emily Manning

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)

My feedback:

62. The proposed regulation states: Must be performed by a veterinarian or a veterinary student under the direct supervision of a veterinarian.

Must only be performed for therapeutic reasons

Pain relief must be used at the time of the procedure.

I disagree with this proposal in its entirety and advocate for the status quo and these are my reasons:

I am of the understanding that the procedure of tail banding (described by the NAWAC approved scheme) is vastly different from the process of tail amputation perform the tail banding procedure under the Animal Welfare Act (No2) 2015 and this is not a surgical procedure.

The breed that I am associated with and that are banded by an accredited tail bander are traditionally docked dogs that still perform their duties that they were designed for. My current puppy was imported from New Zealand with a banded tail, (by an accredited tail bander) which was done when she was 2 days old with no problems or pain.

I understand that in 2012 NAWAC agreed and suggested a study should be completed to dispel any myths around the process of tail banding, yet to date, this has not been carried out by NAWAC so I am surprised that this proposal has taken shape.

I understand that MPI partly funds both the RSPCA and NAWAC, yet they are both major stakeholders in writing this proposal which I see as being extremely one sided and is not factual. I also understand that the governing body of the professional dog world Namely the NZKC has over 6000 members, but NZKC were not included as a major stakeholder when writing these proposals and nor are they funded by the Ministry.

I understand that over 170 countries do not ban the tail shortening procedure however these countries are not spoken about in any documentation produced by MPI.

I understand that breed specifics are not taken into account when this proposal was documented and the groups largely involved in writing these have dealings mainly with crossbred non-pedigree (no registration with the NZKC) dogs. I would sincerely question the stakeholder's ability to answer such detailed questions around form and function of a specific breed for the purposes of this proposal.

I understand that another major stakeholder is an offshoot of the RSPCA namely HUHA. This group also deals with crossbred non-pedigree dogs yet they felt qualified to once again offer their opinion on pedigree dogs and the reasons for tail shortening.

Emily Manning



61. The proposed regulations states: Front limb dew claw removal and articulated (jointed) hind limb dew claw removal:

Must be performed by a veterinarian or a veterinary student under the direct supervision of a veterinarian;

Must only be performed for therapeutic reasons; and

Pain relief must be used at the time of the procedure

Hind limb dew claws: non-articulated (greater than or equal to four days of age)

Must be performed by a veterinarian or veterinary student under supervisions; and

Pain relief must be used at the time of the procedure.

I disagree with this proposal in its entirety and advocate for the status quo and these are my reasons:

No other country in the world has proposed this procedure should not be practiced as the health and welfare of the dog will be compromised.

As a caretaker of my chosen breed, I am fully versed in the damage that a dew claw can cause to the dog if left on. My chosen breed has been bred to be used in its traditional purpose and the dew claw if left on would result in significant pain and suffering to the dog.

I understand that breed specifics are not taken into account when this proposal was documented and the groups largely involved in writing these have dealings mainly with crossbred non pedigree (no registration with the NZKC) dogs. I would sincerely question the stakeholder's ability to answer such detailed questions around form and function of a specific breed for the purposes of this proposal.

I understand that another major stakeholder is an offshoot of the RSPCA namely HUHA. This group also deals with crossbred non-pedigree dogs yet they felt qualified to once again offer their opinion on pedigree dogs and the reasons for dew claw removal.

I understand that MPI partly funds both the RSPCA and NAWAC, yet they are both major stakeholders in writing this proposal which I see as being extremely one sided and is not factual. I also understand that the governing body of the professional dog world Namely the NZKC has over 6000 members, but NZKC were not included as a major stakeholder when writing these proposals and nor are they funded by the Ministry.

I understand that the Groomers Association have not been contacted for information from their large membership to dispel the myths displayed in the proposed regulation and I further understand that the largest governing body (and only - NZKC) have also not been included in the proposal to not allow this process to remain as is.





Out of Scope

**From:** Wayne Powell s 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 May 2016 9:54 p.m.  
**To:** Animal Welfare Submissions  
**Subject:** Re:Proposed animal welfare regulations  
**Attachments:** SUBMISSION ON PROPOSED ANIMAL WELFARE REGULATIONS.docx

Dear Sir/Madam

Please find attached my submission.

Sincerely  
Wayne Powell

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## SUBMISSION ON PROPOSED ANIMAL WELFARE REGULATIONS –DOGS-CARE & CONDUCT

Wayne Powell

s 9(2)(a)

I have owned, trained and competed with working-line dogs (as opposed to show-line dogs) since the mid 1970's. I have been involved with primarily working-line German Shepherds, Dobermans and Rottweilers, but I have also been involved with training puppy and adult pet dogs for members of the public. I take the responsibility of owning and training dogs very seriously and was one of the early adaptors to the Dog Owner Licence that was established by the North Shore Council and received Licence No. 0334 on 26 March 1988.

The best analogy that I can think of to differentiate between working-line dogs and show-line dogs is the difference between thoroughbred horses and standard bred horses. Working-line dogs are bred for their superior temperament, strong nerves and general all-round robustness, whereas show-line dogs are basically bred for their appearance.

I agree in principle with all of the proposed regulation changes in respect of dogs, with the exception of the prohibiting of pinch/prong collars. I do not support this proposal.

It is disturbing that pressure groups are running campaigns to have prong collars banned based purely on an emotive notion that they look like something out of the dark ages and therefore they must be bad, when in fact nothing could be further from the truth. Prior to the advent of the prong collar, trainers were restricted to using a chain choke or slip collar (still the most commonly used training collar) and there is plenty of documented evidence which shows the damage that these collars have inflicted.

Prong collars do not choke the dog, nor do they twist and pull the neck in an upwards and sideways motion, which can result in neck and spinal damage. Prong collars, used correctly, fit snugly around the muscular part of the neck and produce an all round pressure on the neck muscles, without cutting off the air supply or pulling the dog's head and neck into an unnatural position.

The promoter of the anti-campaign has used, internet sourced, photos of dogs allegedly showing wounds inflicted by prong collars. In my experience I have never seen such injuries on any dog in New Zealand and I would suggest that the only way that such injuries could be inflicted, would be for the prongs to be sharpened and/or the collar left on the dog for an extended period of time.

Any person who did such a thing should be prosecuted. Prong collars should never be sharpened and they should only be on the dog during the training period. They should never be left on a dog permanently.

Cruelty is the choice a person makes, not the tool that he chooses. One of the most common forms of cruelty with dogs is being tied up, without food, without water and without shade and a chain or flat collar fastened too tightly around the dog's neck.



Cruelty is a human weakness and is not equipment dependent. Prong collars used by experienced trainers and used correctly on appropriate dogs, in appropriate circumstances, are a very valuable training aid. High spirited, boisterous dogs can be saved from a lethal injection by an experienced trainer with access to the appropriate equipment.

The "positive only" trainers would have you believe that all dog training can be accomplished without the need for a correction to prevent undesirable behaviour but talk to any farmer who runs working dogs and they will tell you that undesirable behaviour needs to be stopped and stopped fast.

Existing provisions in the Animal Welfare Act already provide for offences where it can be shown that an animal has suffered unnecessary pain or distress. If prong collars or any other piece of training equipment are used to inflict any animal abuse, there are already options available to prosecute the perpetrator.

Penalising trainers who care and have their dog's wellbeing as their primary focus, is not good law, particularly when the opposition is based on emotion and not supported by local evidence.

People, not inanimate things, perpetrate abuse.



Out of Scope

**From:** Sean Molloy s 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 May 2016 9:44 p.m.  
**To:** Animal Welfare Submissions  
**Subject:** Farmer submission on AW regs proposal outline  
**Attachments:** Farmer submission on AW regs proposal outline.docx

Submission attached.

Regards  
Sean Molloy  
Offaly Farms Ltd

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Offaly Farms Ltd

s 9(2)(a)

Animal Welfare Policy  
Ministry for Primary Industries  
PO Box 2526  
WELLINGTON 6140

Via email: [Animal.WelfareSubmissions@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:Animal.WelfareSubmissions@mpi.govt.nz)

Dear Sirs

**Proposed Animal Welfare Regulations (Care and Conduct and Surgical and Painful Procedures):  
MPI Discussion Paper No: 2016/12**

**A. Introduction and reasons for making submission**

We operate a 400 sow farrow to finish pig farm in Canterbury. The farm is a modern high tech indoor facility. We have been farming on this site for 35 years.  
The farm turns over approximately \$2.3M annually. The business supports 4 families, employs 4 full time employees and 3 casual staff.

We sell approximately 7200 fat pigs/year and 5500 weaner pigs/year.

We use 1500 tons of grain per annum that is all supplied in Canterbury.

In order to run a highly productive and profitable intensive farming operation, Animal welfare is paramount. If an animal is under stress it is much more susceptible to diseases and it retards the animal's ability to grow quickly and efficiently. Good animal welfare starts with robust biosecurity protocols. It relies on high quality feed ingredients, well maintained facilities and dedicated staff members with a passion for working with pigs.

We use industry experts to formulate diets to meet the exact requirements all ages and stages of production. We have 3 monthly visits with our farm consultant who is also our veterinarian to review farm performance and discuss any issues we may be experiencing on farm.

We employ state of the art facilities to provide high welfare environment for pigs. Use computer controlled feed systems to optimise feed efficiency. What is good for our pigs is good for us.

The NZ Pork Industry fully supports robust animal welfare. Four years ago developed a farmer initiated program to assess animal on every commercial farm in NZ. We call this PigCare, and we are measure against current welfare codes. It has really lifted the whole industry in respect to animal welfare. It is something that we are all really proud of.

In the very limited time available for consultation (April 14 to May 19), and alongside our commitment our farm, you have not had the chance to engage fully in consideration and discussion of these proposals with other farmers and industry experts, and also fully research the background and justification. It is critical that all regulations introduced have been given adequate care: better to take time to get right rather than rush. We fully support the submission from NZPork on behalf of commercial pig farmers.



There is much emotion involved when the general public scrutinise intensive farming operations. More often than not these emotions are not supported by the facts. I believe it is super important that all decisions made on animal welfare are well supported by good science. There is not truer saying than "if its not good for the animals, its not good for the farmer".

B. General points-

1. All regulations must be evidence-based. The evidence need to include both science and an understanding of good commercial practice and practicalities and a 'common sense' approach to ensure that the proposal can be realistically applied. For some proposals, little /no substantive evidence has been provided. Some justifications are broad generalisations and others inaccurate. Please provide evidence for all regulations confirmed.
2. All regulations need to contribute to benefiting animal welfare. Without this New Zealand runs the risk of responding to 'hot topics' that may have no useful effect on animal welfare and may destabilise commercial industries. Please provide analysis confirming the animal welfare benefit for all regulations confirmed.
3. All regulations need to operate within the real world. Please provide an assessment of how each of the regulations confirmed will operate within the framework of meeting health and safety and environmental requirements in particular.
4. All regulations need to be assessed for their economic impact. This is particularly crucial for sectors such as pig farming where changes in standards can involve significant costs to change housing, equipment and farming styles. There is no indication that any economic assessment has been done. The very short consultation period does not allow industries time to undertake such assessments. Please provide an economic assessment of each proposal before it is confirmed for implementation.
5. Codes of welfare: the proposals for regulations represent very limited aspects of welfare. Animal welfare cannot be reduced to black-and-white regulations and so the codes are vital to provide a fuller description of care, and explain the reasoning involved. It is important that codes are not overlooked.
6. Actual wording: this is a crucial element. Incorrect wording can be counter-productive to animal welfare. It is likely that a number of iterations of wording are required to get the regulations right. Regulations need to be carefully assessed rather than quickly introduced.
7. Enforceability. There is very little coverage of the operating system. If regulations are to be effective they must be 'black and white' to be enforceable. But too prescriptive will stifle innovation.
8. Currently over 60 % of pig meat consumed in New Zealand is imported, and no animal welfare requirements are set for such product. Unless New Zealand regulations are reasonable then the effect will be to force New Zealand pig farmers out of production. New Zealand's consumers will then have no ability to fulfil their expectations that the pork they eat comes from pigs whose welfare is provided for.



C. Proposals for regulations:

1. All animals – Electric prodders

This limits any use of electric prodders on farm or transport for any pigs including loading.

Is the intention to permit use on large, dangerous animals?

- Then what about boars and sows?
- What about equity between species?

What is the scientific justification for this prohibition? A prodger well used by a trained operator instructed in its use is an effective tool particularly to aid moving of a number of animals. It means that the animal that baulks further up the group can be encouraged to move rather than having to force animals at the back.

Will the same principle of potential to cause harm if inappropriately used be applied to other handling devices such as alkathene and steel pipes and electric fences?

Obviously the defence provisions must include provision for the preservation, protection and maintenance of human and animal health and welfare. However this principle should also be covered in the regulation.

Electric prodders may only be used on:

- a) **cattle over 100kg;**
- b) **cattle over 100kg and other animals, in a circus where the safety of the handler is at risk; or**
- c) **cattle over 100kg, and other animals, in a commercial slaughter premises:**
  - i. **where the safety of the handler is at risk; or**
  - ii. **when loading a stunning pen.**
- d) **other animals:**
  - i. **where the safety of the handler is at risk;**
  - ii. **when loading.**

2. All Animals – Use of goads

Support this proposal.

24. Pigs – Dry Sleeping Area

There are general principles for shelter and living and sleeping conditions applicable across all classes of pigs in both indoor and outdoor systems: warm, dry and draught-free. In practice



however, depending on temperature and a range of other factors, pigs do not always choose a dry area to sleep.

These words are different from the minimum standards in the code of welfare for both indoor and outdoor. For indoor systems, pens are cleaned out with water for hygiene reasons wetting the whole pen; and water drippers or sprinklers are used to wet the floor for cooling in the summer.

The problem refers to lifestyle or small scale pig owners and muddy conditions and lack of shelter. Our suggestion therefore is that the regulation is more closely based on the current minimum standard for shelter for pigs outdoors: **Pigs must be provided with access to a dry and draught-free but adequately ventilated lying area.**

Note the number of complaints is incorrect as reported in the document: *An identified area of frequent non-compliance. On average 30 complaints per year investigated relating to muddy conditions and a lack of shelter. More than half of these are for small scale or lifestyle owners.* Figures from MPI Animal Welfare Compliance show that over the last 4 years (2012 – 2015) on average there have been 7.3 complaints per year in relation to conditions.

#### 25. Pigs – Lying space for grower pigs

The minimum space allowance per pig is only relevant for a short time during the growing cycle as pigs grow rapidly and generally move through 2-3 accommodation stages from weaner to grower to finisher. This is why there is 2-3 stages of housing to accommodate the same number of animals growing from 8kg to 90 plus kg in 15 weeks.

This is a very complex area. Often too much space in a pen can create a hygiene problem with pigs using the wrong area to defecate and urinate making the pen wet. In addition, different outcomes occur on different farms even with the same system. For newly weaned pigs chilling can become a problem in too larger a space. A range of factors including nutrition, health , genotype, handling ,temperature and ventilation systems affect pigs causing them to behave differently in the same 'system' and at different times of the year.

Note the number of complaints is incorrect as reported in the document: *High risk of poor welfare outcomes, as a 'single instance' is likely to affect many animals. There is an average of 120 pig related complaints per year. Around a quarter relate to unhygienic conditions including overcrowding.* Figures from MPI Animal Welfare Compliance show that over the last 10 years there has been an average of 25 complaints per year not 120.

#### 26. Pigs – Dry sow stalls

Support regulation.

Support definitions of dry sow stall and also mating stall in the code of welfare (the current state).

Note that the EU position is to permit dry sow stalls for the first four weeks of pregnancy and makes no comment on the use of mating stalls. Some individual EU countries set clearer provisions (e.g. Sweden, the Netherlands). North America (Canada and United States) permit the use of stalls at all times during pregnancy and for mating in most States.



Also important to recognise that there are stalls call 'Freedom Stalls' which allow the pigs to come in and out of the stall when they choose, but also enjoy the protection of the stall if they so wish too. It meets the regulations, but the wording should not exclude this form of housing.

#### 27. Pigs – Size of farrowing crates

Support concept, and support wording in the current Code.

#### 28. Pigs – Provision of nesting material

Do not support this proposed regulation.

This minimum standard was included in the 2010 Pigs Code of Welfare with no consultation as a proposed minimum standard with industry, which are the stakeholders directly and significantly impacted. The 2014 – 2016 NAWAC review of farrowing crates has concluded that for indoor systems, there are no suitable alternatives to the use of farrowing crates that provide the same welfare benefits to the piglets and maintain the same levels of productivity as farrowing systems currently in use. The farrowing systems currently in use are not amenable to the provision of manipulable material because such material can compromise hygiene which is crucial for piglet survival. Additionally it interferes with effluent management systems. Such a regulation would force farmers to revert back to older style farrowing systems involving the manual removal of soiled material from the farrowing system.

Personally I have not experienced any benefit from trying nesting materials for sows when I have tried this.

These decisions to use manipulable materials need to be supported by science based evidence not emotional responses.

Do not set as a regulation until it is able to be met in a practical way that complements all the welfare benefits of the currently available farrowing systems.

#### 34. Stock transport – Cuts and abrasions

Appears not specifically targeted at pigs.

The New Zealand commercial pork industry operates under the umbrella of PigCare™, which incorporates Fit to Load guidelines developed in association with MPI VS, Pig Veterinary Society of NZVA, and farmers.

This proposal as stated pertains to transport. The transporter is responsible for any cuts and abrasions suffered during transport.

#### 38. Stock transport – Lameness, lame cattle, deer, pigs, and goats

Support: the concept of this proposal which appears to differentiate between a 'small' degree of lameness and more pronounced cases which may impact on welfare.



The New Zealand commercial pork industry operates under the umbrella of PigCare™, which incorporates Fit to Load guidelines developed in association with MPI VS, Pig Veterinary Society of NZVA, and farmers.

This proposal relates to both selection for transport and acceptance to transport. The farmer and transporter both have responsibility.

39. Stock transport – Animals that cannot bear weight evenly due to injury

Request amendment to proposal, the same differentiation as for proposal 38 is applied – that is, differentiation between a small degree of lameness and more pronounced cases which may impact on welfare.

The New Zealand commercial pork industry operates under the umbrella of PigCare™, which incorporates Fit to Load guidelines developed in association with MPI VS, Pig Veterinary Society of NZVA, and farmers.

This proposal relates to both selection for transport and acceptance to transport. The farmer and transporter both have responsibility.

40. Stock transport – Pregnant animals

Support.

55. All animals – Dental work

Support

80. Pigs - Castration

Support



Out of Scope

**From:** Peter Sharp s 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 May 2016 9:40 p.m.  
**To:** Animal Welfare Submissions; Betty Parker  
**Subject:** Emailing: NZCDB.MPISubmissionMay2016.pdf  
**Attachments:** NZCDB.MPISubmissionMay2016.pdf

**Importance:** High

To whom it may concern

Please find attached my submissions

Animal Welfare proposed regulations 61 & 62

For your information & consideration.

--  
regards

Peter Sharp  
s 9(2)(a)

'Home of  
RBISS & Multi V Rated Rottweilers,  
BIS & BISS French Bulldogs and  
BIS & BISS Welsh Corgi Cardigans'

Your message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:  
NZCDB.MPISubmissionMay2016.pdf

Note: To protect against computer viruses, e-mail programs may prevent sending or receiving certain types of file attachments. Check your e-mail security settings to determine how attachments are handled.



Peter Sharp

s 9(2)(a)



## Re: Animal Welfare Regulations Submission

29th April 2016

### Introduction

The purpose of this submission is to comment on proposed Animal Welfare Regulations. The Ministry for Primary Industries (**MPI**) seeks feedback on proposed regulations intended to improve the current animal welfare system.

This submission is made by Peter B C P Sharp.

The following organisation support this submission.

**New Zealand Council of Docked Breeds (NZCDB)**

The contact person for this submission is:

Name:

s 9(2)(a)

**Peter B C P Sharp**

s 9(2)(a)

### General Comments

*My experience with dogs is now 34 years. I purchased my first Rottweiler in 1982 and joined the New Zealand Kennel Club (NZKC) in March that year and bred my first litter in Nov 1983.*

*Apart from my first two litters (1983 & 1984), I started docking my own puppies tails by BANDING METHOD in 1988.*

*During the interim years 1983-1988, I observed many other Dockers (both Veterinarians and Breeders) dock many breeds of dogs, as to learn the best procedure for myself.*

*Veterinarians in every case would use the SURGICAL METHOD and Breeders the BANDING METHOD.*

*I personally would never allow a veterinarian to use their method of Tail Docking ever on any puppies I breed in future. The process is far too long some taking up to 10mins per puppy, too stressful on the bitch, too stressful on the puppies and far too unnecessary. My BANDING METHOD is all over in 30-40 seconds, both tail and dew-claws, puppy is back in whelping box in less than a minute with its litter mats and suckling on the bitch all the while at home.*

*I have completed literally hundreds of dockings by BANDING METHOD ONLY. I have not once had a breeder return a puppy for correction or with infection post docking.*

*I feel this by far the best docking procedure and advocate for the status quo.*





#### 61. Dogs - Dew Claws - Dogs Code of Welfare 2010

Articulated dew claws are firmly attached to the leg. Most front limb dew claw are articulated. The removal often requires the bone to be cut through. This can result in complications including pain, haemorrhage, infection and scarring if not performed correctly.

##### **The proposed regulations states:**

Front limb dew claw removal and articulated (jointed) hind limb dew claw removal.

Must be performed by a veterinarian or a veterinary student under the direct supervision of a veterinarian; Must only be performed for therapeutic reasons; and pain relief must be used at the time of the procedure.

Hind limb dew claws: non-articulated (greater than or equal to four days of age)

Must be performed by a veterinarian or veterinary student under supervisions; and pain relief must be used at the time of the procedure.

*Reply: I disagree with this proposal in its entirety and advocate for the status quo.*

*Rationale: When performed correctly, as a neonate puppy, 72 hours of age or under.*

*The neonate dewclaw is removed without cutting through bone (has not calcified) and there is no bleeding and only momentarily pain. Most breeders are scrupulously conscious of sterile conditions and there is no chance of infection.*

Articulated dew claws may function to prevent foot injury by providing support when running and to keep objects steady while a dog is chewing them.

##### **Reply:**

*This statement is from vets who often do not have dogs of their own, and have not witnessed how versatile dogs are. Many dogs are extremely fast runners and they do not have dew claws to provide support. I personally have not witnessed any foot injury by a dog without dew claws. Dogs use their front feet to hold objects steady while chewing them. Not their dew claws. Many breeders remove dewclaws on puppies in the first week of life, because soon after birth the dewclaws are more like fingernails than appendages.*

##### **Rationale:**

*At that young age, dew claws can be removed relatively easily and no stitches are required.*

*They are higher up on its paw so they won't get any wear in the normal course of walking.*

*If they are ever allowed to get long, the quick will grow proportionately, making it more and more difficult to keep that toenail short. Not to mention the fact that dogs with dew claws who also like to dig a lot, will sometimes irritate the dew claw, or even break the dew claw bone (not all dew claws have bones). This could and usually happens when reaching through a chain link fence or fencing of something similar.*

*If the dew claws on a dog's front or rear paws seem to easily get caught on things, then they could easily rip off — which would be very painful for the dog.*





## 62. Dogs - Tail Docking - current state: Dogs Code of Welfare 2010

Dogs' tails have a function in terms of balance and a means of communication with other dogs and humans. Research has shown that a longer tail is more effective at conveying different cues such as those provided by tail motion.

### **The proposed regulation states:**

Must be performed by a veterinarian or a veterinary student under the direct supervision of a veterinarian.  
Must only be performed for therapeutic reasons and pain relief must be used at the time of the procedure.

**Reply:** *Docked dogs are strong swimmers and agile runners. If the shortening of tails were to effect the dog's ability to swim and run, then the country would currently be overrun with wobbly or drowned dogs. This is an emotive argument that contains no facts. It is used solely to introduce emotion into the argument.*

**Rationale:** *Sheep do not lack balance when climbing up and down hills so balance does not come into the equation. Dogs have other means of conveying cues other than those provided by tail motion. Barking, Ears, Eyes, Head carriage, Teeth bearing, etc etc.*

Tail injuries represent only a small percentage of why dogs are presented to a veterinary clinic. - most research studies report that the prevalence of tail injuries represents less than 1 percent of all veterinary clinic visits.

**Reply:** *Because those dogs whose tails are prone to injury are shortened so vets don't see them. This statement itself affirms that when performed correctly by an approved docker and using the BANDING METHOD it MINIMISES THE LEVEL OF PAIN AND DISTRESS CAUSED. Therefore presenting such a small percentage to veterinary clinic for correction.*

**Rationale:** *When performed correctly, the tail is shortened as a neonate puppy, 72 hours of age or under. It cannot stand, see or hear, and the pain receptors are not fully developed. No pain or distress is caused.*

*There is documented evidence from reputable and respected veterinary surgeons that a puppy's nervous system is not fully developed in early days of life. Further, there is evidence to suggest that it is highly probable very young puppies have a comparable absence of sensitivity to pain during the first few days of life. This contrasts with the newborns of many other species (e.g.: Ovine, Porcine and Human) in which all of these, senses are relatively highly developed at birth and is a direct consequence of the somewhat 'immature' state pups are born in.*

*Veterinarians advocate spaying to prevent possible health problems of female dogs. This is a prophylactic procedure, the same as shortening a dog's tail to prevent potential future injury.*

*There remains no scientific evidence that docking puppies causes pain or is cruel.*





*In conclusion I disagree with this proposal in its entirety and advocate for the status quo and these are my reasons:*

*Historically, as a dog breeder and caretaker of the Rottweiler, Schnauzer(Giant), French Bulldog and Welsh Corgi (Cardigan) breeds, I am fully versed in the damage that a dew claw can cause to the dog if left on. I have witnessed many breeds of dog with dew claws exposed, that do not wear down and require regular clipping to prevent total curling round and digging into her skin. Worse they are presented to a veterinarian post injury for amputation. They are of no use to any canine and are not articulated and they require regular manicure attention.*

*I am a member of the New Zealand Kennel Club (NZKC) and a registered breeder of pedigree dogs.*

*A member of the New Zealand Council of Docked Breeds (NZCDB) an Accredited Docker and ONLY dock for those breeders who are NZKC members who have bred puppies with NZKC registered parentage and are breeds that that traditionally docked.*

*The NZCDB as an organisation was established in 2004 and our membership is focussed on the welfare of traditionally docked breeds. We operate collectively as a fully audited and regulated group under the umbrella of the NZKC and MPI with the approval of the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC).*

*My first bred puppies, the tails on litters were shortened by my vet using pain relief and then severing the tail, and a few stitches applied to hold a fold of skin over the exposed end. I believe the current practice using an accredited tail bander is far superior, is not a surgical procedure and is much more preferable to the method that was used thirty years ago by a vet.*

*I am of the understanding that the procedure of tail banding (described by the NAWAC approved scheme) is vastly different from the process of tail amputation and I am 100% an advocate for tail banding by an accredited bander performing the tail banding procedure under the Animal Welfare Act (No2) 2015 and this is not a surgical procedure. The banding is performed in my home with no undue stress to the bitch or to the puppies.*

*The traditionally docked that I am associated with and that have their tails shortened by banding, are dogs that still perform their duties that they were bred for. It is clear that breed specifics were not taken into account when this proposal was documented. I think the proposal is totally one-sided and is written with such obvious and extreme bias.*

*Finally I implore you to retain the status quo and allow me to band tails using an NZCDB Accredited Bander and to remove dew claws on my beloved breeds.*

*I consider myself to be a caretaker of a dog breed that I love and admire for the purpose it was originally bred for. To leave this breed with a tail is to go against the very reason for its being.*

*I oppose the introduction of the banning of dogs' tail shortening along with the banning of dew-claws and further contend that this is NOT in the best interest and welfare of the dogs.*



Peter Sharp

s 9(2)(a)



*Our organisation NZCDB seeks both appropriate care and welfare standards for all animals including dogs.*

*We however consider that the proposals as set out may have other unintended implications which in and of themselves will not meet the intent or care standards proposed.*

*We suggest that as long standing dog breeders we and our membership will be well placed to assist officials and at the very least should not be ignored.*

*We welcome any questions the Ministry may have with respect to this submission. We are available also to meet should this be helpful.*

*Peter S*

Peter B C P Sharp

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Out of Scope

**From:** Lesley Chalmers § 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 May 2016 9:37 p.m.  
**To:** Animal Welfare Submissions  
**Subject:** SUBMISSION ON ANIMAL WELFARE REGULATIONS  
**Attachments:** SUBMISSION - LJC - MPI - May 2016.doc; VCNZUpdate\_201501.pdf

FROM

Lesley J Chalmers

§ 9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982



# To the Ministry for Primary Industries

Submission made by Lesley Jane Chalmers, s 9(2)(a)

on the

## Proposed Animal Welfare Regulations

### The Submitter

Is a dog breeder of some 45 years standing having bred many champion dogs in New Zealand and has developed an internationally recognised and highly successful kennel of dogs which have been exported to Australia, USA, Canada, Argentina, Denmark, United Kingdom; Indonesia, South Africa, Japan, Philippines, Poland and Portugal.

Is an All Breeds Judge having judged at dog shows in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Latvia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Portugal, South Africa, Thailand, Russia, United Kingdom, USA.

Is a past President of the NZ Kennel Club

Is a member of the NZ Council of Docked Breeds Accredited Banders Scheme

### Position

This submission opposes the proposed changes to the shortening of dogs tails and removal of dew claws.

It is not intended to submit that the procedures currently permitted in the Code of Welfare (Dogs) 2010 are or are not painful, but I do wish it to be recorded that it was stated by MPI staff at the MPI Public Consultation meeting in Christchurch that the evidence relating to pain in neonatal puppies is finely balanced for and against.

I also wish the findings of NAWAC in 2012 recorded in this submission; specifically....

"37. NAWAC considered these issues and concluded that there was no available evidence to suggest that tail banding of puppies according to current recommended best practice (banding within 72 hours of birth is recommended by the New Zealand Kennel Club) caused pain or distress to puppies. In the absence of such information, and in order to limit the possibility of puppies experiencing any pain or distress, NAWAC has proposed in the Code that if dogs are to be tail-docked for non-therapeutic reasons, it must be done by knowledgeable, trained and competent persons in puppies using elastic bands before puppies are four days of age and acting under a documented quality assurance scheme that assures compliance with this Minimum Standard. Veterinarians may remove or shorten tails to treat injury or disease."



*To the best of the knowledge of the submitter, there is no accepted scientific knowledge; available technology or good practice that disputes this finding. (Refer 3.1.2 MPI Proposed Animal Welfare Regulations Discussion Paper 2016/12) and therefore no good reason to implement change.*

## **Executive Summary**

- Tail banding and removal of dew claws is not wanton, inhumane, or cruel and a ban would not serve the purposes of animal welfare legislation;
- Animals are a special class of property and any limitation on the rights of an owner to obtain the benefit and enjoyment of property must be carefully considered.
- Animal welfare is not an absolute value but a public interest value to be balanced against the interests of people in gaining enjoyment from animals.
- The utility and enjoyment gained from animals may come in many guises. Animals may be used for sustenance, recreation, and cultural/religious purposes. The shortening of tails on dogs may be to enhance recreational enjoyment of dogs (hunting dogs) or for cultural purposes (showing dogs).
- The proper point at which a balance should be struck for the present purposes ought to be consistent with protections of the rights of humans, particularly children, to freedom from invasive and permanent procedures.
- MPI does not have a mandate to specifically alter the current Minimum Standards in the Code of Welfare (Dogs) 2010 without providing satisfactory evidence that is based on science, best practice and technology. The proposed changes are completely outside of these parameters, and seek to destroy a robust procedure that has worked in an exemplary manner for 7 years.
- It is unethical to use such flawed statements to claim that tail banding in dogs is a "problem".
- Removal of dew claws and tails in neonatal puppies is not a Surgical & Painful Procedure.
- An exemption should be made in the new regulations for the practice of tail banding and dew claw removal in dogs if done by a member of the NZ Council for Docked Breeds Accredited Banders Scheme.

## **Animals as a special class of property**

Legislation prohibiting the cruel treatment of animals recognises that animals are a particular class of property. As distinct from most property, animals are unique in that they are sentient and are capable of feeling pain and suffering distress. As such the law properly limits the way in which the owners of animals may deal in them, treat them, and dispose of them.

That said, it must be recognised that the role of the law is to set a floor on the proper treatment of animals and it should be cautious in limiting unduly the way in which citizens are entitled to gain pleasure from animals. Animals have long been recognised as the property of their owners rather than having any legal identity of their own (*Putt v Roster* (1682) 2 Mod Rep 318; 86 ER 1098).



However in (circa) 1979 a set of internationally recognised animal welfare standards was adopted. They are

- a. Proper and sufficient food and water;
- b. Adequate shelter;
- c. The opportunity to display normal patterns of behaviour;
- d. Appropriate physical handling; and
- e. Protection from, and rapid diagnosis of, injury and disease.

While acknowledging the 5 freedoms, it should be observed at this point that the obligation to treat an animal humanely cannot be said to create any "rights" of the animal to proper treatment. The animal itself has no legal standing to claim protection. Traditionally it is the owner of property who could seek to protect those rights against the actions of a third party who infringed the rights of the owner by interfering with the goods (for example the torts of conversion, detinue and trespass to goods).

Holders of rights in our society are people. In general the law recognises that people can act to maximise their own happiness (or utility to economists). Historically this has extended to using animals in any way whatsoever. However, in recent times it has been accepted that there is a public interest in ensuring that animals are not mistreated, and as such wanton or gratuitous ill treatment is generally prohibited. In most cases where there is a motive other than the mere inflicting of harm on the animal, and measures are taken to ensure that the harm is no more than necessary to achieve the desired result, it has been accepted that animals may be used as a means to human happiness/flourishing/utility.

### **Purpose of animal welfare legislation**

The function of animal welfare legislation is to create a healthy and humane society, rather than creating any particular rights. In seeking to create such a society the law must strike a balance between the right of an owner of goods to deal with it in a manner unfettered by legal constraints and the obligation to treat animals humanely. In respect of the cruel treatment of animals the law does not seek to protect any particular property interest. This is evident from the fact that the owner of the animal is able to be charged with the relevant offences.

### **Cautious limitation on property rights**

Because animals are property and can be properly used to enhance human life, any limitation on the way in which they may be used must encroach as little as possible on the general liberty to deal in property in an unfettered manner.

The right to deal in and dispose of property in a way which is not inappropriately limited by state interference is an ancient and well recognised right that can be traced back to Chapter 29 of Magna Carta and the right not to be deprived of property. (See for example John Locke, Two Treatises of Government 303-20 (Peter Laslett ed., 2d ed.



1967 3d ed. 1698 pp 307 – 308; 2 William Blackstone, Commentaries 1-2.). The importance of property rights and freedom from state interference continues to be recognised (See for example *Centronics Systems v Nintendo* (1992) 111 ALR 13 noting the presumption against parliamentary interference with property or economic rights).

It should also be observed that many dogs have considerable economic value both as show dogs, hunting dogs, and/or as breeding stock. If the practice of tail docking is prohibited this will result in the diminution in value of those dogs. In particular dogs whose tails do not meet breed standards or a weak or poorly formed will be worth considerably less if docking is prohibited. Of particular note is that in breeds of dogs whose tails have traditionally been docked there has been no selection on the basis the quality of the tail and therefore it is highly likely that many dogs will have tails that are weak, poorly formed, or ungainly. This has been evidential overseas in countries where a ban has been implemented.

The value of breeding and showing dogs whose tails are defective in this manner will be markedly reduced. Such a diminution in the value of property by regulatory interference is well recognised as a governmental taking which should not be undertaken lightly. (See P Joseph “: The Environment, Property rights, and Public Choice Theory” (2003) NZULR 408, 425).

Allied to the fact that the Ministry should be very cautious in limiting the way in which owners of animals may treat them is the fact that the Ministry should accord a high degree of autonomy to owners in determining what is in an animal's best interests. Clearly as regards our own bodies we have complete dominion and are free to undertake wholly cosmetic procedures if desired even though others may think such procedures inadvisable. A similar degree of autonomy and choice in determining what is appropriate for animals should be extended to their owners.

### **Recreational use of animals appropriate**

While there are several instances of legislative limits on the use of animals, numerous other legislative provisions make clear that people have considerable rights to deal in animals for recreational benefit. It is also the case that any activity that is not prohibited by the law in respect of animals is implicitly permitted.

Examples of legislative recognition of activities where the public interest in recreational benefit has outweighed the public interest in animal welfare include s 30C of the Animal Welfare Act acknowledges that operation of a safari park for the hunting of wild animals is not inconsistent with the other provisions of that Act regarding animal welfare. Section 6 of the Wildlife Act 1953 and s 8 of the Wild Animals Control Act recognise that wildlife may be hunted and killed. It can be observed that while such hunting may be carried out as a food source, a significant reason for permitting such activities is for the recreational value of the hunter. In this regard the balance between the interests of humans in pursuing their own endeavours outweighs any public interest in keeping wild animals free from suffering or harm.

Examples of activities which are not mentioned in statute, but are implicitly permitted would include the use of dogs in the hunting of wild animals (s 31 of the Animal Welfare Act expressly excludes such an activity from the definition of an animal fighting venture).



The racing of horses; similarly horses may be raced (The Racing Act 2003 recognises the activity but is silent on horse welfare) or jumped. Cattle and other beasts may be used in rodeos and numerous animals are used in circuses. Animals may be confined for exhibition purposes in zoos or parks (which is recognised by the Codes of Welfare for Zoos and Circuses).

*In any of these cases the welfare of the animal, while accorded minimum protections, may be secondary to the pleasure gained by the people engaging in the activity, or view the animal or the activity.*

However, there are of course limits to this, hence the ban on animal fighting ventures in s 31 of the Animal Welfare Act which is underpinned by the policy decision that enticing animals to fight for sport or entertainment is inappropriate as not properly recognising the value of animal welfare.

Similarly the Codes of Welfare developed to regulate the conduct of rodeos, circuses, zoos, and the like recognise that a balance must be struck between the value of the event and the public interest in recreation and the public interest in the welfare of the animal. Importantly those codes contain mandatory and recommendatory aspects. Minimum standards are set, however, further guidance is given as to what might be considered best practice, or advisable as regards the manner in which animals are treated in such events. Importantly those codes recognise that the animals may be seriously harmed in the activities in question and simply put in place procedures to attend to the harmed animal and to remove risks which are not an integral part of the activity in question.

It is submitted that a proper exchange of information will enable breeders to make their own choices as regards whether or not to shorten a dog's tail. However, the public interest in the recreational value of dogs outweighs the (debated) minor harm caused to animals with tails which are properly docked in the first few days of life. Prophylactic shortening of the tails of hunting breeds may enhance the animal's value in light of the fact that tail amputation of grown dogs is painful and expensive. In respect of hunting dogs a dog with a docked tail is accepted as more effective and less prone to injury than a dog of the same breed with an undocked tail.

In respect of showing dogs a certain set of aesthetic values in respect of specific breeds of dogs has evolved over a considerable period of time. Those people who choose to show dogs with shortened tails clearly gain considerable pleasure by the shape and form of the dogs. Once again this is an aesthetic/recreational value which must be balanced against the unproven harm to the dogs involved.

### **Cultural use of animals appropriate**

The public interest in promoting the welfare of animals is also balanced against cultural interests of various groups. Perhaps the most obvious of such instances is the slaughter of animal in a way which is not as humane as other methods, but which is in accordance with religious requirements. Thus r 5 of the Slaughter of Stock Game and Poultry Regulations provides that it is permissible to slaughter animals:

In accordance with the ritual requirements of the Jewish faith or any other religious faith that requires a method of slaughter whereby the animal suffers loss



of consciousness by anoxia caused by the simultaneous and instantaneous severance of the carotid arteries and jugular veins with a sharp instrument. However, animals are also used for other cultural or religious purposes. Thus eating turkey for Christmas dinner is a particular cultural use of an animal over and above simply sustenance. Similarly cultural differences as to what animals may properly be eaten differently (egg pigs, dogs, horses). Similarly the use of ermine as a fur of royalty, and the herding of sheep up the main street of a rural town on the Agricultural Show days are both cultural uses of animals.

The way in which animals are used in society is very much a cultural matter. It is of note that the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act protects the right to enjoy culture in s 20, especially in respect of cultural minorities. This would therefore suggest that it would be wholly legitimate for a cultural group which traditionally eats dogs, or to use an animal in a religious ceremony, to do so in New Zealand, however repugnant it may be to other people. It is also of note that s 13 protects religious freedom which strengthens the argument that the ritual slaughter of animals is justified.

It needs to be recognised that the way in which dogs and other animals are dealt with in New Zealand is an aspect of New Zealand culture. Thus the manner in which dogs are treated is part of what makes our society what it is. This extends to the use of working dogs, hunting dogs, and the concept of the dog as a "family pet" and the showing of dogs. The mere fact that the culture of dog ownership is widespread does not dilute its value as a cultural phenomenon.

Part of the cultural phenomenon of dog ownership is the showing of dogs and the associated practices. As with any activity involving animals it is accepted that a balance must be struck between the interest of promoting animal welfare and the cultural and recreational uses of animals.

### **Limitations must be consistent**

Traditionally in New Zealand dogs are considered companion animals and frequently feature prominently in the home. There is a danger that this leads to sentimentality and causes dogs to be dealt with differently from other animals which are equally as sentient and intelligent (such as pigs, sheep or horses). Whether an animal is a family pet or a production animal bears absolutely no relevance and regulation must be consistent.

As noted above, government codes recognise that horses will be used in "bronco" rides in rodeos, the object of which is to stay on a horse which is apparently distressed and seeking to buck the rider. Other rodeo events treat cattle, including calves, in a similar way. The use of animals for entertainment in circuses, or as exhibits has also been mentioned. Halal and kosher slaughter methods also recognise that severe distress and pain may be caused to animals for cultural/religious purposes.

It is submitted that limitations on such procedures as tail banding need to be consistent with other areas of law and regulation which allow animals to be used for recreational or cultural purposes. The procedure which the regulations propose to prohibit is prophylactic and/or cosmetic. Considerable numbers of citizens obtain pleasure from dogs in their docked form. The banding procedure is largely painless, risk free, and quick. On balance such activities should not be prohibited.



If considered to be a Surgical & Painful Procedure on a dog, it is submitted that removing the tail from a pig, sheep, or horse is also a Surgical & Painful Procedure and any regulatory restrictions must be consistent and not show bias to one area of society than another one or one breed of animal to another one.

### **Dogs not afforded greater protections than humans**

There are a number of procedures which it is accepted may be performed on children. Perhaps the least contentious is that of body piercings. It is common in some cultures to pierce the ears and/or nose of young girls and to adorn them with jewellery. This is of course wholly cosmetic. There is not, it is understood, any religious significance to such piercings. Such procedures obviously cause some pain to the child and are an invasion of the bodily integrity of the child. It is submitted that this practice, if performed on an animal would be considered a Surgical & Painful Procedure, but there is no ban on such procedures for humans. It is also the case that invasive surgical procedures may be undertaken on children for wholly cosmetic reasons in the absence of actual deformity or injury. Most common in children is otoplasty (pinning ears back).

Any regulation on the surgical or other invasive procedures which are permitted in respect of animals must be consistent with the surgical procedures which we permit in respect of citizens unable to consent for themselves.

It would be inconsistent to permit invasive procedures on children for cosmetic, religious or cultural reasons, but to prohibit tail banding in dogs.

### **MPI does not have a mandate to prohibit tail banding or removal of dew claws in dogs**

It is submitted that failure to provide an exception for the banding of dogs tails and removal of dew claws from the definition of being a Surgical & Painful Procedure is tantamount to introducing a ban on these procedures as the NZ Veterinary Council prohibits veterinarians from performing the practices except for therapeutic reasons.

It is further submitted that not only has MPI moved both practices into the definition of Surgical & Painful Procedures, but it has also invented a number of "problems" to attempt to justify this.

While making a significant attempt to justify that "dogs tails have a function" it has completely overlooked the very large number of puppies that are actually born without tails.

Similarly some front dew claws are not articulated, nevertheless the proposed regulations attempt to prohibit the removal of ALL front dew claws although it clearly states that there is no proposal to regulate the removal of non-articulated HIND limb dew claws in puppies under four days old..

NZ Veterinary Assn are currently telling breeders that eye injuries in brachycephalic breeds is a major problem, but MPI is seeking to make the problem even worse by banning the removal of front dew claws. Dogs use their front feet to rub their eyes on a daily basis, often more. If dew claws are left intact the eye injury statistics will increase dramatically. It is understood that no other country in the world prohibits the removal of



front dew claws whether articulated or non-articulated and this could very well be because these countries can see the health disaster that would follow. Even the current minimum standard in the Code of Welfare (Dogs) 2010 alludes to the health issues if the front dew claws are left intact but this appears to have been totally ignored in the move to have the practice classified as a Surgical & Painful Procedure.

In January 2015 the Veterinary Council of NZ sought information from its members regarding any cases of tail docking done by "lay persons" not being done in accordance with the minimum standards (see Appendix 1) It is to be assumed that the response was not as the Council had wished it to be as no further action has been taken by it.

Before any such changes to the current practices of tail shortening and dew claw removal in dogs can be made, evidence of scientific progress, technological progress or a disregard of best practice must be demonstrated. No such evidence is available.

The current Accredited Banders Scheme run by the NZ Council of Docked Breeds and audited by the NZ Kennel Club is a robust, successful scheme that has seen over 10,000 puppies banded by qualified persons since the inception of the scheme in 2010. There has not been one reported incidence of a Bander accredited by the scheme having "botched" a docking, which in itself is a remarkable statistic.

### **Factual and Ethical claims**

While it is understood that MPI must seek advice from organisations with greater areas of expertise than the MPI staff themselves, it is also incumbent on them to ensure that the information given to them is factual, unbiased and from the best qualified sources.

Although other animal welfare practices clearly fall into the definition of Surgical & Painful Procedures and have been granted exceptions, the proposed regulations specifically prohibit prophylactic docking and dew claw removal, however none of the organisations directly involved and with the greatest experience in this were consulted until a workshop in Auckland in September 2015, where the proposals had already been drawn up on the advice of SPCA, NZVA and NZCAC and only received cursory discussion at the workshop.

Possibly as a consequence of this, the two practices have been treated very poorly in the proposed regulations and the explanatory "What is the problem" (P.88) in the "Discussion Paper" are not worthy nor ethical as they seek to portray a situation that is not factual.

In claiming that the primary reasons that dogs' tails are docked are aesthetic (Discussion Paper P.88) the paper gives no credence whatsoever for any other reason. It goes on to claim that most research studies report that the "prevalence of tail injuries represents less than 1% of all veterinary clinic visits". Extrapolated out over all the reasons why dogs visit a vet, 1 dog in each 100 dogs visiting a Vet is doing so due to a tail injury is definitely a proportion for concern.

Based on an average of a Vet consulting four hours per day, every 6.25 days he/she would see a dog with a tail injury. Parvo virus is considered to be a particularly viral disease but no clinic would see a case on average of once every 6.25 days.



This is supported by a Christchurch Veterinary Clinic that has surgical records of an average of one adult dog per week undergoing surgical amputation of the tail. Most Veterinary Clinics do not keep categorised records.

In preparing the dialogue for the regulations, MPI has an obligation to cite good and respected scientific studies.

“Dogs tails have a function in terms of balance and a means of communication with other dogs and humans”.

This statement and the study referred to completely ignores the hundreds of dogs born each year, without a tail, in New Zealand alone.

Dogs have functioned more than adequately for many hundreds of years without a tail (whether docked or born without one). The submitter struggles to find any quality in the study referred to.

Likewise the dialogue refers to a NZ based (unpublished) study that found the causes of tail injury varied. The writer of this study did not consult the NZ Council of Docked Breeds, but makes a statement that implies that the Council considers tail injuries to be problematic in farming and working dogs. The Council has never made such a claim. Most farm dogs are not docked, have longer legs with a high set tail; have heavily “meated” tails and are well covered with coat that prevent injury. It must also be noted that almost invariably studies have concluded that most tail injuries occur in the home and/or in normal day to day activities.

The study also claims that some docking of dogs’ tails is done to conform with Breed Standards. This is patently incorrect as no Breed Standard in New Zealand requires a dog to be docked or have a short tail (unless it is born that way) and again brings the integrity of the study into doubt.

An interesting aside to this study is that it finds that there is very little scientific evidence to support claims that docking sheep’s tails is a necessary animal husbandry procedure, so one also has to question why the report has been used in such a selective manner.

**Ethical leadership** is leadership that is directed by respect for ethical beliefs and values and for the dignity and rights of others.<sup>[1]</sup> It is thus related to concepts such as trust, honesty, consideration, charisma and fairness.<sup>[2]</sup>

### **Surgical & Painful Procedures**

In 2012 NAWAC concluded that there was no “available evidence to suggest that tail banding of puppies according to current recommended best practice (banding within 72 hours of birth is recommended by the New Zealand Kennel Club)”

Very obviously the act of tail banding also does not cause serious or lasting harm, or loss of function and this can be ascertained by the tens of thousands of tailless dogs in New Zealand.

These same two statements can be made about dew claw removal.



The act of tail banding does not take place below the surface of the skin and it is contended that at the age of under 72 hours the soft tissue is not sensitive as pain receptors are not developed, nor has the cartilage ossified completely into hardened bone.

However microchipping does take place below the surface of the skin and most Vets or operators do not use a local anaesthetic.

Significant: sufficiently great or important to be worthy of attention; noteworthy.

"a significant increase in sales"

*synonyms:* notable, noteworthy, worthy of attention, remarkable, outstanding, important, of importance, of consequence, consequential; serious, crucial, weighty, material, appreciable, momentous, of moment, memorable, unforgettable, pronounced, marked, considerable, obvious, conspicuous, striking, glaring, signal, impressive, uncommon, unusual, rare, extraordinary, exceptional, particular, special  
"a significant increase in sales"

Notwithstanding the submitters belief that the aforementioned points are all significant reasons for retaining the status quo, it can also be argued that neither the banding of a neonatal puppy's tail and removal of dew claws is a loss of significant tissue.

With perhaps the exception of the Griffon Bruxellois, most newborn puppies in customarily docked breeds weigh in the range of 300-700 grams [3]. Of this weight the tail accounts for 10-15 grams.

It is submitted that 3.3%-2.1% could never be considered a "significant" proportion.

A dew claw is obviously very insignificant.

## Exceptions

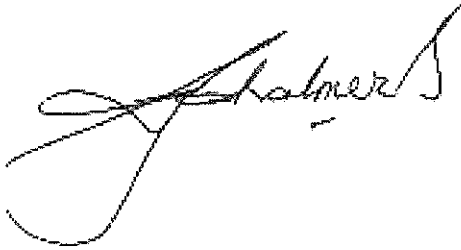
The proposed regulations make repeated reference to exceptions being able to be provided in the regulations and indeed exceptions have been encompassed in the current Code and indeed have been carried forward to the proposed regulations despite being clearly outside the proposed regulations.

For some reason best known to MPI, the NZ Council for Docked Breeds Accredited Banders Scheme has not been recognised nor given an exception in the proposed regulations, despite other schemes recognised in the current Code being afforded recognition in the proposed regulations.

Animal welfare is an all-encompassing practice and cannot have different levels of acceptance for financial reasons. Regardless of the reason that tail banding is undertaken, it is morally and legally wrong to apply one standard to "production animals" saying that it is okay for them to endure "significant anxiety, fear, discomfort, pain and/or distress to the animal" [4] but on the other hand say that it is not okay for "companion animals". Either all tails are removed only by Vets and only for therapeutic reasons, or exceptions are provided for with a "documented quality assurance scheme that assures compliance" [5]



It is submitted that the proposed regulations should recognise that the NZ Council for Docked Breeds Accredited Banders Scheme is fulfilling a needed function in a properly regulated and audited manner and that an exception is made in the final regulations to permit the continuance of the Scheme for tail banding plus the incorporation of removal of dew claws.



.....  
Lesley J Chalmers  
18 May 2016

[1] Theresa Watts (2008). *Business leaders' values and beliefs regarding decision making ethics*. Morrisville, NC: LuLu.com. ISBN 9781435747685.

[2] Michael E. Brown, Linda K. Treviño, David A. Harrison (2005). Ethical leadership: A social learning perspective for construct development and testing. *Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes* 97(2): 117-134. doi:10.1016/j.obhdp.2005.03.002

[3] [www.theveterinaryexpert.com](http://www.theveterinaryexpert.com)

[4] Proposed Animal Welfare Regulations. 12.2 Surgical and Painful Procedures Regulatory Proposals P.73

[5] Code of Welfare (Dogs) 2010 – Minimum Standard No. 17





## Veterinary Council Update January 2015

### Tail docking, APCs and MPI Voluntary Bonding Scheme

#### 1. Docking of dogs tails by lay persons – Request for information by 13 February 2015

At a recent Veterinary Council meeting with local practitioners in Christchurch tail docking was raised as an issue. We are interested in hearing whether veterinarians are seeing any cases of tail docking by lay persons not being done in accordance with the minimum standard (below) or cases where docking has led to problems for the puppies.

The 2011 revised Code of Professional Conduct does not allow veterinarians to remove dogs' tails, unless for justifiable medical reasons. The explanatory notes to section 6 of the Animal Welfare part of the Code state:

*VCNZ considers that amputation of all or part of a dog's tail without having a justifiable medical reason or because the dog is a particular breed, type or conformation is unacceptable. It is the policy of NZVA that tails should not be docked. While the Animal Welfare (Dogs) Code of Welfare 2010 makes provision for tails to be docked (minimum standard 17), allowing a tail band to be used by an appropriately experienced person operating under a documented quality assurance system (such as the Accredited Tail Dockers Scheme promoted by the New Zealand Kennel Club) veterinarians are required to comply with the Code of Professional Conduct as the Codes of Welfare do not necessarily reflect veterinary policy or ethics.*

The Animal Welfare (Dogs) Code of Welfare 2010 sets out the following minimum standard (No.17) in relation to tail docking:

- (a) *Tails may only be shortened or removed by using a tail band—*
- (i) in puppies that are less than four days old in which the eyes have not started to open; and*
  - (ii) by a person who possesses the appropriate knowledge, training and competency necessary to do so effectively, and who is acting under a documented quality assurance scheme that assures compliance with this minimum standard; and*
  - (iii) the remaining length of the tail must be sufficient to avoid compromising health and welfare when the dog is mature.*
- (b) *Tails that need to be shortened or removed to manage existing injury or disease, must only be shortened or removed by a veterinarian using appropriate pain relief.*





# VETERINARY COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND

Te Kōwhiriwhiri Rōtā Kōwhiriwhiri o Aotearoa

VCNZ, along with NZVA, submitted to the review of the Animal Welfare Act that all non-therapeutic docking of dogs' tails should be prohibited.

We are seeking information from veterinarians on any cases seen of tails not being docked by laypersons in accordance with the above minimum standard; or where the docking has resulted in adverse outcomes for the puppies.

Please send this – preferably by email to [registrar@vetcouncil.org.nz](mailto:registrar@vetcouncil.org.nz) – by Friday 13 February. If you send copies of records or photos please remove identifying details before doing so.

## 2. Annual Practising Certificate (APC) Renewal

We will be emailing you early next month with instructions and a unique user ID to access and use the online system for renewing your APC. Please make sure we have your current email address, preferably not a shared one. Contact [vet@vetcouncil.org.nz](mailto:vet@vetcouncil.org.nz) if you need to change your email address.

Online renewal will be available during the 'bulk' APC renewal process from early February to 31 March 2015. Online APC applications can only be paid via Credit Card or Bank Transfer (Direct Credit).

If you wish to pay by cheque, or are unable to use the online system, you will need to download a hardcopy application form [here](#); complete and post it to us with the fee.

Please make it a priority to apply for your APC before your current one expires on 31 March 2015.

By renewing your practising certificate the Council is confirming to the public that you are competent and fit to practise. It is illegal to practise as a veterinarian without holding a practising certificate. Those who do, risk prosecution, a fine of up to \$10,000 and lack of indemnity cover.

It is your professional responsibility, not your employer's, to renew your practising certificate. However some large employers require their employees to complete a hard copy application to be collated centrally and forwarded to VCNZ with a bulk payment. Please make sure you are aware of your employer's requirements.





# VETERINARY COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND

Te Kaunihera Raua Kararehe o Aotearoa

## 3. MPI Advice to Veterinarians and Practice Principals: Voluntary Bonding Scheme for Veterinarians (2015)

The 2015 Round for the Voluntary Bonding scheme for Veterinarians opens for registrations on Monday 8 February 2015. All applications will be managed through the MPI portal and must be received via this portal by 6.00 pm on Monday 23 February. An application guide will be available on the MPI website before the round opens. The guide will include information about registering to use the portal and the documents needed to support the application.

The scheme is capped at 30 participants. If more than 30 eligible applications are received for a funding round then there will be a ballot to select the 30 participants. In this round, for the first time, a second ballot of the remaining applicants will be run to create a preferential list of eligible applicants. Should a participant from this round leave the scheme within the first two years or insufficient applications are received for the next funding round the first eligible name on the preferential list will be invited to join the scheme.

If you have any questions prior to the commencement of the round please contact MPI directly by emailing [vet.scheme@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:vet.scheme@mpi.govt.nz) or phoning David O'Dea on s 9(2)(a).



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Out of Scope

**From:** Lavina Diamanti s 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 May 2016 9:31 p.m.  
**To:** Animal Welfare Submissions  
**Cc:** s 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** Submission on Animal Welfare Regulations

Submission from :-

Lavina Diamanti  
s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)

I wish to submit on canine matters only.

Items 1-4 Support in their entirety

Item 59 - Debarking. I do not agree with the reasons stated for debarking. We live in a very intolerant society. I have previously had 2 dogs debarked. The breed (pyrenean mountain dogs) are incessant barkers by nature. That is part of their genetic makeup. Training collars, reward training methods etc just do not work on some of these breeds. The dogs can still bark after debarking, you just hear a muffled version. It does not stop them from barking. Balance the stress of unhappy relationship with neighbours and the stress on the dog of being disciplined for something it was bred to do against the improvement in the relationship with both the dog and the neighbours. Is it painful for the dog? Both mine ate a full meal within hours of their surgery. If they were in intense pain, I do not believe that would have been possible.

Item 61 - Dew Claws. Many experienced dog breeders have been removing dewclaws from 2 day old puppies without issues for decades. After 4 days old, I agree with the need for regulation but not under 4 days.

Item 62 - Tail docking. We are all aware that tail docking has been banned in many countries. What we need to learn from this is what is happening in those countries now we are some years down the track. Dogs were traditionally docked for several reasons. 1. To stop the horrific injuries caused in the field (mostly gun dog breeds). 2. for health reasons and to prevent fly strike. 3. To follow fashion trends.

In all breeds that were docked for any reason other than cosmetic, overseas we are now seeing a huge increase in the injuries and health problems associated with non docked tails. There remain a huge number of dogs that still work in the field and these are the dogs we need to protect. Again, it comes down to a balancing act - dock the tail at under 4 days of age, by an approved tail docker using an approved method OR have the poor dog suffer the trauma of tail amputation as an adult.

The ideal would be to only dock those dogs that are going to be used in the field and benefit from having a shortened tail for health reasons. Unfortunately, it is impossible to pick from any litter at 2 days old which are going to be the working dogs and which are destined to be the family pet.

Tail docking carried out on a new born pup using an approved method is not cruel. That has been proven. The argument that removing the tail prevents the dog communicating with other dogs is flawed. Some breeds have natural bob tails and these dogs still communicate with other dogs. The tail is but one of the ways a dog uses to communicate. Amputating a tail on an adult dog after it has been so badly damaged is cruel. Responsible breeders need to be given the freedom to choose whether or not they dock. I am against this section of the proposed changes.

Regards

Lavina Diamanti



Out of Scope

**From:** s 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 May 2016 9:22 p.m.  
**To:** Animal Welfare Submissions  
**Subject:** Submission  
**Attachments:** Animal Welfare proposed regulations feedback submission form1.docx

**Importance:** High

Attention

I have attached my Submission objecting to the ban on tail docking and dew claw removal.

I request an acknowledgement receipt please.

Regards

Michele Reichmuth

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Animal Welfare proposed regulations feedback submission form

Name: Michele Reichmuth

s 9(2)(a)

My feedback:

62. The proposed regulation states: Must be performed by a veterinarian or a veterinary student under the direct supervision of a veterinarian.

Must only be performed for therapeutic reasons

Pain relief must be used at the time of the procedure.

I disagree with this proposal in its entirety and advocate for the status quo and these are my reasons:

I am a member of the New Zealand Kennel Club (NZKC) and am a registered breeder of pedigree dogs.

I am an accredited member of the New Zealand Council of Docked Breeds (NZCDB) and have had my animal husbandry skills signed off by a veterinarian, who must complete my application for accreditation by either witnessing neonate puppies being banded or being in the presence of another accredited bander to enable me to perform tail shortening.

The NZCDB as an organisation was established in 2004 and our membership is focussed on the welfare of tail shortened breeds. We operate as a fully audited and regulated group under the umbrella of the NZKC with the approval of the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC).

I have never had a complaint or issue arise from any litter that I have completed banding on and to the best of my knowledge I understand that as an accredited group, we have performed tail shortening on over 10 500 neonate puppies without incident since 2005.

I am of the understanding that the procedure of tail banding (described by the NAWAC approved scheme) is vastly different from the process of tail amputation and as an accredited bander I only perform the tail banding procedure under the Animal Welfare Act (No2) 2015 and this is not a surgical procedure.

The breeds that I am associated with and that are banded by me are traditionally docked dogs that still perform their duties that they were designed for.

I understand that in 2012 NAWAC agreed and suggested a study should be completed to dispel any myths around the process of tail banding, yet to date, this has not been carried out by NAWAC so I am surprised that this proposal has taken shape.

I understand that MPI partly funds both the RSPCA and NAWAC, yet they are both major stakeholders in writing this proposal which I see as being extremely one sided and is not factual. I also understand that the governing body of the professional dog world Namely the NZKC has over 6000 members, but NZKC were not included as a major stakeholder when writing these proposals and nor are they funded by the Ministry.



I understand that over 170 countries do not ban the tail shortening procedure however these countries are not spoken about in any documentation produced by MPI.

I understand that breed specifics are not taken into account when this proposal was documented and the groups largely involved in writing these have dealings mainly with crossbred non-pedigree (no registration with the NZKC) dogs. I would sincerely question the stakeholder's ability to answer such detailed questions around form and function of a specific breed for the purposes of this proposal.

I understand that another major stakeholder is an offshoot of the RSPCA namely HUHA. This group also deals with crossbred non-pedigree dogs yet they felt qualified to once again offer their opinion on pedigree dogs and the reasons for tail shortening.

I am of the belief that there is currently a process in place for the SPCA to act on individual cases that perform a tail shortening procedure illegally on a litter of non-registered NZKC members neonate puppies, however in the last 4 years I only know of 2 cases where the SPCA has acted on this information.

Fact: Since the ban of tail shortening in Australia there are multiple reported cases of adult amputation on tails due to breakage and not mending. Causing PAIN, emotional stress on the dog and their families, not to mention the financial stress to remedy something that if breeders had the right to choose what is in the best interest of their breed. I also have an issue with the financial interest NZVA will profit in this

61. The proposed regulations states: Front limb dew claw removal and articulated (jointed) hind limb dew claw removal:

Must be performed by a veterinarian or a veterinary student under the direct supervision of a veterinarian;

Must only be performed for therapeutic reasons; and

Pain relief must be used at the time of the procedure

Hind limb dew claws: non-articulated (greater than or equal to four days of age)

Must be performed by a veterinarian or veterinary student under supervisions; and

Pain relief must be used at the time of the procedure.

I disagree with this proposal in its entirety and advocate for the status quo and these are my reasons:

When performing a dew claw removal, I complete this process in a neonate puppy 4 days of age or under. At this time it is a well-recognised fact that the toes and tail are the last part of the neonate puppy to calcify and develop into bone. The neonate dewclaw is removed without cutting through bone (has not calcified) and does not bleed when performed correctly.

No other country in the world has proposed this procedure should not be practiced as the health and welfare of the dog will be compromised.

As a professional dog breeder and caretaker of my chosen breed, I am fully versed in the damage that a dew claw can cause to the dog if left on. My chosen breed has been bred to be used in its traditional purpose and the dew claw if left on would result in significant pain and suffering to the dog.



I understand that breed specifics are not taken into account when this proposal was documented and the groups largely involved in writing these have dealings mainly with crossbred non-pedigree (no registration with the NZKC) dogs. I would sincerely question the stakeholder's ability to answer such detailed questions around form and function of a specific breed for the purposes of this proposal.

I understand that another major stakeholder is an offshoot of the RSPCA namely HUHA. This group also deals with crossbred non-pedigree dogs yet they felt qualified to once again offer their opinion on pedigree dogs and the reasons for dew claw removal.

I understand that MPI partly funds both the RSPCA and NAWAC, yet they are both major stakeholders in writing this proposal which I see as being extremely one sided and is not factual. I also understand that the governing body of the professional dog world Namely the NZKC has over 6000 members, but NZKC were not included as a major stakeholder when writing these proposals and nor are they funded by the Ministry.

In my profession as a Groomer/Boarding Kennel facility I have witnessed many incidents of dew claws growing back into the skin of the dog as the pet owner doesn't understand how to trim the nails and often as the dog is of a coated variety, they are not aware of a dew claw being present.

I understand that not all front dew claws are articulated and once again the breed specifics have been ignored in this instance and MPI have been advised incorrectly.

I understand that the Groomers Association have not been contacted for information from their large membership to dispel the myths displayed in the proposed regulation and I further understand that the largest governing body (and only – NZKC) have also not been included in the proposal to not allow this process to remain as is.



**From:** John Fritchley s 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 May 2016 9:04 p.m.  
**To:** Animal Welfare Submissions  
**Subject:** Submission on Proposed Animal Welfare Regulations

Good evening

I would like to submit a proposal against the ban of Tail Docking.

As an owner and trainer of a number of English Springer Spaniels I am very concerned that the welfare of dogs would be compromised by their tails being left undocked. Undocked hunting dogs suffer tail injuries with their tail getting torn on thorns while working on hot scent as their tail is ferociously thrashing from side to side with excitement in thick undergrowth, bramble or blackberry.

Docking the tails of working dogs by a third while they are puppies could significantly decrease their risk of injury. I believe that under the age of 3 days tails should be docked and not by the use of a piece of elastic but more along the lines of how it is carried out on lambs with a heated sharp cutter by a willing qualified Vet.

I would like to propose that the regulations for tail docking are NOT banned and a compromise is reached that working spaniels and other gundog breeds are allowed to have their tails docked by a Vet who is willing to carry out the docking.

Please accept this submission from me NOT to ban tail docking in its entirety.

King regards

Joe Fritchley  
Member of the Horowhenua Gundog Club &  
Working Spaniel Club



417

Out of Scope

**From:** s 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 May 2016 9:02 p.m.  
**To:** Animal Welfare Submissions  
**Subject:** Submission on Animal Welfare Regulations  
**Attachments:** Animal Welfare proposed regulations feedback submission form.docx

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Animal Welfare proposed regulations feedback submission form

Erik de Boer

s 9(2)(a)

My feedback:

62. The proposed regulation states: Must be performed by a veterinarian or a veterinary student under the direct supervision of a veterinarian.

Must only be performed for therapeutic reasons

Pain relief must be used at the time of the procedure.

I disagree with this proposal in its entirety and advocate for the status quo and these are my reasons:

I am a member of the New Zealand Kennel Club (NZKC) and am a registered breeder of pedigree dogs, I am also a qualified veterinary nurse.

I am an accredited member of the New Zealand Council of Docked Breeds (NZCDB) and have had my animal husbandry skills signed off by a veterinarian, who must complete my application for accreditation by either witnessing neonate puppies being banded or being in the presence of another accredited bander to enable me to perform tail shortening.

The NZCDB as an organisation was established in 2004 and our membership is focussed on the welfare of tail shortened breeds. We operate as a fully audited and regulated group under the umbrella of the NZKC with the approval of the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC).

I have never had a complaint or issue arise from any litter that I have completed banding on and to the best of my knowledge I understand that as an accredited group, we have performed tail shortening on over 10 500 neonate puppies without incident since 2005.

I am of the understanding that the procedure of tail banding (described by the NAWAC approved scheme) is vastly different from the process of tail amputation and as an accredited bander I only perform the tail banding procedure under the Animal Welfare Act (No2) 2015 and this is not a surgical procedure.

The breeds that I am associated with and that are banded by me are traditionally docked dogs that still perform their duties that they were designed for.

I understand that in 2012 NAWAC agreed and suggested a study should be completed to dispel any myths around the process of tail banding, yet to date, this has not been carried out by NAWAC so I am surprised that this proposal has taken shape.

I understand that MPI partly funds both the RSPCA and NAWAC, yet they are both major stakeholders in writing this proposal which I see as being extremely one sided and is not factual. I also understand that the governing body of the professional dog world Namely the NZKC has over 6000 members, but NZKC were not included as a major stakeholder when writing these proposals and nor are they funded by the Ministry.



I understand that over 170 countries do not ban the tail shortening procedure however these countries are not spoken about in any documentation produced by MPI.

I understand that breed specifics are not taken into account when this proposal was documented and the groups largely involved in writing these have dealings mainly with crossbred non-pedigree (no registration with the NZKC) dogs. I would sincerely question the stakeholder's ability to answer such detailed questions around form and function of a specific breed for the purposes of this proposal.

I understand that another major stakeholder is an offshoot of the RSPCA namely HUHA. This group also deals with crossbred non-pedigree dogs yet they felt qualified to once again offer their opinion on pedigree dogs and the reasons for tail shortening.

I am of the belief that there is currently a process in place for the SPCA to act on individual cases that perform a tail shortening procedure illegally on a litter of non-registered NZKC members neonate puppies, however in the last 4 years I only know of 2 cases where the SPCA has acted on this information.

61. The proposed regulations states: Front limb dew claw removal and articulated (jointed) hind limb dew claw removal:

Must be performed by a veterinarian or a veterinary student under the direct supervision of a veterinarian;

Must only be performed for therapeutic reasons; and

Pain relief must be used at the time of the procedure

Hind limb dew claws: non-articulated (greater than or equal to four days of age)

Must be performed by a veterinarian or veterinary student under supervisions; and

Pain relief must be used at the time of the procedure.

I disagree with this proposal in its entirety and advocate for the status quo and these are my reasons:

When performing a dew claw removal, I complete this process in a neonate puppy 4 days of age or under. At this time it is a well-recognised fact that the toes and tail are the last part of the neonate puppy to calcify and develop into bone. The neonate dewclaw is removed without cutting through bone (has not calcified) and does not bleed when performed correctly.

No other country in the world has proposed this procedure should not be practiced as the health and welfare of the dog will be compromised.

As a professional dog breeder and caretaker of my chosen breed, I am fully versed in the damage that a dew claw can cause to the dog if left on. My chosen breed has been bred to be used in its traditional purpose and the dew claw if left on would result in significant pain and suffering to the dog.

I understand that breed specifics are not taken into account when this proposal was documented and the groups largely involved in writing these have dealings mainly with crossbred non-pedigree (no registration with the NZKC) dogs. I would sincerely question the stakeholder's ability to answer such detailed questions around form and function of a specific breed for the purposes of this proposal.



I understand that another major stakeholder is an offshoot of the RSPCA namely HUHA. This group also deals with crossbred non-pedigree dogs yet they felt qualified to once again offer their opinion on pedigree dogs and the reasons for dew claw removal.

I understand that MPI partly funds both the RSPCA and NAWAC, yet they are both major stakeholders in writing this proposal which I see as being extremely one sided and is not factual. I also understand that the governing body of the professional dog world Namely the NZKC has over 6000 members, but NZKC were not included as a major stakeholder when writing these proposals and nor are they funded by the Ministry.

I understand that not all front dew claws are articulated and once again the breed specifics have been ignored in this instance and MPI have been advised incorrectly.

I understand that the Groomers Association have not been contacted for information from their large membership to dispel the myths displayed in the proposed regulation and I further understand that the largest governing body (and only – NZKC) have also not been included in the proposal to not allow this process to remain as is.

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Out of Scope

**From:** jason farrow s 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 May 2016 8:59 p.m.  
**To:** Animal Welfare Submissions  
**Subject:** submission on animal welfare act review

As a NZKC breeder, WAIKATO gundog club, working spaniel club and registered German Drahthaar breeder and member of VDDNZ and an accredited tail bander .

I would like to put forward my submission.

I would like to request the current status of tail banding under the approved protocols and compliance under the code of animal welfare be retained.

The benefits for working dogs that are docked for working reasons has been well proven in both the UK and Europe and the argument used for banning tail docking is flawed due to having no actual figures of tail injuries as most if not all pedigree spaniels and European versatile breeds are in fact docked.

The current system has seen the end of cruel docking methods and unregistered litters which is to be applauded but for purpose bred nzkc registered puppies the ability to have the choice must be kept open or we will risk the practice being driven underground.

We have invested a fair amount of money bringing in new lines for our breeding programme and the rules to breed under the VDD health system require preventative tail docking to a length which enables the dog to not have the issues the vets are quoting....the ability to balance and communication for instance.

I ask that the practice be allowed to continue with the accredited tail banders scheme which is audited and managed under the New Zealand kennel Club and also for vets to be allowed to perform both dew and tail docking as well.

The UK and soon to be Scotland have a very good system for working dogs and I ask MPI to consider that as well.

Thank you for a chance to put forward this submission.

Although I feel it was rushed though without a fair chance for all parties to respond.

Yours sincerely

Jason farrow

s 9(2)(a)

Sent from Mail for Windows 10



419

Out of Scope

**From:** Nicky Hamilton s 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 May 2016 8:49 p.m.  
**To:** Animal Welfare Submissions

*To the Ministry of Primary Industries,*

*This is my submission on the regulations released for consultation in April 2016.*

*I would like you to conduct a full and thorough review of factory farming as a whole, including all the animals trapped indoors in permanent confinement. We should not be regulating practices that breach NZ's own Animal Welfare Act, we should be looking into the future and creating a plan to ban them.*

*Please remove the regulations you have created regarding factory farmed animals, such as the ones that relate to farrowing crates and colony cages. Then set a date to review these and all other factory farming practices.*

*Factory farming is an abhorrent practice, and New Zealand needs a long term strategy for phasing it out. A factory farming review will send a message to industry to guide future investment, as well as give an opportunity to address the largest animal welfare issue facing New Zealand.*

*I also ask that you consider the evidence that rodeos are cruel, and ban them. The animals will not perform if not distressed by a variety of means, such as the flank strap.*

*Finally, I would like to you to ban the use of exotic animals in circuses. There is ample evidence that these animals suffer in captivity, and there is no reason to allow that suffering for entertainment purposes.*

Thank you

Nicky

Sent from Mail for Windows 10



**From:** Jim Simpson s 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 May 2016 8:43 p.m.  
**To:** Animal Welfare Submissions  
**Subject:** Submission

Hi,

Jim Simpson here, gun dog and dog trail enthusiast. A few quick notes.

The prong collars only fault is it looks horrendous. It is far more humane than the commonly seen choke chain as it distributes pressure better. Also most dogs learn how much pressure they can live with on a choke chain, doing damage to the wind pipe. So if you were to ban the prong collar, you should ban the choke chain first... and if you are to ban the choke chain then you should definitely ban the electric collar before both of them. Neither the prong or choke chain have psychologically ruined dogs the way the electric collar has, and continues to do so daily. It should be a licenced tool used by specialist trainers for aversion training (stock, kiwi etc ) and that's it. Ban the electric collar first before you take on the choke chain, and then the prong collar.

Now for tail docking and dew claw removal. I don't do either but done early enough it is completely humane . Gun dogs in hard work see regular damage and therefore are traditionally docked for that reason. I have personally seen a ripped dew claw from running in pine slash and it is horrible (not to mention expensive)

Any further questions feel free to email or call on s 9(2)(a)

Jim Simpson



421

Out of Scope

**From:** Elizabeth Mather s 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 May 2016 8:26 p.m.  
**To:** Animal Welfare Submissions  
**Subject:** Submission

*To the Ministry of Primary Industries*

*This is my submission on the regulations released for consultation in April 2016.*

*1. Factory Farming*

*I would like you to conduct a full and thorough review of factory farming as a whole, including all the animals trapped indoors in permanent confinement. We should not be regulating practices that breach NZ's own Animal Welfare Act, we should be looking into the future and creating a plan to ban them.*

*Please remove the regulations you have created regarding factory farmed animals, such as the ones that relate to farrowing crates and colony cages. Then set a date to review these and all other factory farming practices.*

*Factory farming is an abhorrent practice, and New Zealand needs a long term strategy for phasing it out. A factory farming review will send a message to industry to guide future investment, as well as give an opportunity to address the largest animal welfare issue facing New Zealand.*

*2. Rodeos*

*I ask that you consider the evidence that rodeos are cruel, and ban them. The animals will not perform if not distressed by a variety of means, such as the flank strap.*

*3. Circuses*

*I would like to you to ban the use of exotic animals in circuses. There is ample evidence that these animals suffer in captivity, and there is no reason to allow that suffering for entertainment purposes.*

*4. Vivisection*

*There is a large body of scientific opinion and evidence that the testing on animals of substances designed for human use, is neither necessary nor at all reliable. There are readily available, other far more effective and reliable means of assessing substance impacts on humans. Testing on animals is barbaric and cruel in the extreme. All animals experience pain and fear exactly the same as humans do. To subject animals to vivisection procedures does not befit any society that calls itself civilised. I ask that you set a date in the very near future for the banning of all vivisection in this country.*

*Signed:* Elizabeth Mather, s 9(2)(a)



(422) ✓

Out of Scope

**From:** Kasia P s 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 May 2016 8:25 p.m.  
**To:** Animal Welfare Submissions  
**Subject:** Prong collars submission

To Whom it may concern,

I would like to express my opinion regarding prong collars while the Ministry is reviewing this matter.

Prong collars are a very useful tool in training dogs, certainly don't deserve the fear some people have about them and it would be a huge shame to take this tool away from the trainers and public. There are no known prong abuse cases in New Zealand. The vast majority of dog owners are responsible people who love their pets and banning prong collars because it "could" be misused by someone is like considering banning knives because they can be used as a weapon. The benefits are greater when we give people right tools and education on controlling dogs especially large strong breeds. I would much rather see the focus shift to heavy penalizing the actual proven cases of animal abuse than banning training tools.

The prong collar is often called a "power steering for dogs" and with little training makes walking your dog much more easy and enjoyable and gives even a small person good control of large excitable dogs who do not get harmed in any way. The prongs are not sharp but do a good job to prevent pulling because they make it uncomfortable.

Dog's neck should not be compared to humans as it has much thicker fur skin and in itself is probably the strongest part of the dogs body, being a strong muscle evolved to withstand latching jaws onto prey animals while in high speed chase often with heavy impact and fight. Humans neck contrary to this is probably one of our weakest parts.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards,

Kasia Pawlowska  
Dog trainer, World level FCI IPO competitor.

Sent from my iPad



423 ✓

Out of Scope

**From:** Jan Mace s 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 May 2016 8:19 p.m.  
**To:** Animal Welfare Submissions  
**Subject:** submission

Animal Welfare proposed regulations feedback submission form

Jan Mace

s 9(2)(a)

My feedback:

62. The proposed regulation states: Must be performed by a veterinarian or a veterinary student under the direct supervision of a veterinarian.

Must only be performed for therapeutic reasons.

Pain relief must be used at the time of the procedure.

I disagree with this proposal in its entirety and advocate for the status quo.

I understand that over 170 countries do not ban the tail shortening procedure however these countries are not spoken about in any documentation produced by MPI.

Regards  
Jan Mace

Jan Mace

s 9(2)(a)



(424) ✓

Out of Scope

**From:** hardrada s 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 May 2016 8:09 p.m.  
**To:** Animal Welfare Submissions  
**Subject:** mpi submission re tail banding  
**Attachments:** sm geddes-cook regulations feedback submission form.pdf

Ian & Sue Geddes-Cook

Hardrada Rottweilers

[www.rottweiler.co.nz](http://www.rottweiler.co.nz)

**From:** Ian Geddes-Cook  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2016 10:33 AM  
**Subject:** sm geddes-cook regulations feedback submission form

Regards,

Ian Geddes-Cook

s 9(2)(a)



Please protect the environment - don't print this e-mail unless you really need to



**Animal Welfare proposed regulations feedback submission form**

Name Sue Geddes-Cook

s 9(2)(a)

**My feedback:**

**62. The proposed regulation states: Must be performed by a veterinarian or a veterinary student under the direct supervision of a veterinarian.**

**Must only be performed for therapeutic reasons**

**Pain relief must be used at the time of the procedure.**

**I disagree with this proposal in its entirety and advocate for the status quo and these are my reasons:**

- I am a member of the New Zealand Kennel Club (NZKC) and am a registered breeder of pedigree dogs.
- Pups in New Zealand are already being legally tail banded, my husband is an accredited member of the New Zealand Council of Docked Breeds (NZCDB) and has had his animal husbandry skills signed off by a veterinarian.
- All pups at our kennels (my husband and I have bred Rottweilers for 30yrs) Our dogs tails are shortened under the current national guidelines. We follow the rules set by NZCDB, NZKC and with the approval of National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC).
- My husband has shortened our puppies tails for 30 yrs , he has never had any complaints from vets, council, we have never had any complications requiring vet attention. All our puppies are health checked post banding, we have never had a vet document or express any health concerns for our puppy's shortened tails.
- I am of the understanding that the procedure of tail banding (described by the NAWAC approved scheme) is vastly different from the process of tail amputation and as my husband is an accredited bander he only performs the tail banding procedure under the Animal Welfare Act (No2) 2015 and this is not a surgical procedure involving cutting, banding is the only method used at our Kennels, as per current regulations.
- My husband and I own a farm, we accept our breed (Rottweilers) are traditionally docked, yet they still perform the duties that they are designed to do, guarding our property, and assisting with herding of livestock.
- In 2012 NAWAC agreed and suggested a study should be completed to dispel any myths around the process of tail banding, yet to date, this has not been carried out by NAWAC so would suggest this research is undertaken without a prior perceived bias in place.



- I understand that MPI partly funds both the RSPCA and NAWAC, yet they are both major stakeholders in writing this proposal which I see as being extremely one sided and is not factual. I also understand that the governing body of the professional dog world Namely the NZKC has over 6000 members, but NZKC were not included as a major stakeholder when writing these proposals and nor are they funded by the Ministry. This shows inadvertently a bias may already in place.
- Vets complain about docking but when they did dock they only used a surgical method, accredited dockers in New Zealand only use the permitted banding method. Research has shown, however, that the nervous system of a pup will not be fully developed at birth (Diesch et al., 2007). Dogs are born in an 'immature' state (similar to rats) and complete their neural development as a neonate, during the first weeks of their life (see Diesch et al., 2007). If pups are docked during this period when their nervous system is still developing. Breeders who dock have said there pups feel no pain in a neonate state, as they band puppies, the experience we have had with vets is that they always cut tails, hence our ongoing need over the years to be allowed to band our pups.
- I understand that breed specifics are not taken into account when this proposal was documented and the groups largely involved in writing these have dealings mainly with crossbred non-pedigree (no registration with the NZKC) dogs. I would sincerely question the stakeholder's ability to answer such detailed questions around form and function of a specific breed for the purposes of this proposal.
- I understand that another major stakeholder is an offshoot of the RSPCA namely HUHA. This group also deals with crossbred non-pedigree dogs yet they felt qualified to once again offer their opinion on pedigree dogs and the reasons for tail shortening.
- I am of the belief that there is currently a process in place for the SPCA to act on individual cases that perform a tail shortening procedure illegally on a litter of non-registered NZKC member's neonate puppies, however in the last 4 years I only know of 2 cases where the SPCA has acted on this information.
- 61. The proposed regulations states: Front limb dew claw removal and articulated (jointed) hind limb dew claw removal:

Must be performed by a veterinarian or a veterinary student under the direct supervision of a veterinarian;

Must only be performed for therapeutic reasons; and

Pain relief must be used at the time of the procedure

Hind limb dew claws: non-articulated (greater than or equal to four days of age)

Must be performed by a veterinarian or veterinary student under supervisions; and

Pain relief must be used at the time of the procedure.

I disagree with this proposal in its entirety and advocate for the status quo and these are my reasons:

When performing a dew claw removal, we legally complete this process in a neonate puppy 4 days of age or under. At this time it is a well-recognised fact that the toes and tail are the last part of the



neonate puppy to calcify and develop into bone. The neonate dewclaw is removed without cutting through bone (has not calcified) and does not bleed when performed correctly.

No other country in the world has proposed this procedure should not be practiced as the health and welfare of the dog will be compromised.

- We are a well-respected Kennels , our breed (Rottweiler's) always have dew claws removed, as there is a significant risk if left on. My Husband and I have had personal experience of dogs damaging dew claws as we grew up with our working dogs. There is certainly a high risk of dew claw damage when left on, this has caused significant pain, suffering to the dogs concerned, hence the need to maintain customary practice in our breed, or working dogs.
- I understand that breed specifics are not taken into account when this proposal was documented and the groups largely involved in writing these have dealings mainly with crossbred non-pedigree (no registration with the NZKC) dogs. I would sincerely question the stakeholder's ability to answer such detailed questions around form and function of a specific breed for the purposes of this proposal.
- I understand that not all front dew claws are articulated and once again the breed specifics have been ignored in this instance and MPI have been advised incorrectly.

#### Research

Diesch, T.J., Mellor, D.J., Johnson, C.B. and Lentle, R.G. (2007). Responsiveness to painful stimuli in anaesthetized newborn and young lambs of varying neurological maturity (wallaby joeys, rat pups and lambs). Proc 6th World Congress on Alternatives & Animal Use in the Life Sciences, Tokyo, Japan, August 21-25

Diesch, T.J., Mellor, D.J., Johnson, C.B. and Lentle, R.G. (2009). Electroencephalographic



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Out of Scope

**From:** TONY HEALY s 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 May 2016 8:07 p.m.  
**To:** Animal Welfare Submissions  
**Subject:** Submission  
**Attachments:** submission to MPI.docx

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Animal Welfare proposed regulations feedback submission

Tony Healy

s 9(2)(a)

My feedback:

62. The proposed regulation states: Must be performed by a veterinarian or a veterinary student under the direct supervision of a veterinarian.

Must only be performed for therapeutic reasons

Pain relief must be used at the time of the procedure.

I disagree with this proposal in its entirety and advocate for the status quo and these are my reasons:

I am a member of the New Zealand Kennel Club (NZKC) and am a registered breeder of pedigree dogs.

The NZCDB as an organisation was established in 2004 and our membership is focussed on the welfare of tail shortened breeds. We operate as a fully audited and regulated group under the umbrella of the NZKC with the approval of the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC).

I have never had a complaint or issue arise from any litter that I have completed banding on and to the best of my knowledge I understand that as an accredited group, we have performed tail shortening on over 10 500 neonate puppies without incident since 2005.

I am of the understanding that the procedure of tail banding (described by the NAWAC approved scheme) is vastly different from the process of tail amputation and as an accredited bander I only perform the tail banding procedure under the Animal Welfare Act (No2) 2015 and this is not a surgical procedure.

The breeds that I am associated with and that are banded are traditionally docked dogs that still perform their duties that they were designed for.

I understand that in 2012 NAWAC agreed and suggested a study should be completed to dispel any myths around the process of tail banding, yet to date, this has not been carried out by NAWAC so I am surprised that this proposal has taken shape.

I understand that MPI partly funds both the RSPCA and NAWAC, yet they are both major stakeholders in writing this proposal which I see as being extremely one sided and is not factual. I also understand that the governing body of the professional dog world Namely the NZKC has over 6000 members, but NZKC were not included as a major stakeholder when writing these proposals and nor are they funded by the Ministry.

I understand that over 170 countries do not ban the tail shortening procedure however these countries are not spoken about in any documentation produced by MPI.



I understand that breed specifics are not taken into account when this proposal was documented and the groups largely involved in writing these have dealings mainly with crossbred non-pedigree (no registration with the NZKC) dogs. I would sincerely question the stakeholder's ability to answer such detailed questions around form and function of a specific breed for the purposes of this proposal.

I understand that another major stakeholder is an offshoot of the RSPCA namely HUHA. This group also deals with crossbred non-pedigree dogs yet they felt qualified to once again offer their opinion on pedigree dogs and the reasons for tail shortening.

I am of the belief that there is currently a process in place for the SPCA to act on individual cases that perform a tail shortening procedure illegally on a litter of non-registered NZKC members neonate puppies, however in the last 4 years I only know of 2 cases where the SPCA has acted on this information.

61. The proposed regulations states: Front limb dew claw removal and articulated (jointed) hind limb dew claw removal:

Must be performed by a veterinarian or a veterinary student under the direct supervision of a veterinarian;

Must only be performed for therapeutic reasons; and

Pain relief must be used at the time of the procedure

Hind limb dew claws: non-articulated (greater than or equal to four days of age)

Must be performed by a veterinarian or veterinary student under supervisions; and

Pain relief must be used at the time of the procedure.

I disagree with this proposal in its entirety and advocate for the status quo and these are my reasons:

When performing a dew claw removal, I complete this process in a neonate puppy 4 days of age or under. At this time it is a well-recognised fact that the toes and tail are the last part of the neonate puppy to calcify and develop into bone. The neonate dewclaw is removed without cutting through bone (has not calcified) and does not bleed when performed correctly.

No other country in the world has proposed this procedure should not be practiced as the health and welfare of the dog will be compromised.

As a professional dog breeder and caretaker of my chosen breed, I am fully versed in the damage that a dew claw can cause to the dog if left on. My chosen breed has been bred to be used in its traditional purpose and the dew claw if left on would result in significant pain and suffering to the dog.

I understand that breed specifics are not taken into account when this proposal was documented and the groups largely involved in writing these have dealings mainly with crossbred non-pedigree (no registration with the NZKC) dogs. I would sincerely question the stakeholder's ability to answer such detailed questions around form and function of a specific breed for the purposes of this proposal.

I understand that another major stakeholder is an offshoot of the RSPCA namely HUHA. This group also deals with crossbred non-pedigree dogs yet they felt qualified to once again offer their opinion on pedigree dogs and the reasons for dew claw removal.



I understand that MPI partly funds both the RSPCA and NAWAC, yet they are both major stakeholders in writing this proposal which I see as being extremely one sided and is not factual. I also understand that the governing body of the professional dog world Namely the NZKC has over 6000 members, but NZKC were not included as a major stakeholder when writing these proposals and nor are they funded by the Ministry.

In my profession as a Groomer/Boarding Kennel facility I have witnessed many incidents of dew claws growing back into the skin of the dog as the pet owner doesn't understand how to trim the nails and often as the dog is of a coated variety, they are not aware of a dew claw being present.

I understand that not all front dew claws are articulated and once again the breed specifics have been ignored in this instance and MPI have been advised incorrectly.

I understand that the Groomers Association have not been contacted for information from their large membership to dispel the myths displayed in the proposed regulation and I further understand that the largest governing body (and only – NZKC) have also not been included in the proposal to not allow this process to remain as is.

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Out of Scope

**From:** Raewyn Glasgow s 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 May 2016 8:06 p.m.  
**To:** Animal Welfare Submissions  
**Subject:** Animal Welfare Proposed Regulation Submissions  
**Attachments:** Animal Welfare proposed regulations feedback submission.doc

Dear Sir/Madam

Please find attached my comments to the above submissions.

Kind regards  
Raewyn Radich

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Please Note your Submission needs to be into MPI by 5PM Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May  
Email To: animal.welfaresubmissions@mpi.govt.nz

## Animal Welfare proposed regulations feedback submission:

Raewyn Radich

s 9(2)(a)

My Views and Responses as Below.

62. The proposed regulation states: Must be performed by a veterinarian or a veterinary student under the direct supervision of a veterinarian.

Must only be performed for therapeutic reasons

Pain relief must be used at the time of the procedure.

I disagree with this proposal in its entirety and advocate for the status quo and these are my reasons:

I am a member of the New Zealand Kennel Club (NZKC).

Within the NZKC is the NZ Council of Docked Breeds who operate as a fully audited and regulated group under the umbrella of the NZKC with the approval of the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC). There accredited Members carry out the Banding and Dew Claw removal under strict and Measured Standards.

I am of the understanding that the procedure of tail banding (described by the NAWAC approved scheme) is vastly different from the process of tail amputation and an accredited bander will only perform the tail banding procedure under the Animal Welfare Act (No2) 2015 and this is not a surgical procedure.

The breeds that I am associated with and that are banded are traditionally docked dogs that still perform their duties that they were designed for.

I understand that in 2012 NAWAC agreed and suggested a study should be completed to dispel any myths around the process of tail banding, yet to date, this has not been carried out by NAWAC so I am surprised that this proposal has taken shape.

I understand that MPI partly funds both the RSPCA and NAWAC, yet they are both major stakeholders in writing this proposal which I see as being extremely one sided and is not factual. I also understand that the governing body of the professional dog world Namely the NZKC has over 6000 members, but NZKC were not included as a major stakeholder when writing these proposals and nor are they funded by the Ministry.

I understand that over 170 countries do not ban the tail shortening procedure however these countries are not spoken about in any documentation produced by MPI.

I understand that breed specifics are not taken into account when this proposal was documented and the groups largely involved in writing these have dealings mainly with crossbred non-pedigree



(no registration with the NZKC) dogs. I would sincerely question the stakeholder's ability to answer such detailed questions around form and function of a specific breed for the purposes of this proposal.

I understand that another major stakeholder is an offshoot of the RSPCA namely HUHA. This group also deals with crossbred non-pedigree dogs yet they felt qualified to once again offer their opinion on pedigree dogs and the reasons for tail shortening.

I am of the belief that there is currently a process in place for the SPCA to act on individual cases that perform a tail shortening procedure illegally on a litter of non-registered NZKC member's neonate puppies, however in the last 4 years I only know of 2 cases where the SPCA has acted on this information.

I believe the Shortening of a Dogs Tail, has Absolutely no effect on their ability to Communicate, Swim or Run and is purely an emotive argument which is impossible to base on fact as the over whelming evidence proves otherwise.

Currently Tail injuries are only a small percentage of why Dogs are presented to a Veterinary Clinic and this is because a lot are shortened and if they were left long there will be a huge increase in this issue which can be a very drawn out and painful experience for the Dog.

61. The proposed regulations states: Front limb dew claw removal and articulated (jointed) hind limb dew claw removal:

Must be performed by a veterinarian or a veterinary student under the direct supervision of a veterinarian;

Must only be performed for therapeutic reasons; and

Pain relief must be used at the time of the procedure

Hind limb dew claws: non-articulated (greater than or equal to four days of age)

Must be performed by a veterinarian or veterinary student under supervisions; and

Pain relief must be used at the time of the procedure.

I disagree with this proposal in its entirety and advocate for the status quo and these are my reasons:

When performing a dew claw removal, This process is completed in a neonate puppy 4 days of age or under. At this time, it is a well-recognised fact that the toes and tail are the last part of the neonate puppy to calcify and develop into bone. The neonate dewclaw is removed without cutting through bone (has not calcified) and does not bleed when performed correctly.

No other country in the world has proposed this procedure should not be practiced as the health and welfare of the dog will be compromised.

As a caretaker of my chosen breed, I am fully versed in the damage that a dew claw can cause to the dog if left on. My chosen breed has been bred to be used in its traditional purpose and the dew claw if left on would result in significant pain and suffering to the dog.

I understand that breed specifics are not taken into account when this proposal was documented and the groups largely involved in writing these have dealings mainly with crossbred non-pedigree (no registration with the NZKC) dogs. I would sincerely question the stakeholder's ability to answer



such detailed questions around form and function of a specific breed for the purposes of this proposal.

I understand that another major stakeholder is an offshoot of the RSPCA namely HUHA. This group also deals with crossbred non-pedigree dogs yet they felt qualified to once again offer their opinion on pedigree dogs and the reasons for dew claw removal.

I understand that MPI partly funds both the RSPCA and NAWAC, yet they are both major stakeholders in writing this proposal which I see as being extremely one sided and is not factual. I also understand that the governing body of the professional dog world Namely the NZKC has over 6000 members, but NZKC were not included as a major stakeholder when writing these proposals and nor are they funded by the Ministry.

There have been many incidents of dew claws growing back into the skin of the dog as the pet owner doesn't understand how to trim the nails and often as the dog is of a coated variety, they are not aware of a dew claw being present.

I understand that not all front dew claws are articulated and once again the breed specifics have been ignored in this instance and MPI have been advised incorrectly.

I understand that the Groomers Association have not been contacted for information from their large membership to dispel the myths displayed in the proposed regulation and I further understand that the largest governing body (and only – NZKC) have also not been included in the proposal to not allow this process to remain as is.

Ironically both the Shortening of Tails and Removal of Dew Claws are done at Birth for the Dogs best interest and long term Health. WE care for our dogs more than any Vet or Government Agency and would never do anything to them we didn't believe was in their best interest.

Thank You,



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Out of Scope

**From:** Lawrence & Heather Tee s 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 May 2016 8:04 p.m.  
**To:** Animal Welfare Submissions  
**Subject:** SUBMISSION ON ANIMAL WELFARE REGULATIONS

To whom it may concern

I am a dog owner and breeder of many years standing, having been an NZKC member for over 50 years.

I am most concerned about the proposed new legislation in relation to " Removal of Dewclaws"

I breed whippets and have removed the dewclaws at the age of 3 days on many litters of new born puppies without any harmful effects either short term or long term. I have raced and coursed these puppies when adults and they have not shown any abnormalities when running/chasing.

I might add the first litter of whippets I bred I took to the veterinary surgeon to remove the dewclaws which was , in my opinion, a very inefficient process leaving a very large wounds on the puppies forelegs. If performed correctly there is neglible trauma and scarring.

I have also breed Shetland Sheepdogs and did not remove the dewclaws of newborn puppies but was always aware the dewclaws required clipping regularly . If not clipped the claw would grow around in a circle and eventually grow until it dug into the leg. I did not allow this to happen.

In my opinion the matter of removal of dewclaws should be the prerogative of the responsible breeder and a matter of the right of the individual to make the choice. Legislation on this matter will only affect the honest, responsible breeders while unscrupulous backyard breeders will continue to break the law and escape the requirement of the law without detection.

Consideration of the points I have raised would be appreciated.

Your sincerely

*Heather Tee*

Mrs Heather Tee

s 9(2)(a)





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**From:** Deborah Craigen s 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 May 2016 7:45 p.m.  
**To:** Animal Welfare Submissions

James Craigen

s 9(2)(a)

My feedback:

62. The proposed regulation states: Must be performed by a veterinarian or a veterinary student under the direct supervision of a veterinarian.

Must only be performed for therapeutic reasons

Pain relief must be used at the time of the procedure.

I disagree with this proposal in its entirety and advocate for the status quo and these are my reasons:

I Animal Welfare proposed regulations feedback submission form

am a member of the New Zealand Kennel Club (NZKC) and am a registered breeder of pedigree dogs.

I am an accredited member of the New Zealand Council of Docked Breeds (NZCDB) and have had my animal husbandry skills signed off by a veterinarian, who must complete my application for accreditation by either witnessing neonate puppies being banded or being in the presence of another accredited bander to enable me to perform tail shortening.

The NZCDB as an organisation was established in 2004 and our membership is focussed on the welfare of tail shortened breeds. We operate as a fully audited and regulated group under the umbrella of the NZKC with the approval of the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC).

I have never had a complaint or issue arise from any litter that I have completed banding on and to the best of my knowledge I understand that as an accredited group, we have performed tail shortening on over 10 500 neonate puppies without incident since 2005.

I am of the understanding that the procedure of tail banding (described by the NAWAC approved scheme) is vastly different from the process of tail amputation and as an accredited bander I only perform the tail banding procedure under the Animal Welfare Act (No2) 2015 and this is not a surgical procedure.

The breeds that I am associated with and that are banded by me are traditionally docked dogs that still perform their duties that they were designed for.

I understand that in 2012 NAWAC agreed and suggested a study should be completed to dispel any myths around the process of tail banding, yet to date, this has not been carried out by NAWAC so I am surprised that this proposal has taken shape.

I understand that MPI partly funds both the RSPCA and NAWAC, yet they are both major stakeholders in writing this proposal which I see as being extremely one sided and is not factual.. I also understand that the governing body of the professional dog world Namely the NZKC has over 6000 members, but NZKC were not included as a major stakeholder when writing these proposals and nor are they funded by the Ministry.



I understand that over 170 countries do not ban the tail shortening procedure however these countries are not spoken about in any documentation produced by MPI.

I understand that breed specifics are not taken into account when this proposal was documented and the groups largely involved in writing these have dealings mainly with crossbred non-pedigree (no registration with the NZKC) dogs. I would sincerely question the stakeholder's ability to answer such detailed questions around form and function of a specific breed for the purposes of this proposal.

I understand that another major stakeholder is an offshoot of the RSPCA namely HUHA. This group also deals with crossbred non-pedigree dogs yet they felt qualified to once again offer their opinion on pedigree dogs and the reasons for tail shortening.

I am of the belief that there is currently a process in place for the SPCA to act on individual cases that perform a tail shortening procedure illegally on a litter of non-registered NZKC members neonate puppies, however in the last 4 years I only know of 2 cases where the SPCA has acted on this information.

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No other country in the world has proposed this procedure should not be practiced as the health and welfare of the dog will be compromised.

As a professional dog breeder and caretaker of my chosen breed, I am fully versed in the damage that a dew claw can cause to the dog if left on. My chosen breed has been bred to be used in its traditional purpose and the dew claw if left on would result in significant pain and suffering to the dog.

I understand that breed specifics are not taken into account when this proposal was documented and the groups largely involved in writing these have dealings mainly with crossbred non-pedigree (no registration with the NZKC) dogs. I would sincerely question the stakeholder's ability to answer



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Out of Scope

**From:** Deborah Craigen § 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 May 2016 7:45 p.m.  
**To:** Animal Welfare Submissions  
**Subject:** Animal Welfare proposed regulations feedback submission form

Deborah Craigen

§ 9(2)(a)

My feedback:

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I am an accredited member of the New Zealand Council of Docked Breeds (NZCDB) and have had my animal husbandry skills signed off by a veterinarian, who must complete my application for accreditation by either witnessing neonate puppies being banded or being in the presence of another accredited bander to enable me to perform tail shortening.

The NZCDB as an organisation was established in 2004 and our membership is focussed on the welfare of tail shortened breeds. We operate as a fully audited and regulated group under the umbrella of the NZKC with the approval of the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC).

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the professional dog world Namely the NZKC has over 6000 members, but NZKC were not included as a major stakeholder when writing these proposals and nor are they funded by the Ministry.

I understand that over 170 countries do not ban the tail shortening procedure however these countries are not spoken about in any documentation produced by MPI.

I understand that breed specifics are not taken into account when this proposal was documented and the groups largely involved in writing these have dealings mainly with crossbred non-pedigree (no registration with the NZKC) dogs. I would sincerely question the stakeholder's ability to answer such detailed questions around form and function of a specific breed for the purposes of this proposal.

I understand that another major stakeholder is an offshoot of the RSPCA namely HUHA. This group also deals with crossbred non-pedigree dogs yet they felt qualified to once again offer their opinion on pedigree dogs and the reasons for tail shortening.

I am of the belief that there is currently a process in place for the SPCA to act on individual cases that perform a tail shortening procedure illegally on a litter of non-registered NZKC members neonate puppies, however in the last 4 years I only know of 2 cases where the SPCA has acted on this information.

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Pain relief must be used at the time of the procedure

Hind limb dew claws: non-articulated (greater than or equal to four days of age)  
Must be performed by a veterinarian or veterinary student under supervisions; and  
Pain relief must be used at the time of the procedure.

I disagree with this proposal in its entirety and advocate for the status quo and these are my reasons:

When performing a dew claw removal, I complete this process in a neonate puppy 4 days of age or under. At this time it is a well-recognised fact that the toes and tail are the last part of the neonate puppy to calcify and develop into bone. The neonate dewclaw is removed without cutting through bone (has not calcified) and does not bleed when performed correctly.

No other country in the world has proposed this procedure should not be practiced as the health and welfare of the dog will be compromised.

As a professional dog breeder and caretaker of my chosen breed, I am fully versed in the damage that a dew claw can cause to the dog if left on. My chosen breed has been bred to be used in its traditional purpose and the dew claw if left on would result in significant pain and suffering to the dog.

I understand that breed specifics are not taken into account when this proposal was documented and the groups largely involved in writing these have dealings mainly with crossbred non-pedigree (no registration with the NZKC) dogs. I would sincerely question the stakeholder's ability to answer



**From:** Joss Walker § 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 May 2016 7:34 p.m.  
**To:** Animal Welfare Submissions  
**Subject:** Submission on Animal Welfare regulations  
**Attachments:** Tail Docking Submission May 2106 (2).docx

Hi, please accept my submission on animal welfare regulations, kind regards, Jocelyn Walker

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Animal Welfare Policy  
Ministry for Primary Industries  
P O Box 2526  
WELLINGTON 6140

## **SUBMISSION ON ANIMAL WELFARE REGULATIONS**

Presented by:

Name: Ms Jocelyn Walker  
Address: s 9(2)(a)  
Email:  
Mobile:

Organisation representing:  
**The Griffon Bruxellois Club (Inc)**

The Griffon Bruxellois is an historical breed originating in Belgium as early as the 1400's. More recently though (1800's) the Griffon Bruxellois was a vermin catcher and controller used by the men who ran the night carts and was also a guard-dog for the coachmen. The breed found favour with Royalty during this time quickly becoming popular with the gentry. Queen Marie-Henriette of Belgium was a breeder and fancier. They became known as "The Connoisseur's Dog".

They are a traditionally docked breed.

Now in 2016, we are the guardians of this delightful breed and take the preservation of the breed extremely seriously. We breed, work, hunt and show our dogs as a hobby / sport – a voluntarily unfunded role. We endeavour to breed to the standard and this includes the shortening of their tail.

### **62. Dogs – Tail Docking**

- There is no need to further regulate this procedure.

In 2010 under the Dogs Code of Welfare it was agreed on the following:

- Tails may only be shortened or removed by using a tail band –*
  - In puppies that are less than four days old in which the eyes have not started to open; and*
  - By a person who possesses the appropriate knowledge, training and competency necessary to do so effectively and who is acting under a documented quality assurance scheme that assures compliance with this minimum standard; and*
  - The remaining length of the tail must be sufficient to avoid compromising health and welfare when the dog is mature.*

In 2012 the New Zealand Council of Docked Breeds (NZCDB) and the New Zealand Kennel Club (NZKC) adopted an accreditation and assurance scheme for suitably qualified members of the NZCDB who wished to be recognised as Accredited Banders. This was accepted by the NAWAC committee as an appropriate solution.

- There is no positive impact for changing the current procedure. The NZCDB and NZKC is concerned at the implication that the suggested regulatory change may bring about



backyard docking. At this stage neither is aware of any such issues associated with the NZKC's quality assurance scheme.

- Introduction of the proposed changes will have a negative impact on the breeds who currently have their tails shortened, eg long term breeders and supporters of a traditionally docked breed will cease breeding and thereby put the breed at risk of extinction.
- There is no need for a transitional or phase in period as the current quality assurance scheme with Accredited Banders works well.
- The current issue is being managed adequately under the Dogs Code of Welfare 2010.
- As previously stated the current management of tail docking / shortening of tails using Accredited Banders registered with the NZKC works well. On the litter notification form, which is sent to the NZKC, all registered NZKC breeders need to state the name and number of the Accredited Bander.
- The NZCDB and NZKC are the right people to be held responsible for the correct and current form of tail docking / shortening.
- There is no need for a penalty to be applied to this as there is no need to change the current procedure.
- There are no religious or cultural practices that are impacted by the current procedure of tail docking / shortening which is being carried out by Accredited Banders registered with the NZCDB and NZKC.

We would also like to include the following:

- A number of veterinarians are not comfortable with the procedure of tail docking / shortening by the banding method as it has not been a learned procedure.
- Currently it is not illegal for any veterinarian to carry out tail docking / shortening – this rule was set by the New Zealand Veterinary Association.
- Many of those people on the NZKC's Accredited Banders roll have been breeding their traditionally docked breed for 30+ years. They have been taught in the process of tail banding by those previously involved in their breed. It is a skill that has been handed down through the ages. They are responsible and committed breeders.
- The Accredited Banders routinely band tails and do not routinely know of any injuries that could be sustained. This information will take three to four years to be reported on.
- All dogs "wag" their tail, be it long or short, to communicate with other dogs and humans.
- The debate on whether the puppy at two days old feels pain at the time of the procedure is unproven. The issue is complex and those for and against tail docking / shortening will support their respective positions. You have failed to provide any proof of pain, either scientific or anecdotal, as requested by the 2012 NAWAC committee.
- Tail docking may be banned or restricted in over 30 countries worldwide, but you do not acknowledge that in excess of 170 countries in the world do NOT have a ban on the docking / shortening of dogs tails.
- You are failing to acknowledge the practical experience and breed specific knowledge of breeders of traditionally docked breeds.
- You have failed to acknowledge or recognise any variation in the tail structure / form and function between dog breeds.
- You have reduced the credibility of NZKC Accredited Banders, most of whom are experienced dog breeders.



- You are also endeavouring to remove breeders "Freedom of Choice".

It is not necessary to ban the current method, this can be remedied by aligning banding with the exemptions your committee has prepared for production animals, namely pigs and sheep.

## 61. Dew Claws

From the Dogs Code of Welfare 2010, the current state for the removal of front limb and hind limb dew claws is as follows:-

- It is allowable that dew claws can be removed from puppies by a person other than a veterinarian, as long as it is done before the eyes have started to open or before four days old, whichever comes first.*
- Persons, other than veterinarians, who remove dew claws must possess the knowledge, training and competence in relation to the procedure that maintains the health and welfare of the puppy.*
- The removal of dew claws on puppies or dogs either aged over four days or have their eyes open can only be removed by a veterinarian.*
- If dew claw removal is not performed, care must be taken to manage any consequential risks to animal health and welfare.*

**The NZKC's policy for dew claw removal is to prevent the potential for serious injury.**

- The NZKC allows the practice of removing front limb and hind limb dew claws from puppies aged four days or less.
- They consider that any short term discomfort is outweighed by the long term welfare advantages.
- The NZKC also states that the procedure should only be undertaken by suitably experienced members, veterinarians or vet students under supervision.

The Griffon Bruxellois Club (Inc) supports the retention of the current removal of dew claw policy:-

- Regulating the removal of dew claws so that it can only be performed by a veterinarian risks curtailment of the procedure with subsequent risk of serious injury to the dog and / or dog owner.
- The removal of dew claws is generally undertaken to prevent future injury to the claws as they develop and lengthen, to prevent them being caught or dislodged. In larger breeds there is the potential for children or owners in being injured by dogs jumping up on them if dew claws have not been removed.
- Many pet owners 'forget' about the dew claws and the necessity to trim the nail, thereby causing pain and discomfort to the dog as the nail curls around and can penetrate the dogs leg and there can also be excessive and un-necessary bleeding if the 'quick' is cut when the dew claw is being trimmed.
- The removal of dew claws is generally carried out when the puppies are two to four days old. It is a very quick procedure as the primary intention is to remove the toenail, its bed and only the first section of the dew claw. Bones at this stage are still largely cartilaginous and the discomfort is minimal.



- As previously stated it is a quick procedure so use of pain relief is not necessary. We have not heard of complications in the removal of dew claws, such as haemorrhage, infection and scarring.
- The persons who carry out the removal of dew claws in puppies are skilled and experienced. They have generally been taught by their veterinarian, have been involved with dogs for a number of years and many of them are already on the NZKC's Accredited Banders roll.
- A dog with dew claws is more likely to succumb to foot injury when running or playing. Dew claws are not visibly seen to be used as a 'steading' method when the dog is chewing an object.

We would further like to add:-

- We do not support the proposal of regulating the removal of front limb and hind limb dew claws by veterinarians or by a veterinary student under supervision.
- The negative impact of regulating this procedure would give cause for concern for removal of front limb and hind limb dew claws by in-experienced persons.
- The current issue of the removal of dew claws from front and hind limbs is being managed adequately by the Code of Welfare 2010 and the New Zealand Kennel Club.
- There are no religious or cultural practices that would be impacted by the this proposal.

## Enforcement

The Griffon Bruxellois Club (Inc) has grave concerns as to the form of enforcements used if these proposed regulations with regards to Tail Docking and Dew Claw Removal are passed.

Who would deal with this?

Puppies from the age of 12 weeks who are registered with the New Zealand Kennel Club can be exhibited at Breed Shows.

How do you enforce breeds who are Natural Bobtails (NBT's)?

In conclusion, the proposed changes to Animal Welfare Regulations by the Ministry for Primary Industries shows an apparent disregard for the successful accredited banding programme, which has been working very well over the past four years. The Ministry for Primary Industries now wants tail docking by the banding method banned and included in the surgical procedure category. The Ministry for Primary Industries is also wanting to regulate the removal of front limb and hind limb dew claws to be only carrier out by veterinarians .....



**From:** Timothy Farms Ltd s 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 May 2016 7:30 p.m.  
**To:** Animal Welfare Submissions  
**Subject:** SUBMISSION ON ANIMAL WELFARE REGULATIONS

Hi,

Cattle, Sheep and Goats – Disbudding: Our concerns regarding the proposal 'Pain relief must be used at the time of the procedure'.

Myself and My husband have been rearing calves in Southland for 10 years on our family owned business rearing approximately 550 calves every season. With rearing the calves our largest priority is the overall welfare of the animal and we take this very seriously, therefore brings our issues of this proposal.

Every season we employee a specialised contractor to disbud all of our animals and feel that this is the best method for the welfare of the animals without the need for pain relief as we feel that will cause unnecessary distress to the animal. We would like to highlight a few things below.

\*The age of the animal (when we disbud) is typically 5-14 days old. Also we usually disbud approximately 100 animals at a time.

\*Before disbudding we ensure that the health of the particular animal is fit and well, drinking and happy, if not we will not get the animal done, we will continue to assess the animal's health and if healthy next time it will be done.

\*At the age we disbud our animals I would not administer any drug or pain relief to the animal if it is not needed, pain relief is not needed for this procedure.

\*We feel that by administering pain relief it will cause stress to the animal, and will have to be handled more than it should be and therefore will be more agitated when carrying out the procedure and therefore more risk to the operator and the animal.

\*When disbudding, our animals are still inside in their pens, and when they are at this age we are very strict on shed hygiene for the welfare of the animal and we like to keep people entering our shed to an absolute minimum for this reason. I mention this as I will assume that by having to administer pain relief, another person/or persons will have to come into our calf rearing facilities which will not benefit the animal and will cause further issues.

\*Also in saying the above, if we were to get the animals out of there pen to perhaps use a crush, it is certainly not in the best interest of the animal. And will again cause more stress to the animal, further health issues from being pushed and shoved and also being exposed outside of their pens. the less handling at this age the better!

\*When we disbud, they are usually done late morning and it does not take very long at all and they get up immediately and are playing around, eating meal and feeding normally.

Overall, we feel that this is certainly not in the best interest of the animal to use a pain relief. We do feel that so long as the procedure is done humanly and with the best interest of the animal, without too much intervention is the best for the animal.

Regards,  
Pam Timothy

s 9(2)(a)



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Out of Scope

**From:** Warwick Mather s 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 May 2016 7:23 p.m.  
**To:** Animal Welfare Submissions  
**Subject:** Submission

To the Ministry of Primary Industries

This is my submission on the regulations released for consultation in April 2016.

#### 1. Factory Farming

I would like you to conduct a full and thorough review of factory farming as a whole, including all the animals trapped indoors in permanent confinement. We should not be regulating practices that breach NZ's own Animal Welfare Act, we should be looking into the future and creating a plan to ban them.

Please remove the regulations you have created regarding factory farmed animals, such as the ones that relate to farrowing crates and colony cages. Then set a date to review these and all other factory farming practices.

Factory farming is an abhorrent practice, and New Zealand needs a long term strategy for phasing it out. A factory farming review will send a message to industry to guide future investment, as well as give an opportunity to address the largest animal welfare issue facing New Zealand.

#### 2. Rodeos

I ask that you consider the evidence that rodeos are cruel, and ban them. The animals will not perform if not distressed by a variety of means, such as the flank strap.

#### 3. Circuses

I would like to you to ban the use of exotic animals in circuses. There is ample evidence that these animals suffer in captivity, and there is no reason to allow that suffering for entertainment purposes.

#### 4. Vivisection

There is a large body of scientific opinion and evidence that the testing on animals of substances designed for human use, is neither necessary nor at all reliable. There are readily available, other far more effective and reliable means of assessing substance impacts on humans. Testing on animals is barbaric and cruel in the extreme. All animals experience pain and fear exactly the same as humans do. To subject animals to vivisection procedures does not benefit any society that calls itself civilised. I ask that you set a date in the very near future for the banning of all vivisection in this country.

Signed: Warwick Mather, s 9(2)(a)



**From:** Roger and Lisa s 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 May 2016 7:18 p.m.  
**To:** Animal Welfare Submissions  
**Subject:** Submission

*To the Ministry of Primary Industries,  
This is my submission on the regulations released for consultation in April 2016.*

*I would like you to conduct a full and thorough review of factory farming as a whole, including all the animals trapped indoors in permanent confinement. We should not be regulating practices that breach NZ's own Animal Welfare Act, we should be looking into the future and creating a plan to ban them.*

*Please remove the regulations you have created regarding factory farmed animals, such as the ones that relate to farrowing crates and colony cages. Then set a date to review these and all other factory farming practices.*

*Factory farming is an abhorrent practice, and New Zealand needs a long term strategy for phasing it out. A factory farming review will send a message to industry to guide future investment, as well as give an opportunity to address the largest animal welfare issue facing New Zealand.*

*I also ask that you consider the evidence that rodeos are cruel, and ban them. The animals will not perform if not distressed by a variety of means, such as the flank strap.*

*Finally, I would like to you to ban the use of exotic animals in circuses. There is ample evidence that these animals suffer in captivity, and there is no reason to allow that suffering for entertainment purposes.*

*Regards,  
Lisa Davies  
Orewa*



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Out of Scope

**From:** Olivia Gunn and Phil Garaway s 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 May 2016 7:04 p.m.  
**To:** Animal Welfare Submissions  
**Subject:** Submission on Animal Welfare Regulations

My name is Olivia Gunn, we are contract milkers and equity partners on a 250ha dairy farm near s 9(2)(a). I grew up on a sheep and beef farm in the Te Anau and my partner Phillip Garaway grew up dairying throughout the north island. I studied at Lincoln University and have a Bachelor of Commerce in Agriculture. Phillip started as a dairy assistant and worked his way up the dairying ladder to the point we are now. Farming and animals are in our blood.

We have dairy farmed on the West Coast, Canterbury and Southland. We had Jorgen Hansen recommended to us for disbudding by s 9(2)(a) when we moved here in 2008. s 9(2)(a) is a 72 year old farmer that has been dairying or farming cattle since he could walk, he is literally the best and most experienced stockman that I have ever known, animal welfare is at the heart of what he does.

We have seen and have employed varying methods (with varying success) of disbudding over our combined careers with no method as fast, stress-free and effective as Jorgen Hansen's. I am told that he uses a Danish designed flat head cauterizing iron, all I know is he is brilliant at it, the system is great and the calves have forgotten all about it faster than any other method I have seen.

The calves do not have any stress prior to the procedure, so don't need to be moved, penned, crushed or injected. They stay in their same pen in the calf shed, they are expertly caught, placed on their side, disbudded and released. I have never had a calf go off its feed, bleed or get any sort of infection after using this method. I have however seen all of these things using other methods (especially bleeding post sedation). We have also heard of a number of sheds burning down with sedated calves in them and as recently as 2015. We have also had inexperienced vets turn up to disbud our calves. After sedating the calves they realised that their gas bottles were empty and the calves had to be sedated all over again. After this disbudding out of 80 we had 3 calves bleed seriously and 4 horns still grew.

We rear up to 250 calves every season, for 8 years Jorgen has disbudded our calves and for 8 years we have had quality service and absolutely no health problems associated with the disbudding of our calves. Those same calves have placed highly almost every year in the Western Southland heifer competition, winning once.

While we are pro animal welfare and are pleased so many issues are being looked at, we feel a blanket approach does not allow for the best methods to continue. We do not believe pain relief is essential for our method. It will cause the calves to undergo an extra procedure and the stress it will cause with the double handling will only unsettle them for disbudding. Thinking of calf welfare: far more calves are adversely affected by illness due to lack of vaccination (rotavirus), cramped damp housing and lack of adequate shelter and feeding than by not sedating them prior to disbudding. It seems to me that one small group of operators are going to be greatly disadvantaged for little or no positive effect on calf welfare.

We hope that Jorgen's method will be looked at properly and fairly and preferably not by biased vets who will be clipping the ticket if policy is changed. We hope to be able to continue using Jorgen and his (in our educated opinion) superior method of disbudding our calves. We do not have faith that just because it is a vet coming to sedate and disbud our calves that they will do a more professional job or that the calves will



be better off because of it. We get a professional AB technician to inseminate our cows, we use a professional scanner for pregnancy diagnosis and we use Jorgen Hansen to disbud our calves.

The answer is not sedating every calf, adding another process and more risk for disbudding. It should instead be focused on using people such as Jorgen to educate and train disbudders.

Yours sincerely

Olivia Gunn

s 9(2)(a)

Phillip Garaway

s 9(2)(a)

Brooklands Dairies Ltd

s 9(2)(a)

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Out of Scope

**From:** Glynis Daryl Shields <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 May 2016 6:41 p.m.  
**To:** Animal Welfare Submissions  
**Cc:** Mark Jorey  
**Subject:** Pro dog tail docking submission..

Kristo, our new Weimaraner dog imported recently from Poland , is a good example of why tails were traditionally docked - but not any more in his home country.

Kristo arrived with both his dew claws and his tail as required in Poland. Kristo is a very happy young dog - and now has a bleeding tail from knocking it on the cupboards in the house and on the fences in the yard. We are trying to get it to heal naturally, but as soon as the dressing comes off, he knocks again...His vet says part of his tail will likely have to be docked...

A couple of years ago, I talked to the local MP who was responsible for the original docking legislation, he said he'd never heard of dogs getting their tails injured and not healing properly - in his earlier career he had been a vet...

So much for common sense going out the window, meanwhile many farm animals suffer much worse indignities.

If I drove my farm bike to the kennels, threw in the male puppies which I couldn't sell, into the trailer then took them round the back of the shed and hit them over the head with a hammer, I'd likely go to prison - and rightly so!

If I put a hole in my dog's nose with a knife so that I could tie her to the fence so that her puppies could feed, I'd likely go to prison - and rightly so....

I could go on....

Vets and MPI should put their efforts into humane treatment of all animals and leave us who wish to get out our dogs' tails humanely docked alone!

Glynis Shields  
Rifleman Weimaraners

s 9(2)(a)

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Out of Scope

**From:** Beverley Reid § 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 May 2016 6:33 p.m.  
**To:** Animal Welfare Submissions  
**Subject:** Proposed Animal Welfare Regulations

Dear Sir/Madam

I attended the recent public meeting to discuss this in Auckland.

I was dismayed to see and hear how little of the proposed regulations addressed cats, considering they are the most prevalent pet in NZ.

I strongly think that all the minimum standards in the Companion Cat Code should be moved forward into the Proposed Animal Welfare Regulations so as to ensure the appropriate welfare of cats.

Beverley Reid

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**From:** Foxhaven Farms § 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 May 2016 6:20 p.m.  
**To:** Animal Welfare Submissions  
**Subject:** Proposed Animal Welfare Regulations Discussion Paper No: 2016/12  
**Attachments:** Foxhaven Farms Ltd.docxAnimal welfare 2016.docx

To whom it may concern,

Find attached my submission for the Proposed Animal Welfare Regulations Discussion Paper No: 2016/12

Please feel free to contact me if any clarification is needed. Can you also confirm that this has been received at your end in its entirety.

Many thanks

Tony Fox

§ 9(2)(a)

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18 May 2016

Foxhaven Farms Ltd

s 9(2)(a)

Animal Welfare Policy  
Ministry for Primary Industries  
P O Box 2526  
WELLINGTON 6140

Via email: [Animal.Welfaresubmissions@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:Animal.Welfaresubmissions@mpi.govt.nz)

Dear Sirs

**Proposed Animal Welfare Regulations (Care and Conduct and Surgical and Painful Procedures):  
MPI Discussion Paper No: 2016/12**

**A. Introduction and reasons for making submission**

I am the 3<sup>rd</sup> generation farming on this farm which is only 145 ha but because of my father's forethought it is well capable of supporting two families due to the fact he started breeding pigs in 1960. Pigs are the main income of the enterprise, annually turning over between 750,000 to 1 million dollars.

Generally 85% of that goes back out in costs which benefit many other businesses. We buy in 2 - 300,000 dollars' worth of grain and \$200,000 of other food stuffs. Fuel, animal health, transport, freight, power and wages make up the rest of our costs.

Many other people and companies benefit from our business.

Indoor pig farming, perhaps more so than other types of livestock farming, requires a professional attitude towards all aspects of good husbandry.

The health and wellbeing of our pigs is paramount to be an efficient and productive pig farm. To ensure this we employ top veterinary advice along with expert nutritionist instruction so as to keep abreast of what's best for our pigs.

Where and when we can, we improve or update our systems to better provide for them.

I think it is important to set and enforce appropriate animal welfare standards to support the integrity of our product for our consumers. But I have concerns that we have had limited time to fully consider and research the background and justification of some of these regulations. Surely we are better to take the time to ensure we get it right.

We fully support N.Z. Pork in their submission on behalf of commercial pig farmers and want to reiterate the following points:

1. There must be sound evidence of both science and an understanding of good commercial practice behind all regulations. There is no room for generalisations where people's livelihood is concerned.
2. Please provide analysis confirming the animal welfare benefit for all regulations confirmed.



3. All regulations must be workable. Please show how each of the confirmed regulations will operate whilst meeting health and safety and environmental requirements.
4. The economic impact of each proposal needs to be assessed before it is confirmed for implementation. For pig farming, any change in standards can involve significant costs to change housing, equipment and farming styles.
5. The Code of Welfare must not be overlooked.
6. Correct wording is crucial. It may take many attempts to get the regulations worded so that welfare is not compromised.
7. Will the regulations be enforceable? If too prescriptive they will stifle innovation.
8. Probably the most contentious of all issues is the fact that 60% of pork consumed in NZ is *imported* and *no* animal welfare requirements are set for such products.

If NZ regulations are unreasonable then the effect will be that many NZ pig farmers will be forced out of production. If/when that happens the NZ consumer won't have the ability to expect that the pork they eat comes from pigs whose welfare is provided for.

#### Proposals for regulations:

##### 1. Electric Prodders

Is there any scientific justification for prohibition? A prodder, when well used by a trained operator, is an effective tool to aid loading a group of pigs. Pigs are strong animals and can sometimes be stubborn, and balk, when moving to/up ramps but after a quick tap with a prodder they can be quickly encouraged to move and thus the subsequent group follow without the need to be forced. It could be argued that a short shock will do far less harm than alternative moving methods ie alkathene or sticks.

I would like to see an addition to the proposal which would include:

##### d) other animals:

- i: where the safety of the handler is at risk;
- ii: when loading

##### 24. Pigs – Dry Sleeping Area

At least half of complaints involve small scale or lifestyle operators. At different times, indoor pens are wetted for hygiene reasons; also sprinklers can be used for cooling in the summer. In deep litter sheds pigs will often choose not to live or sleep on dry bedding depending on temperature etc.

It's more an outdoor problem of small operators. We feel the regulation should be more closely based on the current minimum standard shelter for pigs outdoors;

"Pigs must be provided with access to a dry and drought free, but adequately vented lying area".

##### 26. Dry Sow Stalls

We support the regulation that dry sow stalls must not be used for the gestation period.

##### 27. Pigs – Size Of Farrowing Crates

We support the concept and support the wording in the current code.

##### 28. Pigs – Provision Of Nesting Material

We do not support this proposed regulation.

There was no consultation with industry when this was included in the 2010 code as a proposed minimum standard.



The NAWAC review (2016) concluded that for indoor systems there are no suitable alternatives to the use of farrowing crates. The modern systems are not amenable to the provision of manipulative material as it would block/clog slats and drains which would lead to hygiene issues both with the product directly affecting the new born piglets' health and secondly by effluent systems back flowing due to blockages.

We request that it is not set as a regulation until it is able to be met in a practical way that compliments all the welfare benefits of the current available farrowing systems.

34. Stock Transport – Cuts and Abrasions

This appears not to specifically target NZ commercial pig farmers. We operate under the auspices 'PigCare TM' guidelines which incorporate a 'fit to load' standard. It seems more of a transporter issue.

38. Stock Transport – Lamé Pigs

We support this proposal which appears to differentiate between degrees of lameness. Once again 'PigCare TM' accreditation covers this off.

39. Stock Transport – Animals that cannot bear weight evenly due to injury

We support this proposal if the same differentiations as for proposal 38 are applied.

40. Stock Transport – Pregnant Animals

We support the proposal.

55. All Animals – Dental Work

We support proposal.

80. Pigs – Castrations

We support as castration proposal only.

81. Pigs – Tail Docking

Would support an amended proposal:

Tail docking (over 7 days)

- Must be performed by a vet, or by a person trained and operating under veterinary instructions where it is not practical to undertake under 7 days of age.
- Pain relief must be used at the time of procedure.

Serious consideration is required by all parties involved with this proposed Animal Welfare Regulation discussion paper No: 2016/12

Regards

Tony Fox

Foxhaven Farms owner/operator



**From:** Peter O'Neill s 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 May 2016 6:17 p.m.  
**To:** Animal Welfare Submissions  
**Subject:** tail docking

To whom it may concern ,

I have a working English Springer spaniel which I use for the purpose it was bred for. it is no accident that these dogs have for 100years had their tails docked it is not for looks I assure you the nature of a spaniel and I am talking about a pure working strain dog they have a merry disposition and wag their tail furiously when stimulated socially especially when hunting. What happens when they hunt in cover this action is in overdrive and if the tail is long it gets damaged to the point of bleeding. I have recently bought a spaniel in from Ireland and did not get it till 17 months old and unfortunately it has a long tail but most times when I go out hunting it is damaged in any heavy cover and its whole coat has blood splashed all over it from its tail action I have photos of this if needed. For the welfare of a working spaniel they should have dispensation from having their tails docked or you end up causing unnecessary suffering which you are supposedley trying to stop.

Regards Peter O'Neill

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**From:** Natasha Hamilton s 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 May 2016 5:40 p.m.  
**To:** Animal Welfare Submissions  
**Subject:** Animal welfare submission

Ministry of Primary Industries  
Wellington

*This is my submission on the regulations released for consultation in April 2016.*

*I would like you to conduct a full and thorough review of factory farming as a whole, including all the animals trapped indoors in permanent confinement. We should not be regulating practices that breach NZ's own Animal Welfare Act, we should be looking into the future and creating a plan to ban them.*

*Please remove the regulations you have created regarding factory farmed animals, such as the ones that relate to farrowing crates and colony cages. Then set a date to review these and all other factory farming practices.*

*Factory farming is an abhorrent practice, and New Zealand needs a long term strategy for phasing it out. A factory farming review will send a message to industry to guide future investment, as well as give an opportunity to address the largest animal welfare issue facing New Zealand.*

*I also ask that you consider the evidence that rodeos are cruel, and ban them. The animals will not perform if not distressed by a variety of means, such as the flank strap.*

*Finally, I would like to you to ban the use of exotic animals in circuses. There is ample evidence that these animals suffer in captivity, and there is no reason to allow that suffering for entertainment purposes.*

Natasha Hamilton



**From:** VERA POINTON § 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 May 2016 5:48 p.m.  
**To:** Animal Welfare Submissions  
**Subject:** Submission re banding tails and dew claw removal  
**Attachments:** Animal Welfare feedback submission form.docx

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## Animal Welfare proposed regulations feedback submission form

Name Vera Pointon

Address s 9(2)(a)

Email address

Phone number

My feedback: I breed Rottweiler Dogs and German Shorthaired Pointers for 38 years.

Banding puppy tails at 0-3 days from birth is completely painless. Puppies are utterly unaware the band has been slipped onto the tail. In fact if its not in the right position, you can remove it and reposition it without the whelp noticing or showing any form of pain. It is not a surgical procedure, and does not need to be if done by an accredited experienced bander.

It is vital to band the tail of German Shorthaired Pointers who often work in heavy bush, gorse and blackberry cover. Tail injury risk is extremely high as the dog works the tail at a great rate to indicate he is on the scent of game. The shortened tail greatly reduces the risk of painful tail injuries which are extremely difficult to heal and cause great pain in the process.

Likewise the removal of the dew claws is essential to reduce risk of injury. I have seen many dogs with tumour growths on the dew claw if left on as it is constantly damaged and split. The whelp does not experience or display pain, when these are removed at or before 3 days from birth.

62. The proposed regulation states: Must be performed by a veterinarian or a veterinary student under the direct supervision of a veterinarian.

Must only be performed for therapeutic reasons

Pain relief must be used at the time of the procedure.

I disagree with this proposal in its entirety and advocate for the status quo and these are my reasons:

I am a member of the New Zealand Kennel Club (NZKC) and am a registered breeder of pedigree dogs.

I am an accredited member of the New Zealand Council of Docked Breeds (NZCDB) and have had my animal husbandry skills signed off by a veterinarian, who must complete my application for accreditation by either witnessing neonate puppies being banded or being in the presence of another accredited bander to enable me to perform tail shortening.

The NZCDB as an organisation was established in 2004 and our membership is focussed on the welfare of tail shortened breeds. We operate as a fully audited and regulated group under the umbrella of the NZKC with the approval of the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC).

I have never had a complaint or issue arise from any litter that I have completed banding on and to the best of my knowledge I understand that as an accredited group, we have performed tail shortening on over 10 500 neonate puppies without incident since 2005.

I am of the understanding that the procedure of tail banding (described by the NAWAC approved scheme) is vastly different from the process of tail amputation and as an accredited bander I only



perform the tail banding procedure under the Animal Welfare Act (No2) 2015 and this is not a surgical procedure.

The breeds that I am associated with and that are banded by me are traditionally docked dogs that still perform their duties that they were designed for.

I understand that in 2012 NAWAC agreed and suggested a study should be completed to dispel any myths around the process of tail banding, yet to date, this has not been carried out by NAWAC so I am surprised that this proposal has taken shape.

I understand that MPI partly funds both the RSPCA and NAWAC, yet they are both major stakeholders in writing this proposal which I see as being extremely one sided and is not factual. I also understand that the governing body of the professional dog world Namely the NZKC has over 6000 members, but NZKC were not included as a major stakeholder when writing these proposals and nor are they funded by the Ministry.

I understand that over 170 countries do not ban the tail shortening procedure however these countries are not spoken about in any documentation produced by MPI.

I understand that breed specifics are not taken into account when this proposal was documented and the groups largely involved in writing these have dealings mainly with crossbred non-pedigree (no registration with the NZKC) dogs. I would sincerely question the stakeholder's ability to answer such detailed questions around form and function of a specific breed for the purposes of this proposal.

I understand that another major stakeholder is an offshoot of the RSPCA namely HUHA. This group also deals with crossbred non-pedigree dogs yet they felt qualified to once again offer their opinion on pedigree dogs and the reasons for tail shortening.

I am of the belief that there is currently a process in place for the SPCA to act on individual cases that perform a tail shortening procedure illegally on a litter of non-registered NZKC members neonate puppies, however in the last 4 years I only know of 2 cases where the SPCA has acted on this information.

61. The proposed regulations states: Front limb dew claw removal and articulated (jointed) hind limb dew claw removal:

Must be performed by a veterinarian or a veterinary student under the direct supervision of a veterinarian;

Must only be performed for therapeutic reasons; and

Pain relief must be used at the time of the procedure

Hind limb dew claws: non-articulated (greater than or equal to four days of age)

Must be performed by a veterinarian or veterinary student under supervisions; and

Pain relief must be used at the time of the procedure.

I disagree with this proposal in its entirety and advocate for the status quo and these are my reasons:

When performing a dew claw removal, I complete this process in a neonate puppy 4 days of age or under. At this time it is a well-recognised fact that the toes and tail are the last part of the neonate



puppy to calcify and develop into bone. The neonate dewclaw is removed without cutting through bone (has not calcified) and does not bleed when performed correctly.

No other country in the world has proposed this procedure should not be practiced as the health and welfare of the dog will be compromised.

As a professional dog breeder and caretaker of my chosen breed, I am fully versed in the damage that a dew claw can cause to the dog if left on. My chosen breed has been bred to be used in its traditional purpose and the dew claw if left on would result in significant pain and suffering to the dog.

I understand that breed specifics are not taken into account when this proposal was documented and the groups largely involved in writing these have dealings mainly with crossbred non-pedigree (no registration with the NZKC) dogs. I would sincerely question the stakeholder's ability to answer such detailed questions around form and function of a specific breed for the purposes of this proposal.

I understand that another major stakeholder is an offshoot of the RSPCA namely HUHA. This group also deals with crossbred non-pedigree dogs yet they felt qualified to once again offer their opinion on pedigree dogs and the reasons for dew claw removal.

I understand that MPI partly funds both the RSPCA and NAWAC, yet they are both major stakeholders in writing this proposal which I see as being extremely one sided and is not factual. I also understand that the governing body of the professional dog world Namely the NZKC has over 6000 members, but NZKC were not included as a major stakeholder when writing these proposals and nor are they funded by the Ministry.

In my profession as a Groomer/Boarding Kennel facility I have witnessed many incidents of dew claws growing back into the skin of the dog as the pet owner doesn't understand how to trim the nails and often as the dog is of a coated variety, they are not aware of a dew claw being present.

I understand that not all front dew claws are articulated and once again the breed specifics have been ignored in this instance and MPI have been advised incorrectly.

I understand that the Groomers Association have not been contacted for information from their large membership to dispel the myths displayed in the proposed regulation and I further understand that the largest governing body (and only – NZKC) have also not been included in the proposal to not allow this process to remain as is.



SV 441

Out of Scope

**From:** Lucienne Ferres § 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 May 2016 5:34 p.m.  
**To:** Animal Welfare Submissions  
**Subject:** MPI Submissions  
**Attachments:** Animal Welfare proposed regulations feedback submission form.pdf

Attached please find my objections to the proposed Animal Welfare regulations.

Lucienne Ferres



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Animal Welfare proposed regulations feedback submission form

Lucienne Ferres

s 9(2)(a)

My feedback:

62. The proposed regulation states: Must be performed by a veterinarian or a veterinary student under the direct supervision of a veterinarian.

Must only be performed for therapeutic reasons

Pain relief must be used at the time of the procedure.

I disagree with this proposal in its entirety and advocate for the status quo and these are my reasons:

I am a member of the New Zealand Kennel Club (NZKC) and am a registered breeder of pedigree dogs.

I support the efforts of the New Zealand Council of Docked Breeds (NZCDB) whose practitioners have their animal husbandry skills signed off by a veterinarian, who must complete their applications for accreditation by either witnessing neonate puppies being banded or being in the presence of another accredited bander to enable them to perform tail shortening.

The NZCDB as an organisation was established in 2004 and membership is focussed on the welfare of tail shortened breeds. They operate as a fully audited and regulated group under the umbrella of the NZKC with the approval of the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC).

I have never known of a complaint or issue arising from any litter that have undergone banding and to the best of my knowledge I understand that as an accredited group, they have performed tail shortening on over 10 500 neonate puppies without incident since 2005.

I am of the understanding that the procedure of tail banding (described by the NAWAC approved scheme) is vastly different from the process of tail amputation and accredited banders only perform the tail banding procedure under the Animal Welfare Act (No2) 2015 and this is not a surgical procedure.

The breeds that I am associated with are not banded but breeds and that are banded are traditionally docked dogs that still perform their duties that they were designed for.

I understand that in 2012 NAWAC agreed and suggested a study should be completed to dispel any myths around the process of tail banding, yet to date, this has not been carried out by NAWAC so I am surprised that this proposal has taken shape.

I understand that MPI partly funds both the RSPCA and NAWAC, yet they are both major stakeholders in writing this proposal which I see as being extremely one sided and is not factual. I also understand that the governing body of the professional dog world Namely the NZKC has over 6000 members, but NZKC were not included as a major stakeholder when writing these proposals and nor are they funded by the Ministry.



I understand that over 170 countries do not ban the tail shortening procedure however these countries are not spoken about in any documentation produced by MPI.

I understand that breed specifics are not taken into account when this proposal was documented and the groups largely involved in writing these have dealings mainly with crossbred non-pedigree (no registration with the NZKC) dogs. I would sincerely question the stakeholder's ability to answer such detailed questions around form and function of a specific breed for the purposes of this proposal.

I understand that another major stakeholder is an offshoot of the RSPCA namely HUHA. This group also deals with crossbred non-pedigree dogs yet they felt qualified to once again offer their opinion on pedigree dogs and the reasons for tail shortening.

I am of the belief that there is currently a process in place for the SPCA to act on individual cases that perform a tail shortening procedure illegally on a litter of non-registered NZKC members' neonate puppies, however in the last 4 years I only know of 2 cases where the SPCA has acted on this information.

61. The proposed regulations states: Front limb dew claw removal and articulated (jointed) hind limb dew claw removal:

Must be performed by a veterinarian or a veterinary student under the direct supervision of a veterinarian;

Must only be performed for therapeutic reasons; and

Pain relief must be used at the time of the procedure

Hind limb dew claws: non-articulated (greater than or equal to four days of age)

Must be performed by a veterinarian or veterinary student under supervisions; and

Pain relief must be used at the time of the procedure.

I disagree with this proposal in its entirety and advocate for the status quo and these are my reasons:

I have been breeding and showing since 1974 and when I have a litter's dew claws removed, I have this process performed in a neonate puppy 4 days of age or under. At this time it is a well-recognised fact that the toes and tail are the last part of the neonate puppy to calcify and develop into bone. The neonate dewclaw is removed without cutting through bone (has not calcified) and does not bleed when performed correctly.

No other country in the world has proposed this procedure should not be practiced as the health and welfare of the dog will be compromised.

As a professional dog breeder and caretaker of my chosen breed, I have personal experience in the damage and excruciating pain that a dew claw can cause to the dog if left on and is torn or allowed to grow into the leg if left uncut. My chosen breed has been bred to be used in its traditional purpose and the dew claw if left on would result in significant pain and suffering to the dog.

I understand that breed specifics are not taken into account when this proposal was documented and the groups largely involved in writing these have dealings mainly with crossbred non-pedigree (no registration with the NZKC) dogs. I would sincerely question the stakeholder's ability to answer such detailed questions around form and function of a specific breed for the purposes of this proposal.



I understand that another major stakeholder is an offshoot of the RSPCA namely HUHA. This group also deals with crossbred non-pedigree dogs yet they felt qualified to once again offer their opinion on pedigree dogs and the reasons for dew claw removal.

I understand that MPI partly funds both the RSPCA and NAWAC, yet they are both major stakeholders in writing this proposal which I see as being extremely one sided and is not factual. I also understand that the governing body of the professional dog world Namely the NZKC has over 6000 members, but NZKC were not included as a major stakeholder when writing these proposals and nor are they funded by the Ministry.

In my profession as a Groomer/Boarding Kennel facility I have witnessed many incidents of dew claws growing back into the skin of the dog as the pet owner doesn't understand how to trim the nails and often as the dog is of a coated variety, they are not aware of a dew claw being present.

I understand that not all front dew claws are articulated and once again the breed specifics have been ignored in this instance and MPI have been advised incorrectly.

I understand that the Groomers Association have not been contacted for information from their large membership to dispel the myths displayed in the proposed regulation and I further understand that the largest governing body (and only – NZKC) have also not been included in the proposal to not allow this process to remain as is.

Yours sincerely,

Lucienne Ferres



✓  
35 (442)

Out of Scope

**From:** s 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 May 2016 5:27 p.m.  
**To:** Animal Welfare Submissions  
**Subject:** Animal Welfare Proposal  
**Attachments:** Animal Welfare proposed regulations feedback submission open form.doc

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)

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Please Note your Submission needs to be into MPI by 5PM Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May  
Email To: animal.welfaresubmissions@mpi.govt.nz

## Animal Welfare proposed regulations feedback submission:

ADD Your Name Jan Haley

s 9(2)(a)

My Views and Responses as Below.

62. The proposed regulation states: Must be performed by a veterinarian or a veterinary student under the direct supervision of a veterinarian.

Must only be performed for therapeutic reasons

Pain relief must be used at the time of the procedure.

I disagree with this proposal in its entirety and advocate for the status quo and these are my reasons:

I am a member of the New Zealand Kennel Club (NZKC).

Within the NZKC is the NZ Council of Docked Breeds who operate as a fully audited and regulated group under the umbrella of the NZKC with the approval of the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC). There accredited Members carry out the Banding and Dew Claw removal under strict and Measured Standards.

I am of the understanding that the procedure of tail banding (described by the NAWAC approved scheme) is vastly different from the process of tail amputation and an accredited bander will only perform the tail banding procedure under the Animal Welfare Act (No2) 2015 and this is not a surgical procedure.

The breeds that I am associated with and that are banded are traditionally docked dogs that still perform their duties that they were designed for.

I understand that in 2012 NAWAC agreed and suggested a study should be completed to dispel any myths around the process of tail banding, yet to date, this has not been carried out by NAWAC so I am surprised that this proposal has taken shape.

I understand that MPI partly funds both the RSPCA and NAWAC, yet they are both major stakeholders in writing this proposal which I see as being extremely one sided and is not factual. I also understand that the governing body of the professional dog world Namely the NZKC has over 6000 members, but NZKC were not included as a major stakeholder when writing these proposals and nor are they funded by the Ministry.

I understand that over 170 countries do not ban the tail shortening procedure however these countries are not spoken about in any documentation produced by MPI.

I understand that breed specifics are not taken into account when this proposal was documented and the groups largely involved in writing these have dealings mainly with crossbred non-pedigree (no registration with the NZKC) dogs. I would sincerely question the stakeholder's ability to answer



such detailed questions around form and function of a specific breed for the purposes of this proposal.

I understand that another major stakeholder is an offshoot of the RSPCA namely HUHA. This group also deals with crossbred non-pedigree dogs yet they felt qualified to once again offer their opinion on pedigree dogs and the reasons for tail shortening.

I am of the belief that there is currently a process in place for the SPCA to act on individual cases that perform a tail shortening procedure illegally on a litter of non-registered NZKC members neonate puppies, however in the last 4 years I only know of 2 cases where the SPCA has acted on this information.

I believe the Shortening of a Dogs Tail has Absolutely no effect on their ability to Communicate, Swim or Run and is purely an emotive argument which is impossible to base on fact as the overwhelming evidence proves otherwise.

Currently Tail injuries are only a small percentage of why Dogs are presented to a Veterinary Clinic and this is because a lot are shortened and if they were left long there will be a huge increase in this issue which can be a very drawn out and painful experience for the Dog.

61. The proposed regulations states: Front limb dew claw removal and articulated (jointed) hind limb dew claw removal:

Must be performed by a veterinarian or a veterinary student under the direct supervision of a veterinarian;

Must only be performed for therapeutic reasons; and

Pain relief must be used at the time of the procedure

Hind limb dew claws: non-articulated (greater than or equal to four days of age)

Must be performed by a veterinarian or veterinary student under supervisions; and

Pain relief must be used at the time of the procedure.

I disagree with this proposal in its entirety and advocate for the status quo and these are my reasons:

When performing a dew claw removal, The process is completed in a neonate puppy 4 days of age or under. At this time it is a well-recognised fact that the toes and tail are the last part of the neonate puppy to calcify and develop into bone. The neonate dewclaw is removed without cutting through bone (has not calcified) and does not bleed when performed correctly.

No other country in the world has proposed this procedure should not be practiced as the health and welfare of the dog will be compromised.

As a caretaker of my chosen breed, I am fully versed in the damage that a dew claw can cause to the dog if left on. My chosen breed has been bred to be used in its traditional purpose and the dew claw if left on would result in significant pain and suffering to the dog.

I understand that breed specifics are not taken into account when this proposal was documented and the groups largely involved in writing these have dealings mainly with crossbred non-pedigree (no registration with the NZKC) dogs. I would sincerely question the stakeholder's ability to answer such detailed questions around form and function of a specific breed for the purposes of this proposal.



I understand that another major stakeholder is an offshoot of the RSPCA namely HUHA. This group also deals with crossbred non-pedigree dogs yet they felt qualified to once again offer their opinion on pedigree dogs and the reasons for dew claw removal.

I understand that MPI partly funds both the RSPCA and NAWAC, yet they are both major stakeholders in writing this proposal which I see as being extremely one sided and is not factual. I also understand that the governing body of the professional dog world Namely the NZKC has over 6000 members, but NZKC were not included as a major stakeholder when writing these proposals and nor are they funded by the Ministry.

There have been many incidents of dew claws growing back into the skin of the dog as the pet owner doesn't understand how to trim the nails and often as the dog is of a coated variety, they are not aware of a dew claw being present.

I understand that not all front dew claws are articulated and once again the breed specifics have been ignored in this instance and MPI have been advised incorrectly.

I understand that the Groomers Association have not been contacted for information from their large membership to dispel the myths displayed in the proposed regulation and I further understand that the largest governing body (and only – NZKC) have also not been included in the proposal to not allow this process to remain as is.

Ironically both the Shortening of Tails and Removal of Dew Claws are done at Birth for the Dogs best interest and long term Health. WE care for our dogs more than any Vet or Government Agency and would never do anything to them we didn't believe was in there best interest.

Thank You,



V  
SS 493

Out of Scope

**From:** Frances Lee s 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 May 2016 5:17 p.m.  
**To:** Animal Welfare Submissions  
**Subject:** Animal Welfare Policy

TO THE MINISTRY OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

SUBMISSION FROM -  
FRANCES M C LEE s 9(2)(a)

SUBMISSION ON -  
Review of the animal welfare regulations currently taking place.

I strongly oppose the Ministry's regulations regarding factory farmed animals, eg. those relating to farrowing crates and colony cages.

They should be thoroughly re-reviewed together with any other factory farming practices, particularly those that involve any animals trapped indoors in permanent confinement.

I find factory farming thoroughly abhorrent and New Zealand desperately needs a strategy for phasing it out. I only purchase eggs - and very occasional bacon/pork - from sources that show the SPCA ticks. A change in the regulations would show industries that they must adjust future investments to meet such new conditions, which also would be acceptable to many of the public.

It would also tell the world that we in New Zealand care for these sentient animals and do not regard them as "industrial fodder".

Whilst writing, I also believe that rodeos are cruel and should be banned. The animals are made to perform by a variety of distressive means - such as the flank strap - to give gratification to a few members of the public. Similarly the performances of animals in circuses is obnoxious - there is evidence that these animals suffer both in training and in captivity, and their appearances should not be permitted for entertainment purposes.

Thank you for the opportunity to make my comments on this important subject.



✓  
SS (444)

**From:** Marcelo Rodriguez Ferrere s 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 May 2016 4:51 p.m.  
**To:** Animal Welfare Submissions  
**Subject:** Submission on Animal Welfare Regulations  
**Attachments:** 4903\_001.pdf; ATT00001.htm

To whom it may concern,

Please find **attached** my submission on the proposed Animal Welfare (Care of and Conduct Towards Animals) Regulations. If possible, I would very much appreciate acknowledgement of receipt.

Sincerely,

**Marcelo Rodriguez Ferrere**

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Animal Welfare Policy  
Ministry for Primary Industries  
PO Box 2526  
Wellington 6140

17 May 2016

**By email**

To whom it may concern,

**SUBMISSION ON PROPOSED REGULATIONS FOR THE CARE OF AND  
CONDUCT TOWARDS ANIMALS**

As a researcher in (and lecturer of) the law regulating the human-non-human animal relationship in New Zealand, I wish to thank you for the opportunity to submit on the Ministry for Primary Industries' (MPI) proposed regulations relating to the care of and conduct towards animals under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 (the **Act**).

The ability to promulgate such regulations was, in my submission, one of the most important and welcome developments in the Animal Welfare Amendment Act 2015. I agreed with the 2011/2012 Review of the Act, which identified the enforceability and transparency as major flaws in the Act, and similarly agree with the MPI's view that regulations are one of the most effective way of addressing those flaws. To that extent, it is buoying to see the proposed promulgation of such a comprehensive and extensive suite of regulations so soon after the Amendment Act's enactment.

However, although I agree and support such regulatory action in principle, my main submission relates to what I submit amounts to a flawed consultation process. Given the extensiveness of the regulatory action proposed, the period provided for consultation with the broader public is simply inadequate.

The *Cabinet Manual 2008* notes at [7.88] that "Care needs to be taken to ensure that sufficient time is allowed for meaningful consultation, and that proper consultation takes place." In my submission, a period of just 35 days to digest and meaningfully submit upon 85 proposed regulations is a near impossible task, and as a result, the consultation is neither meaningful nor proper.

In making such a submission, I acknowledge that the consultation process has also included workshops with key stakeholders in 2015, and further public meetings in 2016. However, for those not invited to such pre-consultation events, confronted with a document over 100 pages is a difficult task. Key industry groups, who were provided with targeted consultation during the workshop phase in August/September 2015, have the twin benefit of needing only to provide submissions on the regulations that affect their particular industry and significant resources at their disposal to provide extensive and detailed submissions. Interested parties – such as myself – who were not part of the targeted consultation period, and who have views on each specific regulation, as well as the overall nature



and effect of this regulatory action, are, conversely at a twin disadvantage. Lacking the equivalent resources, and holding views on a far broader swathe of the proposed regulations, I have been in the difficult position to either focus upon one particular aspect of the proposed regulations, or provide inadequate submissions on a greater number of the proposed regulations. These are only compounded by MPI seeking consultation on another set of regulations (live animal export) simultaneously. Placed in this position, I have – very reluctantly – chosen to use this opportunity to identify the inadequacies with this consultation process rather than make a substantive submission.

Well-resourced industry groups are given an unjustifiable advantage in this consultation process, potentially leading to the very real danger of MPI receiving a distorted set of responses unreflective of actual views held by all interested parties. While this period for consultation may be not out of the ordinary compared to other regulation consultation periods in other sectors, the volume of proposed regulations, and the level of interested parties, ought to have necessitated a longer period. MPI would not have been at a disadvantage with a longer period of consultation, and it would have received a much greater level and depth of responses.

Accordingly, whilst I support the promulgation of such regulations in theory, I fear the regulations that result will be the product of consultation process that favoured a particular sector of interested parties, and will be the poorer for it. Accordingly, I do not consider this consultation process as meaningful, or effective, and instead represents a missed opportunity to create a set of regulations that places the welfare of animals at its centre, rather than the interests of those groups that use them for commercial gain.

I have declined to answer the specific questions asked by MPI in its Discussion Paper, since none address the adequacy of the consultation process. However, given the foregoing concerns I have expressed about the impact the process will have on the resulting regulations, in answer to Question 18: *"How should MPI best engage with stakeholders to monitor and review the impact of the proposed regulations?"*, I believe that such ongoing monitoring and review is critical, and would endorse extensive public engagement in this review process. It is also important that MPI commit to changing any regulations as the result of any review: one of the most useful elements of such subordinate legislation is the ease of amendment, and thus it is incumbent upon MPI to ensure any deficiencies in the regulations that become apparent are cured as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your time in considering this submission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M.B. Rodriguez Ferrere', followed by a long horizontal line.

M. B. Rodriguez Ferrere



✓  
JJS (445)

Out of Scope

**From:** Janet Crawford s 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 May 2016 4:21 p.m.  
**To:** Animal Welfare Submissions  
**Subject:** Animal Welfare

To the Ministry of Primary Industries,  
This is my submission on the regulations released for consultation in April 2016.

I would like you to conduct a full and thorough review of factory farming as a whole, including all the animals trapped indoors in permanent confinement. We should not be regulating practices that breach NZ's own Animal Welfare Act, we should be looking into the future and creating a plan to ban them.

Please remove the regulations you have created regarding factory farmed animals, such as the ones that relate to farrowing crates and colony cages. Then set a date to review these and all other factory farming practices.

Factory farming is an abhorrent practice, and New Zealand needs a long term strategy for phasing it out. A factory farming review will send a message to industry to guide future investment, as well as give an opportunity to address the largest animal welfare issue facing New Zealand.

Janet Crawford

--

s 9(2)(a)  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

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**From:** tracy quinn s 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 May 2016 4:16 p.m.  
**To:** Animal Welfare Submissions  
**Subject:** Subject: Animal Welfare Regulations feedback submission form  
**Attachments:** nz doc.1.pdf

To Whom it may concern,  
Please find attached a copy of the Animal Welfare Regulations feedback submission form.  
Kind regards  
Tracy Versteegen

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18/5/2016

Animal Welfare proposed regulations feedback submission form

Name Tracy Versteegen (Dobermann Owner/Caretaker)

s 9(2)(a)

62. The proposed regulation states: Must be performed by a veterinarian or a veterinary student under the direct supervision of a veterinarian.  
Must only be performed for therapeutic reasons  
Pain relief must be used at the time of the procedure.

I disagree with this proposal in its entirety and advocate for the status quo and these are my reasons:

I believe that the banding of tails is done by a accredited member of the New Zealand Council of Docked Breeds (NZCDB), and a Veterinarian must complete the application for accreditation by either witnessing neonate puppies being banded or being in the presence of another accredited bander to enable and perform tail shortening.

The NZCDB as an organisation was established in 2004 and our membership is focussed on the welfare of tail shortened breeds. We operate as a fully audited and regulated group under the umbrella of the NZKC with the approval of the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC).

I have never heard of any complaints or issue arise from any litters that have completed banding on and to the best of my knowledge I understand that as an accredited group, we have performed tail shortening on over 10 500 neonate puppies without incident since 2005.

I am of the understanding that the procedure of tail banding (described by the NAWAC approved scheme) is vastly different from the process of tail amputation and as an accredited bander I only perform the tail banding procedure under the Animal Welfare Act (No2) 2015 and this is not a surgical procedure.

The breeds that I am associated with and that are banded are traditionally docked dogs that still perform their duties that they were designed for.

I understand that in 2012 NAWAC agreed and suggested a study should be completed to dispel any myths around the process of tail banding, yet to date, this has not been carried out by NAWAC so I am surprised that this proposal has taken shape.

I understand that MPI partly funds both the RSPCA and NAWAC, yet they are both major stakeholders in writing this proposal which I see as being extremely one sided and is not factual. I also understand that the governing body of the professional dog world Namely the NZKC has over 6000 members, but NZKC were not included as a major stakeholder when writing these proposals and nor are they funded by the Ministry.



I understand that over 170 countries do not ban the tail shortening procedure however these countries are not spoken about in any documentation produced by MPI.  
I have owned Dobermanns all of my life and have seen some horrific tail injuries which have endured extensive pain to the animal which led to a surgical procedure later in life.

I understand that breed specifics are not taken into account when this proposal was documented and the groups largely involved in writing these have dealings mainly with crossbred non-pedigree (no registration with the NZKC) dogs. I would sincerely question the stakeholder's ability to answer such detailed questions around form and function of a specific breed for the purposes of this proposal.

I understand that another major stakeholder is an offshoot of the RSPCA namely HUHA. This group also deals with crossbred non-pedigree dogs yet they felt qualified to once again offer their opinion on pedigree dogs and the reasons for tail shortening.

I am of the belief that there is currently a process in place for the SPCA to act on individual cases that perform a tail shortening procedure illegally on a litter of non-registered NZKC members neonate puppies, however in the last 4 years I only know of 2 cases where the SPCA has acted on this information.

61. The proposed regulations states: Front limb dew claw removal and articulated (jointed) hind limb dew claw removal:

Must be performed by a veterinarian or a veterinary student under the direct supervision of a veterinarian;

Must only be performed for therapeutic reasons; and

Pain relief must be used at the time of the procedure

Hind limb dew claws: non-articulated (greater than or equal to four days of age)

Must be performed by a veterinarian or veterinary student under supervisions; and

Pain relief must be used at the time of the procedure.

I disagree with this proposal in its entirety and advocate for the status quo and these are my reasons:

When performing a dew claw removal, the process is in a neonate puppy 4 days of age or under. At this time it is a well-recognised fact that the toes and tail are the last part of the neonate puppy to calcify and develop into bone. The neonate dewclaw is removed without cutting through bone (has not calcified) and does not bleed when performed correctly.

No other country in the world has proposed this procedure should not be practiced as the health and welfare of the dog will be compromised.

As a professional caretaker of my chosen breed, I am fully versed in the damage that a dew claw can cause to the dog if left on. My chosen breed has been bred to be used in its traditional purpose and the dew claw if left on would result in significant pain and suffering to the dog.

I understand that breed specifics are not taken into account when this proposal was documented and the groups largely involved in writing these have dealings mainly with crossbred non-pedigree (no registration with the NZKC) dogs. I would sincerely question the stakeholder's ability to answer such detailed questions around form and function of a specific breed for the purposes of this proposal.



I understand that another major stakeholder is an offshoot of the RSPCA namely HUHA. This group also deals with crossbred non-pedigree dogs yet they felt qualified to once again offer their opinion on pedigree dogs and the reasons for dew claw removal.

I understand that the Groomers Association have not been contacted for information from their large membership to dispel the myths displayed in the proposed regulation and I further understand that the largest governing body (and only – NZKC) have also not been included in the proposal to not allow this process to remain as is.

*Versteegm* 18/5/16  
*A Gunn* 18/5/16

s 9(2)(a)



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✓SS 447

Out of Scope

**From:** HAWTHORNE MARTIN, MAJ s 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 May 2016 4:10 p.m.  
**To:** Animal Welfare Submissions  
**Subject:** Submission on Proposed Animal Welfare Regulations (Unclassified)

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to submit a proposal against the ban of Tail Docking. Not only as an owner of a number of English Springer Spaniels but also as the President of the Working Spaniel Club New Zealand (WSCNZ).

I have been an owner/breeder/trainer and now a probationary judge of working Spaniels for over 40 years. I emigrated from the UK in 2006 where we went through a number of changes to the regulations in regards to tail docking. The first being that only a qualified Vet was permitted to dock and remove due claws. Although a number of Vets were against this and I believe the overarching body of Vets made it clear they would not tolerate Vets carrying out the procedures. Although contrary to this a body was formed called The Council for Docked Breeds and Vets could register, secretly, with the council. As an owner of Spaniels I had to then join the Council to gain access to a vet that was willing to dock and remove due claws. All of a 'back door' shenanigans! ☺

Later the law changed and if I could prove that the puppies were from a working home, e.g. show my shot gun licence then I was allowed to have the puppies tails docked.

Having recently had a litter of working English Springer Spaniels, in NZ, I had to get a 'qualified' person to 'band' the tails to which I must say I was not happy in the fact that the pups suffer with some elastic tied around the tail to eventually drop off!!

I would like to propose that the regulations for tail docking are NOT banned and a compromise is reached, as in the UK, that working Spaniels and other gundog breeds are allowed to have their tails docked by a Vet that is willing to carry out the docking. I currently have a male Spaniel, imported from the UK, who suffered with quite a bad wound on the end of his tail and due to the nature of Spaniels every time it would scab over he would knock the scab off and bleed profusely and his tail is  $\frac{3}{4}$  length!!

Please accept this submission from me as an individual and on behalf of the WSCNZ NOT to ban tail docking in its entirety. I believe that under the age of 3 days tails should be docked and not by the use of a piece of elastic but more along the lines of how it is carried out with lambs and a heated sharp cutter by a willing qualified Vet.

Kind regards

Major Martin Hawthorne Adv DipLog.

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)



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551 (448)

Out of Scope

**From:** Hazelwood, Rob s 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 May 2016 4:02 p.m.  
**To:** Animal Welfare Submissions  
**Subject:** Submission on Animal Welfare Regulations.  
**Attachments:** Submission on Animal Welfare Regulations.pdf

Attached is our submission on the proposed Animal Welfare Regulations.

Regards

Rob Hazelwood

Notice: This e-mail message, together with any attachments, contains information of Merck & Co., Inc. (2000 Galloping Hill Road, Kenilworth, New Jersey, USA 07033), and/or its affiliates Direct contact information for affiliates is available at <http://www.merck.com/contact/contacts.html>) that may be confidential, proprietary copyrighted and/or legally privileged. It is intended solely for the use of the individual or entity named on this message. If you are not the intended recipient, and have received this message in error, please notify us immediately by reply e-mail and then delete it from your system.

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33 Whakatiki Street  
Private Bag 908  
Upper Hutt 5140  
T 04 5296090

s 9(2)(a)

www.msd-animal-health.co.nz



**MSD**  
Animal Health

18 May 2016

Animal Welfare Policy  
Ministry of Primary Industries  
PO Box 2526  
Wellington 6140

**Submission on Proposed Animal Welfare Regulations - MPI Discussion Paper 2016:12  
Proposal 57 Companion Animals – De-sexing.**

MSDAH New Zealand is required by regulation to prove the efficacy of its vaccines. This requires the use of rabbits, and is carried out under part 6 of the Animal Welfare Act. To promote good welfare outcomes, these rabbits are generally group housed in floor pens. To achieve this, male rabbits are castrated when young. This avoids aggression among the males, and prevents unwanted pregnancies among female pen mates.

The castrations are carried by our trained technicians, under anaesthesia. As part of the training process, technicians must prove their competency to a registered veterinarian. Anaesthesia is also provided by our technicians, who are trained in the use of RVMs. This process is covered by an approved MPI Operating Plan, and technician competency is verified by a registered veterinarian.

We believe this approach meets all the aims of both The Act and the proposed regulations, and achieves good animal welfare outcomes.

We request that an exception from proposal 57, be provided for this type of circumstance.

Yours Sincerely

Rob Hazelwood



**From:** Stephen Zanetti s 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 May 2016 3:55 p.m.  
**To:** Animal Welfare Submissions  
**Subject:** Submission on Animal Welfare Regulations

To the Ministry of Primary Industries,  
This is my submission on the regulations released for consultation in April 2016.

I would like you to conduct a full and thorough review of factory farming as a whole, including all the animals trapped indoors in permanent confinement. We should not be regulating practices that breach NZ's own Animal Welfare Act, we should be looking into the future and creating a plan to ban them.

Please remove the regulations you have created regarding factory farmed animals, such as the ones that relate to farrowing crates and colony cages. Then set a date to review these and all other factory farming practices.

Factory farming is an abhorrent practice, and New Zealand needs a long term strategy for phasing it out. A factory farming review will send a message to industry to guide future investment, as well as give an opportunity to address the largest animal welfare issue facing New Zealand.

regards,  
Stephen Zanetti  
s 9(2)(a)

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## National Dog Groomers Association of New Zealand

Sheila Morris

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)

Member contact details: Name, address, email phone number

s 9(2)(a)

The National Dog Groomers Association of New Zealand was founded in 1990 and our group now has a membership of 377 and growing.

This is an organization representing the standards, goals, aspirations and image of the Professional Pet Groomers. Our primary intention is aimed at uniting groomers through membership and in this way we hope to form a professional and sincere alliance that will benefit the grooming industry by recognizing the true and committed professional. NDGA provides advanced continuing educational programs designed to enhance the expertise and business acumen of professional pet groomers and provides one an opportunity to expand professional contacts, to make friends with individuals with common interest.

NDGA along with continuing education has formatted Master Groomer's program for those groomers wanting to bring their skills to Global industry standard. It involves a 4 year process featuring Gun Dog Group, Terriers Group, Non Sporting Group and a Final exam on Toy Group. The groomer must do a workshop for each group, complete a timed practical exam and sit a written



exam on each group to gain breed specific knowledge. The practical exam is graded by an examiner and not all pass. Along with the importance of skill NDGA advocates safe operating standards. Health and Safety and good Animal Welfare practices are at the top.

**Feed Back on 61 Dogs Dew Claws** The proposed regulations state Front Limb dew claw removal and articulated (jointed) hind limb dew claw removal:

Must be performed by a veterinarian or veterinary student under the direct supervision of a veterinarian:

Must only be performed for therapeutic reasons; and

Pain relief must be used at the time of the procedure

Hind limb dew claw: non articulated (greater than or equal to four days of age)

Must be performed by a veterinarian or veterinary student under supervision; and

Pain relief must be used at the time of the procedure.

***National Dog Groomers Association of New Zealand disagrees with this proposal in its entirety.***

The dog grooming professional members groom and average of 6 to 10 dogs a day. The groomers are the first stop to finding problems relating to dew claws or many health issues. We see a variety of breeds and a very high percentage of mixed breed dogs. We see at least 7% of our monthly grooms with dew claw problems. We see curled around nails in bedded into the dogs flesh causing severe tissue damage. This has many times has been long term and considerably painful to the dog. There are 377 members and there are more groomers out there not members so the statistics are low.

Based on 10 dogs groomed a day by our members is 75,400 grooms per month at 7% gives us 5,278 dogs with dew claw issues. The grand total of 63,336 dogs a year before a veterinarian even see's the dog. Most people do not like cutting their dogs nails and leave it until it is too late.



It is our understanding that MPI partly funds RSPCA and NAWAC, yet they are both major stakeholders in writing this proposal which we see as one sided and not factual. The NZKC has a large membership of 6000 members and our NDGA with a membership of 377 were not considered as a major stakeholder. Not to include the fact our members service **modestly 904,800** grooming dogs annually. Most times we are the first stop in identifying a problem with a dog.

Many of our members are acting under the documented quality assurance scheme that assures compliance with in the minimum standard. As far as we know there are no complaints about the existing accredited scheme.

When the qualified individuals perform the removal of dew claws the puppies are in the **NOENATE** puppy age 4 days of age or under. At this time, it is a well recognized fact that the toes and tail are the last part of the neonate puppy to calcify and develop into bone. The neonate dewclaw is removed without cutting through bone and does not bleed when performed correctly. This falls under the non articulated bone.

***NDGA believes the breeder should have the choice to remove dew claws and should be done by an accredited scheme or veterinarian.***

Photo's to be attached: