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Canine Control Council (Queensland)

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF
The Royal National Agricultural & Industrial Association of Queensland
ABN 26 794 470 892
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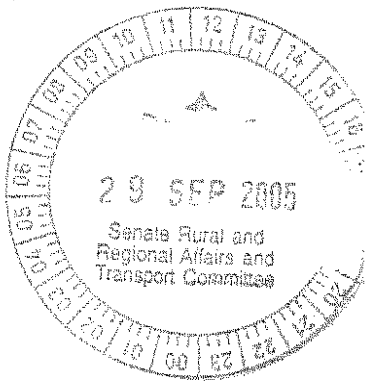

In reply please quote

27 September 2005

Committee Secretary
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee
Department of the Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir or Madam

National Animal Welfare Bill 2005

The Canine Control Council (Queensland) [CCC(Q)] comprises 9000 members and 142 Affiliated Clubs and has the Objective of "To promote in every way the general improvement of the standard, breeding and exhibition of pure bred registered dogs".

The CCC(Q) by way of this Submission, wishes to make the Senate Committee aware on its policy position on the *National Animal Welfare Bill 2005:*

- It acknowledges and supports the development and use of appropriate animal welfare legislation aimed at improving the welfare of animals in Australia. However, it questions the need for the proposed wide-ranging national legislation and, if national legislation is to be put in place that it should deal with animal management which animal welfare plays a key part rather than limited to animal welfare.
- It acknowledges that there is merit in there being legislation to achieve consistency of animal welfare policy. However, that this needs to be considered developed after agreement has been reached on the interests, respective responsibilities and powers of the Commonwealth, State and Local Governments in this area. It would appear that the Commonwealth's legitimate interest might be in the areas of trade and the dealing with its own animals, with the area of animal management being for States and Local Governments.
- It considers that any such legislation should reflect outcomes that can be supported by scientific fact rather than on personal "values" irrespective of how well-intentioned they might be.
- It considers that there is a lack of real certainty that the proposed creation of an Animal Welfare Authority and the undue reliance on punitive action will bring about behavioural change outcomes being sought. CCC(Q) believes that behavioural change requires the use of a range of mechanisms
- It would like to see evidence that the likely consequences, including on costs of implementation, who is to bear such costs and on individual's and animals' rights needs have been established, before such legislation is considered by the Commonwealth. CCC(Q) is of the view that any such legislation should follow from community input arising from its consideration of a discussion paper prepared by the Commonwealth on this topic.

- It considers that in light of proposals to reduce Commonwealth taxation income and the need the resources to implement the proposed National Animal Welfare Authority that the Commonwealth should justify why any priority might be given to this over other issues of community concern.

While there are a significant number of specific comments that CCC(Q) could make on the Bill e.g. the apparent imbalance on the proposed membership of the National Animal Welfare Authority (2 members representing commercial producers or users of animals or animal products with out of a total authority of 14 and no guarantee that the 2 members representing community groups will be reflecting main stream community views).

Because CCC(Q) believes that such matters need wider canvassing it is proposing that the issue of a *National Animal Welfare Bill 2005* be put to the Urban Animal Management Committee for consideration at its Conference to be held in Canberra from 19-21 October 2005. It is suggested that this matter be also considered by other forums dealing with animal management matters.

Yours faithfully

for

B D Vickers
Acting Chairman