



## VPFA Update May 2026

### *VPFA Expo*

The VPFA expo was a great success and thanks to all who attended, presented or helped in any way. We would really welcome any topics/ideas or suggestions that members may have for the next expo.



## *Provisional Judges*

Our club show season is underway and it is great to see the number of clubs supporting a mix of experienced and provisional judges to adjudicate at their shows. The VPFA judge accreditation system has both theory and practical assessments, but judging experience is critical as we all hone our skills and get the chance to handle a range of breeds and birds under real judging conditions.



Whether you are commencing your judging career, or an experienced judge looking to add a new section to your accreditation we would like to hear from you. The VPFA has judge assessments planned in conjunction with the VWA on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September. Please contact Anne ([admin@vpfa.com.au](mailto:admin@vpfa.com.au)) for more information on the process. We also have some events for stewards and those thinking of becoming a judge and not quite ready for assessment planned for the day.



### *Promoting Poultry at Ag Shows*

Many VPFA clubs and members are actively involved in running the poultry section at Agricultural Shows across Australia. The VPFA Board has reached out to Victorian Agricultural Shows and we are looking to develop some awards to recognise showing at AgShows. We will make some announcements soon and will have this in place for the coming Spring show season.

### *Poultry Welfare Standards*

In 2025 Agriculture Victoria advised the poultry community that it was their intention to implement the Poultry Welfare and Standards Guidelines in 2026. These Standards and Guidelines had been endorsed by the national working group of state departments a couple of years ago. During that process a number of individuals, clubs, state and national bodies made formal submissions and exhibition poultry breeders were represented on the stakeholder advisory group. Recently, Agriculture Victoria announced that it was their intention to implement these regulations in mid 2026. The VPFA has been in contact with Agriculture Victoria to clarify some points in relation to the implementation of the regulations, especially in relation to dubbing. Some relevant points from Agriculture Victoria are listed below

- Until the new regulations are implemented current rules, practices and procedures remain in place.
- Once the new regulations are implemented the dubbing of birds for exhibition will be prohibited as per the following advice:

“SA 9.8 A person must not perform desnooding or dubbing for cosmetic purposes on poultry.

SA 9.10 A person must only perform toe trimming and dubbing on day-old hatchlings selected as potential breeders, except under veterinary advice.

This will mean that dubbing may not be performed for showing as that would be considered a cosmetic purpose. It is only permitted on day-old hatchlings selected to be used for breeding, or where dubbing is performed under veterinary advice.”

- The new regulations will not prohibit owning or showing of dubbed poultry
- There is not a confirmed date for the implementation of the regulations but Agriculture Victoria is still working towards the middle of 2026 target.
- Agriculture Victoria is planning a web page with further information of non-commercial poultry keepers including those involved in breeding for exhibition.

The VPFA will keep all of our members and clubs update as we get more information. We are also developing a package to assist clubs and breeders at shows as this transition occurs.

This is the link to the current information from Agriculture Victoria

<https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestock-and-animals/animal-welfare-victoria/animal-welfare/implementing-poultry-welfare-standards>

We will provide a link to the specific webpage for further information when Agriculture Victoria publish that.

Although these are national standards the regulations are implemented and enforced by states, so the timetable for implementation in other states is a matter for the state governments in those states.

We realise that this is a confusing time and a range of views and opinions are being discussed but the information above has come from Agriculture Victoria directly. Any clubs or individuals are also welcome to register for updates on the Agriculture Victoria page or contact them directly.

### *Feedback*

We welcome any feedback on this VPFA update and what you would like to see covered. See you at a show soon.

Kevin