

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Exhibited Animals Bill 2015  
**Date:** Tuesday, 14 April 2015 5:08:09 PM

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Dear Megan

Thank you for your recent email inviting RSPCA Qld to make a supplementary submission on the Exhibited Animals Bill 2015. We would like to take you up on the offer.

RSPCA Qld would like to reiterate that we support the idea that all animals kept for exhibition purposes (whether in zoos, circuses or by demonstrators) deserve to experience the same level of positive welfare. We support the steps taken in this Bill to ensure this occurs, for example, the necessity for circuses to have a fixed exhibition site and to exhibit their category C animals there for part of the time. Our one concern in this area is that visiting circus from interstate are now able to get a twelve month licence which ultimately means that animals kept for exhibition purposes from another state will not experience the same standard of welfare as animals in Queensland do. There is also the concern that mobile exhibits in Queensland could also apply for this twelve month travelling permit, making the static exhibit site superfluous (and not achieving what it was aimed to achieve).

RSPCA Qld believes strongly that twelve months in a travelling exhibition is excessive and not conducive to good welfare. Also, the Bill does not make it clear how often a twelve month licence can be granted and if there has to be a rest period between these twelve month periods. So, it is possible for some animals to end up 'on the road' for extended periods of time. At the very least, animals need to be rested from always travelling and this seemed to be the intend of this Bill and the earlier six month only travelling licence.

The Bill gives examples of exhibited animals on Page 12 and includes "allowing public interaction with animals at a petting farm". However, it appears that elsewhere in the Bill such an exhibited animal is not included. For example, the FAQs prepared to accompany the release of the amended Bill has a question specifically asking about the need for a licence to have a petting farm and the answer is given as 'no'. Therefore it appears as if this Bill does not cover animals in petting farms even though it is included as an example in the definition. RSPCA Qld believes such use of an animal should be included for several reasons: animals in petting farms are particularly vulnerable as they are usually young and many unweaned; they are being used for exhibition purposes; they are being used for commercial purposes.

As RSPCA Qld pointed out in our previous submission, this Bill, apart from recognising animal welfare as a risk, does not deal with specific welfare issues. Therefore, RSPCA Qld wishes to emphasise that we would support the adoption of National Exhibited animals Standards and Guidelines which are specifically written to protect the welfare of exhibited animals. We urge these Standards and Guidelines to be applied to all exhibited animals because, as explained above, we believe all exhibited animals deserve the same positive welfare experience. Further to welfare considerations, we support the compulsory stipulation that a management plan must be written for all exhibited animals as we see this as an important way to ensure the appropriate care and welfare is provided to all animals in various situations.

Finally, RSPCA Qld inspectors are well placed, trained and experienced to be appointed inspectors under this Bill (page 100/101).

Thank you once again for this opportunity to comment on the amended Bill.

Kind regards

Mandy

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**Principal Scientist**  
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