

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Agriculture Resources and Environment Committee](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Exhibited Animals Bill 2014
Date: Friday, 7 November 2014 1:41:22 PM

Dear Research Director, Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee

The RSPCA Qld would like to make a submission on the Exhibited Animals Bill 2014.

Our main concerns are always focused on the welfare of animals and we want all exhibited animals in Queensland to be kept and looked after in such a way that ensures their welfare.

With that in mind we wish to congratulate the Government on the inclusion of circus animals, animals used in demonstrations and in petting zoos in this legislation. While we understand the need for a grandfathering of certain animals currently licenced to be used in circuses, by demonstrators and in petting zoos, we wish to be assured that all new animals acquired for these exhibition purposes either through purchase, exchange or birth will not be grandfathered but come under the new legislation. We also wish to be assured that any regulations, codes of practice or standards and guidelines, developed under this Bill will impose similar animal welfare provisions on all exhibited animals as defined by the Bill.

Some specific issues:

- Section 66 (1) (g) states that If an animal is showing visible signs of serious illness or injury it may be exhibited only if a sign explaining the cause or probable cause is displayed. Such an animal should only be exhibited if it has been assessed by a veterinarian and assessed as suitable (well enough) to be exhibited.
- Section 66 (1) (g) should apply to any animal that is sick or injured whether thought of as 'serious' or not.
- Section 66 (1) (h) should apply to animals showing potential for aggressive behaviour and the provision should not have to depend on injury of a human to be applied.
- Section 68 & 69 It is unclear in the Bill and in the explanation notes why a) category 1 animals don't have a minimum number of hours or occasions for which they must be displayed, and b) why category 2 animals and authorised animals that are not category 1 or 2 have different display requirements.
- Section 68 (1) It is a concern to the RSPCA that the Bill states that only one of a species must meet the minimum exhibiting requirements. This leaves the potential for several other animals of the species not to be displayed at all or for much less time.
- Section 70 (a) we do not understand why category 1 animals are exempt from this provision.

Section 4 lays out the purposes of the act and recognises the obligation of persons exhibiting animals to care about animal welfare. Apart from this section, the Bill does not deal with the health and welfare of exhibited animals. RSPCA Qld would like to be assured that these will be dealt with in regulations, codes of practice or standards and guidelines.

Please contact us if you any specific questions about this submission or our understanding of the proposed Bill.

Kind regards

Mandy

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