

Inquiry into the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022

Submission No: 575
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Submitter Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to make a submission to the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill so we, as a society, can all do the right thing and protect the welfare of innocent animals. For the reasons below, I ask that the committee consider impacts of animal management processes and consider the consequences on our native wildlife, as well as the humaneness of the process. I ask that animal traps be included as a threatening process in the Bill and I would like to see glue traps banned - as many other countries around the world have done. Australia is facing a wildlife extinction crisis and we need to stop unnecessary deaths of wildlife. Carers and vets have rescued (and tried to save) reptiles, small native mammals (including bandicoots, antechinus, native rats), birds, raptors, pet kittens, and most often, our insectivorous bats who have been trapped, poisoned and stuck to glue traps. Most do not survive. The number of NATIVE animals caught in traps is unacceptable and on top of that, there is growing evidence of secondary poisoning of birds and other native predators who have taken baited "pests", or eaten the poison directly. There is evidence that many native species have eaten 1080 and died in horrific ways. The use of poisons has often been indiscriminate and careless, and possible impacts on native wildlife is rarely mentioned, or where it has been, not adequately or correctly assessed. Horrific injuries can occur to animals on the glue traps which are widely available in Australia and although 3 states have limited their use, they can still be purchased online. There are NO controls at all regarding their use, and unfortunately many people put them inside and outside and do not check to see if anything has been caught. Animals caught can die slow and horrific deaths from thirst, starvation, suffocation and injuries as they struggle to free themselves. Many people, when questioned if they found an animal trapped, would simply throw the trap in the bin. This is completely inhumane. There are clear statements that the Bill aims to reflect the latest scientific knowledge and community attitudes. Recently there has been more scientific research regarding humane treatment of animals based on growing acceptance of sentience and ability to feel pain. Community attitudes have also changed regarding humane treatment, therefore animal welfare is of utmost importance in an awakening society.