

Inquiry into the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022

Submission No: 660
Submitted by: Liz Brouwer
Publication: Make my submission and my name public
Attachments: See attachment
Submitter Comments:

Whilst I acknowledge this Bill offers some important improvements for animal welfare in Queensland, it should go much further and I urge you to consider the following amendments...

- Acknowledge the sentience of animals in the Act because conscious animals feel pain and pleasure.
- Make mandatory the provision of shade, shelter and fresh drinking water on farms, at saleyards and slaughterhouses.
- Ban calf roping at rodeos and similar events, making it a prohibited event. Calf roping causes significant fear, pain and stress to calves (studies confirmed by Sinclair et al, 2016 and Rizzuto et al, 2020).
- Ban spaying surgery by non-veterinarians.
- Ban pregnancy tests on cattle by laypersons.
- Increase the penalty for illegally performing debarking procedures on dogs so that it is harsher than the penalty for supplying a dog from a shelter without a certificate.
- Make it mandatory for CCTV to be required at all livestock slaughter facilities and not only at horse slaughterhouses, and that the CCTV footage is independently monitored daily with the requirement for acts of cruelty to be reported to authorities immediately.
- Make meaningful changes to factory farming and other farmed animal welfare including transport and slaughter to ensure codes of practice do not provide excuses for committing acts of cruelty.
- Extend the ban of CSSP pig poison to include rat killer poisons, 1080 and other cruel poisons.
- Extend the ban of prong collars to include other cruel devices (e.g., electric collars), cruel training devices and unattended tethering.
- Include Malacostracana in the Act under the definition of animals, in line with modern animal welfare science.
- Give inspectors the power to enter all slaughterhouses and factory farms without giving notice or gaining permission from the owner/manager.
- Amend s178(3) to explicitly allow private prosecution of animal cruelty offences by the Queensland Police and/or RSPCA Queensland without requiring permission from the Department of Agriculture (chief executive).
- Amend s178(b) to increase the statute of limitation of animal cruelty offences (currently 12 months or 2 years in some circumstances) to a longer timeframe which enables historic offences to be investigated and prosecutions made where applicable. Currently if someone has committed an horrendous act of cruelty which is not discovered until 2 years later, they cannot be prosecuted under the Act.
- Create an Independent Office of Animal Protection separate from the Department of Agriculture.
- Allow euthanasia of animals by veterinarians where owner can't be located.
- Make mandatory the reporting of suspected acts of cruelty.