

Inquiry into the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022

Submission No: 722
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Publication: Make my submission and my name public
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

I welcome all the points proposed by the Bill, however I don't think it goes far enough. The ban of prong collars should include tethering while unattended, electric collars and any other cruel training devices. In regard to the ban of CSSP pig poison, why isn't this extended to include other cruel poisons, such as 1080. With the inclusion of all Cephalopoda in the Act under the definition of animals, I would also like to see inclusion of some Malacostraca such as crabs, crayfish, lobsters and prawns, in line with modern animal welfare science. Calf roping should be banned as a prohibited event, It is our responsibility to teach our children that calf roping is animal cruelty. It is not entertainment. How can we do that if calf roping is not banned? I would like to see rodeos banned as well. In addition, the Bill does not mention forming an independent Office of Animal Protection or introducing mandatory reporting of suspected animal cruelty. It does not acknowledge the sentience of non-human animals or extend the statute of limitations for animal cruelty offences. It is very disturbing that no meaningful changes are being considered to factory farming and other farmed animal welfare, including transport or slaughter, other than CCTV for horses at slaughterhouses. I strongly recommend that CCTV should be put in place for all animals in slaughterhouses and there should be an independent monitoring system put in place to monitor the footage which can be accessed any time, not just when there has been a complaint. Also inspectors should be able to enter slaughterhouses or factory farms without a warrant or permission and without notice. If there is nothing to hide, this should not be a problem. I strongly urge you not to allow non-vets to carry out spaying surgery on cattle or allow pregnancy testing by laypersons. It is just so wrong. Restrictions on debarking and supply of debarked dogs is a good thing. However I have read that the penalty for supplying a dog from a shelter without a certificate is greater than the penalty for illegally performing a debarking procedure on a dog. Surely this needs to be put into proportion. In conclusion, I would just like to add that we owe it to all the innocent animals that provide us with food to put measures into place to protect them from suffering and cruel practices. There needs to be far more transparency as far as factory farms and slaughterhouses in particular are concerned, and who will ever forget the starving horses at Toowoomba? It was heartbreaking to hear of their plight yet nothing was done. I hope you will remember them in your discussions. Thank you.