

Inquiry into the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022

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Draft Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022

Submission from Sentient

To the Hon Mark Furner (Minister for Agriculture)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide commentary on the Department's draft *Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022*, tabled on 12 May 2022.

Due to the short timeframe provided for this consultation, Sentient acknowledges the significant improvements this Bill includes (such as the prohibition on the possession and use of prong collars in dogs) but we urge the committee to consider changes to the following amendments.

Rodeos and calf roping

As outlined in our original submission, Prohibited events should include rodeos and in particular, calf roping (under prohibition (e) **“an event prescribed under a regulation held for public enjoyment or entertainment, with or without charge to anyone present, at which anyone participating in the event causes an animal pain. Example of causing an animal pain for paragraph (e)—someone does, or attempts to, catch, fight or throw the animal”**

- Why does Act make an exemption for rodeos, where animals are brutally handled, leading to stress, injury and potentially death, particularly in calf roping events? Calf roping should be immediately banned on welfare grounds, as should all rodeo events.
- Why is this prohibition not applied to other forms of entertainment where those participating cause an animal pain, such as greyhound racing, which continues to cause unacceptably high injury and death rates during racing and training, and the use of whips in horse racing?

Rodeos are clear acts of cruelty due to the risk of injury and the subjection of animals to terror, all for the purpose of human entertainment. They must be banned as acts of animal cruelty. There is ample evidence, for example, of the physical harm and stress caused to animals by calf roping^{1,2}

¹ Sinclair et al, 2016, Behavioral and Physiological Responses of Calves to Marshalling and Roping in a Simulated Rodeo Event, [Animals | Free Full-Text | Behavioral and Physiological Responses of Calves to Marshalling and Roping in a Simulated Rodeo Event | HTML \(mdpi.com\)](#)

² Rizzuto et al, 2020, Exploring the Use of a Qualitative Behavioural Assessment Approach to Assess Emotional State of Calves in Rodeos, [Animals | Free Full-Text | Exploring the Use of a Qualitative Behavioural Assessment Approach to Assess Emotional State of Calves in Rodeos \(mdpi.com\)](#)



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Furthermore, a recent study³ on 'The legality of calf roping in Australia' concluded that: "beneficial contributions of calf roping do not justify the harm caused to the calves and that calf roping would therefore likely not be legal if the standards of unnecessary harm applied."

Spaying cattle

As a veterinary association we urge strongly that non-veterinarians must not be allowed to surgically spay or perform pregnancy tests on cattle. This would not be considered acceptable in companion animals and will pose great risk to the animals concerned.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss our concerns with you in person.

Regards,

Dr Rosemary Elliott, President on behalf of Sentient



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³ Stonebridge, 2022, [The Legality of Calf Roping in Australia | The University of Queensland Law Journal \(uq.edu.au\)](http://www.uq.edu.au)