

Inquiry into the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022

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Submitted by: Nigel McMillan
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I personally have two pet rats named Casper and Jasper. Before them I have had other pet rats named Peanut, Possum, P.J, Bart, Emmet, Cuddles and even a mouse named Fluff. All these animals were marvelous creatures, with very different personalities and different ways of expressing emotion. Emmet grieved when his brother passed away and the grief became to much for him that he died within a few days. He was healthy up to that point. Peanut wouldn't budge from his brother's side for hours and a tear was visible on his face. These animals share all the same emotions we do. They have more compassion than those responsible for making such destructive devices that would take their lives. It is not just the health and wellbeing of the animals themselves that suffer. People, including myself who believe in compassion and care for all animals hurt when we see acts of cruelty toward animals being allowed to occur. This is damaging for people's mental health and wellbeing. For far too long people have justified these acts of cruelty as a means of reducing pest populations. These animals are not pests any more than we are. They deserve to be treated with respect and not have people impose their will over them, especially when it comes to causing pain, suffering and death. Millions of people around the world will no longer tolerate animal cruelty. I find it sickening that some people think they have the right and find it acceptable to deliberately set out to cause pain and death of an animal. It is nothing short of anti social behavior. Please end this toxic practice and give the animals the respect and dignity they deserve.