

Inquiry into the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022

Submission No: 1415
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Submitter Comments:

Thank you for allowing me to put in a submission. I am a wildlife carer in Brisbane and want to request that glue traps be banned for both use and sale in Queensland either under the Animal Care and Protection Act proper or under regulations which allow for listing for traps as prohibited traps.

Australia has hundreds of small native animal species including snakes, lizards, birds, gliders, bats, possums and other pouched marsupials. All of these are at risk of being caught up in glue traps.

After being a rescue line phone operator that took calls from the public about wildlife rescue I noticed that this was not an uncommon thing. The common thing in it is that every animal trapped was injured. They are not simply hold traps as animals instinct is to fight the ensnarement.

I am not alone in this request. An organisation I am involved in, Wild Animals Australia started a petition to ask Bunnings to stop selling glue traps due to the barbaric nature of these products. The petition has over 85000 signatures to date. It's not an official petition so I know it cannot entered in submission form but it is an indication that Australians including many Queenslanders are in favour of prohibition.

<https://www.change.org/BunningsPleaseStopSellingGlueTraps>

Here is some basic information about glue traps.

Q: What are glue traps?

A: Glue traps, also known as glue boards, are trays coated with an extremely strong adhesive. Any animal who touches one becomes stuck and unable to escape.

Q: Do glue traps kill the animals?

A: No. The animal is immobilised but not killed outright. Needlessly made to suffer.

Q: What happens to animals caught by a glue trap?

A: Depending on how frequently the trap is checked, animals can be stuck anywhere from a hours to days. They may be trapped on their side, or face down, by all legs or just one, and will often cry out in distress. Trapped animals struggle to free themselves and may become more and more embedded in the glue. Some animals break bones and tear off, or even bite through, their own limbs in an attempt to free themselves. After a fruitless struggle, they may succumb to exhaustion, collapse face down in the glue, and die of suffocation when the glue lodges in their nasal passages. Most often death comes from a combination of exhaustion, dehydration, and starvation. This can take anywhere from three hours to a few days.

Q:When is it okay to use glue traps?

A:Never. No animal including rats and mice deserve such a horrific death.

Q:What should I do if I find an animal stuck on a glue trap?

A: Never attempt to remove the animal yourself if you have not received the correct training to do so. It might cause excruciating pain to the animal or cause more extensive injuries to the already stressed animal. You may be tempted to wet the animal to try and remove the glue but this can cause a rapid drop in body temp and can cause death.

Here is a link to a wildlife vets experiences and an explanation of why it is not good to try and remove the animal from the trap at home.

<https://cawildlife.org/wildlifemedicine/help-wildlife-avoid-a-sticky-situation>

These items are sold in hundreds of stores and online. They are marketed for indoor use and outdoor use. They are ineffective, inhumane, and not target specific.

I am asking you consider this information and do a review of glue traps independently of other types of traps as the state and territory governments have in Victoria, Tasmania and the ACT.

Thank you - Catherine Coake

