

Inquiry into the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022

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Inquiry

Increasing penalties for breaches of animal cruelty:

The current legislation measures for animal care and protection are out of date. It isn't helping animal welfare as much as it should, and the penalties to offenders are nowhere near harsh enough to stop and deter these people from repeating these cruel acts.

The sheer number of people who commit animal cruelty and animal neglect is a disgrace. It is obvious the measures put in place to protect animals are failing them; the penalties are way too lenient and do not discourage these people from committing these acts repeatedly.

I have seen and read way too many times of people committing horrible acts of cruelty to innocent animals, and all the court will do is let these people off with a slap on the wrist, small fines, or suspended jail sentences. How will people take their crimes seriously if they are not being made to think about their actions and have serious consequences to prevent these people from repeating their acts. Where is the justice for those that can't speak for themselves or can't speak for themselves because a human being decided that an animal didn't deserve to live? Where is that animal's justice?

I'll give an example of a terrible act of cruelty that should have been given a harsher punishment.

On the 13th of February 2019, a man in Mackay was court red-handed on camera in broad daylight, viciously beating a clearly friendly and unprovoked dog just because he felt like it. The court banned this man from owning animals for three years, and he was given 18 months' probation with 100 hours of community service for his crime.

Many other people like me who care very much for the welfare of animals believe this is not a harsh enough punishment; this waste of air person should have been given jail time at least two years to let it sink in of how serious his crime was and once out of jail then have 18 months' probation and community service to continues to pay for his behaviour then a longer jail sentence if there is a repeat offence and this offence should go on this record permanently. This is just one of many animals cruelty sentences that have gone unjustified for that animal's health and wellbeing.

If this man had committed this crime against a child, the court would not hesitate to give him the harshest punishment, and everyone would be horrified by this act. It is a disgrace that these people get off so easy for these crimes that they commit again, all because their victims are small defenceless animals that can't speak for themselves. It is disgusting that some humans believe just because they are the superior species, they think animals don't feel what we feel; they don't suffer as we do. These are living creatures with feelings and individual personalities just like us and are far more intelligent than us in some cases. They don't deserve to be exploited; this wouldn't be allowed to happen to humans, so there shouldn't be a different standard just because they are animals; we are all different species of animals and should be more respectful of everyone human or not.

For someone like me, whose pets are considered family members and are my fur children, it hurts me knowing so many pets are not being cared for or loved as they should be. It sickens me that there are so many cruel people in this world; with so many people known for despicable acts, there are many more that are not known and are getting away with these horrible crimes that need to be brought to justice; these people need to be held accountable with the harshest of punishment because animals don't deserve it and these people don't deserve to have animals in their life. These measures need to be enforced, and harsh penalties as despite humans supposedly being one of the most intelligent and evolved creatures on this planet, many of them are stupid. They don't learn their lessons the first time, second, or third. Old habits die hard if stricter measures aren't put in place, people will never learn, we need to prevent the next generations from becoming worse in these acts, it starts at home if the parents aren't treating animals with respect the children will follow, they need to be educated that it's not ok to harm anyone including animals because it is not ok ever.

As the superior species on this planet, we are responsible for making this world a better place for everyone, including all animals, big and small.