

**QUESTION ON NOTICE**  
**No. 495**  
**Asked on Wednesday, 20 April 2005**

**MS MALE** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries (MR PALASZCZUK)—

**QUESTION:**

Will he advise of any programs that the department has developed to ensure or promote animal welfare?

**ANSWER:**

A caring society ensures good animal welfare standards by promoting responsible animal care and use and helping to ensure that animal welfare standards meet public expectations.

The Queensland government recognises the importance of animal welfare in a modern society. It has a strong commitment to ensure that all animals in Queensland have appropriate standards of animal welfare. Cruelty is never acceptable.

The government provides standards for the care and use of animals that aim to achieve a reasonable balance between the welfare of animals and the interests of persons whose livelihood is dependant on animals.

The government recognises that advances in scientific knowledge increase our knowledge of animal welfare and that community attitudes and expectations about the use of animals change over time. Animal welfare standards need to be able to change to reflect new knowledge and changing community expectations.

Through its animal welfare activities the Queensland government is a leader in legislation and web based animal welfare information, consultation and education. This allows Queenslanders, our visitors and our trading partners to be confident that animals in Queensland are protected by sound animal welfare standards.

The Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F) is the Queensland government's lead agency for animal welfare. Through its Animal Welfare Unit, DPI&F delivers the animal welfare program. This program has four main components delivered by specialist staff:

- i) Developing **standards** for the care and use of animals in Queensland including administration of the Queensland *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001* (ACPA). This world class animal welfare legislation places a Duty of Care on everyone in charge of an animal to take reasonable steps to provide for the animal's welfare needs. The ACPA also defines acceptable animal welfare standards through the adoption of codes of practice for various types of animal use. This allows the Queensland community to identify the animal welfare standards they should apply.

- ii) DPI&F animal welfare **education** programs are continually being developed to help Queenslanders comply with the ACPA. DPI&F believes that education, supported by strong legislation, is the key to improving animal welfare standards. The web is used as the primary means of supplying information and includes a children's section "Help An Animal Smile".
- iii) Enforcing legislated standards through the investigation of animal welfare **complaints**. All investigations are undertaken with the appropriate balance of education and regulation by trained inspectors following standard operating procedures.
- iv) **Animal ethics** is ensuring that the use of animals for scientific purposes is accountable, open and responsible. This includes the registration and monitoring of animal users.

The Honourable Member and her constituents can learn more about Queensland's animal welfare legislation by visiting the DPI&F website - <http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/animalwelfare/>