

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Rural Affairs and Transport
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a third generation farmer and it has been a total shock to me that the horrendous cruelty involved in live export has been allowed to continue so long starting with the live sheep export and the horrendous outcome for those sheep to now the live cattle export.

I cannot understand how the government could from total adherent to the live sheep export to now allowing live cattle export without first doing a thorough investigate into the whole export industry. The Government has failed to learn from its mistakes but what is worse they have deliberately turned a blind eye to such extreme animal cruelty and failed the Public miserably by not even considering to implement legislation to stop this happening again.

The reason this has now been escalated so far out of control is that nobody was and is in charge of "animal cruelty". Animal Cruelty should be an independent body that is set up to have the powers to stop and to prosecute all cases of animal cruelty.

The Agriculture is not the ones who should be in control of animal cruelty as this department currently sees cruelty on three separate levels and has not once seen fit to make changes.

- 1) Feral animals – it is acceptable to be as cruel as you want and are exempt from being cruel to any "feral animal" i.e. Baiting, shooting and trapping. Horrendous footage of baited animals dying long horrible deaths leaving babies to die from starvation, shooting whereby animals are left dying in large numbers that have been shot incorrectly and trapping whereby the traps have been left in the hot sun and exposed for days without being collected with the animals frying or dying from lack of water and food.
- 2) Farm animals – you can be cruel to farm animals by confining them as with pig birthing stalls, injecting them with growth hormones that defy nature growth to the detriment even death of the animal or bird like meat chickens and cows, you can feed lot cattle that stand shoulder to shoulder in the elements and in their own manure sometimes up to their knees and then you can transport them hundreds of miles to slaughter and as now with the live export over long distances to inhumane slaughter.
- 3) Pets – you are allowed to breed pets in puppy/kitten farms without the fear of prosecution some of the most horrendous video shots have expose this practice at great danger to the people filming. You can dump your pet without fear of prosecution at pounds and shelters that have no intention of rehoming them as they are paid a fee to euthanized them which is more cost effective for the pounds and shelters than to try and rehome them. The pounds can take these dogs to the tip and in front of all other dogs shoot them. Cats you can inject them in the same room as other cats. No humanity or care is taken with euthanize some using , gassing, shooting or a needle through the heart because they are too little to find a vein and pregnant animals are still put to death. We have one councils whereby they had 14 rangers resign in 4 years because of this inhumane practice.

This along with many other examples of hideous crimes against animals is all carried out under the watchful eye of the Depart of Agriculture and not once have anyone been prosecuted or any attempt has been made to rectify these inhumane practices. Now that we are more and more into naming and shaming the truth is being exposed. But what are we doing? "Nothing" the same old because you have the fox in charge of the chicken coop. We need to open up these practices to the public and let the public be the judge not the farmers or instigators and perpetrators of these acts of cruelty.

You cannot expect the Dept. of Agriculture who is in charge and who is also responsible for implementing these horrendous practices to prosecute itself so therefore animal cruelty should be a separate Federal Department that has no ties or link to the animal industry as such. People should not be sneaking around trying to get photographs to leak to papers and TV to get something done. This should be an automatic right of an animal to be treated humanely.

I have taken upon myself along with all other welfare groups to put a stop this the facade and demand that all "animal cruelty" should be a separate and independent body that will put a cessation to all the animal cruelty that has been shown over the last 8 years and has been condoned by the Dept. of Agriculture by the very fact that they have now allowed the "live transportation of cattle" to recommence with no real changes and most importantly no prosecutions for animal cruelty just like they did with the live sheep export and all other shocking cases that have come before them.

We require a permanent solution to this problem and it can only come about by making animal welfare an open and independent body.

Yours sincerely
Christine Yurovich