

8 Maple Avenue  
NORTH BRIGHTON SA 5048  
27<sup>th</sup> November 2005

Ms Maureen Weeks  
Committee Secretary  
Senate Rural & Regional Affairs & Transport Committee  
The Senate  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Weeks,

I have been told the Senate has decided to launch an inquiry into Animal Welfare laws after Senator Andrew Bartlett introduced a private members bill.

I write to add my support to any inquiry which aims to increase protection for animals and decrease the possible legal use of animals for testing purposes.

Apparently the National Health & Medical Research Council animal ethics chairwoman Elizabeth Grant stated that "some researchers had become complacent about considering alternatives to animals" for experimentation. I agree with her comment.

It appears that the number of animals used for experiments in Victoria has increased in the last few years, when I would have presumed the numbers were being reduced as people became more aware of alternatives.

Is a scientist using animals for experiments really concerned about their welfare?

It is unlikely that a scientist experimenting on animals could be concerned about the living conditions, pain alleviation, stress and torment of each individual animal.

Why is Melbourne University's media office reluctant to let its staff talk about animal research for fear of reprisal from animal activists? Why be so secretive if the staff believe it is not morally wrong to 'legally' torment animals?

These are just a few of my thoughts on experimentation involving animals. I strongly support any moves to improve conditions for all animals and I do hope some good comes from this inquiry

Yours truly,



(Mrs) Pat Cain