

The Rural & Regional Affairs & Transport Legislation Committee  
Room SG, 62, Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

SUBMISSION: National Animal Welfare Bill 2005

To the committee,

We are writing in regards to the National Animal Welfare Bill 2005 on behalf of our publication *The Humanimal Eye*. Our online publication is concerned with the circulation of news and events involving animals in Australia and overseas. Please accept our submission on behalf of ourselves and our readers.

We are wishing to express our full support of the Democrat's proposed National Animal Welfare Bill 2005. The bill covers some of the most important issues facing Australian animals. The proposed changes will greatly improve the animals' lives and the peace of mind of the Australian public. Recently, animal welfare issues have been receiving strong media attention and public concern for animal welfare is firmly on the political agenda.

Regarding battery cages, in 2000 the RSPCA presented over 54, 000 signatures in support of banning battery cages after the executive director of the Australian Egg Industry was quoted in *The Age* stating "if 50, 000 people tell us they want barn-laid eggs we will do it and change." Unfortunately significant changes are yet to be seen.

Regarding humane slaughter, numerous investigations by animal activists have exposed that it is not being enforced. Official inspections are few and far between, leaving animal welfare up to individual abattoir workers. Undercover investigations have found that many animals are dying slow and painful deaths in abattoirs, often suffering deliberate abuse from frustrated abattoir workers.

The recent media coverage of the live sheep trade was a deep source of shame for many Australians and proved to be an international humiliation. According to the RSPCA this trade is completely unnecessary as export markets will continue to buy Australian meat provided animals are killed within their religious guidelines. Australia is the world's largest exporter of live animals and there has been global protest against this barbaric trade.

The welfare of animals is an issue that is growing globally and it is imperative that Australia be progressive in this area. The proposed changes are long overdue.

We commend Senator Andrew Bartlett for his work in expressing the concerns of the Australian public in regard to animal welfare.

Yours truly,

Susannah Rubinstein, April Gadd, Romy Hoffman, Tessa Rubinstein  
Directors, The Humanimal Eye