

re. Senator Bartlett's National Animal Welfare Bill
To Don Sinnamon,
Dear Sir,

I am please to be able to give a submission for the above National Animal Welfare Bill.

*I would like to recommend that the 2 commercial animal breeders/farmers be leaders in animal welfare husbandry, and not be involved in live exports, museling, tail docking etc etc. They should be totally 'above board' in not have any vested interest in laws that help them financially.

*Also that is illegal to keep dogs in cages for breeding purposes, and continually use them for breeding and supply for pet shops. With the appalling numbers of stray dogs and cats being euthanised each day in the RSPCA and animal shelters, it is totally unethical to be continually flooding th markets with more animals! The only breeders should be registered with the KCC or other recognised breed organisation. Private owners are controlled with respect to desexing etc, but not breeders.

*Battery hen cages should be phased out, and debeaking. Poultry are unsuitable for cages of any size, and should live the outdoors where they can behave normally. (digging, dirt bathing etc). Free range is the ONLY alternative. The public should realise the cost of poultry and eggs is so low because of the cruel practices allowed at this time, and the *true* cost should be paid.

*Broiler chickens are fed a diet of antibiotics and growth hormones, the former just to keep them alive in these appalling conditions, and the latter making them so grossly deformed that their legs cannot cope with the weight. They should also be free range and organically fed, NOT in cages.

*Sow stalls are totally cruel to pigs, as intelligent and sensitive animals. They never see daylight except when they are loaded onto trucks headed for the slaughterhouse, by which time they are worn out from constant breeding and many are unable to walk. They cannot even interact with their babies. Sow stalls are banned in the UK and are being phased out in the EU.

Piglets ears are notched, their tails cut off, their teeth clipped, and they are castrated without any anaesthetic or analgesia; this would be a criminal offence if they were cats or dogs.

*Live exports should be banned. Animal welfare in the trade is measured solely by mortality rates, without regard to the fact that for every animal who dies, countless others suffer appallingly - blindness, lameness, salmonellosis (a form of gastro-enteritis), starvation (inanition, shy feeding), and trauma from brutal handling.

*Museling should be banned as brutal and inhumane.

Thank you
Vivienne Ortega