

Sender:
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Dear Sir,

As a believer in treating all living things as humanely and kindly as possible, I wish to add my voice to those who support Senator Andrew Bartlett's National Animal Welfare Bill.

Farming of animals and birds for human use or consumption CAN be done without robbing the livestock of natural behaviours, comfort or security. We need to exercise a little forethought and compassion, and of course, outlaw the barbaric and cruel practices that have developed in the modern world.

Examples of human inhumanity to livestock include:

1. Battery hens, cramped into tiny cages with wire floors, able to move little, apart from lowering themselves to rest on their stomachs, and extending heads into feed trays (offering feed which fattens them and prevents illness from the bacterial living conditions.)
2. Pigs which are very intelligent and social animals, living miserably in intensive farming properties and mutilated at a young age to prevent injury to other pigs. Of course the infamous sow stalls are one of the cruellest ways any female can give birth and nurse young.
3. The live export of any farm animals is not humane, as evidenced with sheep and goats, and other livestock. As we send these poor animals off on long trips across the sea (how many of them would panic about the rolling action, the smells, etc?), we also export the jobs that would be attached to Australian processing plants if we switched to chilled carcass export. Aside from the stress and fear during the trip, so many animals are injured and maimed in transit, suffering blindness, broken limbs, gouged body parts, etc. If these were people, there'd be a quick stop to the proceedings. Why are animals any different?
4. Sleyard livestock deserve a mention too. They are seen only in economic terms by most people, but can we try to imagine how it would feel to be a cow, who has always lived on a station/farm, travelling for days on a noisy truck, to a yard where poking, prodding, striking, shouting, crowding, jostling, and sometimes extreme thirst or hunger, are experienced?

I could go on, but do not wish to bore you. I am not a bleeding heart, but feel strongly that our empathy is sorely needed by the animals/birds in this matter. Although humanity considers itself the owner of the Earth, we are only guardians, and if we can't treat other creatures in the way they deserve, we deserve to suffer equally ourselves. We are judged by our humanity to others, human or otherwise.

Sincerely,
Daphne Morris