

I would urge that animal welfare legislation should address the inequity that exists between the protection of companion animals and animals used in hunting, for entertainment, and for research.

In particular, I would urge that the conditions in which egg-laying hens are kept be addressed. I would recommend that battery cages be phased out. Debeaking causes the hens lifelong pain and should be banned. The wire floors of the cages cause the hens great pain in their legs and feet and this issue should be addressed.

The conditions in which broiler chicks are kept must be addressed. The great majority of them are kept in appallingly crowded conditions, and the growth hormones which they are fed make them so deformed that their legs cannot cope with their weight. Limitations should be placed on the number of birds per enterprise and the numbers of birds in sheds.

Pigs are a highly intelligent and social species, and yet sows are confined in crates barely larger than their own bodies for most of their lives. I would urge that sow stalls be phased out and that moves be made to protect pigs from having their ears notched, their tails cut off, their teeth clipped, and being castrated without any anaesthetic or analgesia.

I would urge that the cruelty involved in the live export trade be addressed. The government and the industry openly state that they cannot influence animal welfare in importing countries, so no animals should be sent to countries which have absolutely no animal welfare safeguards in place.

Safeguards should be put in place at saleyards and feedlots to ensure that the animals' needs for food, water, and shelter are met. "Bobby" calves and young lambs often are too weak from being removed from their mothers to stand, and should never be loaded for transport.

Animals are now routinely transported from Western Australia to the Eastern states for slaughter because there is no journey time limit. This practice should be banned, and animals should be slaughtered as close as possible to the point of production.

I would urge that the tail docking of dairy cattle and horses should be banned.

I would urge that the use of animals in toxicity tests for household products should be banned, since adequate alternatives to these testing procedures now exist.

I would urge that more stringent restrictions on the harmful use of animals in scientific research, in particular a requirement of proportionality of the harm to the benefit of the experiment, should be put in place.