

Dear Sirs,

>I herewith wish to submit my protest to the shockingly cruel treatment  
>of all these animals. These cruel practices must be stopped immediately.  
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>>>1. The circumstances under which egg-laying hens are kept are  
>>>abhorrent in the extreme, and the public demands that the  
>>>government addresses this issue, and bans battery cages (maybe with  
>>>a phase-out period of three years). De-beaking must be banned  
>>>forthwith, since it

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>>>causes the birds lifelong pain. The wire floors of the cages cause  
>>>hens tremendous pain in their legs and feet, evidenced by footage  
>>>available showing  
>>them  
>>>trying to move their weight, within their hopelessly cramped  
>>conditions,  
>>>from one leg to the other.

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>>>2. Broiler chicks are packed in their tens of thousands into sheds  
>>>and, like their egg-laying "cousins," never see the light of day or  
>>>feel grass under their feet. They 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. There must be  
>>>a limitation placed on the number of birds per enterprise, and  
>>>limitations on the numbers of birds in sheds.

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>>>3. Pigs are known to be as intelligent and sensitive as dogs, yet  
>>>sows are confined to concrete and metal cages barely larger than  
>>>their own bodies for most of their lives. 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.  
>>>There is no justification, moral or economic, for this cruel  
>>>confinement in which a sow is lucky if she can move one step back  
>>>or one step forward. Codes of Practice state that hooved animals  
>>>become "footsore" from  
>>being  
>>>confined on concrete surfaces, yet the "Model CoP for the Welfare  
>>>of Animals - Pigs" provides for just that. Sows live in sow stalls  
>>>until  
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>>>they are due to give birth, when they are moved to an even smaller  
>>>structure, a farrowing crate - and there, she cannot even reach to  
>>touch  
>>>her young. This denies the animals the most fundamental rights, the  
>>>"Five Freedoms". Sow stalls are banned in the UK and Florida, and  
>>>are  
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>>>being phased out in the EU. The Australian public demands that the  
>>>government do the same and end this appalling cruelty. "Producers"  
>>claim  
>>>that this curbs aggression - if the animals were not so grossly  
>>>overcrowded, there would be no aggression issue. 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.  
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>>>4. The live export trade has been denounced as the gross cruelty  
>>>that  
>>it  
>>>is by various interest groups, and a WA exporter is facing cruelty  
>>>charges over what was a voyage "representative of the industry"  
>>(Animals  
>>>Australia, 2005). Animal welfare in the trade is measured solely by  
>>>mortality rates, without regard to the fact that for every animal  
>>>who  
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>>>dies, countless others suffer appallingly - blindness, lameness,  
>>>salmonellosis (a form of gastro-enteritis), starvation (inanition,  
>>>shy feeding), and trauma from brutal handling. The government and  
>>>the  
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>>>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. The  
>>>journey is  
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>>>long and arduous, on third world wrecks of ships, most of which are  
>>>registered under "flags of convenience", and those unlucky enough  
>>>to survive the journey are the victims of horrific cruelty in the  
>>>destination countries. Review after review has failed to address  
>>>these issues. The live export trade must end.  
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>>>4. Animals in saleyards and feedlots are often left without food  
>>>water or shelter (certainly in Tasmania at least). They are  
>>>deprived of the use of their natural behaviours in conditions that

> > >are usually  
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> > >atrocious. Safeguards must be put into place to address the issue  
> > >of "curfews" (denial of food and water in the animals' language),  
> > >and shelter at these establishments. "Bobby" calves and young lambs  
> > >often  
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> > >are too weak from being removed from their mothers to stand, and  
> > >should never be loaded for transport. In addition, animals are now  
> > >routinely being transported on trucks from Western Australia to the  
> > >Eastern states - simply because there is no journey time limit in  
> > >the  
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> > >Model CoP. Clearly this is a cruel, unnecessary and indefensible  
> > >practice, and it must be banned. Animals should (if they must) be  
> > >slaughtered as close as possible to the point of production.  
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> > >5. Surgical mutilations - mulesing (speaks for itself), and the  
> > >docking of the tails of dairy cattle and horses must be banned.  
> > >There  
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> > >is absolutely no evidence to suggest that there is any benefit to  
> > >the  
>  
> > >animal or the herd with this practice; in fact it is detrimental.  
> > >The  
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> > >docking of the tails (not to mention cutting the ears) of dogs has  
> > >been banned, why do farm animals not receive the same legislative  
> > >protection?  
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> > >Furtherwith, there is a myth perpetrated that the live animal export  
> > >trade is supporting the rural sector in Australia.  
> > >Information according to S G Helbron suggests:-  
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> > >\* The live export trade could be costing Australia around \$1.5  
> > >billion in lost GDP, around \$270 million in household income and  
> > >around 10,500 lost jobs.  
> > >\* The primary factor driving the profitability of the live  
> > >export  
> > >trade is market distortions in favor of live animals. If it were  
> > >not  
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> > >for these factors, the rising demand for meat in importing  
> > >countries would have been met by exports of chilled and frozen meat.  
> > >\* These distortions occur in both export markets (tariff and

>non  
>>>tariff barriers) and the domestic market (incentives biased towards  
>>live  
>>>trade rather than processing.)  
>>>\* Live animal export is not a complimentary trade to the chilled  
>>meat  
>>>trade - but instead directly competes for the same export market.  
>>>Government bias towards the live trade has ensured that the meat  
>>>export trade is not competing on a level playing field.  
>>>\* The report notes that when the live export trade to Saudi  
>>>Arabia was first suspended (from 1991 - 2000) there was a 3-fold  
>>>increase in exports of chilled and frozen mutton and lamb to that  
>>market  
>>>- clear evidence of the substitutability of meat exports for live  
>>>exports.  
>>>\* The report cautions that live export "profits" are illusory in  
>>terms  
>>>of economic benefits to the nation, as they are simply the  
>>>consequence of market distortions, subsidies and interventions by  
>>>governments  
>>abroad  
>>>and in Australia.  
>>>\* The traditional demand for live animals that in the past was  
>>fuelled  
>>>by a lack of refrigeration, has been overtaken by the  
>>>westernization of food consumption patterns and moderisation of  
>>>food handling and distribution systems in many Middle East  
>>>countries - thereby negating  
>  
>>>this industry claim that live animals are 'necessary'.  
>>>\* The report concludes that New Zealand's strategic decision to  
>>>severely curtail its live sheep trade to prevent animal welfare  
>>concerns  
>>>affecting its more valuable, value added sheepmeat trade  
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>>Ms M Lockyer  
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