

Re:National Animal Welfare Laws

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>I herewith wish to submit my protest to the shockingly cruel treatment

>of

>all these animals. These cruel practices must be stopped immediately. >

>>>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

>>>"foresore" 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
>>>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
>>>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
>>>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
>>>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
>>>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
>>>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
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>>>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
>>
>>Mr Bertil Lynden
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