

*Philosophies, priorities, plans*

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July 2007

# Who are we?

- **Animals Australia's Principle Purpose**

*to protect animals from exploitation and suffering and permanently improve the lives of all animals in Australia*

- **We represent groups and provide a 'voice' on many issues – represented by 'Campaign Areas'**

- Farm Animals
- Companion Animals
- Animals in Research
- Wildlife
- Animals in Sport and Entertainment
- Introduced Wild Animals
- Humane Education
- Animals in the Law

# How?

- *conduct campaigns to inform and educate the community about improving the lives of animals in Australia and advocate change;*
- *initiate and facilitate the development, enactment and enforcement of effective animal protection legislation;*  
..... And more .....

# What do we think?

- **Animals Australia believes...**

animal welfare standards/ animal protection laws should be based on:

- informed community expectations of appropriate treatment of animals,
- not standards that industry alone determines appropriate.

# Philosophy?

- AA is not an animal 'rights' organisation.
- Addressing animal welfare and cruelty is not about animal 'rights', it is about identifying human 'wrongs'
  - where our treatment of animals cannot be ethically or morally justified.
- AA believes any and all relationships that we have with animals should provide mutual benefit.
- From the animals' perspective – this would at least mean the avoidance of pain/stress, maintenance of physical health such as food and water – but must also include quality of life, especially natural behaviours.

# What is our focus??

## ■ Farm Animals... Why?

1. numbers (and often lifelong issues)
  - 10 M+ battery hens
  - 420 M+ broiler chickens
  - 4-5 M+ live sheep exported
  - 600,000 live cattle exported
  - 1 M+ cattle spending months in feedlots
  - 300,000 + sows intensively confined indoors
  - Up to 5 M piglets having teeth and tails cut
  - 1 M+ discarded bobby calves transported
  - 20 – 40 M lambs mulesed
  - Transportation – domestic (many M)

## ■ Farm animals... Why?

1. Numbers.... and
2. these 'farm' animals are denied the full protection of animal welfare laws (particularly via Codes of Practice), and
3. the community currently is supporting certain animal production practices (through consumer choices), but - most are unaware of the welfare implications for the animals involved.

# Vegetarianism?

## Consumer knowledge and choice...

- It is not AA or animal welfare groups that create vegans and vegetarians - Animal production practices create vegetarians....
- An informed community will be concerned by current practices....  
E.g.  
*‘ ...Particular cases of intensive farming were seen by some as extreme (negative) practice, but these were not seen as normal practice. ‘*

*TNS Social Research, July 2006, part of the AAWS*



# Heralding the need for change...

[animal advocates] *'won't be happy until all the animals are running around in the streets'*.

(Joch Laurie, NSW Farmers Federation – Landline 1/7/07)

## Wrong!

- There is a global animal welfare movement underway, and the farming lobby leaders must recognise that change is needed.
- The vast majority of our community – including farmers - oppose animal suffering.
- AA believes...if we humans are responsible for causing suffering whether to each other – or to other species - that there will always be an alternative to be found, if only we search for it.

Case in point – there will be an alternative/s to mulesing ...  
belatedly



# Law reform for animals...

- A duty to protect animals ?  
.....then a duty to protect all animals.
- AA's position on the problems of current animal law is shared by many in the legal profession – animal law courses/subjects commencing animal law organisations in each State now, and most recently the Barristers Animal Welfare Panel in Victoria was formed (80 lawyers, including a dozen QCs).

David Weisbrot, President of the Australian Law Reform Commission said –

*'It's the next great social justice movement that we'll have to encounter over the next some years. I think the way we now look back 40 years ago in Australia where we had the referendum finally beginning to recognise the rights of Aboriginal people, I think in 40 years hence we'll look back at this time and wonder why we were only beginning to become aware of issues about animal welfare and animal rights.'*

...existing animal welfare laws, whilst

*'... On their face they look pretty good, (but) they are riddled with exemptions and out clauses and problems of enforcement....'*



Weisbrot  
ABC Landline, 1/7/07

# Plans? Public Awareness

- AA's focus...
- to encourage people to make informed choices
- alert them to the choices that will reduce or eliminate animal suffering

This is already happening overseas –

Intensive pig production – announcements in 2007:

- The world's largest producer of pigs, Smithfield Foods (US) will completely phase out sow stalls within 10 years  
(due to pressure from major customers such as McDonald's);
- The largest Canadian producer of pigs, Maple Leaf Foods Inc, has followed suit; and
- Burger King (US) is to obtain its pork from producers that do not confine sows in sow stalls (20% of all pork by the end of 2007, and increasing thereafter).

# Public awareness contd.

- Overseas – caging of hens?
- 1. Legislative changes (science and community concern)
- 2. Now consumer led changes too –
  - McDonald's in the UK have been using only free-range eggs for the past decade
  - Belgium McDonalds went to free range last month
  - Subway and Starbucks in UK have gone cage free
  - Major retailers in the UK are banning cage eggs from their stores - Marks and Spencers went cage free in 2002, and Sainsbury's will go cage free by 2012.
  - 150 US colleges/University campuses have enacting policies to eliminate or greatly reduce their use of eggs from caged hens

***The writing is on the wall...***

# Codes of Practices, standards...

- The two most recent Australian Code reviews –
  - Poultry/laying hens in 2001
  - Pig code review (2004-7)

## Hens –

- Only the 20, 30 or even 40 year old cages being dispensed with
- Only new cages must increase space from 450 sqcm – 550 sqcm per hen (4 match boxes)
- Many battery cages facilities will be permitted to provide only the current 450 sq cm minimum per bird for some years after 2008
- ‘Modern’, ‘unfurnished’ all wire battery cages get a 20 year guarantee!



# Codes, Standards processes -

## Pigs –

*These farming practices will continue to be permitted in the new Code*

- *Sows in stalls so small they cannot turn around for (up to) the entire 16 weeks of each pregnancy (for another 10 years);*
- *The use of ‘farrowing crates’, - cannot properly interact with piglets;*
- *The lack of any requirement for bedding, nesting material for sows;*
- *No requirement for fibrous food for pregnant sows - their ‘hunger’ is chronic;*
- *The tail-docking, teeth-clipping of piglets without any pain relief;*
- *The castration of male piglets without any pain relief.*



Outcomes show that these processes put the interests of producers before the interests of animals.

# What's wrong with Factory Farming?

- AA's position -

- the ability to move, exercise, and perform natural behaviours are non-negotiable necessities, inherent to any species' quality of life
- Causing 'routine' pain to animals to modify them for the artificial environment/housing - is wrong.



- improving the welfare of animals raised for food may increase the cost of production
- an informed community will pay for better welfare .



# Live export – a long way from home



# Attitudes – based on what?

## Question –

How have we come to believe some species of animals deserve protection from suffering and then allow others to suffer?

- Is it their economic worth to us;
- How much they contribute to our lives?
- That they are a rare species that is in danger of extinction?
- That their plumage is beautiful?
- Their degree of intelligence?
- That they keep us company and so make our lives more pleasant?
- That they can be used to amuse and entertain us?
- Do we value them because they taste nice, or because we can ride them, or wear them?

## Answer -

- Their value to us and what their existence provides to our lives.

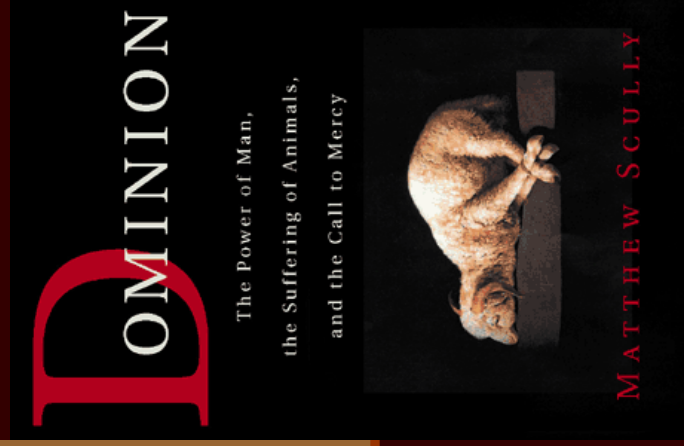
# The key challenges/questions

- Is it justifiable?
- Is it reasonable?
- Is it ethical?

.....

that our treatment and protection of animals is based not on their own needs, or that they also suffer, but on the type of contribution that they make to our lives?

- *"We cannot just take from these creatures, we must give them something in return. We owe them a merciful death, and we owe them a merciful life."*



*Author - Matthew Scully*

**Fear Factories:** The case for compassionate conservatism for animals.

**Dominion:** The Power of Man, the Suffering of Animals, and the Call to Mercy

Animals are sentient creatures, they can suffer.

Suffering is suffering.

All sentient creatures should be protected equally.



When we choose to act out of kindness, respect and compassion toward the most vulnerable, we better ourselves and our relationship with others – both human and animal.

[Best Friends, Utah, USA]

[www.animalsaustralia.org](http://www.animalsaustralia.org)



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