

# **ANIMAL WELFARE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

**Robert Baker**

**Principal Policy Officer  
Animal Health and Welfare  
Primary Industries and Resources SA**



Government of South Australia  
Primary Industries and Resources SA

# **TOPICS TO BE COVERED**

**Legislation and Regulations**

**Definition of an animal ( AAWS?)**

**How is it managed?**

**Government agencies involved**

**Role of the RSPCA(SA)**

**Research**

**How effective is the current system?**



Government of South Australia  
Primary Industries and Resources SA

# **MAJOR AREAS OF ANIMAL WELFARE RESPONSIBILITY**

**Companion animals**

**Production animals**

**Sport ( racing, rodeos )**

**Research and teaching**

**Zoos and wildlife**



Government of South Australia  
Primary Industries and Resources SA

# **SA PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS ACT 1985**

**is being revised in 2007**

**When enacted will be known as  
ANIMAL WELFARE ACT, 1985**

**Emphasis in new Act will be on “Welfare” rather  
than “Prevention of Cruelty”**



Government of South Australia  
Primary Industries and Resources SA

# **OTHER SA LEGISLATION**

**VETERINARY PRACTICE ACT, 2003**

**LIVESTOCK ACT, 1997**

**DOG AND CAT MANAGEMENT ACT, 1995**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1999**

**NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT, 2004**

**NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE ACT, 1972**

**IMPOUNDING ACT, 1920**

**DOG FENCE ACT, 1946**



Government of South Australia  
Primary Industries and Resources SA

# **POCTA REGULATIONS**

- **Scope limited and defined in the Act**
- **Teaching and research using animals**
  - **Rodeos**
  - **Electro-immobilisation of animals**
    - **Codes of practice ( X20 )**
- **Regulating new/revised Codes of Practice**  
**eg new Pig COP**



Government of South Australia  
Primary Industries and Resources SA

# **CODES OF PRACTICE**

**“Nothing in this Act renders unlawful anything done in accordance with a prescribed code of practice relating to animals ( Section 43 )”**

**What does this mean?**



Government of South Australia  
Primary Industries and Resources SA

# **CODES OF PRACTICE**

## **Regulation 10**

**“A person carrying out an activity described in Schedule 2 ( in a listed Code of Practice ) must ensure compliance with the Code of Practice specified in the entry”**



Government of South Australia  
Primary Industries and Resources SA



# FARM ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS

- **Intensive animal industries**
- **QA programs**
- **Auditing of QA and compliance**
- **Livestock transport**
- **Animal Rights activists**
- **Prosecution by private persons in SA**
- **Roles of DEH, PIRSA and RSPCA**



Government of South Australia  
Primary Industries and Resources SA

# **Role of RSPCA (SA)**

- **Incorporated not-for-profit Society**
- **National Council and President but each State and Territory RSPCA operates independently**
- **Annual appropriation of \$580,000 from SA Government for enforcement of the Act**



Government of South Australia  
Primary Industries and Resources SA

# **Role of PIRSA**

- Vets and Ag scientists are Inspectors under the POCTA Act**
- Role has been limited to saleyards and some on-farm investigations**
- Can (should?) be expanded**
  - Research??**
  - MOU**



Government of South Australia  
Primary Industries and Resources SA

# **Animal Welfare Advisory Committee ( AWAC )**

- **Statutory body**
- **Advises Minister for Environment**
- **Liaises with animal industries, AVA,  
RSPCA, Animal Welfare League**
- **PIRSA provides Chairperson**



Government of South Australia  
Primary Industries and Resources SA

# AUSTRALIAN ANIMAL WELFARE STRATEGY

- **How will it be implemented in SA?**
  - **Adequate staff and budget?**
  - **Political will?**



Government of South Australia  
Primary Industries and Resources SA

# ISSUES IN SA SYSTEM

- **Responsibility divided between Environment and Primary Industries ( inefficient )**
  - **Different Ministerial Councils**
  - **Duplication of representation**
- **Need for close communication between agencies**



Government of South Australia  
Primary Industries and Resources SA

# WHERE TO FROM HERE?

- **Role for PIRSA?**
- **Animal rights activism continues**
- **PIMC resolutions to be implemented in SA**
- **New AW Standards and Guidelines**
- **AAWS to be implemented?**
- **Role of RSPCA?**



Government of South Australia  
Primary Industries and Resources SA