ANIMAL WELFARE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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[A logo with the text "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?
MAJOR AREAS OF ANIMAL WELFARE RESPONSIBILITY

Companion animals
Production animals
Sport (racing, rodeos)
Research and teaching
Zoos and wildlife
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”
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
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
“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?
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”
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
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
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
Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC)

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

• How will it be implemented in SA?
• Adequate staff and budget?
• Political will?
ISSUES IN SA SYSTEM

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