

19th April 2022

State Development – Animal Welfare Act Inquiry 2022

RE: Questions on notice

To whom it may concern,

Question on Notice – to provide Animal Care Australia’s definition of ‘animal welfare’:

Animal Care Australia’s definition of Animal Welfare recognises the World Organization for Animal Health’s¹ definition, with a few minor adjustments.

Definition:

Animal welfare means the physical and mental state of an animal in relation to the conditions in which it lives and dies.

An animal experiences good welfare if the animal is healthy, comfortable, well nourished, safe, is not suffering from unpleasant states such as pain, fear and distress, and is able to express behaviours that are important for its physical and mental state.

How it is achieved:

Good animal welfare is achieved by following the 5 Freedoms. This requires disease prevention and appropriate veterinary care, shelter, management and nutrition, a stimulating and safe environment, humane handling and humane end of life.

While animal welfare refers to the state of the animal, the treatment that an animal receives is covered by other terms such as animal care, animal husbandry, and humane treatment.

Kind regards,

Michael Donnelly
President, Animal Care Australia.

¹ https://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Health_standards/tahc/2016/en_chapitre_aw_introduction.htm