

**Submission
No 54**

INQUIRY INTO ANIMAL CRUELTY LAWS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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I do not believe the current penalties for animal cruelty extend far enough. Penalties need to be stiffer in order to deter illegal acts of cruelty towards animals. Animal cruelty in NSW is widespread and mostly goes unreported. There is a perception among some people that animal cruelty is not a crime, this is because the public rarely sees anyone being charged. There needs to be more resources put into policing and the penalties need to be harsher. The public must be made aware that animal cruelty is not tolerated by our society. The government must lead on this issue.