

**Submission
No 57**

INQUIRY INTO ANIMAL CRUELTY LAWS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Ms Amy Johnson
Date Received: 25 November 2019

The current animal cruelty laws are ridiculously relaxed and prosecution basically never happens. The police will palm off cruelty cases to the RSPCA and then the RSPCA will try to palm it off to the police or claim they can't do anything. RSPCA claim that don't have enough funding or there is no laws that they can use to prosecute. They are not held accountable to anyone so they can choose to not bother prosecuting. I have seen this so numerous times. Companion animals still suffer terribly from animal cruelty in our society. Birds in extremely small barren cages, small animals such as rabbits and guinea pigs in small barren cages, not given proper care such as the right food and enrichment, lack of medical care provided, dogs locked in cages or small backyards their whole life, the killing of thousands of animals in shelters, sexual abuse of animals all over the internet that never gets prosecuted. I've been involved in rescue for 13 years and have seen severe cruelty that has never been prosecuted because the police claim they are too busy or that it's not their job even though it is and RSPCA just won't do anything and won't give answers as to why.

Apart from companion animals cruelty laws, monitoring and prosecution is non existent for farmed animals. It is extremely distressing to know how much cruelty is happening to farmed animals with no protection in our society. If the cruelty they experience was done to a dog or native wildlife it would be illegal. If the abuse was done to a human we would be outraged yet science proves animals can suffer just as much as humans and in many cases even more then humans. We are all animals, humans included. Suffering isn't just reserved for humans. All animals can suffer.

Body mutilations, sensory deprivation from extreme confinement in cages, lack of medical care provided, severe genetic deformities causing suffering, burning to death in fires because of no protection laws, emotional distress from separating baby animals from their parents, some farm workers abusing and beating animals, the cruelty farmed animals experience is extensive in our country. These are just some of the abuses.

Cruelty to animals that are experimented on is also widespread. There is a lack of monitoring for the welfare of these animals, also a lack of prosecution. Many experiments cause severe animal cruelty.

Animal Cruelty laws need to be significantly upgraded to reflect our proof of animal sentience; their ability to suffer and experience positive and negative emotional experiences just like humans. We need a law enforcement dedicated to monitoring and prosecuting animal cruelty and we need this enforcement to be held accountable. We need a department similar to the child abuse department. I'm a tax payer and I want my tax money to be used to protect the most innocent and abused members of our society which are non human animals. Please significantly upgrade the cruelty laws for Australian animals. If not for them please do it for the distress it causes to caring humans like myself.