

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on the proposed draft Animal Welfare Act Amendment Bill.

I am pleased to see some positive changes for animals in the proposed bill.

I support the proposed ban on the use of pronged collars and the expanded enforcement powers for animal welfare officers.

I would like the bill to outlaw harm to animals more broadly than physical pain or suffering.

I would like to see an acknowledgement of animal sentience within the bill. The ACT has already included this in their animal welfare legislation, and Victoria is soon set to do the same. It would be a shame for Tasmania to fall out of step with current scientific standards and community expectations by failing to incorporate sentience into its animal welfare laws.

I also strongly support the inclusion of further amendments that prohibit painful procedures like the mulesing of lambs, intensive confinement systems like battery cages for layer hens, intensive breeding systems like puppy and kitten factories, and cruel forms of entertainment like rodeos, greyhound racing and horse racing.

I note that the bill proposes that baiting, shooting and the cruel use of animals to train other animals should be allowed if it is done in the name of animal research. This is something that I am strongly opposed to including in our animal welfare legislation. Such an allowance is cruel and regressive. It is ABSOLUTELY VITAL that animal welfare standards are hugely improved in Tasmania!!! Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission and I look forward to seeing improved animal welfare standards implemented in Tasmania in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

Kerry Thomas