

Justice for Animals in our Care

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Just like us, animals deserve a life free from cruelty and enforced suffering.

Tasmania's animal welfare standards are well behind community expectations. Our laws do not acknowledge mental suffering, and give a free pass to cruel industries.

We are lagging behind many other places in the world that have banned barbaric practices such as greyhound racing and rodeos.

It is time to move into the 21st century and to introduce new, fairer laws to protect the animals that we are all responsible for.

We will amend the *Animal Welfare Act 1993* to introduce fair and compassionate standards for the treatment of animals.

THE GREENS WILL

- ▲ Ban greyhound racing
- ▲ Ban cruel animal practices at rodeos.
- ▲ Ban battery hen farming.
- ▲ Improve animal welfare standards.
- ▲ Introduce a Commissioner for Animal Welfare.

ANIMAL WELFARE COMMISSIONER

Malta introduced a Commissioner for Animal Welfare in 2014.¹ the commissioner is responsible for:

- ▲ Promoting the implementation of, and compliance with, animal welfare law;
- ▲ Promoting and advocating for animal welfare and the highest standards of health, keeping and treatment of animals;
- ▲ Promoting educational campaigns and social dialogue;
- ▲ Advising on the making of standards, guidelines and regulations relating to animal welfare;

The Commissioner will also review and investigate the functions and workings of other animal welfare bodies.²

The Greens will embed a similar statutory body within the *Animal Welfare Act*, with explicit investigative functions.

MENTAL SUFFERING

The 2013 review of *the Animal Welfare Act 1993* recommended many changes to the Act that were not enacted under the Liberals.

The most significant of these was the inclusion of an acknowledgement of mental suffering.

The Greens will ensure that mental suffering is included in animal welfare laws.

GREYHOUND RACING

In 2015, in response to a Four Corners expose, States across Australia,^{3,4} including Tasmania,⁵ initiated inquiries into Greyhound Racing.

Despite the scrutiny and public attention, Greyhounds Australasia acknowledged, *"the industry has done a poor job in understanding the nature and depth of this fundamental problem and has done very little to find a genuine solution"*.⁶

The industry body also acknowledged *"the culture of the industry is defined by animal deaths being acceptable and necessary and where profits come before welfare"*.⁷

The latest Tasmania data revealed 291 Greyhounds died over the 9 months between 1 July 2016 and 29 March 2107. Most of those dogs were killed for being unsuitable for racing or unsuitable for rehoming.⁸

The industry has been unable to make the transition required to meet community expectations. Australia is one of only 8 countries where commercial greyhound racing still exists.⁹ The Greens will ban this outdated practice.

Part of the Government funding that used to go to greyhound racing will be reallocated to Greyhound rehoming programs to deal with the large influx of Greyhounds.

RODEOS

Rodeos are present a number of extremely cruel activities that physically provoke cattle and horses into displaying a wild spectacle.

Many rodeo activities cause extreme psychological distress, physical injuries, and death.¹⁰

We will ban cruel rodeo practices, such as bull riding and calf roping, improving the quality of entertainment at rural events by eliminating cruelty to animals.

BATTERY HEN FARMING

Battery hen cages allocate less than an A4 size piece of paper of space per hen, and cram up to 20 of them in the same space.¹¹

Hens' beaks are removed to prevent distressed animals from fighting. A lack of exercise and abominable conditions cause bone fractures, disease outbreaks, liver rupture and death.^{12,13}

The Greens will ban battery hen farming and introduce ethical regulations and establish humane minimum standards for the keeping of hens.

INITIATIVE COST

| Initiative Investment (\$m) | 1 st Year | 2 nd Year | 3 rd Year | 4 th Year |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Animal Welfare Commission | 2.00 | 2.04 | 2.08 | 2.12 |
| Greyhound rehoming | 1.00 | 0.75 | 0.50 | 0.25 |
| Total | 3.00 | 2.79 | 2.58 | 2.37 |

REFERENCES

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- [6. Greyhounds Australasia, 'Crisis to Recovery Program'.](#)
- [7. ibid.](#)
- [8. Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, 'Deceased Greyhounds 1/7/16 to 29/3/17', Right to Information Release.](#)
- [9. Cath Hanrahan, 'Explained: Why NSW is banning greyhound racing', ABC News, 20 Jul 2016.](#)
- [10. Animals Australia, 'Rodeos', n.d.](#)
- [11. voiceless the animal protection institute, 'battery hens', n.d.](#)
- [12. ibid.](#)
- [13. Heather Neil, 'Why battery cages are cruel', RSPCA.](#)