



## HUNTER ANIMAL WATCH Inc.

Charity No. CFN15806

ABN 67 481 138 290

**President :** Pam Hopkins, 23 Nilands Lane, Woodberry, 2322 Tel: 02 4966 4344  
**Secretary:** Olga Parkes, 106 Grandview Rd., New Lambton 2305 Tel: 02 4952 1358  
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18<sup>th</sup> January, 2011

Bobby Calf TOF RIS Submissions  
Animal Health Australia  
Suite 15 26-28 Napier Close  
DEAKIN ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam,

We write to say that we are totally opposed to the suggestion that bobby calves should be off-feed for 30 hours. This is obviously cruel.

You will be familiar, we trust, with the work of Professor D. Broom, who is an expert in this field. We quote here.

“Calves have almost no food reserve at birth so would start to starve rapidly. In most countries it is illegal not to feed young calves and colostrum provision is required for protection against disease. Water provision is also required, in addition to milk in hot conditions (above 25C). The fact that they will be killed does not change this requirement.

Newborn calves that are not too weak try actively to obtain milk within an hour or two of birth. They try intermittently thereafter if unsuccessful but start to become weaker after a day without milk. They drink considerable volumes of colostrum and milk if they can get it. Conclusion: calves are hungry from shortly after birth and become more hungry if not fed.

It would be considered reasonable not to feed young calves for up to 6 hours but not be reasonable to starve them after that. The suffering would be more and more extreme from 6 to 30 hours.

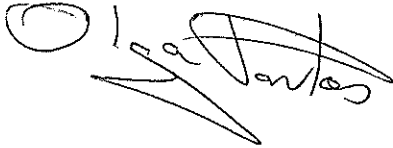
Transport of newborn calves without milk and water provision for more than 8 hours will cause very poor welfare. They should be killed on farm. “

Cruelty to these baby animals is unacceptable, and unnecessary, and on-farm killing needs to be put in place. If this costs more, that is something a civilised country would be prepared to pay.

We are disgusted at the 30 hour suggestion, and hope that in the light of all the evidence available, it will be decided to take the humane option.

On behalf of Hunter Animal Watch,

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Olga Parkes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

**Olga Parkes**  
**Hon. Secretary.**