

2 Hill St,
Seacliff Pk.,
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23rd May '08

Animal Welfare Standards Public Consultation,

As a concerned Australian citizen I add my voice to this consultation for Animal Welfare of animals during land transport in Australia.

My question is.....

"Why do we allow our standards of Animal Welfare to fall so far behind those of the E.U.?"

Surely by following the Standards set by the E.U. we can work for the welfare of our animals without having to "REINVENT THE WHEEL."

Some examples from EU Council Regulation No-2005 : Mandatory standards requiring...

1. Thorough documentation of all journeys.
2. Audits of documentation by authorities
3. Drivers require certificates of competence.
4. Vehicles must be inspected for road worthiness.
5. Documents must show the source, destination and driver's name.
6. No. of animals loaded and no. of poultry in crates recorded.
7. Date and time animals last had access to water and feed.
8. Date and time of inspection, problems found and the corrective action taken.
9. Documents retained by the receiver of animals for inspection by authorities, both during & after journey

Transportation of animals in Australia can take place for long periods of time. We have all seen horrific examples of animals with legs protruding from the vehicles and animals and birds transported during heatwaves.

* New Standards must apply

1. Actions to apply due to delays & mechanical failures.
ie. emergency contacts
2. Changes to transporting during adverse weather.
3. Locations noted for rest stops
4. Injuries and illness of animals to be dealt with humanely.
5. Drivers plans must be available for inspection by relevant authorities
6. All transport vehicles must be inspected for road worthiness and log books kept with vehicles.
7. Certificates of competence in stock handling by drivers and stock handlers and licences revoked if breaches occur.
8. Electric prods must not be used on any animal.
9. Drivers must provide assistance to any injured animal.
10. Water must be accessible to livestock during spell periods and on arrival at destination.

I know the age of the animal, type of animal, condition ie scouring in calves, pregnancy cause standards to be reviewed for their welfare.

I also believe Australians are becoming more aware of our lack of Animal Welfare Standards and feel ashamed that our Government allows this to happen. The time for change is here and now.

Yours Faithfully,
Diane Cornelius