

20 February 2018

Secretary, Social Policy Scrutiny Committee,
GPO Box 3721,
DARWIN NT 0801

Email SPSC@nt.gov.au

Dear Secretariat,

Humane Research Australia is a not for profit organisation that challenges the use of animal experiments and promotes more humane and scientifically valid non-animal methods of research.

We welcome this opportunity to provide a submission to the **NT Animal Protection Bill 2018** as we consider it the best opportunity to address our concern about the wastage of animals' lives at the end of their "use" in research.

For those animals unfortunate to be caught in the research industry, there is very rarely a happy ending. If the experiments they are subjected to don't kill them, then they are often "disposed of" by a lethal dose of barbiturate.

In 2014 the Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes was updated and the following clause was inserted:

*"Opportunities to rehome animals should be considered wherever possible, especially when the impact of the project or activity on the wellbeing of the animal has been minimal and their physiological condition and behavioural attributes indicate that they can be introduced to a new environment with minimal, transient impact on their wellbeing."*¹

The clause however, does not have any legal standing in that the Animal Ethics Committee need only consider rehoming. There is no legal requirement for them to do so.

The Beagle Freedom Bill has been passed in three states of the U.S. meaning that all tax-payer funded labs must offer their dogs and cats up for adoption through animal rescue organizations instead of just summarily killing (as is the standard operating procedure). It would be advantageous to introduce similar legislation within Australia however to do so under the current system would require separate legislative reforms under each state/territory jurisdiction.

The **NT Animal Protection Bill 2018** is an ideal opportunity to incorporate this legislative requirement under clause 62 "Conditions of approval".

¹Excerpt from Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes. (Page 67, Clause 3.4.2)

I urge your panel to please include consideration of this issue as part of your review.

Thank you again for allowing us this opportunity. Should you require any further information or clarification, Humane Research Australia will be happy to discuss.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Helen Marston', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Helen Marston
Chief Executive Officer