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Natalie James
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Submission Content:

Unauthorised activities on farms by whistleblowers has been necessary and essential to exposing rampant animal abuse in factory farms and slaughterhouses. Collecting video evidence of cruelty to animals, taking part in actions that aim to prevent further harm to animals or shining a light on the systemic abuse within said industries is something to be commended, not punished.

I don't believe any activities by those exposing the truth and highlighting the failures and injustices within our animal protection laws, have caused or led to any harm of any individual, animal or person.

The apparent fears and concerns of farmers and their families seems unwarranted and unsubstantiated.

And furthermore, any fears about their livelihoods and future in these industries should be attributed to other factors such as climate and sustainability.

It's time for Animal Cruelty laws to accommodate all animals. Currently there is no protection for animals within the farming industries which allows not only the accepted standard acts of cruelty, for example; tail docking, teeth pulling, mulesing without pain killers or anaesthetics; blunt force trauma as a means to killing 'waste products'- baby pigs and baby cows; maceration of baby male chicks and so on, but enables no accountability for other acts of abuse against animals, and they remain vulnerable to indecent and cruel abuse.

I am aware of systemic cruelty thanks to video recordings captured by whistleblowers. I have every right to know this, as does every member of the public, because we should all be able to make informed decisions as to who and what our money supports.

I don't see any positives to come from targeting these whistleblowers. Laws which aim to silence and severely punish them is essentially discriminatory and against our free democracy.

I see the main issues as:

- 1) lack of transparency within the agriculture industry,
- 2) voluntary farming code of practice instead of mandatory
- 3) lack of welfare standards and animal cruelty laws to protect animals in agriculture.

Therefore I propose CCTV in all facilities and harsher penalties for animal abusers, a mandatory farming code of practice and an independent animal welfare body to ensure that 'farm' animals are protected from cruelty and abuse. Then there would be no need for any action by any whistleblowers.

Sent from my iPad