

SUBMISSION – SHOULD ACTIVISTS GET HARSHER PENALTIES

I am of the opinion that activists should not be penalised at all, if they are trying to expose abuse towards animals. Nearly the whole of Australia lives in ignorance about what happens on farms and in slaughter houses because what happens in these places is done secretly, and if people become aware of how their food is produced, most humans would not like to participate in animal cruelty. My reasons for this are:

1. We want a better world where abuse is challenged and accountability prevails.
2. Animals raised for food in Australia have been excluded from cruelty laws that protect cats and dogs — despite sharing the same capacity to suffer.
3. These animals, including over 500 million animals raised every year in factory farms, experience pain and suffering in the same ways as our beloved pets. Yet the Australian legal system actively and deliberately excludes these animals from protection against cruel treatment. The sole reason being ensuring that animal industries remain as profitable as possible.
4. The Live Export horror was exposed only because a whistle blower took the effort to shoot footage of what actually occurs on these death ships. We would not have known otherwise.
5. Anything evil has been fought only because people took the trouble to bring the atrocities being committed to light. All social justice movements have been won this way. Some of the examples being the abolishment of slavery, fighting anti-Semitism, the suffragette movement, apartheid, etc.
6. The activists are not going to the farms to harm the humans or the animals. Their sole intention is to shed light on what is happening inside. They should be allowed to do this without penalties.
7. Animal agriculture has a huge impact on our environment as well. We need to save this planet for future generations. We are also currently experiencing the sixth mass extinction of animals.
8. If we need to save this planet we must have people cutting down on their meat, eggs, dairy and fish consumption. And the only way this can be done is if they are made aware of how these products reach their tables.

- 9. Animal agriculture adversely affects our health, the future of this planet and causes untold suffering millions of animals. This needs to end or at least be reduced. The only way to by opening people's eyes and minds. And that is exactly what activists are doing.**