Supplementary Material

# Supplementary Data

Questionnaire used for analysis.

Q2 What gender do you identify as?

* Male (1)
* Female (2)
* Non-binary / third gender (3)
* Other (4)
* Prefer not to say (5)

Q3 What is your age range?

* 18-24 years old (1)
* 25-34 years old (2)
* 35-44 years old (3)
* 45-54 years old (4)
* 55-64 years old (5)
* 65 years or older (6)
* Prefer not to say (7)

Q4 Which Australian state/territory do you live in?

* Australian Capital Territory (1)
* New South Wales (2)
* Northern Territory (3)
* Queensland (4)
* South Australia (5)
* Tasmania (6)
* Victoria (7)
* Western Australia (8)
* Prefer not to say (9)

Q5 Would you describe your current residential location as:

* Urban (eg. major city, town, suburban) (1)
* Rural (eg. country town, remote) (2)
* Prefer not to say (3)

Q6 How would you self-describe your primary ethnic origin?

* Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (1)
* European (2)
* Asian (3)
* Indian (4)
* Middle Eastern (5)
* African (6)
* North American (7)
* South American or Caribbean Islander (8)
* Oceanian or Australian (9)
* Prefer not to say (10)

Q7 What is the highest level of education you have completed?

* No formal education (1)
* High school (2)
* TAFE or equivalent (3)
* Bachelors degree (4)
* Masters or PhD (5)
* Prefer not to say (6)

Q8 Which best describes your current occupation?

* Professional (1)
* Technical and trade (2)
* Education (3)
* Retail and hospitality (4)
* Health care (5)
* Primary industry (6)
* Other (please specify) (7) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Currently unemployed (8)
* Retired (9)
* Prefer not to say (10)

Q9 Does your employment involve working with animals?

* Yes (1)
* No (2)
* Prefer not to say (3)

Q10 Do you work in legal practice or law enforcement?

* Yes (1)
* No (2)
* Prefer not to say (3)

Q11 Do you regularly volunteer for, or donate to an animal welfare group?

* Yes (1)
* No (2)
* Prefer not to say (3)

Q12 Do you live with or own a pet?

* Yes (1)
* No (2)
* Prefer not to say (3)

Q13 Do you follow a specific diet for ethical reasons relating to animal welfare?

* Vegan (consumes no food of animal origins) (1)
* Vegetarian (consumes dairy or eggs, but no meat) (2)
* Pescatarian (consumes fish, but no meat) (3)
* Other (please specify): (4) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* No (5)
* Prefer not to say (6)

Q14 Have you had any experience with an animal cruelty case?

* Yes - legal professional (1)
* Yes - defendant (2)
* Yes - witness (3)
* Yes - reported cruelty to enforcement agency (4)
* Yes - police (5)
* Yes - animal welfare organisation employee (6)
* No (7)
* Other (please specify) (8) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Prefer not to say (9)

End of Block: Introduction and Screener Questions

Start of Block: Main Survey

Q15 Do you think animal cruelty is illegal in Australia?

* Definitely yes (1)
* Probably yes (2)
* It depends (3)
* Probably not (4)
* Definitely not (5)

Q16 Which of the following species do you think SHOULD BE protected from cruelty? (select all that apply)

* Lizard (1)
* Fly (2)
* Kangaroo (3)
* Plant (4)
* Frog (5)
* Crab (6)
* Bird (7)
* Octopus (8)
* Dog (9)
* Fish (10)
* Bee (11)
* ⊗All of the above (12)

Q17 Do you feel confident that you know how and where to report animal cruelty? Rank your confidence level between 0-100 (where 0 means not very confident and 100 means extremely confident)

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|  | 0 | 10 | 20 | 30 | 40 | 50 | 60 | 70 | 80 | 90 | 100 |

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| How confident would you be about how to report animal cruelty? () |  |

Q18 Which of the following do you think count as "animal cruelty"? (select all that apply)

* Not giving your pet enough food or water (1)
* Not taking your pet to the vet when it is unwell (2)
* Beating an animal (3)
* Leaving an animal in a hot car (4)
* Failing to register your animals with the council (5)
* Tail docking a lamb (6)
* Abandoning your pet (7)
* I don't know (8)

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Q19 In your opinion, should animal welfare law enforcement be a public (i.e. government) or a private (i.e. charitable organisation) responsibility?

* Public (1)
* Private (2)

Q20 Which entity do you think is best placed to enforce animal welfare law?

* An existing government department (e.g. local council, Department of Agriculture) (1)
* A new government agency dedicated to animal welfare (e.g. an animal welfare authority) (2)
* The police (3)
* A private charitable organisation (e.g. RSPCA, Animal Welfare League) (4)
* Other (please specify) (5) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Q21 What enforcement options do you think are currently available to the relevant agency that enforces animal welfare law? (select all that apply)

* Taking the animal away from the owners (1)
* Prosecuting the owners in court (2)
* Educating the owners (3)
* Putting hidden cameras to record potential cruelty (4)
* Issuing a written letter of caution (5)
* Nothing (6)
* Giving an on-the-spot fine (7)
* I don't know (8)

Q22 In 2019 there were 58,487 investigations of animal cruelty nationally conducted by RSPCA. How many of those investigations do you think went to court nationally?

* 3 (1)
* 37 (2)
* 376 (3)
* 3,763 (4)
* 37,631 (5)

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Q23 From those 58,487 investigations, a total of 376 prosecutions were finalised in court by the RSPCA Australia-wide. Do you think this prosecution rate is adequate?

* Extremely adequate (1)
* Somewhat adequate (2)
* Neither adequate nor inadequate (3)
* Somewhat inadequate (4)
* Extremely inadequate (5)

Q24 In your opinion do you think more animal welfare investigations should go to court?

* Definitely yes (1)
* Probably yes (2)
* It depends (3)
* Probably not (4)
* Definitely not (5)

Q25 Do you think owners should be educated or punished when animal welfare issues occur (e.g. not taking your sick animal to the vet)?

* Educated on appropriate pet care and resources available (1)
* Taken to court and issued with a legal punishment (e.g. fine or jail time) (2)
* It depends on the animal welfare issue and the owner (legal system should decide) (3)

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Q26 Who do you think should hand out penalties for animal cruelty?

* Enforcement agency (1)
* Judge in court (2)
* Government department (3)
* Police (4)
* I don't know (5)

Q27 What penalties do you think are used for animal cruelty offenders? (select all that apply)

* Community service (1)
* Fine (2)
* Home detention (3)
* Mandated counselling (4)
* Jail time (5)
* Good behaviour bond (6)
* No penalty required (7)
* I don't know (8)

Q28 If someone was found guilty of animal cruelty, do you believe they should be banned from owning animals?

* Definitely yes (1)
* Probably yes (2)
* It depends (3)
* Probably not (4)
* Definitely not (5)

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Q29 How important do you think it is for the legal system to take animal cruelty seriously when the animal is a COMPANION ANIMAL (e.g. dog, cat)?

* Extremely important (1)
* Very important (2)
* Moderately important (3)
* Slightly important (4)
* Not at all important (5)

Q30 If a COMPANION ANIMAL (eg. dog/cat) dies due to deliberate animal cruelty, what kind of response is required from the legal system? (select all that apply)

* Fine (1)
* Jail time (2)
* Community service (3)
* Good behaviour bond (4)
* Court mandated counselling (5)
* No response needed (6)
* It depends on the circumstances (7)

Q31 How important do you think it is for the legal system to take animal cruelty seriously when the animal is a FARM ANIMAL (e.g. cow, sheep, chicken)?

* Extremely important (1)
* Very important (2)
* Moderately important (3)
* Slightly important (4)
* Not at all important (5)

Q32 If a FARM ANIMAL (e.g. cow, sheep, chicken) dies due to deliberate animal cruelty, what kind of response is currently required by the legal system? (select all that apply)

* Fine (1)
* Jail time (2)
* Community service (3)
* Good behaviour bond (4)
* Court mandated counselling (5)
* No response needed (6)
* It depends on the circumstances (7)

Q33 How important do you think it is for the legal system to take animal cruelty seriously when the victim is a NATIVE ANIMAL (e.g. wombat, kangaroo)?

* Extremely important (1)
* Very important (2)
* Moderately important (3)
* Slightly important (4)
* Not at all important (5)

Q34 How important do you think it is for the legal system to take animal cruelty seriously when the victim is a PEST ANIMAL (e.g. rats, mice, camel)?

* Extremely important (1)
* Very important (2)
* Moderately important (3)
* Slightly important (4)
* Not at all important (5)

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Q35 In a case where a person deliberately hit an animal causing serious harm, what penalty do you think is suitable?

* Jail time (1)
* Fine (2)
* Good behaviour bond (3)
* Community service (4)
* Court mandated counselling (5)
* No response needed (6)

Q36 In the scenario from the previous question, what, if any, length of jail time do you think is warranted (where 0 equals no jail time necessary and 4 equals four years)

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|  | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 |

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| What length of jail time in years would be warranted? () |  |

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Q37 Previous research has shown that the average penalty for this type of offence (deliberate abuse causing serious harm) is 4 months imprisonment; do you think this is appropriate and sufficient?

* No - needs to be harsher (1)
* No - it is too harsh (2)
* Yes (3)
* It depends on the circumstances of the case (4)

End of Block: Main Survey