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To whom it may concern;

I am writing in regards to the Animal Welfare Amendment Bill 2017. I wholeheartedly agree with this bill and am quite happy to see it being brought up in parliament. However, I would like to ask if the bill could cover more for our smaller companion animals such as fish? As it stands, fish have no rights in this country. I feel this is wrong as science is proving more and more that fish are capable of pain, misery and depression. Animals such as Goldfish have been proven to be very social animals, as such Sweden has outlawed only owning one goldfish for the sake of the fish's mental health. I would also like to draw attention to the housing of such fish, the goldfish bowl.

Goldfish are fish with an underdeveloped digestive system that causes excess release of ammonia and waste, and when kept in these bowls they are continuously subject to swimming in their own filth with their gills being burnt by the ammonia. Goldfish are close relatives of Koi fish and can grow just as large, basic recommendations of keeping goldfish are a minimum of 100 litres for long-bodied fish or 70 litres for short-bodied fish. I would like to ask the committee to consider a ban on goldfish bowls – they are cruel, outdated and barbaric. Every animal regardless of size deserves to have plenty of room to play, eat and socialise.

If we were to imagine a puppy being kept in a closet, covered in its own waste and having its' skin burnt by the ammonia from their urine we would be outraged, why then do we allow this to happen to fish? They are intelligent animals in their own right and as said above they are capable of feeling pain when hurt and depression when lonely.

I plead with you to please reconsider the laws regarding welfare of fish, to ban the bowl would not only save countless lives it would open WA up to new standards in the care for these animals.

For your consideration.
Thank you.

Kiara Clinton.

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