



“Every Dog Has Its Day”

Animal Welfare Bill 2001

Adapted by the Parliamentary Education Office from the original text of the second reading Parliamentary Debates, Legislative Assembly, 2001.

TEACHERS' NOTES
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES EXERCISE
"Every Dog has Its Day"

Introduction

This exercise has been developed around a theme of universal concern - how to protect animals from cruelty. Prior to the passage of the Animal Welfare Bill 2001, the relevant Act was the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1920. However, enormous changes have taken place since 1920 in both the carriage and handling of animals, and in community attitudes in relation to their care and treatment. In 1999 the Court Coalition Government introduced an Animal Welfare Bill but unfortunately accorded it a low priority within its legislative program and it never completed its passage. Early in its term in office, the Gallop Labor Government strengthened the Bill's provisions and re-introduced it as the Animal Welfare Bill 2001. The Bill successfully passed through both Houses and entered the statute books as the Animal Welfare Act 2002.

The text of this role-play has been adapted from the Parliamentary Debates (Hansard) record of the second reading debate in the Legislative Assembly (the Lower House). It is designed for use during the school's visit to Parliament as a vehicle for explaining key workings of the Parliament. However, the script and exercise can also be used by the class teacher to assist in the development of a program of learning opportunities and enriching experiences aimed at achieving the outcomes set out in the Society & Environment Learning Area of the Curriculum Framework.

Preparation for Role Play

The roles should be allocated and rehearsed beforehand. The following background information should be discussed with the students and the students should feel comfortable with the material and understand what they are saying. They should also feel comfortable in providing impromptu active support for members of their party with calls of "Hear, hear" (without barracking).

Language (Concepts, vocabulary and contextual meaning)

Term	Meaning
Bill	<i>a proposed law.</i>
Act	<i>a law made by Parliament; a Bill that has passed all three readings in each House and has received the royal assent.</i>
Clerk	<i>the most senior permanent official in each House. The Clerk records all the decisions that are made in the Chamber.</i>
Parliamentary Secretary	<i>a member appointed to assist a Minister. A member so appointed is not a member of the Executive Council and does not receive additional salary.</i>
First Reading	<i>a process whereby the House is being asked if it is prepared to discuss the proposed legislation. Normally no debate takes place, a vote is taken on the voices, and the House agrees to debate the Bill. The Clerk gives the Bill its First Reading by reading out its long title.</i>
Debate be adjourned	<i>Usually a member of the opposition calls for the debate to be adjourned for a period (usually three weeks). During the adjournment period, copies of the Bill are circulated. This enables members to study the proposed legislation and prepare arguments for and against it.</i>
Second Reading	<i>the second reading for passage of a bill through a house at which time discussion on the principle or purpose of the bill takes place.</i>
Consideration in Detail	<i>the stage in the passage of a Bill through the Legislative Assembly in which the provisions are examined individually and amendments can be made</i>
Third Reading	<i>the Speaker would call for a vote on the motion to conduct the Third Reading of the bill; announce the result; then, finally have the Bill read by the Clerk as acceptance of the bill in the Legislative Assembly. The Bill would then pass to the Legislative Council for their consideration.</i>

PRIMARY CAST SHEET
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES EXERCISE

“Every Dog Has Its Day”

Mr P. McHugh
Clerk of Legislative Assembly

Mr J BRADSHAW
Member for Murray-Wellington

Hon. F. RIEBELING
SPEAKER

Mr T O’GORMAN
Member for Joondalup

Mr M. McGOWAN
**Parliamentary Secretary to the
Minister for Science**

Ms S WALKER
Member for Nedlands

Mr J EDWARDS
Member for Greenough

Mr T DEAN
Member for Bunbury

Hon. P. (Paul) OMODEI
Member for Warren-Blackwood

Mr P ANDREWS
Member for Southern River

PLUS 3 NON-SPEAKING ROLES

2x Hansard Reporters

1x Sergeant-at-Arms



Animal Welfare

“Every Dog Has Its Day”

The following role-playing exercise can be conducted during the visit. It is based on the original text from the Parliamentary Debates, 36th Parliament of Western Australia, Legislative Assembly 2001, but has been adapted by the Parliamentary Education Office to suit the needs of students.

Best results occur when the roles are allocated and rehearsed beforehand.

ANIMAL WELFARE BILL 2001

SECOND READING

Clerk (*Mr. P. McHugh*)

The Animal Welfare Bill 2001. A Bill for an Act to provide for the welfare, safety and health of animals, to regulate the use of animals for scientific purposes, and for related purposes.

The Speaker (*Hon. F. Riebeling*)

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Science

Parliamentary Secretary (*Mr. M. McGowan, Member for Rockingham*)

Mr Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to introduce the Animal Welfare Bill 2001.

This Bill protects animals by laying down rules for the use of animals for scientific purposes and prohibiting cruel treatment of animals.

Under this legislation the maximum fines for cruel treatment of animals will increase from 5000 dollars to 50,000 dollars and the maximum prison sentence will increase from 1 year to 5 years.

This new Animal Welfare Bill provides for a total rewrite of the current legislation. I commend the Bill to the House.

All Members

Hear, hear!

Member for Greenough (*J. Edwards*)

Mr Speaker.

The Speaker

The Member for Greenough.

Member for Greenough

This Bill covers a broad field of animal welfare. Cruelty to animals takes many forms from the overfeeding of family pets to the torture of both domestic and wild animals by various means.

The relationship between humans and animals has many different forms. Work and farm animals are seen in a different light from dogs, cats and other domestic animals. As a child, I enjoyed the company of my pet bull-terrier.

Member for Southern River (*P. Andrews*)

Did she enjoy your company?

Member for Greenough

Enormously, so much so that she took a bite out of me one day.

Member for Nedlands (*S. Walker*)

You only have to look at him to know that he is a pet lover!

Member for Greenough

Animals, unfortunately, must be used to test drugs for scientific purposes. However, these tests can be carried out as humanely as possible.

Again, with farm animals, it is necessary to treat these animals kindly.

It is important to transport animals in a proper way by truck or by some other means.

I support the Bill.

Member for Warren-Blackwood (*Hon. P. Omodei*)

Mr Speaker.

The Speaker

The Member for Warren-Blackwood.

Member for Warren-Blackwood

I support the Bill, although I am worried that this legislation may be misused to reduce normal animal management.

Sheep can get flyblown. That is why they are subject to mulesing and de-horning cattle is a painful experience but it protects the animal. A city-based person with no knowledge of these farming practices would see these procedures as cruel and horrific.

This legislation is only the beginning of what we can do for animals in this state. Animals should not be left to fend for themselves and it should be an offence to treat them badly.

We must make sure penalties for an attack on an elderly person aren't any less than penalties for animal cruelty. I have concerns with the Bill, but I will support the legislation.

Member for Murray-Wellington (*J. Bradshaw*)

Mr Speaker.

The Speaker

The Member for Murray-Wellington.

Member for Murray-Wellington

I also support this legislation, however I do have some concerns.

I was horrified to read in the newspaper that animals are often starved and left in a dreadful condition.

The people who do this should be treated in a similar way to show that it is not right for animals to be made to suffer.

I support the legislation as long as it does not go overboard, and allows some of the past farming practices to continue.

The Member for Joondalup (*T. O'Gorman*)

Mr Speaker.

The Speaker

The Member for Joondalup.

Member for Joondalup

I also support the legislation and the degree of punishment for an act of cruelty to animals.

Strangely, I find myself agreeing with the Member for Warren-Blackwood.

He is right; most people in the city would be appalled at the way some animals are treated in the country. As he has said, it is sometimes necessary to treat animals in that way for their own protection and survival.

Member for Nedlands: (*S. Walker*)

Mr Speaker.

The Speaker

The Member for Nedlands.

Member for Nedlands:

This Bill should make it illegal for wild animals to be used in circuses in this State.

A circus was set up recently near Langley Park, and the sight of an elephant confined to a small pen and barely able to move disturbed many passing motorists.

Elephants need to be able to roam for great distances and be part of complex social groups. Signs of their distress takes the form of constant swaying or pacing up and down. This circus elephant was suffering as it was displaying all of these signs.

Member for Bunbury (*T. Dean*)

Mr Speaker.

The Speaker

The Member for Bunbury.

Member for Bunbury

The Member for Warren-Blackwood referred to the practice of mulesing. Merino sheep were bred to have a number of skin folds. The idea was that the more skin folds there were, the more wool there would be. However, wool sweats and forms a liquid protein that attracts green blow-fly.

To overcome the problem of flystrike, farmers introduced the practice of mulesing. This involves taking off about four slices of skin from the rear end of a lamb. It is a bloody operation and the lamb is left in a state of shock. I think there are other ways to overcome blowfly strike without hurting the animal such as crutching; or through chemical jetting which kills the maggots and reduces flystrike.

I commend the Bill to the House

Member for Southern River (*P. Andrews*)

Mr Speaker.

The Speaker

The Member for Southern River.

Member for Southern River

Mr Speaker, I have a dog at home and like me she is getting greyer and slower.

For many people, their pets are their sole companions. Because rangers in some local government areas have owner's contact details, if they pick up a registered stray, they can easily contact the owner or friend to let them know they have found it.

This should become a regulation of this Animal Welfare Act. Pets won't then be sent to the pound by mistake.

I commend that suggestion to the House.

The Speaker

The Parliamentary Secretary.

Parliamentary Secretary

I thank all members who have contributed to this debate, particularly the member for Warren-Blackwood. He has a great deal of knowledge about this and did a great deal of work in preparing this Bill.

I commend the Bill to the House and move that it be read a second time.

The Speaker

The question is that the bill be read a second time.

Those in favour say	“Aye”	<i>(most members say “Aye”).</i>
Those against say	“No”	<i>(nobody says “No”).</i>

I think the “Ayes” have it.

The “Ayes” have it.

Clerk

The Animal Welfare Bill 2001, A Bill for an Act to provide for the welfare, safety and health of animals, to regulate the use of animals for scientific purposes, and for related purposes.

(THE SECOND READING IS NOW CONCLUDED AND THE HOUSE WOULD DECIDE WHETHER TO GO STRAIGHT TO THE THIRD READING OR TO PROCEED TO A CONSIDERATION IN DETAIL STAGE.)