SPCA MONTRÉAL

SHARE THE MANIFESTO

English

Just because they're going to die doesn't mean they don't deserve to be protected

While 92% of Quebecers believe that a law or regulation should govern the treatment of animals intended for consumption on Quebec farms, this is still not the case.

To date, cows, chickens, pigs and other livestock are excluded from the main —yet basic— protections of the Animal Welfare and Safety Act.

It is time to do better to protect all animals in Quebec. Join the Montreal SPCA as well as around thirty Quebec personalities, and sign the manifesto!

SIGN THE MANIFESTO TODAY



All animals deserve to be protected

MANIFESTO FOR A LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF FARM ANIMALS IN QUEBEC

Like the majority of Quebecers, we consider that animals intended for consumption should be raised in conditions ensuring a minimum of well-being. There is broad scientific consensus that these animals are just as capable of feeling pain and suffering as our dogs, cats and other pets. The more research progresses, the more we discover that many animals have much more complex cognitive and emotional abilities than initially suspected — and this applies as much to dogs and cats as to cows, pigs, chickens and other mammals and birds raised for our consumption. It is therefore necessary to take into account the interests and needs of all animals in the way we treat them,whether they end up sleeping on our couch or on our plate [...]

It seems inconceivable to us, and contrary to scientific advances on these issues, that farmed animals benefit from practically no legal protection. Indeed, the Animal Welfare and Safety Act, adopted in 2015, still excludes animals used for agricultural purposes from the protections, although basic, provided for in sections 5 (obligation to provide an animal with water and food, adequate environment and care when injured or ill) and 6 (prohibition of causing distress to an animal), provided they are treated in accordance with "generally accepted rules" of the industry. As these rules are not defined in the Law,such an exception has the effect of giving the industry the power to determine for itself which practices are "generally recognized" and therefore legal.

This exemption from the law essentially allows the private sector to self-regulate regarding animal welfare, which represents, in our view, an abdication of public responsibility on the part of the government. It seems contrary to common sense to us to give an industry where millions of sentient beings pass through the power to self-regulate.

Quebec society, although recognized for its progressive values, lags significantly behind the many nations around the world which have for decades adopted laws or regulations dictating mandatory standards of care for animals intended for consumption.

We are convinced that together, government, producer and citizen, we want and can do better for the well-being of animals raised for consumption in Quebec. We firmly believe that it is time to fill the legal void in this matter and that it is necessary for the government to finally formally regulate the living conditions of these animals. We therefore call for the establishment of regulations establishing mandatory minimum standards, as is the case in many countries around the world. Such a regulatory framework can only benefit production already concerned with animal welfare and encourage others to adopt best practices.

By protecting all animals, including those raised for consumption, we are taking a step forward towards a fairer and more equitable world for all living beings. We recognize that we are actors within an ecosystem larger than that imposed by economic forces which exert various pressures on all protagonists, whether producers, consumers or animals. By recognizing the need to ensure minimal well-being for all, it is to each of the actors in the system that we thus grant respect and dignity.