

AUSTRALIA

VOICELESS ANIMAL CRUELTY INDEX 2017

Overall Rank 44

Australia was a *very poor* performer under the Voiceless Animal Cruelty Index (VACI) 2017, due largely to the high level of animal protein in the Australian diet.

Producing Cruelty

Rank 46

Australians are highly dependent on animals, having around 8.8 animals per person (more than double the global average of 4) and slaughtering around 27.2 animals per person / year (almost triple the global average of 9.7). The vast majority of Australian animals are confined in factory farms, particularly in pigs and poultry production. A significant proportion of cows (including dairy cows) are also raised or “finished” in intensive systems.

Consuming Cruelty

Rank 50

Australians consume the second highest number of land-based animals (after the United States) and the second highest proportion of land-based animal protein in the diet (after the Netherlands). This is despite the fact that a Roy Morgan poll [http://www.roymorgan.com/findings/vegetarianisms-slow-but-steady-rise-in-australia-201608151105] found that the number of people in Australia who identify as totally or mostly vegetarian rose from 9.7% to 11.2% between 2011 and 2016.

Sanctioning Cruelty

Rank 13

Australia was given a “C” under the Animal Protection Index (API) 2014, and ranked relatively well under the Sanctioning Cruelty category. This is largely due to the presence of comprehensive anti-animal cruelty legislation at a state and territory level, although the law continues to permit a range of cruel practices, particularly to farm animals and wild animals. Learn more about the quality of Australia’s regulatory framework on the Animal Protection Index here [http://api.worldanimalprotection.org/country/australia].



Voiceless Animal Cruelty Index

This country profile is from the 2017 Voiceless Animal Cruelty Index (VACI). The VACI tracks the animal welfare performance of 50 countries selected among the largest producers of farmed animal products in the world. The VACI was first published in 2017, and updated in 2020. Please read the VACI Terms of Use (<https://vaci.voiceless.org.au/terms-of-use/>) and Voiceless Website Terms of Use ([Website Terms and Conditions | Voiceless](#)) for further information. Voiceless does not guarantee the accuracy, reliability or currency of the information. Questions about the VACI can be directed to: info@voiceless.org.au

The 2020 VACI can be accessed here: <https://vaci.voiceless.org.au/>