



WHY LOVE ONE BUT

EAT THE OTHER?



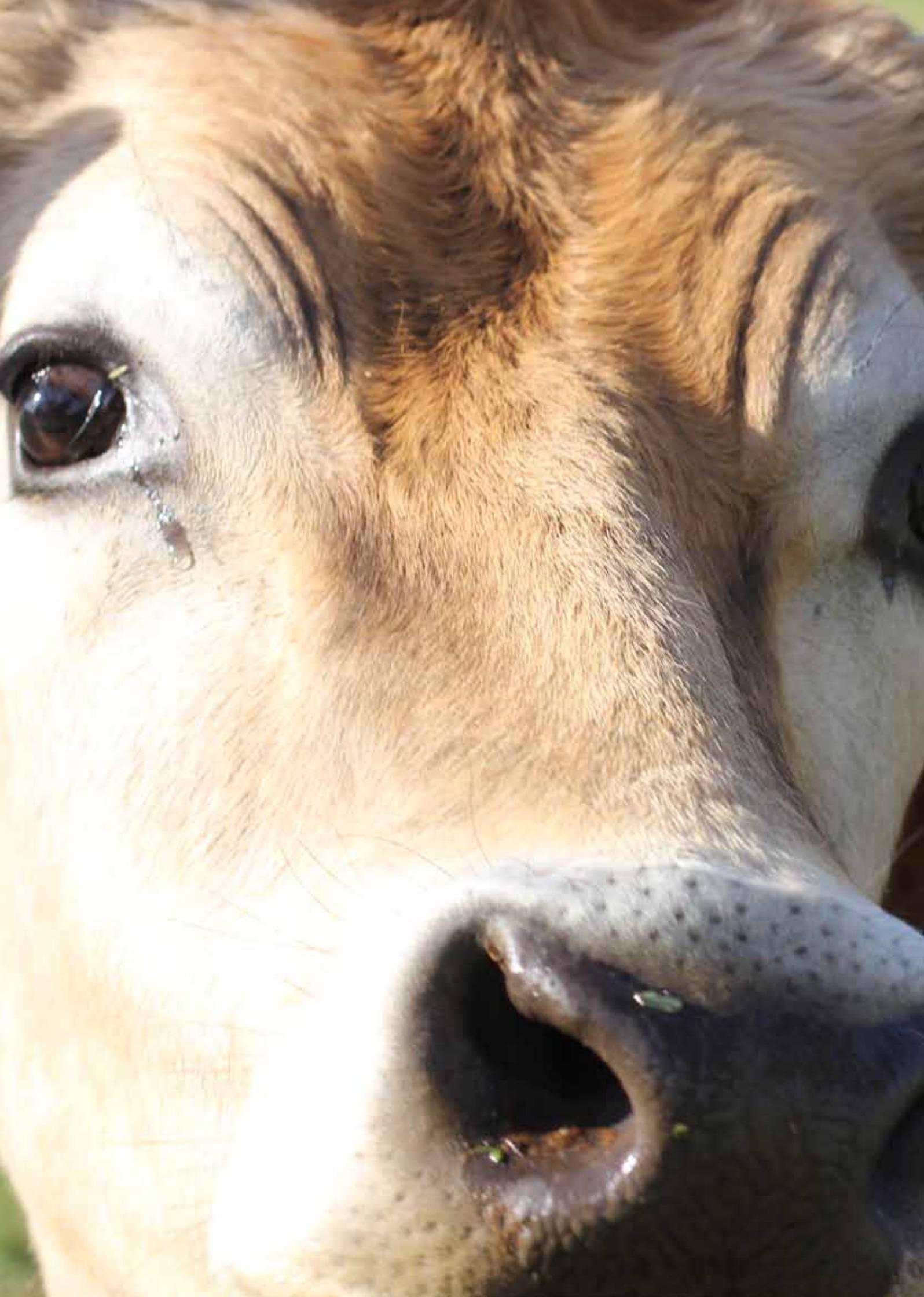
A close-up, black and white photograph of a dog's face, showing its eye, ear, and fur texture. The dog appears to be resting or sleeping.

CATS & DOGS

In some ways, we are a nation of animal lovers. We care for our dogs and cats, we treat them as members of our family, and we grieve their death. In Australia, the harming of cats and dogs is widely condemned because they are thinking, feeling, living beings. Whether someone gets enjoyment out of harming them is beside the point. We all agree there is no excuse for their abuse.

ANIMAL SENTIENCE

Everyone accepts that dogs and cats are sentient. Sentient beings are self-aware individuals with likes and dislikes and an ability to experience sensations such as pleasure and pain. Sentience is just as clear in farm animals as it is in cats and dogs. This is confirmed by scientific studies, which have revealed interesting facts about cows, pigs, sheep and chickens.



A close-up photograph of a cow's head, focusing on its ear and the side of its face. The cow has brown and white fur. The background is a blurred green field. The image is used as a background for the text box.

COWS

Cows show excitement when they've learnt something new and form lifelong relationships. These relationships are ended when male "bobby calves" are separated from their mothers so humans can drink their mothers' milk. Because bobby calves can't produce milk, they have no use to the dairy industry so are killed for veal after just a few days of life. Their mothers' lives are also cut short; they end up in the same slaughterhouses as those raised for meat after just a few exhausting years of continual pregnancies and milking.

PIGS

According to computer tests, pigs are actually more intelligent than dogs. Yet pigs routinely face the horrors of slaughter just so we can eat products like pork and bacon.

SHEEP

Sheep, contrary to the stereotype, have a strong sense of individuality. They can also recognise the faces of at least 10 people and 50 other sheep for two years or more, and they react to facial expressions. Just like us, they prefer a smile rather than a grimace. Sheep are bred for wool and Merino sheep are favoured because they produce the most wool. But Marino sheep are highly susceptible to fly strike. This leads to the painful procedure of mulesing – where sheep have flesh near their tail cut out without painkillers. Worst of all, sheep raised for wool face a horrific end to their lives in slaughterhouses.

CHICKENS

Chickens are much more intelligent than has often been assumed. They have an ability to tell people apart and a greater sense of spatial awareness than young children. Male chicks cannot lay eggs and therefore have no use to the egg industry. These chicks are killed shortly after birth in various horrible ways, such as being gassed with carbon dioxide or through “quick maceration” (being blended alive). Those “lucky” enough to be born female end up in the same awful slaughterhouses as those raised for meat after only a few years of continual egg production.







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When it comes to being unique individuals who value their own life, farm animals, who we call food and routinely slaughter, are no different to the cats and dogs who we call companions and love. As a society that condemns cruelty to animals, how can we justify the death and suffering we inflict on farm animals? We do not need to kill animals for our health or survival, as any nutrient we get from animal-based foods, we can also easily find in plant-based foods. Just like cruelty to cats and dogs, we can only justify the suffering and death caused by animal products with trivial reasons such as enjoyment. The most effective way to stand up for farm animals is to stop contributing to their killing by getting them and their products off our plates and off our backs.

For information on being vegan in Perth, including health information, vegan-friendly restaurants and products, and much more, go to: veganperth.org.au

For more information on veganism and animal rights, visit the Animal Rights Advocates website: www.ara.org.au

The information in this pamphlet is based on the article 'Are We Animal Lovers or Harmers?' by Nick Pendergrast. For links to the sources used throughout this pamphlet, you can view the original article online at: <http://vegan.fm/loveone>



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