

For what it's worth

Shannon Elizabeth on live animal export



'Every animal, whether they're a companion animal or considered by some to be only livestock can feel pain, experience terror and know deep sadness.'

I share my home and my life with five rescued dogs. My dogs are my kids.

My canine companions were almost killed instead of becoming cherished members of my family.

Every animal, whether they're a companion animal or considered by some to be only livestock can feel pain and experience terror and know deep sadness.

I have dedicated my personal life to protecting animals and I cannot, and will not, remain silent while millions of animals are being sent to a death that is devoid of any decency or compassion; a death brought about by the live animal export trade.

My profound commitment to helping animals has led me to become a supporter, and eventual member of the steering committee of a non-profit animal rights organisation called Last Chance for Animals (LCA).

Through my work with LCA I was exposed for the first time to the live animal export trade.

I can honestly say I have never been more horrified than I was when viewing what Animals Australia collected during undercover operations in the Middle East and Indonesia.

I wanted to turn away from the bloody images of the merciless slaughter of Australia's cattle and sheep.

I wanted to shield my eyes from the brutality each animal suffered at the hands of the shippers and knives of their killers.

I wanted to turn away, but I didn't.

People need to know exactly what is happening on their home soil.

Animals are being crammed on to ships that sail for up to three weeks and many die on the journey from starvation, thirst, harsh elements, suffocation, crushing injuries and disease.

There is *nothing* even remotely humane about this horrible trafficking that exploits animals who have no voice.

We must be their voice. Please don't let this go on for even one more day.

Australia has been like a second home to me.

I know Australia's people are kind and compassionate and that you do not support the needless suffering brought about by the lack of the most basic animal welfare considerations.

Over 160 million animals have died this way in the past 30 years.

This heartless, inhumane suffering is completely preventable if we would demand that the live animal export trade be banned unless countries adopt and maintain basic animal welfare regulations.

Basic regulations that include pre-slaughter stunning and humane handling practices, improved shipping methods and enforcement consequences that put the animals first.

Please, for the animals; demand that the Australian Parliament ban the live export of animals.

■ Shannon Elizabeth is an actor and animal activist.

EMOTIONAL 'PREDICTIONS'

I've a feeling you will be rich soon

Cayla Dengate

Punters should forget the facts and trust their gut feelings as new research shows people who are in touch with their emotions can predict the future.

Researchers at the University of Pittsburgh asked participants to predict everything from the US Democratic presidential nominee, to movie box office successes, the winner of

American Idol, movements of the Dow Jones Index, the winner of a college football championship game and the weather.

Despite the range of events, researchers said the results consistently revealed people with higher trust in their feelings were more likely to correctly predict the final outcome.

Each participant was assessed in terms of how much they trusted their emotions, and

the high-trust category were 255 per cent more likely to predict Dow Jones movements and 17 per cent more likely to predict the winner of *American Idol*.

Head researcher Michel Pham said a hunch didn't necessarily amount to possessing psychic powers.

"When we rely on our feelings, what feels 'right' or 'wrong' summarises all the knowledge and information that we have

acquired consciously and unconsciously about the world around us," he said.

"It is this cumulative knowledge, which our feelings summarise for us, that allows us make better predictions.

"In a sense, our feelings give us access to a privileged window of knowledge and information – a window that a more analytical form of reasoning blocks us from."

RACING GAME

PS, Bathurst is on track

The famous track around Mount Panorama could soon be digitally immortalised and raced upon by millions of PlayStation 3 gamers worldwide.

Gaming news website au.ign.com reports several teams were spotted recording the Bathurst 1000 track during the past week.

A gamer asked what they were doing and was told they were collecting images for the upcoming racing game *Gran Turismo 6*.

It is not known when *Gran Turismo 6* will be released but there was a five-year gap between *GT4* on PlayStation 2 and *GT5* on PlayStation 3.

Bummer

A teacher has been suspended after throwing a bucket of water on a couple of teens kissing and hugging in a US school corridor. The John Overton High School teacher in Nashville is now on administrative leave while officials look into the incident. The mother of the teenage boy, Maggie Tiefenthal, said: "They are not dogs. That is what you do to dogs, and they are not animals."

SKI SCHEDULE

Qantas off to slopes

Skiers and snowboarders will again be able to fly from Sydney to Mt Hotham this winter with QantasLink set to operate 100 flights.

The airline today released its ski season schedule, confirming Sydney to Mt Hotham in Victoria would operate on Thursday, Friday, Sunday and Monday.

The service will begin on June 29 with four return services per week and increase to seven per week in August.

Special \$169 one-way airfares are being offered via www.qantas.com.au for sale from March 26 for travel in the June 29 to September 9 season.



Looking on the satelliter side of life

Comics Matt Okine, Rhys Nicholson, Genevieve Fricker and Ronny Chieng will launch into next month's Sydney Comedy Festival, with the program out today. **Picture: CHRIS PAVLICH**

GIANT PIANO

Vandals destroy key safety message

A giant piano designed to teach parkgoers about bicycle safety has been ripped up and smashed by vandals.

The City of Sydney's Cool It! Share It! 30m keyboard in Prince Alfred Park played safety messages and music when it was ridden over and walked on.

Sydney Lord Mayor Clover Moore said vandals smashed sound bollards and ripped up the piano keyboard at the weekend.

"This was pointless destruction of a public safety artwork," Moore said.

"It's like tearing up a zebra

crossing, this fun footpath installation had a serious message, encouraging residents to share our roads and paths, on foot or bike."

Moore promised that the Cool It! Share It! keyboard would be reinstalled with anti-vandal measures.

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It's true !

In a clever display of geography wordplay, the name of all the continents end with the same letter they start with.