

Saturday, 22nd May 2010

Ambassador for change

Who better to champion the cause of pigs than a pig himself, and there could be no more eloquent a porcine than young Hamish McPig. In fine form on Saturday at the Mornington Farmers' Market was this pint sized porker as he set to changing hearts and minds about farm animals.

"I don't think there was a person there today who met Hamish who wasn't impressed at his personable, clever and friendly nature" said Hamish's proud guardian, Pam Ahern. "The look on people's faces as Hamish goes through his repertoire of tricks which leaves many dogs wanting, is priceless"

But sadly pigs do not get afforded that same treatment as cats and dogs explained Pam who is also the founder of Edgar's Mission Farm Sanctuary. Legal is the confining of pregnant mother pigs in a small metal prison barely bigger than the pig herself. Such confinement has been banned in the UK and Sweden with several states of America also outlawing the practice.

Tasmania now sits poised to become the first state in Australia to ban single stalls for sows with their Animal Welfare Advisory Committee advising the government of this last week. The Minister is yet to decide.

"Until legislation changes it is up to consumers to act with conscience and not support cruel methods of farming animals. We do really represent the hope that these animals' lives can change for the better. I'm sure Hamish will oink to that!"

Edgar's Mission Farm Sanctuary is a not for profit safe haven for over 200 rescued farm animals, their outreach centre aims to expand the public's circle of compassion to include all animals. Situated in the foothills of the Great Dividing Range at Kilmore they are open to the public for visits by appointment.

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Photos attached for media use: large file photos available upon request