

Of Mice And Men

Apparently some Australians think it's fun to **chew live mice**, while a certain Mr Palaszczuk of the Royal Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Animals thinks it's fun to measure the civilisation of society according to a mouse-chewing-related criterion:

...both men put mice in their mouths and bit off their tails. One of the men went on to further chew his mouse then spat it out. They were taking part in a "Jackass promotion" – named after a US TV stunt show – which took place on Wednesdays at the Exchange Hotel in Brisbane and involved undertaking dares, one of the hotel's managers told BBC News Online. It was not clear who organised the promotions, but Marie Middleton said they had now been stopped. "The whole incident was horrific," said Ms Middleton. "It was all supposed to be harmless fun," she said. [...] "Chewing a mouse and spitting it out is not entertainment, it is barbaric," said Mr Palaszczuk. "All animals deserve respect. How we treat animals is a measure of how civilized our society is," he said.

The owners of the hotel have been severely ~~chewed out~~ criticised and the miscreants are being prosecuted. Trashing Australian culture may not violate the tenets of political correctness, but what about this: 'The United States is, in significant respects, a more civilised country than Mexico'? Because the United States does not tolerate **bullfighting** while in Mexico it is a national sport.

We propose a different measure of civilisation: the more civilised a society is, the more it prides itself on how well it treats people, not on how harshly.

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