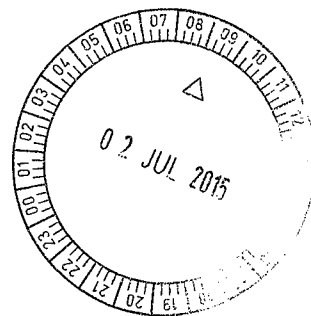


1st July 2015



Dear Select Committee

As a member, supporter and donator to the RSPCA WA (Inc.) I want to offer my unconditional support for the organisation.

Funding from Government

As the only body given powers to enforce the Animal Welfare Act 2001, the RSPCA should be fully funded by the Government of WA.

It runs its inspectorate of 8 fulltime and 2 part time staff on the \$500,000 from the government. The inspectors work tirelessly and are exposed first hand to many horrendous cases of animal cruelty.

I believe the RSPCA uses its \$500,000 wisely in seeking out animal cruelty cases via the inspectorate.

In fact the society is grossly underfunded in terms of what it actually takes to run their operations. It is sad in a state as wealthy as WA, the RSPCA has to rely 94% on public donations to do their work.

It seems some in government believe the RSPCA should not oppose anything the government is involved because of this funding i.e. Live Animal Exports. Hypocrisy!

The Society is financially independently audited each year which includes the funding from government.

As a member of the community, I have an expectation the government will fund them to enforce the Animal Welfare Act.

Its objectives

RSPCA WA (Inc.) completely meets its objectives and lives up to its motto for "All creatures great and small". It seems this sits uncomfortably with some sectors of the community such as those involved in the shocking live animal export trade and those who want to run around national parks shooting at anything which moves. I believe these self interest groups would prefer if the RSPCA stuck to cute cats and dogs-but then they wouldn't be meeting their objectives.

Animals bred for food consumption feel the same pain and fear as domestic animals. I believe the RSPCA has a duty to look after the welfare of these animals.

The use of its powers

How can an organisation with a Board voted in by its members, and equally voted out, be abusing its powers?

The RSPCA needs powers of entry etc. to be able to do its job.

I cannot fathom how anyone can think they are abusing their powers!

Lastly, I have to say I believe this inquiry is a cheap, politically motivated stunt by certain members of parliament and people formerly associated with the RSPCA WA (Inc.) to discredit this deeply committed animal welfare organisation.

It will have detracted and demotivated RSPCA staff from doing their essential work.

It may have had the effect of some members of the public not donating to them. Who suffers then....the animals. What a disgrace.

Less income for the RSPCA means less work they can do.

I am a member of the RSPCA, I donate to them. I am more than happy with how they spend my money. I supported the ads in the West Australia denouncing so called "hunters" in this state.

Many of them are just crazed cowboys running around the countryside shooting and maiming anything in their sights.

It's a sad day for animal welfare in this state that this inquiry even got off the ground.

Yours sincerely

Rosalind Robinson (Ms)