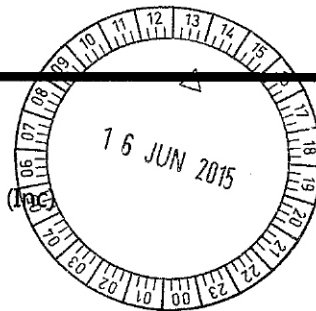


Select Committee into the Operations of the RSPCA WA (Inc)

From: John Edwards
Sent: Tuesday, 16 June 2015 1:43 PM
To: Select Committee into the Operations of the RSPCA WA (Inc)
Subject: Select committee into operations of RSPCA



In regard to the committee enquiring into the operations of the RSPCA, I would like to raise the following points,

The current advertising campaign from the RSPCA against recreational hunting seems to be an expensive activity that is targeting a legitimate process that does not have significant animal welfare issues. I struggle to see how this cost is justified.

Looking at the current RSPCA activities has brought to my attention that the RSPCA is a private organisation that has the authority to enter premises and inspect and to impose penalties or charges. This seems to be unusual to me in that I believe that such enforcement activities should be undertaken by an impartial group and that authority to enter and penalties should be undertaken by a government body with the appropriate checks and balances attached to a government body, rather than a private enterprise.

In my private life and during my work I spend a lot of time driving on rural roads. In doing this I regularly encounter animals that have been injured by vehicles and are in a damaged and distressed state on the side of the road. This year I can recall 4 medium sized birds such as magpies, 2 emu's, 2 western grey kangaroos and 1 fox that I have seen with broken legs etc after being hit by a vehicle and still alive on the side of the road. I stop and destroy these animals when I see them, purely for the reason that I find it inhumane to leave them in such a condition. On average I expect that I would destroy 10 to 20 road damaged animals per year, all of which are found in a very distressed state and will die at some point in the future but that may take some days to eventuate. In many cases the vehicle that has hit the animal has not stopped but in some cases the vehicle involved has stopped but the people are not able to deal with the injured animal. Some of these people advise me that they have contacted the RSPCA for assistance but have been told that there is no assistance available, these people have mostly been foreign tourists who are also very distressed at having injured an animal.

I believe that distressed, traumatised and mistreated animals are what the RSPCA should be dealing with. If they are not able to do so then I cannot see that they should be allocating resources to paying for advertising to influence people against the recreational hunting of animals that is often done as a pest control activity with minimal suffering or distress to the target animals.

If recreational hunters are behaving in ways that cause excessive distress to the animals involved, then evidence of these actions should be gathered and charges brought against the people involved.

If you think I can provide further information regarding y concerns, please contact me at this email address.

Thank you

John Edwards
Senior Silviculture Forester

