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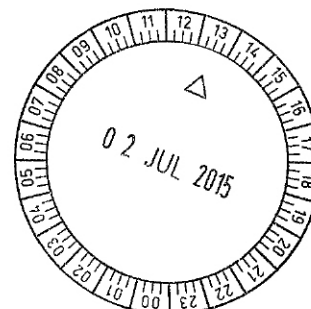
ABN 35 968 264 862
Licensed Charity 17686
www.cathaven.com.au

CAT HAVEN
every cat matters



Your ref RPA

1st July 2015
Chairperson – Honorable Rick Mazza MLC
Select Committee into the Operations of the RSPCA WA (Inc)
Legislative Council
Parliament House
GPO Box A11
PERTH WA 6837



Dear Mr Mazza

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the inquiry into the operations of the RSPCA WA (Inc), an organisation we have worked closely with over many years. Cat Haven and the RSPCA WA (Inc) have complementary roles and collaborative working relationships that serve to protect and enhance the wellbeing of cats in WA. These strong links ensure approaches to cat welfare are consistent, effective and make best use of animal welfare resources.

Cat Haven strongly supports the role and work of the RSPCA WA (Inc) and offers the following comments with respect to the specific terms of reference of the inquiry.

Funding from Government

The scope of responsibilities, the enormous geographic area of WA and the diverse range of contemporary animal welfare issues present significant challenges for the RSPCA WA (Inc). The funding received from the state government is used to operate the inspectorate division of the RSPCA WA (Inc). This division requires highly skilled and experienced staff who provide services that few other agencies can. Based on our experience, the collaborative and cooperative partnerships the RSPCA WA (Inc) has established with organisations such as ours helps ensure animal welfare groups work in a complementary and mutually supportive way to maximise the use of resources. Adequate, dedicated funding is essential to allow the RSPCA WA (Inc) to fulfil its unique and vital role.

Objectives

We believe the RSPCA WA (Inc) is fully meeting its objectives to prevent cruelty to animals by enforcing existing laws and to provide public education in responsible

cats and kittens for adoption • affordable sterilisation and vet services • spacious boarding kennels
• cat food, accessories and gifts • lost and found services • cat rescue • expert advice • membership benefits

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animal care. Through a range of face to face, media and online strategies they effectively raise awareness and knowledge about the welfare of ALL Australian Animals including those bred for food consumption. They are the main body who provide a "voice for the voiceless" and are respected as an independent expert resource by us and many others in the community.

Use of powers

In all of our dealings with the RSPCA WA (Inc), we have never seen any evidence of abuse of its powers. In all situations we have observed, the RSPCA WA (Inc) have ensured all criteria have been met before acting, for example obtaining warrants for the right to enter properties. We believe the RSPCA WA (Inc) needs the powers it currently has to be effective in preventing animal cruelty and abuse and strongly support the continuation of those powers.

We believe the RSPCA WA (Inc) is a professionally run and progressive organisation which is essential for the welfare of all animals in WA.

Yours sincerely

Roz Robinson
CEO
Cat Haven