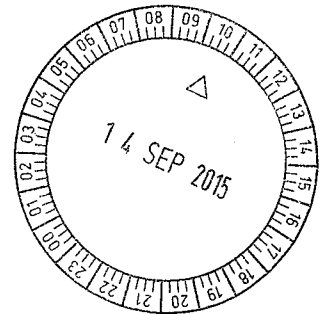


Select Committee into the Operations of the RSPCA WA (Inc)

Subject: RE: RSPCA WA loaded survey

From: Stacey Bell
Sent: Saturday, 12 September 2015 8:20 AM
To: Mazza, Rick
Subject: RSPCA WA loaded survey



Hi Rick,

Just wondering if you were interested in some information about the RSPCA?

My partner and I are both members of the Society and regularly receive "begging" letters featuring sad stories of abused puppies signed off by David van Ooran. Interestingly our last "begging letter" was received the day that the senate enquiry into the RSPCA started. This recent one was a little different though, the return envelope had the postage paid (normal) but it had "for the desk of David van Ooran urgently" written on the envelope.

In August I received an email from David van Ooran from an email address nfarrell@rspcawa.asn.au stating that they were going to be selecting some members to fill out a survey through an organisation called "Painted Dog". I thought nothing more of it. My partner didn't receive the email, I thought nothing of it at the time.

Last night I got an alert on my email. I had an email from David van Ooran with a different email address, VIP.feedback@rspcawa.asn.au. So I clicked the link. The first question they asked, before any other, was "what industry do you work in" I selected Agricultural (because although I am a student, I am an AgriBusiness student and I live on a farm). It immediately took me through to a page that stated that they had "filled their quota for that industry". This tipped me off that something was amiss.

The email was sent at 5.27pm and it was before 8pm when I started the survey. Considering how difficult it is to get farmers to reply to an email asking them if they want a mobile sampling hut in their shire so they don't have to run trucks of grain through to Metro's with the potential of being turned away, I can hardly believe that in two and a half hours they would get all their agricultural professionals on a Friday evening to fill out their survey. Further to this, I am registered as a student on their system but my partner is registered as a farmer. He didn't even receive the initial August email telling members that they were going to be sending this survey to selected members.

I hit the "previous key" and went back to change my answer. I changed it to "Retail". It then went onto to ask me if I was male or female, then my age group. All fairly normal questions. Then it started on the "Animal Welfare" questions.

"How concerned are you with regards to the following animal welfare issues in Western Australia?"

- Export of Livestock for Slaughter
- Killing injuring/hunting native wildlife
- Animal neglect including abandonment and cruelty
- Management of livestock during droughts
- Pigs kept in sow stalls
- Inhumane feral animal control
- Hunting of animals for sport
- The use of whips in horse racing
- Hens in battery cages

- Greyhound racing
- Sales of cat/dogs pet stores.

Noteably, there was no option for "feral pest control", only inhumane feral pest control.

It then went on to ask: "The following questions are about the 'live animal export trade'."

- What are the first thoughts, words, feelings or images that come to mind when you hear the term "live animal export trade". Please list as many things that come to mind as possible.
- In principle, to what extent do you support, oppose, or have no feelings either way, towards the live animal export trade in Western Australia.
- What, if anything, could be changed about live exporting to make you feel more positive towards it? <- this question in particular concerns me, it assumes that the people completing the survey are opposed to live exports.

The survey went on to ask about what we thought about the RSPCA and what other animal welfare organisations we were aware of and which ones we financially supported.

My partner and I are both supporters of what you are doing with this senate enquiry. The reason why we are members of the RSPCA is because we are sick of them using attacking the agricultural industry as their "cash cow". We feel that if we're members we can at least have some say about what they're saying, however if they're going to exclude people in the Ag Industry from their surveys how are we meant to be able to have our opinions heard?

If you have any further questions regarding this matter please contact me on

Thank you,
Stacey Bell