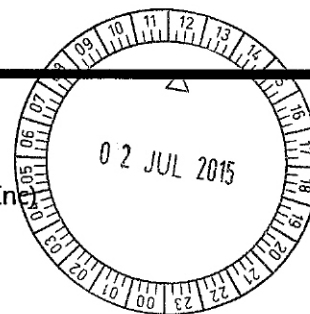


Select Committee into the Operations of the RSPCA WA (Inc)

From: Myriam Leonardy
Sent: Thursday, 2 July 2015 11:49 AM
To: Select Committee into the Operations of the RSPCA WA (Inc)
Subject: Select Committee into the operations of the RSPCA



Dear Sirs

I am writing to make a submission to the Select Committee Select Committee into the operations of The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Western Australia (Inc).

In my opinion the RSPCA fulfils a number of critically important roles:

- It looks after the needs of abandoned and mistreated animals in our State;
- It undertakes investigations and takes to court cases of cruelty and negligence;
- It advocates for a legal, moral and societal environment that is conducive to the well-being of animals in our State.

The RSPCA receives some funding from the Government to provide services and is otherwise funded by donations of people who feel strongly that a society can be judged on the way it treats its most vulnerable members as well as its animals. In my opinion, it is essential that the RSPCA be allowed to be independent in its advocacy and investigative roles. As such, it will at times express opinions that do not reflect the views of the Government of the day, and this is a good thing. It is a fundamental tenet of democracy that we allow and encourage the expression of divergent views provided that expression remains within the confines of the law and expresses its views respectfully.

I would be very distressed if this review resulted in a recommendation to withdraw whatever funding the RSPCA receives from Government or a recommendation to disallow the RSPCA's advocacy role. There is no other body like this well-respected and important organisation and we would be very much poorer for losing its guiding light on animal welfare

Warm regards
Myriam Léonardy