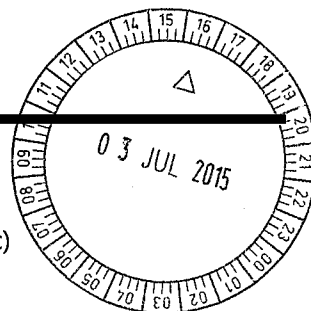


Select Committee into the Operations of the RSPCA WA (Inc)

From:
Sent: Friday, 3 July 2015 4:14 PM
To: Select Committee into the Operations of the RSPCA WA (Inc)
Subject: Inquiry into the Operations of the RSPCA



Dear members of the committee

Please find my submission to the RSPCA inquiry and why I feel it is an absolute necessity to have this undertaken.

I have a number of points which I would like to raise and they are as follows.

- Funding.

How much money, exactly, does the RSPCA receive from the State Government & donations? I ask this question as matter of concern because I am fearful that these monies are not being spent in the manner in which the RSPCA charter was originally founded, a case in point is the recent scaremongering advertising campaign in the print media by the Western Australian RSPCA, portraying a legal and culturally important activity such as hunting in a derogatory and unnecessarily disrespectful manner. In this campaign (hunting on public lands) the RSPCA (WA) used photos of animals that are not even found in this state, some even altered for maximum emotional effect. I would like to know what the costs of such unjustified advertising was to the taxpayer as I don't believe that this reflects the original charter, and this is hardly the way a professional organization such as the RSPCA should be acting.

- RSPCA Objectives.

From its inception, the RSPCA's charter has been to prevent cruelty to animals, a cause that I support wholeheartedly, and one which the general public were supportive of for many years. The organization now seems to have changed its objectives toward animal activism, using selective anecdotal evidence to portray hunting as a cruel venture by amateurs who serve no purpose in the management of feral animals and have no right to harvest organic, wild meat for the table.

As a primary producer, I am very appreciative of responsible hunters who are willing to volunteer their time to help me eradicate feral pests – something I simply don't have enough time to do effectively. Such people should be encouraged & supported by any organization (including the State Government) concerned for the welfare of animals and long term profitability of farmers, and this inquiry should investigate whether the RSPCA has lost sight of the bigger picture. In this I include the RSPCA's stance against live export: this is a very necessary market that we have to protect and, instead of spending so much money campaigning against it, the funds can be spent educating abattoir workers in foreign countries which is where the problem lies.

- Use of powers.

What training do RSPCA inspectors undergo & does each individual understand their role within the organization, being the prevention of cruelty to animals vs animal activism.

What exactly are the powers of inspectors & have these powers increased over the years & to what degree? Are all cases of animal cruelty prosecuted or does the socio-economic background of persons alleged to have been cruel to animals dictate whether a prosecution goes ahead or not? What have been the complaints against RSPCA inspectors and are they executing their powers according the charter?

I was recently asked to donate to the RSPCA (telephone call) and when I told the caller the reasons why not, he said that this sentiment was widespread. Has the previously well respected RSPCA been led off track by individuals with an activist agenda & what do we need to do to restore its credibility?

Thank you for the opportunity to air my concerns.

Yours truly

Marc Deas