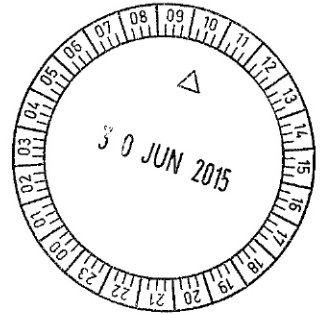


Valerie Heath

25th June 2015

Hon Rick Mazza MLC
Chair of Select Committee into the Operations
of the Royal Society for the Prevention of
Cruelty to Animals WA Inc
Legislative Council
Parliament House
GPO Box A11
Perth WA 6837



Dear Sir

Please accept this submission as part of your enquiry into the operations of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Western Australia Inc. It is beyond one's understanding as to why this enquiry should be necessary at all. As I see it, it makes a lot of work for busy members of the RSPCA and the public who are already over-worked and for what reason?

Addressing your criteria as well as I am able;

a) Funding from the government;

I understand that the RSPCA receives \$500,000 per annum. The actual operational costs per year are 8 million dollars, so the government's contribution is only 6.2% of actual costs. The biggest contributor by far is the general public who supply 94% of the remaining operational costs. I think it is fair to say that this would not happen if the general public was in any way unhappy with the policies and procedures of the RSPCA. The general public has great faith in the way that the RSPCA takes care of our animals and I would suggest that the government should look into raising the amount that they grant. Their gesture seems somewhat pathetic.

b) Its Objectives;

Obviously the overall objective is the care of animals who deserve good food and water, shelter, vet care, saving animals from a life of physical and emotional pain and to be treated with dignity and respect. Another objective is to educate the public and assist in times of hardship. The animals cannot be left to the ignorance and thoughtlessness of neglectful members of the public.

Last year the Inspectors dealt with 20,000 calls. 6000 were investigated and of those, 23 were prosecuted. It is obvious that fines imposed on those 23 cases are not engendering much revenue.

Inspectors always try to educate the public into the best way to care for their animals, but owners who haven't complied with the inspector's suggestions then have to deal with action from the Society.

c) The Use of its Powers;

By the very nature of its business, the RSPCA needs to be pro-active in an effective, non-confrontational manner. The Society always tries to educate, assist and be active in matters regarding animals. Sometimes being a little Activist will bring good outcomes and publicity will help the animals' cause and keep the public informed of the latest trends in animal care and protection.

Was it Mahatma Ghandi who said "That a nation can be judged by the way that it treats its animals"? I believe that with grateful thanks to the RSPCA we can be content with processes and procedures that enable us to be judged favourably.

Yours faithfully

Valerie Heath

This is why we need a fully-funded R.S.P.C.A. #

NEWS 12

The West Australian

Friday, June 6, 2014

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habitat 16-PAGE MAGAZINE

BLAKE LOSES HIS BATTLE
NEWS P9

SIMPSON TURNS UP HEAT ON EAGLES
SPORT BACK PAGE

Chinese noodles a windfall for WA

EXCLUSIVE
■ Brent Simpson

A Chinese company wants to trade on WA's reputation for clean and green food by building a flour mill near Perth to make noodles for children.

The plan is based on the premium Chinese parents are willing to pay for safe, quality food.

It is believed construction of the flour mill and associated noodle processing and packaging plant would cost a minimum \$45 million based on production of 500 tonnes of flour a day.

The State Government said the proposal was part of what it predicted would become a wave of Chinese investment in agriculture worth billions of dollars.

Regional Development Minister Terry Redman met the company behind the move as part of high-level talks in China in the past few days that included government officials and State-owned enterprises.

WA also moved closer to starting live cattle shipments to Chinese abattoirs when Mr Redman yesterday witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding between WA exporters and three major Chinese companies on China's Hainan Island.

Mr Redman would not name the company behind the flour mill project but said it was a big grain processor in southern China with a wide distribution network. "The company tell us that the premium they will get from the food safety of the supply chain is sufficient to make the numbers work," he said.

Chinese parents are increasingly concerned over a series of food contamination and substitution incidents that have caused deaths and illness in children.

RSPCA TO THE RESCUE IN KELLERBERRIN



PUPPY DUNGEON

FULL STORY P13

Pictures, RSPCA

CONTINUED P5

ERTH 11-24° Sunny Tomorrow: Sunny 12-23° Yesterday: 8-8-24°

Weather details P81

ANIMAL CRUELTY CHARGES



Cruel home: Animal welfare officials examine the entrance to the underground bunker on the Kellerberrin property. A dozen dogs were kept there.

Wheatbelt woman ran grotesque 'puppy farm'

■ Alex Massey

A Wheatbelt woman who kept a dozen dogs in an "alien" bunker devoid of sunlight and fresh air has been ordered to pay more than \$30,000 in fines and court costs.

Katherine Lisa King, 43, also had an existing 10-year court order extended, banning her from owning or coming within 10m of any animal.

The animal cruelty charges were outlined in Perth Magistrate's Court yesterday. King was accused of running a grotesque "puppy farm".

A 2012 raid of King's South Doodlakine property, near Kellerberrin, uncovered the 3m-deep dungeon where 12 dogs were held.

"The dogs had been placed in an alien and terrible environment," Magistrate Stephen Wilson said in his sentencing remarks. "There was no sunlight, no fresh air... and there was a stench emanating from the bunker."



What's underground: The interior of the bunker where the dogs were kept.

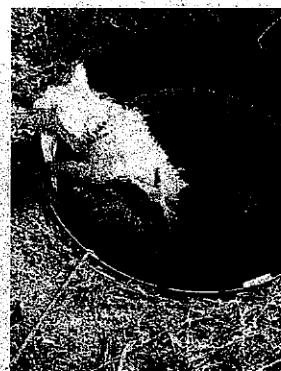
King was also found guilty of allowing many of her 50 other dogs to suffer illnesses, such as ear mites and secondary infections from lack of treatment.

The RSPCA said the dogs were roughly segregated according to breed in different areas of the property.

The breeds included German

shepherds, West Highland terriers, King Charles cavalier spaniels, labradors and Tibetan terriers.

"This is the first time the RSPCA has discovered a puppy farm of this nature in Western Australia and we were shocked to find dogs living in an underground bunker," RSPCA chief in-



Rescued: One of the dogs.

spector Amanda Swift said. "We are very pleased with today's court result as it was a collaborative effort between RSPCA, police and council rangers."

King breached a 2004 court order prohibiting her from owning an animal for 10 years.

The ban has been extended for five years.

Greste: Tough sentence bid

■ Cairo

Egyptian prosecutors have demanded the "maximum" penalty, ranging from 15 to 25 years in jail, for all 20 defendants in the trial of Al Jazeera journalists accused of aiding the blacklisted Muslim Brotherhood.

Australian journalist Peter Greste is among the accused in a trial that has triggered international outrage amid growing fears of media restrictions in Egypt.

He is charged with "spreading false news" and collaborating with Egyptian defendants by providing media material, editing it and publishing it on the internet and Al Jazeera.

Middle-aged big tipplers

■ Sydney

Middle-aged Australian women are drinking their daughters under the dinner table, says a Queensland researcher.

But, unlike younger women, they are not drinking to get drunk.

It is the frequency with which they drink that has Queensland University of Technology researcher Hanna Watling worried — perhaps a daily glass of wine at dinner, followed by a tippie in front of the TV.

She says about 13 per cent in the 45 to 59 age group average more than two drinks a day — a figure much higher than any other age group.

West man in line for gongs

The West Australian's aviation editor Geoffrey Thomas has been short-listed for two major awards at the International Aviation Media Awards.

The first award is the Lifetime Achievement Award recognising his contribution to the understanding and promotion of aviation over 40 years. It also acknowledges Thomas' coverage of the loss of Flight MH370.

He is also short-listed for the Best Safety submission for his analysis of the Asiana Boeing 777 crash at San Francisco airport last year. The winners will be announced on July 13.

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Girls save discarded dog

■ Liam Croy

A malnourished Staffordshire terrier is the talk of the Balcatta pound after it was dumped from a car in Mirrabooka on Sunday.

Ella Pearson, 12, and three friends rescued the dog after they saw it thrown out of the passenger side of a car on Gossamer Avenue about 3.30pm.

"We were walking back from the shops and this old, red car opened its door and dropped the dog out," Ella said.

"It was a bit scared and a bit jumpy, but it was friendly."

Ella's mother, Natalie, picked the girls up after they called her "in a panic".

"The girls say the passenger pushed it or kicked it out of the car and then sped off really quickly," Ms Pearson said.



Ranger: Kym Pethybridge and dog.

Ms Pearson took the dog home, where it was doted on by the girls until a City of Stirling ranger arrived.

A Facebook post about the dog has attracted hundreds of comments, including several expressing interest in taking it home.

Ms Pearson said the dog was about two years old and had a beautiful nature. "She's just adorable but she's skinny," she said.