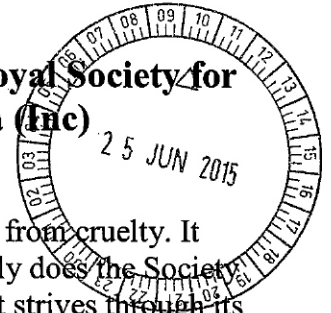


Submission to the Select Committee into the Operations of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Western Australia (Inc)



The RSPCA is an essential service to the community in the protection of animals from cruelty. It strives to educate the community as to the care and protection of animals. Not only does the Society rescue those animals whose lives have been made one full of pain and violence, it strives through its education program to show the community how to care for their animals. No animal should be subjected to cruelty in any shape or form, the RSPCA ensure that those animals are taken care of and that the perpetrators of the cruelty are prosecuted.

The RSCPA has active campaigns to stop Puppy Farms an abhorrent practice of torture and cruelty, programs to help farmers to ethically deal with their animals and ensuring hens are not caged or live in appalling conditions and that the recreational hunting trial was not allowed to go ahead to mention just a few.

Our family supports the Society 100%. We participate in the Million Paws walk; make regular donations, sponsor animals and purchase merchandise from the Society. We do this because the Society needs funds to carry out their vital work. We have also made provisions in our Wills to benefit the Society so that their work can continue.

We passionately believe in the right of all animals to be treated humanely, to live their life free from cruelty and to be cared for humanely. As humans we have a responsibility to treat our fellow creatures with respect and compassion. A successful prosecution by the Society is a win for all animals, but also for the community as a whole.

Without the Society and its work, the State would be the poorer. How can we as rational human beings stand by whilst animals are subjected to cruelty and violence? The Society stands as a model for us all to lift our game and be active in protecting animals, providing for their welfare and ensuring that cruelty and violence is dealt with by strong legislation by the State government.

The Society is a vital part of our community and must be allowed to continue with its work in the protection of animals from cruelty and violence. The State Government needs to help the Society with legislation that ensures that all animals are treated humanely.

We have an obligation to our fellow inhabitant of the planet to protect their interests and we should be willing to take on this obligation. The Society is the organization that helps us all to fulfill that obligation.

Hazel James

The RSPCA is Australia's oldest, largest and most trusted animal welfare organisation.

RSPCA Australia mission statement

To prevent cruelty to animals by actively promoting their care and protection.

RSPCA Australia vision

To be the leading authority in animal care and protection.

The objectives of the RSPCA in Australia are:

- To prevent cruelty to animals by ensuring the enforcement of existing laws at federal and state level.
- To procure the passage of such amending or new legislation as is necessary for the protection of animals.
- To develop and promote policies for the humane treatment of animals that reflect contemporary values and scientific knowledge.
- To educate the community with regard to the humane treatment of animals.
- To engage with relevant stakeholders to improve animal welfare.
- To sustain an intelligent public opinion regarding animal welfare.
- To operate facilities for the care and protection of animals.

These objectives are supported by a federation of member Societies known as RSPCA Australia, a Board and administration.

Statement on the shelter and care of animals

The RSPCA will accept any animal offered into its care where it has the facilities, resources and legal capacity to do so.

RSPCA Australia animals charter

RSPCA Australia believes that animals must be treated humanely. Where humans make use of animals or interfere with their habitat, they should bestow a level of care befitting human dignity as rational, intelligent, compassionate beings, and a level of care merited by the nature of the animal as a sentient creature capable of responding to human care and attention. Such care should be marked by sympathy, consideration, compassion and tenderness towards animals.

RSPCA Australia believes that national and international adoption of set minimum standards of treatment and husbandry, and the observance of the following points, will enable all species of animals

to live according to their behavioural needs as provided by a compassionate and responsible community:

1. Animals have an intrinsic value of their own and, accordingly, must be considered to possess the right to live in a way which enables them to have a positive life and to develop and enjoy their inherent qualities.
2. No animal should be used for the production of food or fibre, either by farming practice, transportation, or method of slaughter which in any way may cause suffering, injury or distress.
3. No animal should be used for sport or the entertainment of humans when such use may increase the risk of injury, suffering or distress to the animals, or is contrary to its nature.
4. Animals should not be used in direct combat, either one against the other or in warfare.
5. Animals should not be used in experiments which inflict pain or suffering upon them and which are not essential for the benefit of humans or animals. The use of animals should be replaced by reliable alternative techniques immediately they become available.
6. No animal should be used in excessive breeding programs or programs which produce deformed or weak offspring.
7. Domestic animals must be effectively protected from adverse weather conditions, predators and disease.
8. Domestic animals must be kept in such a way which will enable them to socialise, move freely, stretch, lie down, and have access to clean water, a suitable balanced food supply, and to prophylactic and corrective medicines.
9. Native animals and birds should be maintained safely in their natural environment and should be free from hunting, trapping and captivity. Culling may occur, but only when proven necessary for the preservation and benefit of the species. Culling must only be carried out under proper supervision and control.
10. Any animal suffering from disease, injury, or debilitation, must be given first aid or appropriate veterinary attention quickly. If the affliction cannot be cured, or if it involves permanent and serious disability, the animal must be humanely destroyed.
11. The State shall enact and enforce laws, regulations and codes for protecting animals from exploitation, and for ensuring that their basic individual needs are maintained at all times and that their environment is kept free from illegal or irresponsible intrusion.
12. The State shall also develop and implement suitable educational programs or ensure that human responsibility and their duty of care towards animals is taught in all schools and in the wider community.

Humans have an obligation to protect the interests of animals at all times. They should be encouraged to willingly accept this obligation. But, if they do not do so, then the force of the law should be used to ensure that all animals are treated humanely.