



Submission to:

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

We believe that as a civilised society we have a responsibility to care for all living creatures.

We see this responsibility applying, as far as is reasonably possible, to all creatures living in their native environment, and having specific application to animals kept as domestic pets and companions along with those bred and farmed for commercial purposes. We believe that this duty of care is met by ensuring that all animals live lives that are free from hunger and thirst, do not suffer discomfort, live free from pain, injury, disease, fear and distress and are able to express behaviour normal to their species.

As 3rd and 4th generation Western Australians we accept that the Western Australian Government has laws in place to respect this obligation but we know that it lacks any specific departmental agency to manage and ensure their compliance, rather, that it has delegated this role to the Royal Society for the Prevention Cruelty to Animals Western Australia (Inc.) (RSPCAWA). Under this arrangement the Society and nominated Society employees are accredited to administer appropriate sections of State legislation, in respect of the wellbeing of animals, when necessary.

It is acknowledged that there are some other voluntary organisations and some Local Government services in existence that provide some animal care and shelter facilities however these tend to be somewhat more localised and/or functionally focussed and are without the State-wide representation available from the RSPCA (WA).

Although this arrangement could be seen as an abrogation of a State responsibility we do not support such a view. The arrangement provides for the employment and training of dedicated personnel outside a career Public Service structure along with a

mechanism to draw on the services of dedicated and enthusiastic community volunteer supporters.

Having had household pets for in excess of 45 years and experienced living in both the city and remote parts of the State we have formed a firm view that the current arrangement with the RSPCA (WA) is highly practical and is, from a Government view point, very cost effective given that the State contribution to the operational funding is less than 10%.

This brief submission is intended to indicate the high esteem in which we hold the activities of the RSPCA (WA), to which we donate regularly.

We strongly believe that the RSPCA (WA) meets the objectives of its *Mission and Vision* and *Values* statements and further observe that we know of no other existing body with the ability, sensitivity and resources to provide the service currently provided while respecting the views and values of the wider community.

In conclusion we urge your Committee to recommend to Government that its future operational funding support for this organisation be increased.

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23.06.15.

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