



We wish to submit to your Committee a statement of considerations as to why we support the RSPCA.

When dealing with the terms of reference of the committee - funding, objectives and use of powers, this submission can be condensed into consideration of four aspects - trust, accountability, expertise and flexibility.

We feel the RSPCA exhibits trust and accountability, expertise and flexibility because they are forced to be accountable at all times to the public for fund raising purposes. Their independent body provides a natural dispersion of power, taking the strain off government services, while still making the association completely accountable to the public because they rely for 90% of their funding on donations from individuals. People are a very good judge of the use and effectiveness of their hard earned cash and will not part with it unless they believe it is being used constructively, efficiently and effectively.

They provide a direct dollar for dollar service as opposed to having to employ public servants or government sponsored/contracted bodies who are focused on job entitlements and the running of which inevitably involves high administration and staff costs.

If not the RSPCA then Who? and How?

They provide invaluable services such as temporary and permanent rehousing of abused and abandoned animals.

They provide an independent and instant response 24/7 to the needs of abused and mistreated animals.

Their highly trained and dedicated staff has the public confidence. We can vouch for this from personal experience, Bev in particular when taking on two abandoned dogs.

We have seen them work efficiently and speedily within a network of veterinary practices and shire rangers who, through their very interaction while performing their jobs, act naturally and totally professionally as a source of independent accountability for the RSPCA body.

Personally I have confidence that if I see an incident of animal cruelty I can report it openly and confidently and expect an immediate, professional and sensitive response, as opposed to a much slower bureaucratic body which lacks independence, where the response gets lost in bureaucratic paperwork and work restrictions.

As previously stated, by the very nature of their work which necessitates liaison with vets and shire personal they are made naturally accountable for their actions. They are staffed by a dedicated staff that is prepared to give 100%.

We have used their advice line very successfully in the past regarding training and general pet advise.

They provide an invaluable service in educating the public, providing effective inspectors for any situation and initiating prosecution as a last resort. Why try to interfere with an institution which has been working effectively and beyond the call of duty for more than a century?

This submission has been lodged by:

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