



Miss Samantha Parsons
Select Committee into RSPCA WA (Inc)
PO Box A11
PERTH 6837

Submission:

re: Select Committee Enquiry into RSPCA (Inc)
WA

Thank you for opportunity to have some input into this important review with public discussion paper to follow.

The rapidly expanding human population creates more problems for the RSPCA; does it receive any extra resources for a translation service in its important role of education? Prosecutions? For more Inspectors?

My understanding is that the RSPCA began in England with the aim of improving conditions for "working horses".

With their diminishing role due to motorised engines the emphasis turned more to domestic pets and their owners.

I am pleased to see and hear the RSPCA speaking out again on corporate cruelty in its educational role, it must not remain silent on these matters, nor be used by the vested interests who exploit animals, nor be hindered by them at all levels of Government.
Yours sincerely,

(Mrs. Mary O. REGTS)

Cat skinned alive

A cat was found partially skinned alive, prompting a warning to pet owners to keep an eye on their pets.

Miss Alex is being treated by a Malibu veterinarian after being found in the Rockingham areas of Trinidad Street, Salvador Close and Caribbean Drive last week.

"Miss Alex has been partially skinned from the thigh up to the spine area," a Facebook page reported.

It was the latest in a spate of tortured animals found in the area this year.

"Another cat from this area had its tail degloved in January," the report said.

This is
unspeakeable
cruelty but
typical I
suppose of
what Inspectors
may expect.

Ban hits animals

Police-RSPCA clash

By JIM KELLY

The RSPCA is in turmoil today after Police Commissioner Karl O'Callaghan told officers not to respond to jobs involving animals.

Mr O'Callaghan is apparently furious about the RSPCA's decision to charge two officers with animal cruelty after they were involved in relocating a kangaroo, which later died.

On Friday, the commissioner sent an email telling officers not to take jobs involving animals, unless lives were at risk.

The RSPCA was shocked at the decision and said animals would suffer unless Mr O'Callaghan backed down.

Mr O'Callaghan said police were not trained or equipped to handle animals and he would not risk them being charged over animal rescues.

There are fears councils will also ban rangers from animal rescues.

Other than providing ancillary support, such as traffic management, police are not to intervene to control, restrain, remove or kill an animal, unless it is in defence of themselves or another person," Mr O'Callaghan said. "I cannot expose my officers to the risk of litigation."

Spokeswoman Emma-Jane Morcombe said the ban was an impossi-

ble burden on the RSPCA, which had only nine inspectors to cover WA.

She said the most disturbing aspect was that animals would suffer if the RSPCA did not have police support.

"We rely on police, particularly in country areas, and would hope we might be able to reach some sort of compromise," she said.

"Police have a statutory obligation under the Animal Welfare Act to respond to these calls and I expect they will continue to do so."

The officers were charged by RSPCA inspectors after escorting a council ranger who had lassoed a stray kangaroo in Melville and dragged it 250m behind a car last year.

The animal was released at a golf course, but later died.

A security guard and a council ranger involved have also been charged with animal cruelty.

The men face fines of up to \$50,000 and possible imprisonment.

WA Police Union president Mike Dean said he expected the police ban would bring to a head the issue of who was responsible for dealing with animals in distress.

Fremantle Mayor Peter Tagliaferri supported the commissioner's stand and said councils would also be forced to consider a ban on responding to calls about animals in distress.

Give roo case to DPP: police union

Leeming on October 14 after a call about the kangaroo. The other three men attended after the ranger called for assistance.

It is alleged the kangaroo was lassoed around the neck with a strap which was attached to the towbar of the ranger's vehicle. Mr Cartwright drove slowly to the golf course with the other three men walking alongside. It is alleged the kangaroo was dragged for about 250m.

Ms Adams was granted a six-week adjournment to give the DPP time to

deal with animals-in-distress calls and leave them to the RSPCA.

None of the four men — ranger John Cartwright, 54, security officer Gary Strokos, 50, and police officers Michael Slaughter, 43, and Shaun Paterson, 25 — appeared in court yesterday but they were represented by lawyers.

All four are charged with ill-treating a western grey kangaroo and allowing it to suffer harm.

The RSPCA alleges that Mr Cartwright went to a property in

"We say it's not in the public interest to continue this matter," Ms Adams said.

The RSPCA has charged two police officers, a ranger and a security officer over an incident in October when a distressed kangaroo was tied to the rear of a vehicle and allegedly dragged 250m to the Melville Glades golf course. The kangaroo died soon afterwards.

The case has caused a stand-off with the police union, which has recommended that its members not

proceed.

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