



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

Submission

To Hon Rick Mazza MLC, Chair of the Committee,

I am deeply concerned about the direction the RSPCA has been taking and the most recent case in point is the use of falsified photographs in an ad campaign against the legal practice of hunting.

The RSPCA has been steadily digressing from their original vision, which in my view mainly had to do with the care for the lost & strays and protection of animals against mistreatment and exploitation. These are wholesome aspirations.

Instead it seem to be building a track record for misguided campaigns of which a number ended up in the news over the last few years, for example cases regarding duck hunting and the livestock trade among others. Many examples are easily accessible in the media, with <http://www.beefcentral.com/live-export/alec-slams-rspca-over-shallow-and-misguided-campaign>, <http://www.weeklytimesnow.com.au/news/national/live-exporters-question-rspcas-objectivity-in-animal-welfare/story-fnkfnspy-1227324599295> as a few examples.

It will appear that the development and interpretation of the RSPCA's charter is abused by certain individuals within the organisation with ulterior motives to further their own goals and hidden agendas.

How else can one view the recent media ad crusade where photos of North American animals have been manipulated to instigate an emotional response and aversion from the public to perfectly legal and humane hunting practices? It is a manifestation of the sneaky, dishonest and manipulative nature of these individuals.

From the RSPCA charter, I would also like to refer you to point 9:

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. - See more at: <http://www.rspca.org.au/what-we-do/about-us/charter#sthash.Zcr2Uzl4.dpuf>

Valuable tax dollars entrusted to the organisation is irresponsibly wasted on a misguided attempt to campaign against a legal and culturally significant pastime. A large number of mistreated animals could have been cared for with these funds and the time these individuals expended on the matter applied to find and address abuse, exploitation etc. The RSPCA should have more than enough ILLEGAL practices to pursue.

Though the charter acknowledges that culling is necessary it omits the fact that feral animals creating damages, like foxes, have to be controlled by individual primary producers geographically spread all over the country. It is unclear as to how they propose this is done if the animals are not hunted by individuals who specifically target the animal responsible for damage.

The RSPCA also seem to disrespect the role of the human as the top tier natural predator in the ecosystem, and the only natural enemy of many of the animal causing the damage.

The tone set by "The State shall..." in point 11 and 12 in this charter gives the impression that the RSPCA believe they control the government and not the other way around. Though the charter seems to acknowledge State shall enact and enforce laws, regulations and codes for protecting animals from exploitation, - See more at: <http://www.rspca.org.au/what-we-do/about-us/charter#sthash.Zcr2Uzl4.dpuf>

Any of the other points on the charter may be conveniently misinterpreted to advance an agenda too. For instance point 4.

"Animals should not be used in direct combat, either one against the other or in warfare."

How long will it take before the RSPCA start a campaign demanding the Police stop using dogs to apprehend criminals? Or that the Army stop using dogs to sniff out explosives? Or searching the ruins for survivors after an earthquake it too risky to use a dog and that that rescue crews should do it using humans?

The current RSPCA leaders seem to be forgetting that they are spending taxpayers' money and their attack on legal hunting create reservations about their ability to impartially perform their duties.

It further confirms a suspicion that the RSPCA have been hijacked by animal liberationists chasing their extreme ideals rather than taking an objective approach to do the valuable work RSPCA have been doing before.

It is of great concern that a non-government organisation driven by these individuals, with illusions of grandeur as illustrated by this charter, have such far reaching powers of search and seizure and apparently very little oversight and accountability.

I am impressed that a committee is reviewing the objectives and powers of the RSPCA and welcome a review of their recent actions to hold them accountable for their actions.

If the recent ad campaign attacks on hunting are any indication as to how the current RSPCA leaders choose to spend taxpayers' money in future, I have to respectfully request that you consider cutting their funding.

I will appreciate a copy of your report.

J.A. van Niekerk,