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From: Inquiry into the Impact of Animal Rights Activism on Victorian Agriculture
[REDACTED]
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Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into the Impact of Animal Rights Activism on Victorian Agriculture

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into the Impact of Animal Rights Activism on Victorian Agriculture

Miss Nicola Fanning

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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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I am both a farmer and an animal welfare advocate, although some people might consider me to be an activist. I do not agree with the tactics of some activist groups and individuals eg. those who invaded the Gippy Goat Cafe and to a lesser extent those who held up traffic and hindered the general public in going about their business.

However I have many times over many years 'trespassed' in an attempt to assist animals which were emaciated and suffering from severe malnutrition often leading to considerable numbers of deaths. I have always reported my concerns either to the RSPCA or Agriculture Victoria but unfortunately have learnt that for I cannot have any confidence that animals will be quickly assisted and their owners brought to account. I will admit that these cases are often quite large and involve owners who are unreasonable and difficult to deal with. There are more of these types of cases than many people would think.

I have been 'working' on a significant case in my local area for the past 3 years but particularly over the past 12 months. Agriculture Vic have finally brought animal cruelty charges against two of the three owners. The new District Veterinary Officer has been thoroughly engaged and committed and this has also brought about better welfare outcomes for the animals. However it is my belief that if I hadn't continued with my regular surveillance which was risky, frightening and confronting, this case would once again not have been dealt with effectively.

I think I know the current trespass laws reasonably well, and if told by an owner to leave I most certainly would. But if animals continued to suffer and die I would also most certainly be prepared to once again enter without permission. Not a decision I would want to take or take lightly. Should I be charged? Should I be punished? If the animal welfare reporting process worked quickly and effectively I would not have to put myself in these type of situations. I have attached three files, one being my diary record of the current case to which I refer. Please forgive it's abbreviated format.

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File1: [5d2eade8ebf7c-Case documentation.docx](#)

File2: [5d2eade8ed2d4-Welfare Wish List.docx](#)

File3: [5d2eade8ed913-Boulton case..docx](#)