

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 26 February 2017 12:18 AM
To: RSPCA Victoria Inquiry
Subject: Submission Pat Hoelmer

Dear RSPCA VicInquiry,

As visitors to Victoria, we demand you provide RSPCA with more funding and more power to do what everyone wants them to do; prevent cruelty.

We were disgusted, shooters groups were successful earlier this year in getting rspca banned from the lakes where native waterbirds were getting massacred, hence effectively preventing rspca from being able to do what people expect them to do - prevent cruelty!!!

RSPCA get a measly amount from government.

Further, they are hamstrung by a ridiculously restrictive Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (POCTA), which has so many exceptions it may as well not exist.

- • Wildlife are not protected by POCTA.
- • Animals unfortunate enough to be labelled "pest", are not protected by POCTA.
- • Native waterbirds are not protected by POCTA between March and June - when kids as young as 12yo are allowed to blast the crap out of their wings, bills and bodies - often not killing them but ensuring they suffer a slow painful death.
- • Farm animals (eg sheep and pigs) are not protected by POCTA.
- • Research lab animals are not protected by POCTA.

Hence cruelty continues on a grand scale.

POCTA is a joke and the Victorian Government appears to not care about animal welfare at all.

The wild brumby horses in the Alpine areas are not protected by POCTA.. they are one of the reasons we visit and we are greatly concerned that there are so few left particularly in the Bogong and Barmah areas. We request more powers and funding for the RSPCA to have greater involvement with the management of these unique animals. There is an ongoing Genetics project being undertaken to map the DNA of all horses worldwide. Community members of Victoria and NSW together with Professor Gus Cothran of Texas University are working together and it is disturbing to hear there are possibly only 50 Bogong Brumbies left. The trapping and removal of these horses must stop as they often end up slaughtered. The Genetics project has already proven the horses are descendants of the heritage Waler horses and their DNA is clean. This means the many professional breeders of horses in Australia can utilise these brumbies to keep their own lines of horses clean. We hope the RSPCA will be funded correctly so that the horses can be protected.

We ask you to fund the RSPCA more significantly, affording more inspectors and total and immediate powers to stop any cruelty including by way of holding "spot checks" of farms, abbatoirs and homes.

No exceptions should exist within POCTA; cruelty is cruelty. An animals is an animal.

Our only criticism of rspca - they should be mandated to spend 95% all funds on preventing cruelty to animals.

Thankyou for this opportunity.

Yours sincerely

Pat Hoelmer

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