NGRU

NATIONAL GREYHOUND RACING UNITED
ABN 75 712 712 293.

RE: NGRU SUBMISSION TO THE RSPCA VIC INQUIRY

On behalf of our 500 members, including some from overseas, and 21,000 subscribers, we would like to make the following brief submission into the RSPCA Victoria parliamentary inquiry.

Based on feedback from our members and subscribers, the number one concern people have with modern day RSPCA, is their animal rights campaign against legal animal sports and industries. They are now seen as another “Animals Australia”, but with prosecution powers and powers to enter properties.

The strong links and obvious working relationship between what are Australia’s most prominent animal welfare (RSPCA) and animal rights (Animals Australia) groups is a concern. Particularly with the alleged recent Animals Australia trespassing and violations of privacy against Greyhound trainers in Victoria.

(Pictured below is one of many examples of the RSPCA VIC strong ties with animal rights groups)

Animals Australia campaign director Lyn White (left) and RSPCA chief executive Liz Walker holding a wounded bird at the opening of duck season.


The once great animal rescue group, is now competing with the many animal activists and liberationist groups for public donations, this has been the catalyst for their radicalisation.
The RSPCA has effectively lost its way and has morphed into another animal rights group. Spending resources on negative campaigns against racing or other legal animal sports and/or industries, and less on rescuing, rehabilitating and rehoming of more animals, especially dogs and cats.

It is the view of our members and subscribers, that animals don’t need rights, they need good care and welfare. Our expectations of the RSPCA are that they need to be rescuing sick, injured and abused animals (excluding legal hunting, fishing and other animal sports/activities), and working to shutdown illegal activities involving animals, such as dog fighting for example, or the unregistered “puppy farms” for another.

The RSPCA continues to campaign against the legal sport of greyhound racing. And because of their authority powers, their integrity is a major concern of the NGRU.

“Make your voice heard now. Let’s tell Mike Baird to bring back the ban,” RSPCA NSW CEO Steve Coleman thundered on Facebook.

“Together we must send a message to [the NSW Premier] that not everyone believes he made a mistake when he promised to shut down this cruel industry.”

Also, the RSPCA continues to campaign against other legal animal related activities and industries, please see the attached screenshot as an example:

_Poultry farmers, hunting, dairy farmers, pure bred dog breeders, horse racing, pig farmers etc._


And more recently they attacked the integrity of the NGRU, after our post regarding the legal and very popular Irish sport of live hare coursing. Of which was a major event in Ireland which attracted over 40,000 people including celebrities, politicians and many men women and children.

The RSPCA claimed we were supporting live baiting by showing our support of this 200-year-old activity of which dogs are muzzled and never catch the hare, in fact no hare is ever harmed. And it’s based overseas and has nothing to do with the Australian greyhound industry.
The libellous attack went on to declare the following: "While the greyhound industry in Australia continues to be dominated by people who think illegal activity and animal cruelty is acceptable, the industry has no hope for reform and survival." Since when does the RSPCA have control over how people feel or think? This was a massive overreach by the animal charity.

Source:

"How can the RSPCA act as a government funded regulator on animal welfare while actively campaigning against government policy?" - Miranda Devine

http://www.dailystandard.co.uk/rendezvous/the-rspca-cares-more-about-political-activism-than-animals-welfare/news-story/d2a6d4c431f2e87d370efc6d6b85df41

By having prosecution powers, and being a registered animal charity, this is a conflict of interest when you consider their recent switch from animal welfare to animal rights. The RSPCA are in a position of power, and as they become more radical we fear an all-out “war” against all current legal animal sports and industries.

Here are some RSPCA VIC points that came out of the WA RSPCA inquiry:

These 3 points are further indications of the organisations move from animal welfare, and into a government lobbying animal rights group.

* The RSPCA’s failed prosecution in 2012 of jumps racing steward Andrew Duff for animal cruelty at Warrnambool after he removed a horse injured in the first lap of a race “to prevent the risk of further accidents when the remaining horses raced around the track for the second lap”. Three leading equine veterinarians “blasted the RSPCA’s prosecution brief as curious, obsessive, lacking serious first-hand experience of handling injured or distressed horses, and a philosophical or political intrusion.”

* The RSPCA’s campaign with Animals Australia to push the Gillard government to ban the live cattle export trade to Indonesia in 2011

* The RSPCA co-sponsoring with Animals Australia a full-page advertisement supporting Green candidates in The Age during the 2014 Victorian elections.
RSPCA EUTHANASIA RATES ARE UNACCEPTABLE, and could in no way be in line with public expectations.

Further to the high kill rate, is the fact the RSPCA try to deceive the public and the government by diluting the percentages by having all stats and figures calculated with "reclaimed" animals included. These dogs and cats are pets that either escaped from their yards or house, and with microchipping now in full force, the owners are quickly found and notified. These figures should be separate to the rehomed and euthanasia figures, then the public would have the true and clear picture of the performance of the public funded RSPCA.

See table below then combine REHOMED with EUTHANASED to get 22412. Now times (x) 6765 (euthansed figure) by 100 and divide by 22412, which gives the true kill rate of 30%. Not 14%.

Table 1: Animals received\(^1\) nationally by the RSPCA for the 2014-2015 financial year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number of animals</th>
<th>Percentage of total</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total animals received:</td>
<td>133,495</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dogs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reclaimed</td>
<td>19,057</td>
<td>40.90% of total dogs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rehomed</td>
<td>15,647</td>
<td>33.58% of total dogs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Currently in Care(^2)</td>
<td>2,925</td>
<td>6.28% of total dogs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transferred(^3)</td>
<td>1,871</td>
<td>4.02% of total dogs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Euthanased</td>
<td>6,765</td>
<td>14.52% of total dogs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>330</td>
<td>0.70% of total dogs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total dogs</td>
<td>46,595</td>
<td>34.90% of total animals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Cats have an almost 40% chance of being killed.

Greyhound racing humane euthanasia rate is 6.9% and falling (See the greyhound Alliance page) And for the record, greyhound racing injury rates are 1.5% (that based on our researched and Animal Liberation Queensland) and further to that research, our track death rate is 0.13% out of 350,000 starters per year across Australia.
The entire team at National Greyhound Racing United hopes our submission helps to correct the path of which the wayward charity is on. All animals need a strong, fair and level headed (regulator) welfare organisation to ensure they are treated with dignity and the respect that most people already show.

We want to see animals protected from illegal activity, we have laws in place already, if the RSPCA cannot have an impact on prosecutions, or if they can’t investigate a higher number of cruelty reports, then they must be relegated back to being a charity without the privileged powers.

If the RSPCA cannot operate without having to compete with animal rights groups for donations, then perhaps Victoria (and Australia for that matter), needs to reinvest tax-payer’s money into more police. We can’t have a government funded not-for-profit animal rights group with prosecution powers, and powers of entry, it’ll be open to corruption and abuse of powers to suit their agenda and ideologies.

Sincerely,

James Schierny

NGRU National Manager and Media Representative

NGRU