

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, 4 February 2017 3:23 PM  
**To:** RSPCA Victoria Inquiry  
**Subject:** Australian Stumpy Tail Cattle Dogs out of RSPCA

Good morning,

I would like to voice my disgust at the handling of Working Dogs by the RSPCA.

Firstly, I would like to let you know that the Australian Stumpy Tail Cattle Dog is on the 10 rare list, it is one of Australia's iconic working dog, there are not many and the gene pool is very small. The working dogs seized from Maryheather Kennel is in the process of court hearings. No charges have been laid by RSPCA 12 months previous in 2016.

Working dogs are high working drive animals that need daily mental stimulation.

The Western Australian public kindly donated money to get released 4 Australian Stumpy Tail Cattle Dogs from RSPCA with the intention of keeping safe and to preserve the last of the breeding lines. Australia cannot import semen or dogs from other countries as Australia holds the best breeding stock, once a breeding line goes, **it is lost forever!**

I'm a registered breeder in Western Australia of the ASTCD, I breed by genetics, so with the permission of Maryheather Kennel I flew 3 of the ASTCDs to WA. Upon arrival the dogs were in flight crates and very nervous, which was understandable with being on a flight then new surrounding.

Let me explain that ASTCD's are very one man, aloof and tough because they work cattle. To see an ASTCD cowering, petrified of noise and sudden movements, pissing themselves with fear....something wasn't quite right! I had seen pictures of these dogs when they lived at Maryheather Kennel and were always very fit and healthy. 1 bitch was at the Melbourne Royal Show 2016.

We had a 5 hour drive home and then into there separate dog runs to settle. To see the fear in these dogs brings tears to my eyes as I write this. 6 months I have had these dogs, broken in spirit and body and 2 days ago the male plucked up the courage to come up to me. Still scared of sudden movement, noise and talking into a phone. When they first arrived I couldn't take a picture of them using my phone, they would bolt and hide in their kennels, that took 5 months for them to become use to the phone and not shake with fear.

My question is what happened in RSPCA to have broken these tough working dog?

Ignorance of working dogs and their high drive needs, educating staff at RSPCA on the special needs of quality working dogs is what is needed.

Sickness in these dogs with Guardia, highly infectious for humans and animals, RSPCA need to have an Infectious program set up, which would come under WHAS (Workers Health & Safety) or OSH (Occupational Safety & Health). These dogs have alot of missing teeth, snapped off at the gums, not sure how this has come about but can easily imagine how these lovely dogs have become a cruel statistic of RSPCA.

Remember the bitch that was shown in Melbourne Royal Show in 2016, a dog cannot be shown with a missing tooth!

We need your help to bring RSPCA into a proper working charity. Training, more training and more training of staff.

**Cruelty to animals is not acceptable.**

Kind regards

Kathleen McQuade  
[REDACTED]