

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, 11 March 2017 8:35 AM  
**To:** RSPCA Victoria Inquiry  
**Subject:** Submission for the enquiry  
**Attachments:** IMG\_8713.PNG; ATT00001.txt; FullSizeRender.jpg; ATT00002.txt; IMG\_1997.JPG; ATT00003.txt

To whom it may concern

I feel strongly that Victoria needs an independent welfare organisation to help carry the immense load of animal cruelty cases the RSPCA faces annually.

I run a sanctuary for aged, abused and neglected horses. The current equine welfare system is appalling.

I have been called out to see horses that have been starved (and worse) and left in appalling condition, only to (eventually) have an RSPCA officer report the condition as 'fine'

I have sent photographs of stagnant green slime as the only water source in an RSPCA approved paddock to the CEO, with no response.

On several occasions, I have received calls of desperation from concerned citizens and told that after weeks of waiting, the RSPCA had still not responded to their callout of severely neglected/abused animals.

Many RSPCA officers seem to lack the very basics of horse handling skills and have 'okayed' despicable living conditions.

I also find it alarming that complainants are not notified of what course of action has been taken in response to their call.

This is a basic right, and does not defy the rules of privacy, as perpetrators need not be named.

But there is no respect or communication forthcoming from the RSPCA in these instances.

Another serious issue is that of wildlife rehabilitation.

Local rangers will euthanise a kangaroo or wombat that has been hit by a car, but we rely on 'volunteer wildlife carers' for rehabilitation.

Why?

In my local area, wombat mange is a serious problem and is being tackled by a team of volunteers, including myself, who commute hours to designing dosing flaps of Cydectin and treating post mange infection with Chloromide.

Wombats are in serious trouble around these parts, yet their only hope is through volunteer action and community fundraising.

Why is rehabilitation of wildlife solely a volunteer mission?

Why are no RSPCA funds allocated toward helping our native animals as well as domestic animals - surely that encompasses 'all creatures great and small' as advertised in the RSPCA logo?

Both Victoria and NSW need an independent welfare body to address these (and many, many more) urgently - as the current system appears overloaded.

Far too many native, domestic, companion and farm animals live in insufferable, cruel and painful conditions with no-one representing them at all.

Volunteers are stretched.

The prosecution rate for cruelty cases reported to the RSPCA is dismal.

It's a crisis that needs immediate and urgent attention

With gratitude and respect

Jeanette Woolerton