

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, 12 February 2017 2:06 PM  
**To:** RSPCA Victoria Inquiry  
**Subject:** New Submission to Inquiry into the RSPCA Victoria

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into the RSPCA Victoria

Mr David Moore  
[REDACTED]

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**SUBMISSION CONTENT:**

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My primary concern is the lack of controls regarding feral cats in particular. In our town we can borrow a trap from Council, and if a cat is caught Council officers will collect the animal. It is scanned and if not micro-chipped the animal is transported to Wangaratta RSPCA. It is then held in their facility for a certain number of days, perhaps with some vet input.

Our local paper has advertisements from the RSPCA offering cats and kittens for people to adopt. Are these the same cats we have previously trapped? Are we, as ratepayers, subsidising the spread of more cats in our community? We are definitely paying the costs of catching and transporting animals to the RSPCA.

My second concern is the lack of accountability of the RSPCA. I was reported to the Wangaratta RSPCA a few years ago by a Council Pest Control Officer who collected a cat caught on our property in a trap provided by the Council. The officer reported me for using a trap "not approved" by the RSPCA. I was totally unaware of this, and was reported without my knowledge. I subsequently received a letter from Wangaratta RSPCA advising I had been "cautioned" and a further breach could result in a fine or jail term. I was given 14 days to dispute this decision, but the letter to me was sent to the wrong address and reached me well after the expiration of the 14 day period. The injustice of the entire process prompted me to write to Dr Hugh Wirth, then President, explaining in detail the injustice I had suffered. No response was ever received.

The Government provides funding to the RSPCA. It would appear some of this funding may in fact be working against Federal Government initiatives to control feral animals, cats in particular. It is even more concerning that the RSPCA is in a position to make serious decisions regarding a persons alleged "guilt" without any attempt at proper process.

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