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RSPCA 
for all creatures **great & small**

RSPCA considerations

- *RSPCA Victoria believes that any measures taken to manage wild animals must recognise that whether the animal is native, introduced, or viewed as a 'pest' does not affect its capacity to experience pain, suffering or distress.*

RSPCA policy

- In some circumstances it is necessary to manage populations of wild animals; native or introduced.
- Programs and strategies which prescribe the management of wild animals must be justified, supported by scientific evidence and have clearly stated aims.
- These programs should be subjected to public consultation, ethical approval and review.

Management and control methods

- Any control of animals must be established as **necessary**, conducted **humanely** and managed by appropriate government authorities.
- Lethal methods must only be used where there is no non-lethal, humane alternative available that is effective.

Concerns

- Competency of operators that undertake control of invasive animals
- Deer are currently listed as protected game species, but are also currently subject to control due to having an impact on biodiversity.

Recommendations

- Utilise humaneness assessment model
- Review listing of deer as a game species
- Improve current control methods or replace them with more humane and effective alternatives

