



RSPCA – for protection or profit?

When I was a kid growing up the RSPCA was always a well respected and trusted face for helping sick and injured animals, or those which - for a variety of reasons - found themselves without a place to live. That was in the early 80's.

Sadly today, the RSPCA appears to have become a shadow of its former self, preferring profits over animal welfare, and often overlooking the needs of animals and its frontline staff - preferring the soap box to support uneducated political extremist propaganda with the likes of groups such as Animal's Australia and Animal Liberation.

The RSPCA's support of these extremist views has not only hurt the backbone of Australia - agriculture – but driven a further wedge between the vegan, latte sipping, hip, serial studying, jobless activists of western Sydney, and the normal hardworking everyday Australian.

In its effort to remain “cool” and popular with these vocal minority groups - who actually **have** time to create and sign countless petitions, protest by chaining themselves to trees and committing criminal offenses (such as breaking into farms during the dark of night) – the RSPCA has alienated itself from what most would consider “normal” Australians views.

You need only look around at the large number of private “No Kill” animal shelters that have been established in recent years, to see how, disgusted with the RSPCA's change in direction, genuine animal carers have started their own not for profit shelters. These are the true unsung heroes.

This leads me to my next point – what exactly is NOT FOR PROFIT? Is an organisation such as the RSPCA, which pays its directors obscene amounts of money, accepts millions in government grants, buys and sells assets and generally operates like a business **really** not for profit? I guess the saying “if it walks like a duck and quacks like a duck, chances are it **is** a duck!” could be used regarding the RSPCA's true organisational structure.

The millions of dollars that the general public donate each year – misled by emotional advertising - under the belief that it will directly assist those hardworking carers on the front line, simply appears to continue lining the pockets of the RSPCA's “top heavy” directors and managers, sat in their Ivory tower - while each day more and more healthy pets are destroyed for lack of funds (?) to feed and house them.

Their own statistics state that of the 131 523 animals that found their way to the RSPCA in 2011/12 - **40% were killed**. That's 52 427 animals (144 per day) that were put down for a variety of reasons, including a lack of space to house them. In that same year the RSPCA recorded a profit over 10 million dollars. Surely a little bit more money could be directed towards their core role of caring for animals and provide on-the-ground works and support, such as more shelters - rather than “administration expenses” and the like?

One of the main reasons cited for destruction of dogs by the RSPCA is “behavioural issues”. Their unscientific methods for determining if a dog is fit for re homing have been widely criticised, and were recently demonstrated on their RSPCA Animal Rescue TV program. It will leave you shaking your head in disbelief...

The “Temperament test”, involves a mannequin dressed as a child that approaches the dog in a confined space, and constantly pressures it into forcing a reaction. If the dog shies away, shows aggression, barks, runs away or demonstrates any behaviour other than wagging its tail it is destined to be added to the 40% death rate. Here is the link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YuJlCfmDRoM>

Common sense dictates that every dog will react differently, and the combination of being in unfamiliar surroundings with a stranger pushing a doll into its face could quite reasonably cause a reaction based on fear or confusion, rather than perceived aggression. In reality, it is just another excuse for the RSPCA to maintain the number of animals in its care, reduce costs, and in doing so increase profits. It also prevents smaller “No Kill” shelters from accessing their fair share of available government funding. It’s not what you would expect from a “charity” organisation, but exactly what we would expect from a big business looking to improve its bottom line.

Of course the RSPCA makes its own rules, doesn’t report to anyone and is completely unregulated – so who is going to hold them accountable for their actions? And here lies the problem – an activist organisation that **poses** as a charity to receive government funding and tax free income, yet operates as a business, offers advice to the government (that isn’t based on fact), and enforces rules and restrictions (created by this advice) on the public. It simply doesn’t make sense!

One of the biggest changes I have noticed with the RSPCA lately is that they involve themselves in issues that have nothing to do with them, are not illegal - and behave more like animal ACTIVISTS, than animal CARERS. Live export and chicken/ pig farming are two examples that come to mind, here are some more: <http://www.rspca.org.au/our-campaigns> .

Regardless of what your personal opinion is on these issues, the facts are they are NOT illegal, follow all Australian laws and guidelines - and yet are subjected to continuous slander and propaganda from Animal Liberation, Animals Australia and now the RSPCA. The RSPCA has no place joining these extremist activist groups, and should not be spending its time (and taxpayers money) pursuing personal vendettas that are outside its “charity” obligations. If it spent the time and money it uses on misguiding the public about these political issues on looking after animals in its shelters instead, then maybe the 40% death rate would be reduced.

The RSPCA’s stance on hunting is simple – they DO NOT support it. After reading their policies and opinion pieces, it is quite apparent that not a lot of time is spent researching the facts and the majority of their “knowledgebase” consists of emotional personal opinions and guesswork (which is ironic, as they are located under the “facts” tab on their website). Here are some of their hunting related links:

What is the RSPCA’s view on recreational hunting?

http://kb.rspca.org.au/What-is-the-RSPCAs-view-on-recreational-hunting_531.html

Policy C05 - Hunting of animals for sport

http://kb.rspca.org.au/RSPCA-Policy-C05-Hunting-of-animals-for-sport_176.html

Is recreational hunting humane?

http://kb.rspca.org.au/Is-recreational-hunting-humane_533.html

How does hunting affect other animals?

http://kb.rspca.org.au/How-does-hunting-affect-other-animals_534.html

Is recreational hunting an effective humane form of pest management in National Parks?

http://kb.rspca.org.au/Is-recreational-hunting-an-effective-and-humane-form-of-pest-animal-management-in-National-Parks_540.html

Can recreational hunting hinder the management of pest animals?

http://kb.rspca.org.au/Can-recreational-hunting-hinder-the-management-of-pest-animals_536.html

What happens when dogs are used to hunt feral pigs?

http://kb.rspca.org.au/What-happens-when-dogs-are-used-to-hunt-feral-pigs_543.html

Is hunting feral pigs with dogs legal in Australia?

http://kb.rspca.org.au/Is-hunting-feral-pigs-with-dogs-legal-in-Australia_295.html

Is hunting using shooting a humane way to kill pest animals?

http://kb.rspca.org.au/Is-hunting-using-shooting-a-humane-way-to-kill-pest-animals_537.html

What is the RSPCA's view on bow hunting?

http://kb.rspca.org.au/What-is-the-RSPCA's-view-on-bowhunting_368.html

Why do some hunters use a bow and arrow and is this type of hunting humane?

http://kb.rspca.org.au/Why-do-some-hunters-use-a-bow-and-arrow-and-is-this-type-of-hunting-humane_541.html

What is the RSPCA's view on duck hunting?

http://kb.rspca.org.au/What-is-the-RSPCA's-view-on-duck-hunting_136.html

Policy C08 - Angling

http://kb.rspca.org.au/RSPCA-Policy-C08-Angling_179.html

Whilst it continues to falsely parade itself as being “for all creatures’ great and small”, the RSPCA’s opposition of hunting is not only hypocritical but also lacks basic fundamental understanding and scientific fact.

- Hunters’ are incorrectly labelled as being inhumane, yet the RSPCA kills 40% of all animals entering its facilities each year, despite generating over 10 million dollars in profit.
- Hunters’ ongoing efforts in reducing feral pest numbers (and therefore increasing native wildlife numbers) are labelled as insignificant, yet the RSPCA does absolutely nothing to preserve our native wildlife.
- Hunters’ ethics, practices and methods of humane dispatch are questioned, yet the RSPCA has never produced a practical, cost effective solution for feral animal control.

Perhaps the most confusing and ridiculous idea is that the RSPCA - an organisation that has no practical experience in hunting, is opposed to hunting on all levels and has absolutely no idea about realistic feral animal management – has input to the government on what course of action it should take regarding these issues. How can an organisation with absolutely no credentials be entrusted to make rational, informed decisions based on fact when it lacks any experience and is publically opposed to hunting?

The simple fact is that over the last 30+ years the RSPCA has gone from an organisation that everyone trusted would give its last dollar to help animals, to a multimillion dollar empire that only cares about making money and pushing its own extremist political agendas. It has succeeded in brainwashing the general public into believing it is still doing good, whilst running a profitable business based on continued government funding and public donations, which it should not be entitled to.

As a hunter, I refuse to support an organisation that is anti hunting, treats Aussie farmers like criminals and ignores the illegal activities of the extremist minority groups such as Animal Liberation and Animals Australia. Next time you get asked for a donation, or to join a rally to save animals, ask these two questions:

- 1) “What is your stance on recreational hunting?” and;
- 2) “Why do you have a 40% kill rate and a \$10M profit each year?”

That’s my 2 cents worth....

Happy Hunting,

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