



Inquiry into pounds in New South Wales

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. That Portfolio Committee 8 – Customer Service inquire into and report on pounds in New South Wales, and in particular:
 - (a) resourcing challenges affecting New South Wales pounds, including the adequacy of funding given towards the operation of pounds by local and state governments
 - (b) the adequacy of pound buildings and facilities in New South Wales
 - (c) welfare challenges facing animals in pounds across New South Wales, including the provision of housing, bedding, feeding, exercise, enrichment, veterinary treatment, vaccination and desexing
 - (d) the adequacy of the laws, regulations and codes governing New South Wales pounds, including the Companion Animals Act 1998 (NSW) and the NSW Animal Welfare Code of Practice No 5 – Dogs and cats in animal boarding establishments (1996), as well as the adequacy of the current enforcement and compliance regime
 - (e) factors influencing the number of animals ending up in New South Wales pounds, and strategies for reducing these numbers
 - (f) euthanasia rates and practices in New South Wales pounds, including the adequacy of reporting of euthanasia rates and other statistics
 - (g) the role and challenges of behavioural assessments in New South Wales pounds
 - (h) the relationship between New South Wales pounds and animal rescue organisations
 - (i) the challenges associated with the number of homeless cats living in New South Wales for both pounds and animal rescue organisations, and strategies for addressing this issue
 - (j) strategies for improving the treatment, care and outcomes for animals in New South Wales pounds
 - (k) any other related matter.

The terms of reference for the inquiry were self-referred by the committee on 29 June 2023.¹

¹ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 1 August 2023, p 296.

Committee membership

Hon Emma Hurst MLC	Animal Justice Party	<i>Chair</i>
Ms Abigail Boyd MLC*	The Greens	<i>Deputy Chair</i>
Hon Mark Buttigieg MLC	Australian Labor Party	
Hon Aileen MacDonald MLC	Liberal Party	
Hon Rachel Merton MLC**	Liberal Party	
Hon Peter Primrose MLC	Australian Labor Party	
Hon Emily Suvaal MLC	Australian Labor Party	

* Ms Abigail Boyd MLC substituted for Dr Amanda Cohn MLC from 29 June 2023 for the duration of the inquiry.

** Hon Rachel Merton MLC substituted for Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC from 13 September 2023 for the duration of the inquiry.