

From: [Geoff Davidson](#)
To: [Portfolio Committee 8](#)
Cc: [Teneale Houghton](#)
Subject: CM: Re: Pounds in New South Wales - Additional information
Date: Sunday, 17 December 2023 11:22:37 PM
Attachments: [image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[17c_rehoming_organisation_Application-Form.pdf](#)

Dear Secretariat,

I appreciated the opportunity to give evidence in person on Friday, and thank the Committee and Chair for the invitation.

There was a misconception stated several times by participants in my evidence panel which I believe should be corrected, but which there was insufficient time to properly address, i.e. the statement that rescue groups are not subject to any regulatory scrutiny, unlike breeders and shelters.

I attach for the committee a copy of the OLG application form showing the requirements for registration or renewal of rehoming organisations.

These requirements include:

- details of foster carers
- animal management practices documents
- surrender and adoption agreements and checklists
- letters of support from veterinarian and from councils
- practices regarding update of the pet registry
- number of animals in care and microchip numbers of last 5 adoption (both checked against the registry data).

The 17c registration and renewal procedure is actually quite onerous, and not as it was characterised by participants in the evidence session. In fact, arguably the administrative on the rescue volunteers is out of proportion to the relatively minor benefit bestowed by the 17c registration in waiving animal registration fees, and a number of substantive and well-run rescues have in the past seriously considered not renewing and continuing without the 17c registration to save on administrative burden.

The guidelines governing 17c rehoming organisations are at: [chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Guidelines-for-Designated-Rehoming-Organisations-Version-2.0-November-2021-Guidelines-Tab-1.pdf](https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Guidelines-for-Designated-Rehoming-Organisations-Version-2.0-November-2021-Guidelines-Tab-1.pdf)

Appendix 1 to those guidelines is the annual reporting format for 17c designated rehoming organisations. Copies are sent by the rehoming organisations to relevant councils as well as to OLG.

By contrast, there is no similar reporting requirement on RSPCA, AWL and CPS.

I believe this adds up to a much greater level of scrutiny than was understood by the witnesses in the evidence session.

As a further point, the Chair asked me for suggestions on what needed to be improved in terms of data collection. As well as the different data collected between pounds, rescues and shelters (the latter not being mandatory), timeliness of data collection is a considerable factor. The earliest I am likely to be able to collect the raw pound data for year ended june is the following Mar-April, meaning that the data is old by the time it can be analysed and published.

Yours faithfully
Geoff Davidson