

Submission
No 121

**INQUIRY INTO ANIMAL CRUELTY LAWS IN NEW SOUTH
WALES**

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 29 November 2019

Partially
Confidential

For the Attention of the Select Committee into Animal Cruelty Laws

Firstly, I thank you for taking this submission into account, and see the shortcomings of the current POCTA (Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) rules and regulations as well as the shortcomings of the effectiveness of the organisation who is approved to promote and improve animal welfare

Things to Consider any organisation that has a responsibility to control anything need robust laws and have a strong visible presence. This is no different to the police force and the highway patrol. The current POCTA laws are inadequate and the successful prosecution would be minimal at best. All animals deserve the same level of care whether they be Service animals, Companion animals, Racehorses, pleasure horses, greyhounds or show animals.

The current POCTA laws need a total overhaul so they can be policed better and allow for a better conviction rate for people doing the wrong thing, **we need a code that protects all animals equally**. We need a registration system for anyone who breeds or sells the above animals with the ability for whole of life tracking. This could be achieved by a self-funding system where the government could withhold 2-4% of all racing tax turnover from all racing codes to go towards funding (in this case no fee's payable by racing participants) and the rest of the industries paying a yearly fee based on the size of the operation.

An organisation could be set up within the DPI or an amended version of the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity commission (GWIC). For Example take away all the integrity side of the GWIC and hand back to Greyhound Racing NSW with the GWIC then to become the **NSW Animal Welfare Unit** where there duties to include holding a database and a licencing scheme for all people involved within the above mentioned space, doing regular site visits depending on size of the operator will dictate how many inspections a year on the property's for compliance to the code. Racing NSW, GRNSW and Harness Racing NSW will also hand their welfare duties to this new organisation for control of welfare outcomes and transparency.

Racing codes would keep their rehoming scheme's in place and remain in control of their own animal registrations and paid by them. Individual industries and the rest of the public when selling animals would need to offer **lifetime rehoming** for any animals bred or sold. Anyone in the public, would be considered a breeder and need to comply if they are keeping any companion/show animal if they are entire and not desexed/spayed.

My personal belief is the organisation overseeing this system would need to come under government control and not be an organisation relying on donations as there is a serious conflict of interests.

The adequacy of kill rates. We need to be aiming towards 100% rehoming **of suitable animals**. This could be overseen and tested by the current organisation that has control of the prevention of cruelty to animals and still funded under the current system from government. This organisation would work alongside the new welfare unit in identifying where problems are arising from.

I have been very broad in my submission, but I am aware that there has already been a lot of work done by other organisations in this space.

Once again thanks for taking the time to read this submission.