

**Submission
No 19**

INQUIRY INTO POUNDS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Ms Chara Love

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"Being killed in a pound or shelter is still the leading cause of death for companion animals in NSW (Australia). What's more, if they're old, young, unweaned, unwell, suffer disability, or even timid (I add - or aggressive), their chances of being killed increase substantially with most not making it out alive."

Source: Animal Liberation Newsletter, August 2023.

I am currently living in India but as a former resident of NSW I was appalled to read the above and also read examples of the level of neglect and cruelty that exists in some pounds and shelters in NSW, eg the Bourke Shire Council as reported earlier this year.

I make the following comments and recommendations.

Companion animals, as sentient beings have a right to be treated with dignity, receive adequate food and shelter, receive medical care from qualified veterinary staff and have a right to live. We must honor our responsibility and not turn a blind eye to the neglect, cruelty and killing that is occurring in many pounds and shelters in NSW.

Other humane models for taking care of impounded animals exist, eg a focus on rehoming and adoptions are operating successfully in other states as well as in other countries and should be adopted.

Below I have listed several recommendations which would vastly improve the quality of life for impounded animals.

1. Specific standards of practise and operational guidelines for all pounds and shelters should be identified and include:

- a no kill policy
- that euthanasia be carried out humanely from IV injection by qualified vets where it is assessed that all possible forms of treatment have been exhausted and the animal is suffering unduly
- that all animals receive nutritious food appropriate for their species
- that they receive adequate shelter from hot, cold and wet weather
- that they receive good medical care when needed by qualified vets
- that staff (and volunteers where used) are trained to treat all animals with compassion, respect and care
- that a robust policy of rehoming and adoption for the impounded animals exists
- that for all operational procedures there is transparency and accountability

2. All pounds and shelters to be inspected regularly by agencies authorised under the POCTAA to ascertain their level of compliance with the guidelines.

3. That the Companion Animals Act be updated with a focus on the welfare of impounded animals.

4. That pound and shelter initiatives be established to support animal owners and caregivers so that they can continue to care for their animal during times of hardship.

Thank you for accepting my submission and I look forward to hearing the progress.

Sincerely

Chara Love