

**Submission
No 45**

INQUIRY INTO POUNDS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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The NSW Pound System is broken.

The NSW RSPCA is closing more and more shelters and just last month it closed the Blue Mountains Shelter without notice. It was also the Blue Mountains Council Impound facility. This leaves only five RSPCA Shelters for the whole of NSW. This is causing enormous pressure on the remaining Pounds and rescue groups whose facilities are bursting at the seams with lost and abandoned animals.

The RSPCA receives Government funding, yet is still asking for donations using pictures of sad dogs and cats in need of shelter. The NSW RSPCA are a very wealthy organisation with 74 million in their bank account. They are a Not For Profit registered Charity yet they are accumulating funds. Their advertising is dishonest and misleading to the public who still donate to them. If the State government were to channel funding into the pound system instead of giving funding to the RSPCA things could improve for the animals.

At present people do not want to go to Pounds to adopt pets. This is because it is distressing. They see outdated facilities with sad and distressed animals. Because of lack of staff it is sometimes necessary to ring council first to make an appointment to see an animal. Visiting times are now also shorter than ever before, probably again due to lack of staff. Volunteers are also in short supply these days, possibly because the cost of living is forcing people to work longer these days.

The Pound system is in desperate need of change and reform.