

Submission
No 42

**INQUIRY INTO 2025 INQUIRY INTO THE OPERATION OF
THE APPROVED CHARITABLE ORGANISATIONS UNDER
THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS ACT 1979**

Name: Miss Katherine Grace
Date Received: 14 November 2025

Hello, I want to make a submission related to what falls under animal neglect and abuse under the law. For over a year I had an elderly neighbour with a cat. This man was completely disabled and incontinent, lived in squalor, including human faeces and urine, insect infestations, etc.

A carer came once or twice a week and was the one feeding the cat, but was doing the bare minimum, nothing was cleaned or sanitised. The smell coming out of the unit was unbreathable. I witnessed this as a neighbour, and also this neighbour, Hilary, who had obtained my phone number, would beg me to feed the cat when he was in hospital almost every week. I could no longer enter the unit at risk of my health, it was a biohazard. The conditions inside the unit were absolutely deplorable.

I called The RSPCA and Animal Welfare League multiple times (the only two organisations that are allowed to take animals in NSW), as well as the police, elder abuse hotline, Inner West Council, strata and more, to report animal neglect and abuse. What I was told that as the cat was being fed, there was no neglect or abuse. This included me feeding the cat after I was worried she would die because no one was coming to the property.

Here, you can see some of the communication I had with various people, including the owner of the cat, Hilary, who I begged to clean the unit and never did so, as well as his guardian, strata, RSPCA, Animal Welfare League, Inner West Council, as well as the calls to emergency that I had to make when Hilary fell and was taken to hospital leaving the cat without care for days at a time or any plan to take care of her. This doesn't include the countless hours I was on the phone to these parties begging someone to do something.

The cat was taken and euthanised by the RSPCA recently, as I called them again after the neighbour left the cat while he was taken away by an ambulance with no care organised at all. The cat was elderly and suffering with cancer apparently, and despite me calling and asking for welfare checks several times this was never identified previously.

I believe there is a serious gap in what is considered animal neglect in the current system. The only factor that is considered is if the animal is being fed. However living in squalor, biological waste, insect infestation, having an owner incapable of caring for them and regularly being left alone for multiple days at a time is not included under the basis of neglect. I hope that NSW Parliament can look into changing the rules/law of what is defined as neglect so animals do not have to suffer in these disgusting conditions in future and can be removed from an owner who does not provide basic sanitation and care for their pet.