

16 March 2016

Hon Malcolm Turnbull, MP
Prime Minister
PO Box 6022
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister

RSPCA Australia and the Australian Veterinary Association are writing to you on behalf of 23 organisations, please see the attached letter.

We are all concerned that Australian Government leadership on animal welfare has faltered. Without this leadership, continuous improvement in the welfare of Australian animals, be they companion animals, animals used in research, working animals, animals used for entertainment, sport and recreation, livestock or wildlife, is becoming disjointed and momentum has been lost.

On behalf of the undersigned organisations, would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this important issue.

Yours sincerely

Gary Humphries
Chair
RSPCA Australia

Dr Robert Johnson
President
Australian Veterinary Association

cc. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture and Water

Attach.

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Dear Prime Minister

Australians care about animals and they expect their government representatives to care as well.

The Australian Government was a leader in animal welfare until 2013 when funding for the *Australian Animal Welfare Strategy* and animal welfare science research was withdrawn, departmental and administrative structures removed, and mechanisms to provide independent advice to the government were dissolved.

In October 2015, over 100 representatives of Australia's animal industries, veterinary profession, and leading animal welfare organisations met to discuss what had been lost and what was now required to make Australia a leader in animal welfare again.

There was resounding agreement from participants on the need for federal government leadership on animal welfare. It was recognised that without such leadership Australia's animal welfare framework becomes fragmented and reactionary as state and territory jurisdictions are left without national coordination. This is not in the interests of Australia's international reputation on animal welfare nor is it in the interests of animal use industries.

Accordingly, we the undersigned, leading representative organisations from across the stakeholder divide, call on you to reinstate the Australian Government's leadership role in animal welfare. We are appealing to you, to dedicate resources to a new national framework. One that will facilitate expert input and advice to governments from a broad range of perspectives, harmonise animal welfare standards across jurisdictions, and coordinate research funding to improve animal welfare outcomes. Your leadership on this issue will re-establish community confidence in the Government's commitment to animal welfare and encourage state and territory governments to re-engage as well.

Prime Minister, animal welfare is important to us, it is important to the Australian community, and we seek your commitment to make Australia a leader in animal welfare again.

Yours faithfully

Australian Veterinary Association
RSPCA Australia
Australian Horse Industry Council
Australian Lot Feeders' Association
Australian Livestock & Property Agents Association Ltd
Australian Livestock and Rural Transporters Association
Australian National Kennel Council
Australian Working Dog Alliance
Australian & New Zealand Council for the Care of
Animals in Research & Training
Animal Management in Rural & Remote Indigenous
Communities
Delta Society Australia Ltd
Pet Industry Association of Australia

Taronga Conservation Society Australia
Zoo and Aquarium Association
Animal Angels
Animals Australia
Getting to Zero and National Desexing Network
Voiceless
World Animal Protection
Dr David Adams
Prof Paul McGreevy
Dr Lyndy Scott
Dr Peter Thornber