



NEWS



AN RSPCA INSPECTOR KNOCKS ON YOUR DOOR – What do you do?

There are many reasons why an RSPCA Inspector will knock on your door, ranging from a reported minor lack of care of your animals, through to cruelty cases.

The RSPCA is charged with administering compliance with the Prevention of Cruelty

to Animals Act 1979 - http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/nsw/consol_act/poacta1979360/

The Animal Welfare League and the NSW Police are also enforcement bodies.

IMPORTANT POINTS TO NOTE:

The RSPCA:

- SHOULD make prior contact to advise of an inspection in minor cases
- CAN arrive unannounced and enter your property if they have a complaint of cruelty or suffering of an animal or animals
- **CANNOT enter your home without your consent, unless in possession of a search warrant**
- CAN check all areas and out buildings on your property with or without your permission
- WILL scan your animals for a microchip
- WILL check general health including dental condition
- WILL check your animals housing
- CAN issue directives for corrective health and animal management issues
- CAN seize animals they are of the opinion are in poor condition/health
- CAN issue infringement notices (fines) for proven minor offences
- CAN have criminal charges laid for alleged serious offences

During inspections you will be asked many questions, therefore be mindful that every bit of information you provide will assist the RSPCA in determining if there is a breach of the law. Be pleasant throughout the inspection but also be cautious as the RSPCA Inspector is collecting as much information as possible.

Should the RSPCA Inspector advise they will be returning to conduct a “Compliance Inspection”, they will be

cross-checking you and your animal management against the ‘DPI – Code of Practice for Breeding of Dogs and Cats’ document.

See - http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/299803/Breeding-dogs-and-cats-code-of-practice.pdf

Currently, if you breed dogs and/or cats, you will need to comply with the ‘Standards’ listed in Code of Practice document which covers:

- Responsibilities and competency
- Quality management systems
- Animal housing, environment, security
- Animal management, care, food & water, cleaning/disinfection, transport
- Animal health, veterinary care, humane destruction
- Transfer of ownership
- Breeding and rearing

HELPFUL POINTS

Ask for the RSPCA Inspector(s):

- to provide proof of identity
- to provide details of the nature of the complaint
- to advise their intention i.e. are they intending to seize dogs
- to not enter your property until they, or you, have disinfected their shoes (i.e. disinfectant bath or spray), washed their hands and wear a face mask, as they pose a Biosecurity risk
- to **not** record any conversation
- to wait for you to have a witness attend, if you are on your own, or feel intimidated (call the Police to attend if the RSPCA refuse this request)
- wait for you to present each dog individually to them (keeping the dogs calm shows you are in control of them)

Please take the time to make yourself familiar with your responsibilities, it will put you in a better position should an RSPCA Inspector present to your property.

Deirdre Crofts
Animal Welfare Community Liaison Officer