

1<sup>st</sup> September 2021  
Animal Welfare Victoria

**RE: Mandatory reporting of animal fate data by shelters and pounds**

Animal Care Australia (ACA) questions the integrity and motives of not providing an open portal for a proper submission to be submitted rather than just an online survey?. Despite this, we have opted to respond in writing to ensure our views are not lost within the standard statistical reporting process and in doing so providing inaccurate feedback.

We note the Code of Practice for the Management of Dogs and Cats in Shelters and Pounds currently requires shelters and pounds to record data on the fate of all animals.

- ❖ **ACA supports the requirement for that data to be made public and reported to government.**
- ❖ **ACA supports the four (4) Proposed changes to the COP listed within your Consultation Factsheet.**

ACA questions why the context of those proposals is not adequately reflected in the survey? We believe many of the questions and options to be ambiguous and ‘leading’ towards a particular outcome. That being the possibility of the animal rights movement capitalising on having access to various data sets in order to justify their agenda of building a shelter industry of whom will ultimately be the sole providers of dogs and cats in Victoria.

With that in mind, Animal Care Australia would like to make the following points:

- ACA sees no point in this revision when no attempt is being made to deal with the reasons why shelters and rescues have abandoned animals in the first place.
- ACA’s calls on the government to stop funding the expansions of shelters and rescues and creating a Shelter Industry.
- ACA calls on the government to reallocate that funding to the education of the public on responsible buying, responsible pet ownership and responsible breeding.
- ACA calls on the government to reassess why these shelters are now being inundated.

Since the implementation of the Domestic Animals Amendment (Restricted Breed Dogs) Act 2017 and The Domestic Animals Amendment (Puppy Farm and Pet Shops) Act 2017, irresponsible breeding has increased due to the demise of responsible registered breeders and the limitations on breeding. This has created a higher demand for puppies and kittens.

**What is needed is for the Victorian Government to wind that legislation back and invest in education and the promotion of responsible pet keeping.**

ACA looks forward to further consultation and welcome the opportunity to provide further clarification on this submission should you require it.

Kind regards,



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President, Animal Care Australia.  
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**CC: Andy Meddick MP – Animal Justice Party**  
**Hon Mary-anne Thomas – Minister for Agriculture**  
**Jeff Bourman – Shooters Fishers and Farmers Party**