

I note also the RSPCA opening massive retail outlets that rival PetStock and PetBarn and conducting force free training schools. Why are these activities not left to the private sector who actually derive their living from provision of these services.

I would have much more respect for the RSPCA if they were to use the funds donated to them to fulfil their key charter – improving outcomes for animals and their welfare.

I noted also yesterday a trending article outlining horrific discoveries at a privately run sanctuary for disabled animals – see StoryBook Farm story: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-03-20/rspca-seize-animals-storybook-farm-animal-garden-rescue/10922372>.

It is my view that people take it upon themselves to endeavour to help these animals because no such services exist. They are not qualified, ill equipped, not funded, not trained and become overwhelmed. They also reach a point where they can not say No and lose sight of any realisation that they can't cope with what they've got. They probably don't know how to extricate themselves.

How different would it be if instead of a massive retail outlet, the RSPCA opened and operated a Sanctuary where animals like this could be cared for appropriately? It could be a place of training, of work placement, of education and public awareness. It would naturally attract a higher level of donation without the high marketing expenses. This could be a place where dogs like these Border Collies could live while they are rehabilitated over time – with the opportunity to run, receive adequate mental and physical stimulation and even perhaps to fulfil their purpose – and work! What a difference that might make!

I would appreciate your thoughts on the questions I have raised. It is my intention to raise these issues more broadly with the responsible Minister and the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee. I request that you review the intention to kill these dogs and if you/Board have any powers of intervention nor review that you invoke these and seek instead, work to undertake a program to rehabilitate them. I ask that the Board direct the RSPCA to desist from killing them until there has been adequate opportunity for those with powers of review to consider whether alternative options might be possible. I ask that you table my letter to the Board and that discussion is held about whether the RSPCA are in fact operating in the right strategic directions and focussing on the right outcomes.

I think it is in the public interest that all Organisations providing services (particularly that impact health and wellbeing) be open to review and scrutiny and perhaps an adjustment of policy and thinking where it is deemed that decisions are actually not the best or only decision that could have been taken.

I do not have a personal axe to grind or a vendetta against the RSPCA but am spurred on by the following quotes that I would like to leave you with:

***“I believe the greatest privilege in this world is to use your freedom of speech for those who have no voice.”***

Regards,  
Chris Moore  
Hope Springs Eternal Dog Rescue, Rehoming & Retirement Inc.