

## **DON'T DUCK FOR COVER**

### *Animal welfare in RSPCA South Australia's sights this state election*

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With the election less than two weeks away, RSPCA South Australia is calling on the state's politicians not to duck for cover when it comes to tackling animal welfare issues.

"South Australian animals deserve better," said RSPCA South Australia Chief Executive Officer Tim Vasudeva.

"The animal welfare issues surrounding jumps racing, companion animal legislation and duck hunting need to be addressed by all sides of politics."

Native waterfowl continue to be killed and maimed by recreational duck hunters during a season which is sanctioned by the state government.

"It's impossible to know how many ducks are killed instantly compared to those who are left maimed but we believe it to be in the thousands," Mr Vasudeva said.

"Why are we catering to such a small number of the population? You're only really talking about 1400 people who do this, including people who come over from Victoria."

Shooting birds in-flight with a shotgun has been proven to not kill every bird instantly. Shotgun cartridges create a spray of pellets which often miss vital organs, leaving wounded birds to suffer.

"Some estimates suggest 20 per cent of ducks who are shot do not die instantly. Other estimates are higher," he said.

"The time has come for South Australia to join Western Australia, New South Wales and Queensland in banning recreational duck hunting."

RSPCA South Australia is also deeply concerned by the rise in junior hunting permits which have been issued over the last two years.

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Duck hunting isn't the only 'sporting' activity RSPCA South Australia believes government inaction is directly responsible for causing ongoing animal suffering.

Despite the severe injury and death of horses being a common occurrence, jumps racing continues in South Australia.

"RSPCA South Australia has provided ample evidence to state parliament showing horses are innocent victims of an outdated tradition. Despite this, the jumps carnage hasn't stopped," Mr Vasudeva said.

"Just like duck hunting, it's time for South Australia to get with the times and ban jumps racing."

RSPCA South Australia is also calling on the next government to implement the 12 recommendations of the Select Committee on Dogs and Cats as Companion Animals.

"The creation of breeder licencing and mandatory breeder welfare standards is vitally important," Mr Vasudeva said.

"So too are regulations which require compulsory microchipping and vaccinating of all cats and dogs, and the desexing of cats, prior to sale or before they reach 12 weeks of age.

"Implementing all 12 recommendations from the select committee will go a long way to addressing underlying companion animal welfare issues in South Australia."

To get informed about the issues, visit RSPCA South Australia's website and ask local candidates if they are taking the lead on animal welfare issues this state election.

<http://rpscasa.org.au/how-to-help/stateelection/>

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