



For all creatures great and small.

Dr Charles Eason  
Connovation Research  
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9 August 2007

Dear Charlie

Thank you for taking the time to visit RSPCA Australia to discuss humane vertebrate pest control and specifically your research programme in Tasmania.

Improving the humaneness of vertebrate pest control is a key priority for RSPCA Australia. Few animal welfare issues are comparable in both their scope and magnitude, given the number of animals affected and the potential suffering involved, and there is an urgent need to develop more humane and effective control techniques. RSPCA Australia has had an active involvement in this area for a number of years, including efforts to bring a greater understanding of the importance of animal welfare in this area to relevant stakeholders, and supporting research and development of more humane methods. Consequently we are very supportive of research projects with these aims.

The use of 1080 for the control of herbivorous native animals in Tasmania is the subject of considerable concern from the RSPCA and in the community. RSPCA Australia regards 1080 as an inhumane poison, and therefore we strongly support the development, registration and implementation of humane alternatives. Based on the available evidence of the mode of action and effect of cyanide as a lethal control agent, RSPCA supports research into its potential as an alternative to 1080 within the context of an integrated management framework. Where it has been demonstrated to be necessary to control native species, and where humane non-lethal control measures are not sufficiently effective, we believe that a cyanide-based agent has the potential to offers a significantly more humane method of killing.

We look forward to hearing about the progress of your research.

Yours sincerely

Dr Bidda Jones  
Chief Scientist  
RSPCA Australia

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