



MEDIA RELEASE

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LOGAN CITY COUNCIL FAILS ITS DUTY OF CARE TO ABANDONED ANIMALS

AAHR is disappointed to learn of Logan Council's decision to continue providing pound animals to Queensland University.

Chief Executive Officer, Helen Rosser, said today *"Abandoned animals in pounds and shelters have already suffered the fear and distress of losing their carers and familiar territory. Their use in research and teaching is the ultimate betrayal and as a society we should never condone that."*

Students can become compassionate and competent veterinarians without having to kill those they are training to protect. They can gain valuable experience operating under strict supervision on animals who will actually benefit from the surgery. This way they will also gain experience in observing and monitoring post-operative recovery which is one of the major components of health care.

The fact that veterinary schools in the UK, as well as Sydney University are able to produce well-qualified veterinarians without relying on terminal surgery labs demonstrates that they are able to achieve the same outcome by more humane means.

"If there is a more humane way of doing something then we are ethically obliged to use the humane option" Ms Rosser stated.

Comprehensive reviews have concluded that in the vast majority of cases, these alternative methods perform as well as methods that rely on harmful animal use, and in some cases achieved superior learning outcomes.

"Considering the availability of more humane and pedagogically-sound alternatives, the use of terminal surgery labs is an unnecessary and unethical practice" Ms Rosser concluded.

In Australia, over 5 million animals are used each year for research and teaching purposes. Of these, more than 710,000 are used in education.

Pet overpopulation:

The number of healthy animals euthanized each day due to a lack of suitable homes is a tragedy, but using pound animals is actually creating a dependence on the problem rather than helping to solve it. Queensland University is therefore benefiting from the human irresponsibility and cruelty necessitating pounds.

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