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Submission to assist in the development of the SA Biodiversity Act

From
Geraldene Hannah

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Those involved in developing the SA Biodiversity Act need to understand animal behaviour and respect each species for its value as all animals currently living freely here are now part of the Australian ecosystem.

Too many mistakes are being made by simply reading reports and listening to "paper scientists" who often have no real experience in living and working with the animals in their home territory, and their expertise in actual practical work is extremely limited, so is their expertise.

Generally speaking, it is better to leave nature to work out the balance, as human interference does far more harm than good..

So many examples can be cited to illustrate the damage done by interfering with the ecosystem and specified species. eg the cane toads, the deliberate breeding of cats and dumping them into the bush to control rabbits, the parvovirus which originally came from a test tube designed to kill cats, and killing animals and creating an even bigger problem, such as attempts to eradicate cats caused such an increase in rats and rabbits that it killed many of the endangered kakapos.

Unfortunately, what might be seen as good intentions frequently cause much more harm than good. It is obvious, as per the current situation with killing, removal and use of animals for rewilding, that immeasurable harm has already been caused and that it is failing to achieve the desired goals.

Unless we put a stop to it, then it will continue, and continue to fail, with no justifiable excuse or reason for leaving the toll of millions of dead, tortured and dying animals in its wake.

Unfortunately, as soon as the public suffers a small personal inconvenience and complains to a local government authority, out come the culling plans, even if this animal was previously protected; Out come the traps, the guns, the poisons, the apex predator plans and the new AI technology.

I see my work as a counter measure to those that upset the balance of nature. Once the damage is done it is too late, as it can't be undone. So caution is the obvious necessity. Once an animal is dead it cannot be saved and the consequences this results in can be devastating, when the operation involves masses of animals, indiscriminately killed with poisons, trapping and other torturous devices.

I have studied the natural phenomenon of nature called the Vacuum Effect and now I am seeing it explained in other submissions from groups where it is becoming understood and has helped to show the futility of killing, as killing and removal does not solve problems, but simply creates bigger ones.

I am interested in promoting the desexng of cats to humanely reduce the population of felines and prevent the suffering f items born to die or be kept in conditions which are not acceptable such as permanently imprisoned in houses and cat runs.

My desexing work which is a large part of what I do helps to counteracts the huge and legal breeding pet factories which cause misery to female breeding machines, kept pregnant and in poor conditions for profit. The offspring do not all find homes and are legally abused in laboratories, used as live bait in greyhound racing and at the end of the race, torn up and die in agony whilst tied to the lure that has just spun them around the track at high speed, or they are put down despite being a healthy animal. Yet the breeding legally goes on.

Those that are not born cannot suffer. and my emphasis for this Submission is to have my views included in the Biodiversity Act as a main feature of humanely reducing feline numbers.

I am therefore interested in the work of the only cat organisation I have found that has delivered what they promised: A reduction in cat numbers, cat-related problems and impact on native wildlife: C.A.T.S. Cats Assistance To Sterilise Inc in South Australia. C.A.T.S. program is Desex and Return to Home (Inc), carefully formulated to comply with the Natural Resources Amendment Act and has been successfully operating in SA for over 35 years. The success was obvious within the first five

years when cat numbers destroyed at the main Adelaide shelter dropped to almost half.

On a personal note. My own Council, Norwood Payneham and St Peters, has a partnership with C.A.T.S. and has worked for over 30 years with the DRH program, and the significant success has resulted in such a controllable level of resident cats that this alliance has now provided free cat desexing for all these moggies across its District.

If you have questions designed to help in having a greater understanding of what I have presented here, I would welcome them.

Yours sincerely
Geraldene Hannah
13th February 2024
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