Animal Welfare Act Under Review

The Northern Territory Government is reviewing the Animal Welfare Act to ensure that it continues to effectively provide for the welfare of animals and prevention of cruelty.

Minister for Local Government, Elliot McAdam said comment and submissions are being sought from industry groups, animal welfare groups, animal breeder associations and the general public.

“The welfare of animals - big or small - and their protection from cruelty is important,” Mr McAdam said.

“This review provides the opportunity to re-examine policy and discuss the adequacy of penalties in relation to the Act.

“No one likes to see or hear about cruelty to animals and this review will allow us to evaluate the adequacy of the Act to deal with animal cruelty incidents.

“This is the chance for all members of the community to provide feedback about the Act and I strongly encourage them to do so.”

The Department of Local Government Housing and Sport investigates all reports of animal cruelty ranging from domestic pets to the transfer of livestock.

The Northern Territory Animal Welfare Act was introduced on 27 March 2000.

President of RSPCA Darwin, Ms Jane Walsh said they welcome the opportunity to have input into the review of the Animal Welfare Act.

“We hope the outcome of reviewing the Act will improve processes to ensure that all offences of animal cruelty are investigated and penalties are enforced.”

Submissions close on the 22 October 2007 and can be sent in writing to the Animal Welfare Branch, Department of Local Government, Housing and Sport GPO 4621 Darwin NT 0801 or via email to animalwelfare@nt.gov.au.

For more information about animal welfare visit http://www.animalwelfare.nt.gov.au

**Media contact:** Tiffany Stodart 0401 118 411 or 8901 4086

**Media Note:** The RSPCA is open from 11am – 4pm today for photo opportunity of volunteers with animals.