



For all creatures great and small.

Someone to watch over them

RSPCA Awareness Week - Oct 1-8, 2006 -

Theme: 'It's up to You'

"I could not have slept tonight if I had left that helpless little creature to perish on the ground."

Abraham Lincoln – 16th President of the United States.

(reply to friends who complained he'd delayed them by stopping to return a fledgling to its nest.)

On the eve of the RSPCA's national **Awareness Week (October 1-8)**, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals wants everyone in the community to watch out for animals in need of help.

The theme for RSPCA Awareness Week this year - 'It's up to you'.

"The RSPCA cannot be everywhere," said RSPCA NSW Deputy CEO Steve Coleman. "It's up to each person to care and to act, not only to help their own pets and animals, but also to watch out for the welfare of other animals.

"We need people to ensure their pets are desexed and well cared for, with access to veterinary care. We urge people to report cruelty and neglect, to call for emergency help to relieve pain and suffering, to speak up and to act against animal abuse in any form and to make humane decisions when shopping. There are many ways one individual can make a difference.

"Animals cannot speak up for themselves. It is a privilege to be in a position to help."

Mr Coleman said Awareness Week will also highlight the diverse work of the RSPCA in Australia.

"Here in New South Wales, our Society is in the process of a major shelter rebuilding program to care for unwanted animals. We help the elderly through the Pets of Older Persons Program (POOPS) and victims of domestic violence through Safe Beds for Pets program.

"RSPCA veterinary teams travel to rural and remote indigenous communities in outback NSW to improve health and welfare standards through pet desexing programs.

"Every day RSPCA inspectors investigate complaints of cruelty, our vets operate to relieve pain, RSPCA shelters take in animals in need and our humane education teams teach kindness to animals. We also lobby and advise governments and educate the broader community to achieve more humane conditions for animals.

"The RSPCA can do even more if everyone gives a helping hand.

"It starts with one person."

Concerns regarding the welfare of an animal: Please phone RSPCA NSW: **02 9770 7555**

RSPCA Awareness Week – October 1-8. Visit - www.rspca.org.au

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