RSPCA Australia Position Information

Scientific Officer (full-time position)

OVERVIEW

RSPCA Australia is seeking an experienced, dynamic and highly motivated scientist to join the RSPCA science and policy team, based in the federal office in Canberra.

This is a full-time position to support the work of RSPCA Australia in providing high-quality science-based advice to support policy, outreach and campaign-related activities to advance the welfare of animals. The position will have a primary focus on the welfare of companion animals.

RSPCA Australia is the federal body of the eight state and territory RSPCAs in Australia. Our mission is to prevent cruelty to animals by actively promoting their care and protection. The RSPCA Australia national office in Canberra provides the administrative base for RSPCA Australia activities. The office is staffed by a dynamic and enthusiastic team of dedicated professionals working across the areas of science, policy, campaigns, communication, marketing and humane food.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

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<th>Title</th>
<th>Scientific Officer</th>
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<td>Type</td>
<td>Full time</td>
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<td>Reports to</td>
<td>Chief Science and Strategy Officer</td>
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<td>Location</td>
<td>RSPCA Australia</td>
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<td>6 Napier Close</td>
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<td>Deakin ACT 2600</td>
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Salary

A salary package will be negotiated in the range $60,000-86,500 based upon experience and qualifications

The Scientific Officer will work in a team environment to provide high-quality science-based information, advice and comment on animal welfare issues in support of the strategic objectives of RSPCA Australia.

Key responsibilities include:

- Researching and preparing science-based information on animal welfare issues
- Establishing and maintaining collaborative relationships with government, industry and RSPCA member societies to promote RSPCA Australia policies through the use of science
- Collaborating with the campaigns and communication team to support campaign and communication activities through the provision of relevant scientific and technical information
- Liaising with RSPCA member societies to help improve animal outcomes from our shelters, care and adoption centres and compiling the annual RSPCA report
- Understanding RSPCA Australia policy/position and applying negotiation skills as required in order to advance animal welfare in key policy areas
- Reviewing the literature on key policy areas in animal welfare science and policy
• Updating and developing RSPCA policy and position papers, discussion papers, research reports, information sheets and Knowledgebase articles
• Responding to public, media and other enquiries
• Preparing scientific and technical information and advice for the RSPCA Australia Board and its subcommittees as required
• Preparing submissions to government or external organisations on documents including, but not limited to, national Standards & Guidelines, industry-specific guidelines, and other documents relevant to RSPCA Australia policies
• Representing RSPCA Australia on relevant national committees and working groups involved in the setting of animal welfare legislation, strategies and related plans and documents
• Administering the RSPCA Australia Scholarship Program and assisting in the coordination of research activities
• Assisting in the preparation of the quarterly Animal Welfare Science Update
• Assisting in the organisation of the annual RSPCA Australia animal welfare seminar
As a member of a small office and team, other duties and activities that contribute to the work of RSPCA Australia will be required from time to time.
Occasional interstate travel and work after ordinary business hours will be required in this role.

SELECTION CRITERIA
As a key member of the science and policy team within the national office, you will demonstrate:

1. A proven interest in animal welfare and commitment to the objectives and policies of the RSPCA
2. Tertiary qualifications in a relevant discipline, preferably post-graduate, with specific animal welfare expertise relating to companion animals
3. Experience in scientific research and in preparing and undertaking scientific investigation and analysis
4. The enthusiasm and confidence to represent the RSPCA at a national level
5. Well-developed research and analytical skills
6. Excellent verbal and written communication skills
7. The ability to communicate effectively to both a scientific and lay audience
8. The ability to plan and prioritise a varied workload and meet fixed deadlines
9. The ability to work independently and collaboratively and to react quickly to a range of different demands.

EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS
This is a two year contract position, subject to a six-month probation period. Employees are expected to work a 38-hour week and are entitled to 20 days recreational and 10 days sick/carers leave per year. Normal business hours are between 8.30am and 5.30pm Monday to Friday with some additional hours required during peak periods. Some flexibility with working hours can be negotiated.

APPLICATIONS
Applications should include three documents:
1. A cover letter addressing the selection criteria
2. A Curriculum Vitae which should include the names and contact details of two referees
3. Three examples of your written work, preferably from a range of publication types (scientific papers or reports, print or online articles, or similar).

Applications should be submitted with ‘Confidential - Scientific Officer’ in the subject line via email to rspca@rspca.org.au, or alternatively posted to:

Human Resources
RSPCA Australia
PO Box 265
DEAKIN WEST ACT 2600

Applications must be received by 5pm (AEST) Monday 15 August.

For further information contact Dr Bidda Jones on (02) 6282 8300 or bjones@rspca.org.au