RSPCA Australia Position Information

Scientific Officer - Farm animal welfare

OVERVIEW

RSPCA Australia is seeking an experienced, dynamic and highly motivated scientist or veterinarian to join our Science and Policy Team based in the national 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 farm animals, including direct involvement in reviewing standards for the RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme.

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

Title: Scientific Officer
Type: Full time
Specialisation: Farm animal welfare
Reports to: Chief Science and Strategy Officer
Location: RSPCA Australia
6 Napier Close
Deakin ACT 2600
Salary: A salary package will be negotiated 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 farm animal welfare issues in support of the strategic objectives of RSPCA Australia.

Key responsibilities of a Scientific Officer include:

1. Reviewing relevant scientific literature and preparing evidence-based information and advice on key policy areas
2. Establishing and maintaining collaborative relationships with government, industry and RSPCA member societies to promote RSPCA Australia policies through the use of science
3. Collaborating with the campaigns and communication team to support campaign and communication activities on key farm animal welfare issues
4. Representing RSPCA Australia on relevant national committees and working groups involved in the setting of animal welfare legislation, strategies and related plans and documents
5. Understanding RSPCA Australia policy/position and applying negotiation skills as required in order to advance animal welfare in key policy areas
6. Updating and developing RSPCA policy and position papers, discussion papers, research reports, information sheets and Knowledgebase articles
7. Responding to public, media and other enquiries
8. Representing RSPCA Australia in the media and other public forums
9. Preparing scientific and technical information and advice on relevant key policy areas for the RSPCA Australia Board and its subcommittees as required
10. 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
11. Contributing to the content of the Animal Welfare Science Update
12. Administering the RSPCA Australia Scholarship Program

Responsibilities specific to this role:

- Reviewing farm animal welfare standards for the RSPCA Australia Approved Farming Scheme
- Supporting the implementation of the Approved Farming Scheme and the Humane Food program in an advisory capacity
- 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 travel and work after ordinary business hours will be required in this role.

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 9.00am and 5.00pm Monday to Friday. Some flexibility with working hours can be negotiated.

HOW TO APPLY

Your application should include:

1. A cover letter which includes your responses to the following selection criteria:
   - A proven interest in animal welfare and commitment to the objectives and policies of the RSPCA
   - Tertiary qualifications in a relevant discipline (e.g. veterinary science, animal science, zoology), preferably at a post-graduate level
   - Experience in preparing and undertaking scientific investigation and analysis
   - The enthusiasm and confidence to represent the RSPCA publicly at a national level in the media, in presentations and on working groups
   - Well-developed research and analytical skills
   - Excellent written and verbal communication skills
   - The ability to communicate effectively to both a scientific and lay audience
   - The ability to plan and prioritise a varied workload and meet fixed deadlines
   - The ability to work independently and collaboratively and to react quickly to a range of different demands.

2. Your Curriculum Vitae which should include the names and contact details of two referees

3. Up to three examples of your written work. These can be from a range of publications (scientific papers, 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) 6 June 2019.

For further information contact the RSPCA Australia office on (02) 6282 8300 or rspca@rspca.org.au