

Media Release



The Hon Jaala Pulford MLC

Minister for Agriculture

Minister for Regional Development

Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

Thursday, 22 January, 2015

GOVERNMENT ORDERS INVESTIGATION INTO LOST DOGS HOME

The Andrews Labor Government has requested a formal investigation into the treatment of animals by the Lost Dogs Home in response to significant community concern about the Home's animal welfare practices.

Minister for Agriculture, Jaala Pulford, has directed authorised officers within the Department to investigate allegations relating to high euthanasia rates, accommodation and housing of animals, identification of animals' owners and the assessment of animals for re-homing.

Minister Pulford said she had been inundated with calls, social media posts, messages and emails from hundreds of concerned Victorians.

The investigation will commence immediately, with initial feedback to be provided to the Government within coming weeks.

The Labor Government has a strong commitment to animal welfare. We will crack down on puppy farms and provide the RSPCA with additional resources to phase out this cruel and controversial industry.

Any Victorians with concerns about the treatment of animals by the Lost Dogs Home are advised to contact the City of Melbourne with evidence on 9658 9658.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Agriculture, Jaala Pulford

"The Andrews Labor Government takes any allegations of animal cruelty extremely seriously."

"The Government has moved quickly to respond to community concern and directed the Department to investigate these concerning reports."

"By introducing tough new animal welfare measures and cracking down on puppy farms we will protect dogs from a lifetime of misery."