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RSPCA says PETA is not 'fair dinkum'



PHOTO Still of a shearer throwing a sheep from a PETA video depicting animal cruelty.

The CEO of the New South Wales RSPCA has slammed the People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) for delaying the release of animal cruelty footage.

Steve Coleman says without this information being passed on to his organisation, or the police, those perpetrating the abuse cannot be prosecuted.

Mr Coleman says the video is disturbing, but reports of animal abuse by shearers is rare and he is increasingly frustrated by people not utilising the RSPCA as a body that can act on cruelty.

Potentially, hanging on to that footage for longer than they had to may well have jeopardised the welfare of other animals.

NSW RSPCA CEO Steve Coleman



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He says PETA is not 'fair dinkum' about animals rights because they have ignored the legal channels that could punish perpetrators.

"We need to know who took the footage, we need a statement from that person...explaining when it was taken, how it was taken, and we need those people to provide evidence in court," he said.

"In terms of it being prosecutable, some of it will absolutely be useless.

"If people were fair dinkum about being concerned for the welfare of animals, as soon as something is detected then the right thing to do is to provide that information or that evidence to the appropriate body."

Mr Coleman says the RSPCA is confident it can locate the properties where the abuse took place, but at the moment information is sketchy at best and the only clear location is 'south-west NSW'.

He says farmers have the right to know if abusive shearers are working in their area.

"We are in receipt of many instances now, with other organisations as well, where we have received the footage after it's been released to the media.

"We have not been able to achieve or get from those organisations a statement that reflects the person who took the footage in the first place," he said.

"Doesn't matter whether you are an organisation or an individual, if you detect something that you consider to be mistreatment of animals, you've got an obligation; you should report that.

"I just can't believe that they are actually serious about taking action against those in the footage that keeps coming our way."

<http://mobile.abc.net.au/news/2014-07-17/rspca-on-peta/5603440>