



ANIMAL WELFARE IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Animal Welfare Seminar 2026

Online | February 18-19

Wednesday 18 February 2026 (All times are in AEDT)

12:00 Welcome to Day 1

Official welcome: Richard Mussell
Chief Executive Officer, RSPCA Australia

Chair: Dr Suzanne Fowler
Chief Science Officer, RSPCA Australia

12:10 Opportunities and risks of digital technology on animal farms: a practical perspective

Speaker: Prof Janice Siegford
Michigan State University

12:55 What's artificial intelligence got to do with animals?

Speakers: Dr Simon Coghlan & Prof Christine Parker
The University of Melbourne

13:35 Virtual fencing – the good, the bad and the ugly

Speaker: Dr Helen Beattie
Veterinarians for Animal Welfare Aotearoa

14:15 Break

14:30 Artificial intelligence in the abattoir to improve welfare outcomes

Speaker: Dr Dana Campbell
CSIRO

15:10 Innovating to replace, reduce and refine animal use in education

Speaker: Dr Megan Lucas
The University of Melbourne

15:50 Panel discussion: Ethical implementation of digital technology in farmed animal industries – strategies and barriers to progress

Panel: Day 1 Speakers

16:30 Close

Thursday 19 February 2026 (All times are in AEDT)

12:00 Welcome to Day 2

Chair: Dr Suzanne Fowler
Chief Science Officer, RSPCA Australia

12:05 Improving feline welfare: The role of digital technology in pain detection

Speaker: Dr Natalie Lloyd
Zoetis

12:45 Improving the lives of zoo animals with digital technology: A historical and empirical perspective

Speaker: Dr Eduardo J. Fernandez
The University of Adelaide

13:20 Advancing cage-side welfare assessment: Automated monitoring technologies in laboratory animal research

Speaker: Assoc Prof Alexandra Whittaker
The University of Adelaide

13:55 Harnessing the power of cancer registries in veterinary care

Speaker: Prof Chiara Palmieri
The University of Queensland

14:30 Break

14:50 Use of drones in marine mammal research

Speaker: Dr Vanessa Pirotta
Macquarie University

15:25 Respecting data, strengthening care: Integrating digital solutions for remote animal health

Speaker: Dr Bonny Cumming
AMRRIC

16:00 From viral to harmful: Understanding animal cruelty content online

Speaker: Nicola O'Brien
SMACC, Asia for Animals Coalition

16:40 Close