**Young people empathising with other animals: reflections on an Australian RSPCA Humane Education Program**

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**Conflict of Interest Statement**

We have no conflict of interest to declare.

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**Nik Taylor** is an Associate Professor in Sociology at Flinders University has been researching human-animal relations for over 15 years. She is an award winning author who has published 6 books and over 50 journal articles and book chapters on the human-pet bond; treatment of animals and animal welfare; links between human aggression and animal cruelty; slaughterhouses; meat-eating, and, animal shelter work.

**Tania Signal** is an Associate Professor in Psychology at Central Queensland University. For the past 12 years she has been investigating Human-Animal Interaction, covering topics such as potential links between personality factors (especially empathy), interpersonal violence and the treatment of animals through to community attitudes regarding farm animal welfare and suitable penalties for individuals convicted of animal cruelty offenses.