

The Animal Care Expert

“Animal welfare by the experts—those who keep, care for and breed animals”



In this issue:

- **What is a puppy factory/farm?**
- **ACA meets NSW Shadow Ministry**
- **Dogs dominate WA, Vic and NSW animal policies**
- ***Plus lots more.***



President's Report

By: Michael Donnelly

That's a wrap for 2020! What a year it has been, and one we can all only hope is never repeated.

For ACA we've had a busy year and I truly cannot believe how far this organisation has come in the past 15 months.

For me, the highlights of this last 3 months are:

1. Receiving supplementary questions following our testimony at the **Inquiry into exhibition of exotic animals in circus and cetaceans in marine parks.**

The pointed aim of the supplementary questions indicated the level of impact our testimony had on the Animal Justice Party's intent to not only end animals in circus but also in mobile exhibitions of all categories.

2. A meeting with the **NSW Shadow Ministers for animal-related portfolios.**

To have the opportunity for a round table conversation with Shadow Ministers for Primary Industries, Environment, Local Government and an additional minister who is a member of the recently announced Inquiry into the Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission was just mind-blowing. Discussing our concerns of the relevant departments and the directions we would like to see animal welfare improve within them was greatly appreciated by all who participated, especially being invited to return in the near future as issues progress.

The coming months are going to keep our Committee extremely busy. Reviews of animal welfare acts are underway in NSW and Victoria with QLD set to follow as soon as 'care-taker mode' is lifted following their recent State Election.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the ACA Committee to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. Hoping the new year brings better times for us all.

Please enjoy this edition of the **Animal Care Expert.**

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News Updates



ACA corresponds with Greyhound Racing NSW to outline concerns with greyhound behaviour

assessments for rehoming as pets

9th September 2020 — ACA has expressed the following concerns:

- Current assessment process was implemented by a Dr with direct links & associations to Animal Rights Extremist organisations
- Current method used would FAIL most breeds of dogs
- Not all assessors are adequately trained and have little to no reporting of outcomes so that improvements can be recommended and implemented
- Recommended process and time for removing dogs from the racing environment is insufficient and impractical. Dogs are more often kept within the racing environment with little to no opportunity of acclimatising to a 'pet-home' environment.

To read the full recommendations click on the pdf icon.



ACA RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS for Inquiry into the Exhibition of exotic animals

in circus & cetaceans in marine parks.

18th September 2020 — ACA was asked to provide additional responses to supplementary questions. ACA made the following recommendations:

Recommendation One:

That the definition of 'exotic' be excluded from the Inquiry and the Inquiry should instead rely on existing definitions within NSW Animal Welfare

Legislation & Standards. Any attempt to re-define the word directly invalidates all testimony provided and submitted.

Recommendation Two:

That no definition of 'circus' be included in the Inquiry and the Inquiry should instead rely on existing definitions within NSW Animal Welfare Legislation & Standards. Any attempt to re-define the word directly invalidates all testimony provided and submitted.

Recommendation Three:

Defining 'welfare' for the purpose of this Inquiry to be limited to the existing definition of 'welfare' within POCTAA as this is already part of NSW Legislation.

To read the supplementary questions and our full recommendations click on the pdf icon.



ACA Responds to Golden Plains Shire Council in Victoria

22nd September 2020 — This Council has proposed to increase restrictions on the numbers of pets their residents can keep.

- ACA maintains welfare is not about number restrictions or limiting species allowed to be kept. ACA responded:
- ACA responded with examples of how restricting animal numbers will affect animal welfare .
- ACA called for the removal of restrictions and Council to adopt more favourable support for keeping pets.
- ACA highlighted how impractical restrictions are for the keeping of most pets.

To read the full recommendations click on the pdf icon.





ACA contacts NSW Ministers to support the removal of bans on pets kept in strata

24th September 2020 — ACA supported the proposed Strata Schemes Management Amendment (Sustainability Infrastructure) Bill 2020.

ACA is seeking the support of government to ensure this amendment passes into law.

Keeping of Animals 137B Keeping of animals

(2) The keeping of a particular animal on a lot is reasonable unless the owners corporation can show –

- (a) that it is a significant detriment to the animal's welfare, or
- (b) that the animal causes a nuisance or hazard to the owner or occupier of another lot or unreasonably interferes with the use or enjoyment of another lot or of the common property.

To read the full correspondence click on the pdf icon.



ACA Responds to Knox City Shire Council in Victoria

8th October 2020 — This Council has implemented restrictions on the numbers of pets their residents can keep.

- ACA maintains welfare is not about number restrictions or limiting species allowed to be kept. ACA responded:
- ACA responded with examples of how restricting animal numbers will affect animal welfare .
- ACA called for the removal of restrictions and Council to adopt more favourable support for keeping pets.
- ACA highlighted how impractical restrictions are for the keeping of most pets

- ACA requested information on how the policy was formulated

To read the full correspondence click on the pdf icon.



ACA meets with NSW Shadow Ministers



19th October 2020 - ACA President Michael Donnelly and Vice President Sam Davis met with Shadow Ministers in Parliament

House to highlight a range of Environment, Primary Industries, and Local Government portfolio issues affecting animal keepers. Support from the Shadow Ministry is appreciated and will assist ACA with our objectives.

ACA Responds to Central Coast Council in NSW



26th October 2020 — This Council has proposed to impose restrictions on the numbers of pets their residents can keep.

- ACA maintains welfare is not about number restrictions or limiting species allowed to be kept.
- ACA highlighted many species are social and their welfare depends on their family groups.
- ACA called for the removal of restrictions and Council to adopt more favourable support for keeping pets.
- ACA highlighted how impractical restrictions are for the keeping of most pets.
- ACA questioned the legitimacy of restrictions used as a 'guide' when clearly residents in breach of the 'guide' will be issued with Notices to remove animals.

To read the full correspondence click on the pdf icon.



Ban Puppy Factories — Not Puppy Breeding!

By Michael Donnelly

'Ban Puppy Farming' Legislation IS NOT the solution!

Animal Care Australia does not support irresponsible breeding or individuals who commit acts of cruelty against animals.

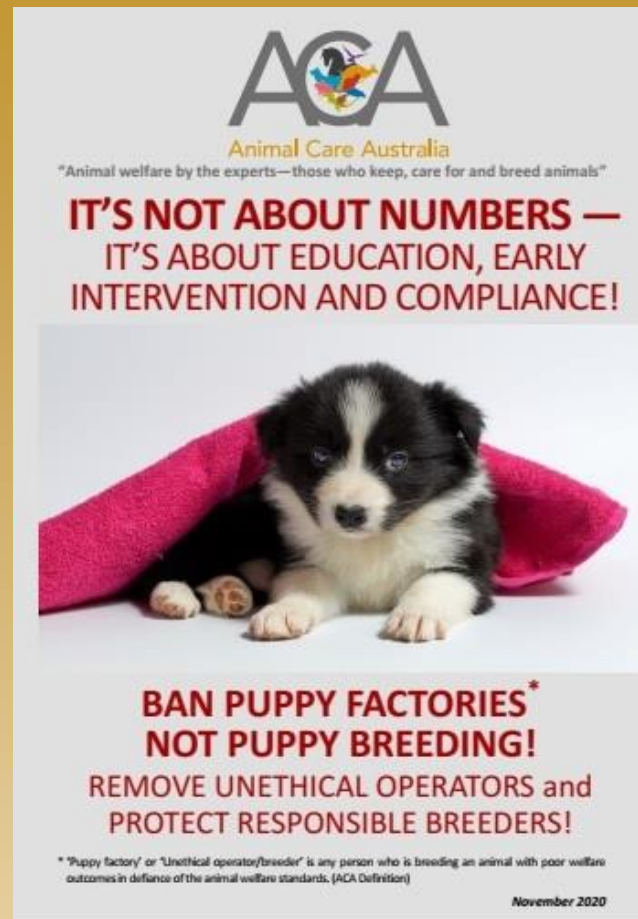
Improved animal welfare cannot be achieved by restricting the numbers of animals that can be bred, in fact restrictions can prove to be detrimental to many individual breeds of animals and have a plethora of un-intended consequences.

Right at this point in time Western Australia is experiencing the very real threat of restrictions on the breeding of dogs and cats, as well as the introduction of a pet registry — and if Victoria and New South Wales' pet registries are anything to go by, that too will be a disaster for anyone currently keeping and breeding dogs and cats in WA.

In NSW amendments to the Companion Animals Act 1998 are to be introduced by Hon. Emma Hurst from the Animal Justice Party early in the new year, with restrictions on the numbers of bitches/queens a person can keep, as well as restricting the number of litters that can be produced each year.

Animal Care Australia cannot sit back and support any additional amendments which see caps/restrictions placed on the number of females breeding or limits to the number of litters each female can have beyond those already legislated within the Companion Animals Act and the Animal Welfare Code of Practice for breeding dogs and cats in NSW 2009.

To assist the politicians in WA & NSW assessing how these restrictions will make matters worse instead of better ACA has produced a booklet that has already been posted to the Upper House members in WA and will be provided to members of both Houses in NSW, early in the



new year. Throughout the booklet ACA shows animal welfare is best improved by ensuring compliance with current legislation and educating the public on their responsibilities. This is the sensible way of improving welfare outcomes and not arbitrary caps on numbers.

What does ACA recommend?

ACA opposes attempts to reduce, restrict or impose caps on the numbers of animals being kept in our care.

- ⇒ **ACA implores government to provide more adequate funding for educating the public on their responsibilities as pet owners including supporting & promoting animal keeper associations & clubs.**
- ⇒ **ACA encourages government & local council to implement responsible breeder programs.**
- ⇒ **ACA implores government to provide additional funding to the compliance organisations to adequately monitor and**

respond to circumstances where animal welfare standards are not being sustained while utilising the existing legislation.

⇒ ACA encourages government to provide initiatives to the public that ensure people of lower income communities can maintain their animals' welfare needs — such as concessions for veterinary treatment, de-sexing costs, food and housing.

ACA sees no reason to impose more restrictions than those currently legislated.



So what is a 'puppy farm/factory'?

It is generally agreed no-one likes a 'puppy factory'. The dictionary defines it as:

'an establishment that breeds puppies for sale, typically on an intensive basis and in conditions regarded as inhumane.'

Wikipedia says:

'A puppy mill, also known as a puppy farm, is a commercial dog breeding facility characterized by quick breeding and poor conditions.'

RSPCA Aust:

'an intensive dog breeding facility that is operated under inadequate conditions that fail to meet the dogs' behavioural, social and/or physiological needs'.

Animal Justice Party:

refused to provide a definition when requested by ACA — but they want them banned?

There is a common and agreeable factor within all the definitions and that is **'inadequate or poor welfare conditions'**.

It has been shown even large facilities can breed dogs and cats with high welfare standards, and meet the animals behavioural, social and/or physiological needs - so why would you restrict these facilities with caps on numbers?

To download our booklet click on the booklet icon:



ACA's definition:
'Puppy factory' or 'Unethical operator/breeder' is any person who is breeding an animal with poor welfare outcomes in defiance of the animal welfare standards.'



Harsher Animal Cruelty Penalties announced for NSW

In recent weeks both the Animal Justice Party and NSW Minister for Primary Industries have announced harsher penalties for animal cruelty offences under POCTAA Section 5 (Cruelty) and Section 6 (Aggravated Cruelty).

Immediately following the announcement by Hon Emma Hurst (AJP) ACA was contacted by the Shadow Minister for Primary Industries, the Hon Jenny Aitchison for comment relating to our views of Ms Hurst's proposals.

ACA's recommendations are:

1. Significant increases to maximum penalties available to the Courts for POCTAA Section 5 (Cruelty) and Section 6 (Aggravated Cruelty) to our knowledge is supported by all stakeholders including ACA. This has been the case for a number of years, so the recent media from both Emma Hurst MP and from Minister Adam Marshall for Section 5 and Section 6 offences are supported in principle and expected. However we find both to be excessive.
2. Animal welfare legislation in NSW is currently under review. It is universally acknowledged that the current Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 (POCTAA) and other animal welfare Acts in NSW are antiquated. We are working with the DPI Review Team and remain optimistic that a new fit-for-purpose regulatory regime will emerge from the review process. This will take time, we should be patient and implement increases in penalties appropriately as the new regime is implemented, therefore at this time:

- i. ACA does not currently support increases in maximum penalties (apart from POCTAA Section 5 and Section 6 offences).
 - ii. ACA does not support the addition of minimum penalties.
 - iii. ACA does not currently support increases in fines for penalty notice offences.
3. The release of feral animals into the environment is strongly opposed as detailed in our clause [6] comments that are within our written response.
 4. We continue to strongly recommend education over enforcement. In the animal welfare space, there is limited funding such that compliance operations are almost entirely reactionary in response to complaints. Inordinate resources are directed towards individual cases whilst many magnitudes more offences are simply undetected. Education can raise animal welfare outcome state-wide.

AJP's proposed minimum penalties would leave no allowance for discretion by the Courts, and accordingly ACA does not support the setting of minimum penalties while many aspects of the Act are currently ambiguous and in our opinion should not appear within the Act, rather requiring to be included in the Standards for species specific Codes of Practice. It is ill-advised therefore to take a 'tarred with the same brush' approach to the entire Act and its regulations. ACA is finding many circumstances where people have opted to pay the fines in order to avoid the higher costs of defending themselves in Court. Higher penalties and sentences should not disadvantage the vulnerable in our community, who require assistance to care for their animals and not persecution by aggressive animal rights activists.



Read our full response by clicking on the pdf icon:

Proposed Penalty Increases:

		Current POCTAA		AJPs Bill			Minister Marshall		
		Points	Value	Points	Value	Multiplier	Points	Value	Multiplier
Section 5	Commercial	250	\$27,500	1400	\$154,000	5.6	2000	\$220,000	8
	Individual	50	\$5,500	500	\$55,000	10	400	\$44,000	8
Section 6	Commercial	1000	\$110,000	2275	\$250,250	2.275	5000	\$550,000	5
	Individual	200	\$22,000	900	\$99,000	4.5	1000	\$110,000	5
Section 8	Commercial	250	\$27,500	1400	\$154,000	5.6	750	\$82,500	3
	Individual	50	\$5,500	500	\$55,000	10	150	\$16,500	3

Small pets & the Australian climate

By Rachel Sydenham

How to beat the Heat!

Different species of animals all over the world adapt to the climate of their natural origin, and develop behaviour and techniques to cope and survive throughout the most extreme conditions.

Domesticated animals however do not have the freedom of free range movement, due to being confined to yards or enclosures, which limits the animal's innate ability to seek comfort of warmth, coolness, and dryness as needed.

The Australian climate can be quite harsh at the best of times with extreme sudden temperature changes from extremely high to very low, prolonged dry heat periods, high humidity, and freezing cold winters. Even human beings struggle to survive in our hostile Australian climate and we are more capable of finding relief from this country's brutal elements.

Our smaller pets suffer the most because most of our smaller domesticated pets are naturally ground or burrow dwellers and unable to seek the coolness of a burrow when it is extremely hot, or it's warmth when weather turns cold. Instead we house them in enclosures and supply them with an absorbable substrate, plenty of colourful fleecy bedding, an abundance of toys with a location specified for food and water, because we feel that what naturally makes us comfortable will make our pet feel right at home and comfortable too. This is natural for us to relate such material objects and their placement to what we regard as necessary



comfort. Sure, our precious pets do thoroughly enjoy these things and learn to adapt to the locality and placement of these objects we provide, but when it comes to extreme weather conditions, such luxury decor does not provide what the animal needs to instinctively do to survive the extreme situations.

Most small domesticated animals prefer temperatures of around 20-23 degrees Celsius with a humidity range of 50 to 65%. This is ideal comfort; however, they are able to tolerate temperatures down to 10 degrees and up to 30 degrees Celsius. That is tolerate, providing that the animal has the freedom to move around and seek refuge or have access to a cool water source depending on the temperature it is evading at the time.

Apart from confinement another problem that presents for our small pets is the presentation of the water source we provide. Often we supply water to our pets in drinker bottles or small bowls, because it is easy to provide the water fresh for drinking and easy to keep the water clean. Unfortunately we forget about the temperature of the water that is being provided. A lot of animals will refuse to drink water that is warm and tepid, in which water often becomes on extremely warm days. It is one problem that our small animals cannot seek natural refuge from the elements, but it is a bigger problem if they are unable to hydrate themselves on hot days as they quickly succumb to dehydration, heat stroke and more often than not, death.

So how do human beings in our material orientated world provide our small precious but naturally burrow/ground dwelling pets with the comfort they need to survive in the harsh Australian climate?

Here are some tips:

If your pets must be housed outside, make sure they are in a very well sheltered area that is not exposed

to extreme winds and driving rain. Pay attention to which direction the area is facing, as you don't want your pets enclosure exposed to direct sun. In colder months the enclosure can be covered with a good quality woollen blanket. Pure woollen blankets are great as they are naturally insulated, fairly water proof and tough, as well as non-toxic should your critter decide to chew on it. Wool is also a natural and breathable fibre so the enclosure is less likely to accumulate moisture or condensate. It will also prevent sudden freeze on frosty mornings. If an easy power source is available, a heat mat can be placed under a small section of the enclosure for your pet to choose to use when needed.

For warmer months, it is important that animals are provided with air flow. Without movement of air small animals are unable to cool themselves. Small animals will often saturate their paws, ears, tail and face with their saliva for the air flow to move over and cool the animal down. Unlike humans, small animals do not sweat, but wetting themselves down in this way works by the blood passing through their extremities being cooled by the air flow moving across the wet areas of the animals' body. Air flow can be provided by use of a fan or a well-ventilated area that naturally channels gentle air flow.

Ideally it would be good to bring your pet into an air-conditioned or temperature controlled environment, however, if air-conditioning is unavailable, choosing the coolest room of your house is just as sufficient. Bathrooms and laundries are often the coolest areas of a home as they are tiled and clad with plumbing filled with water and are more often than not situated on a cool cement slab.

Frozen water bottles are a cheap and effective way of keeping your pet cool; just recycle old drink containers by filling them $\frac{3}{4}$ with water and adding 1 tablespoon of salt, then freeze. The salt and water mix causes a reaction as the liquid defrosts; it defrosts slower than water on its own and stays colder for longer. The condensation that is produced on the outside of the defrosting bottle provides cool and fresh water for your pet to lick off, so your pet stays hydrated. Your pet will also be able

to lie on or against the frozen water bottle to cool down its body as needed.

Keep a spare drinker bottle or two that are kept in the fridge and change them over with the one on your pets' enclosure when you notice the enclosure water becoming warm. This way your pet will be encouraged to drink more as the water provided will be cool, fresh and more inviting.

You can also provide cool fun for your pet on hot days by freezing their favourite foods and offering it to them. Ferrets will love a piece of chicken infused in a block of ice, Guinea pigs will relish frozen orange quarters, and a frozen piece of carrot will have your bunny hopping with joy. Rats and mice will be scrambling for frozen peas and corn! All these delicious frozen treats will help your pet stay cool and hydrated along with providing a fantastic source of environmental enrichment.

Australian weather can be extremely unpredictable, despite technology that helps to forecast into the future to what weather we can expect in the days ahead, it is always wise to remember that nothing is fail safe and even the weatherman and all of his fancy weather monitoring instruments are not ever going to be 100% accurate. Keep up to date with weather forecasts and be prepared for whatever may not have been forecast.

Remember, if you are feeling uncomfortably hot or cold, your pets are feeling more uncomfortable than you are.



Bird Report

By Sam Davis

NSW Native Animal Licensing Update.

Unfortunately, Atticus Fleming has not progressed this matter despite assurances that Minister Matt Kean's Chief of Staff has requested he do so (thanks to Animal Care Australia (ACA) for their assistance).

ACA was asked to meet with NSW Shadow Ministers including the Shadow Environment Minister Kate Washington. I attended as VP of ACA and as President of CCBFA. The Labor Party is now looking into the matter with parliamentary questions and behind the scenes pressure likely.

I continue to keep in contact with NPWS Director Richard Kingswood, who continues to assure us that the movement of most common species off licence will indeed occur. Sadly, he has been saying this for years now!



A new animal welfare act for Victoria.

CCBFA has already contributed to this process over a number of years. I've had many discussions with the head of Animal Welfare Vic and a few with the project manager for this review process.

Details of the Directions paper and Summary of proposals is here...

<https://engage.vic.gov.au/new-animal-welfare-act-victoria>

Animal Care Australia (ACA) is also working on a submission - ACA is a key stakeholder for this matter.

Use of the term "sentient" stands out and rings massive alarm bells for me - not so much its meaning, but the word itself is just too closely aligned with Animal Rights/Liberation ideologies.

Our recent submission in response to a somewhat similar process in NSW is here...

<https://www.ccbfa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/ccbfa-NSW-animal-welfare-reform-submission.pdf>

We welcome feedback from all our Victorian clubs as we formulate our ACA and CCBFA submissions to this next stage of the process.

CITES update for parrot exports

For CITES species export we continue to support a simple blood dot non-parentage system to verify individual birds are captive bred as required by CITES Article VII (5) and in some cases (4).

On the DNA non-parentage matter, scientists from Macquarie Uni and Curtin Uni have confirmed the viability of our thoughts, as have some leading avian veterinarians.

We intend more formally recommending such a "blood spot" system is implemented in preference to antiquated record keeping systems such as the old NEBRS/MTR system which are no longer fit for purpose.

COVID-19 Update.

Terrific to see restrictions easing, however COVID-19 safety plans, including venue number restrictions, social distancing, food distribution and other matters depending on location and nature of the event.

CCBFA will continue to hold meetings via Zoom with the first in person meeting at Ashfield RSL likely to be March 2021.

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NSW Bird Sale Code of Practice Review.

A first consultation draft of the proposed NSW Bird Sale Code of Practice is currently under consideration by all clubs and is available on the CCBFA website under the documents tab.

Please be mindful that if we do not develop and agree on a suitable code then the NSW Government will do it for us, which would in all likelihood be disastrous. Meetings with senior animal welfare staff in NSW (and also in other states) indicate a willingness to ratify codes developed by industry – we are well advised to take advantage.

The following timeline was approved at the Nov CCBFA meeting...

- A formal first draft will be released for the November meeting - Done.
- Comments and discussion at the Feb and Mar CCBFA meetings in 2021.
- Final edits are made with a Second Draft circulated at the May CCBFA meeting.
- Approval of the final Code at the July meeting.
- The approved code is copied and circulated widely during the remainder of 2021 so all clubs and sellers are aware of any changes.
- The code comes into force from the beginning of 2022.



Parrot Import Risk Assessment

A draft of the Psittacine Biosecurity Import Risk Analysis (BIRA) has been released for comment. <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/risk-analysis/animal/psittacine-birds>

CCBFA submission to this process is here... <https://www.ccbfa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/ccbfa-parrot-imports-180920.pdf>

Our submission contains the following 6 recommendations...

1. CCBFA continues to recommend a regulated import regime that is economically viable, whilst protecting the biosecurity and biodiversity of Australia's captive and wild birds. Such a system will deter smuggling (including poaching).
2. To prevent irresponsible reporting, CCBFA recommends the BIRA includes an unambiguous statement making it clear that imports will be restricted to captive bred birds from approved countries.
3. CCBFA recommends the requirement for BC3 level quarantine at Mickleham be reassessed.
4. CCBFA recommends imports from New Zealand (NZ) be considered as a special case. This includes consultation with NZ regarding potential reciprocal arrangements for both imports and exports.
5. CCBFA recommends welfare of birds during the quarantine period is addressed. CCBFA welcomes the opportunity to draft a set of welfare standards/guidelines to assist.
6. CCBFA recommends review of the Draft Report and approval of the psittacine BIRA occurs in a timely manner and that officers reviewing the live import list and CITES regulation are able to begin their work forthwith.

Horse and Livestock Report

By Karri Nadazdy

ACA's Horse Group has expanded to welcome livestock kept as companion animals and pets! Livestock were initially in the Farm Animals group, which has evolved into the Exhibited Animals group. Exhibited farm animal owners can join both Advisory groups. Bringing our large grazing animals together allows us to respond appropriately to issues affecting both horses and livestock, as they often arise together.

The change came about as ACA have been responding to multiple councils, mainly in Victoria, who have proposed changes to their animal keeping regulations. In most instances we are seeing 'copy and paste' numbers and information that reduce numbers of animals allowed, limit the total number of animals allowed on any property, and restrict small acreage properties from keeping horses and livestock all together.

Golden Plains Shire Council in the rural fringe of Victoria stood out as one of the less sensible councils, proposing a maximum of 2 horses or livestock on any property less than 14 acres in size! No consideration was given to how the animals were managed, what grazing systems and land management practices were implemented, nor did it consider the welfare needs of herd animals.

We await a response from Golden Plains Shire and we continue to respond to councils who copy the same model.

Hawkesbury Trail Closures

Animal Care Australia has been able to confirm that Hawkesbury Council in NSW is currently preparing to release some riding trail closures at the same time that they release the Draft South East Wollemi Horse Riding Plan (DSEWHRP) for public exhibition in late November.

The DSEWHRP is an exciting new proposal to allow horse riding access to new trails within Wollemi National Park. There are no trail closures as part of this Plan. Hawkesbury Council's trail closures are **not** part of the DSEWHRP, but are adjacent to them.



NPWS have advised Animal Care Australia that some of the riding trails are only accessible via council land, private roads or power tower trails that cross private property. The endurance and trail riding organisations consulted throughout the development of the DSEWHRP had the foresight to include procedures for obtaining permission from land holders to access the trails for events and competitions. However they did not prioritise local trail users and non-competitive riders who might also need access and no right of access currently exists.

Animal Care Australia's primary concern is to ensure that no existing horse riding trails are closed to casual riders, and secondly, to ensure that all horse riders, including casual users can access the new trails in the DSEWHRP.

This issue has made especially clear the need for equestrian groups to work together to ensure all horse owners are considered and consulted in these matters. We need to be united and put aside personal or organisational agendas to ensure that none of our fellow equestrians are disadvantaged.

Heatstroke in cats

By Michelle Grayson

As temperatures soar, a common issue that all caring pet owners should be aware of is heatstroke (also known as heat stress). With the heat of the summer months, the number of cats and dogs visiting the vet due to this condition rises. Unfortunately, many pet owners do not even realise that their pets can overheat when the weather is hot and may only seek treatment at the last minute. While heat stress is more common in warmer months, it can occur at any time throughout the year even when the weather is mild.

Cats and dogs cannot respond to heat in the same way that us humans do. We have sweat glands all over our bodies that help us regulate our temperature, but dogs and cats only have a few in their feet and around their noses. Many animals rely on panting and external cooling to lose heat. Their long thick hair coats can also predispose them to heat stroke.

Because they are not able to cool themselves down as easily as us, we must be extra careful to provide them with a cool, well-ventilated and shaded environment with access to clean fresh drinking water. Pets are very susceptible to heat stroke – and it can happen a lot faster than you may think.

It is important to seek advice BEFORE shaving your cat's coat as some breeds with double or triple layered coats benefit from their coat being longer/thicker as it creates a buffer between the heat and the skin. Shaving can also have the reverse effect – exposing skin directly to the sun.

Heatstroke is a state of hyperthermia (elevated core body temperature above the normal range) resulting in heat injury to tissues. Heatstroke occurs when heat generation exceeds the body's ability to lose heat.



What are the main predisposing factors for heatstroke?

A warm/hot, humid environment with inadequate ventilation (e.g. due to weather conditions or animals being left in an unventilated room or car)

- ◇ Inadequate shade or drinking water
- ◇ Age Extremes (young or old)
- ◇ Obesity
- ◇ Respiratory Disease
- ◇ Neurological Disease
- ◇ Dehydration
- ◇ Thick and/or Matted Coats
- ◇ Excessive exercise
- ◇ Dehydration
- ◇ Brachycephalic breeds (eg Persian, Pug, English Bulldog)

Signs and Symptoms

- ◇ Panting which increases as heatstroke progresses
- ◇ Drooling, salivating
- ◇ Agitation, restlessness
- ◇ Very red or pale gums
- ◇ Bright red tongue
- ◇ Increased heart rate
- ◇ Breathing distress
- ◇ Dizziness and staggering
- ◇ Vomiting Diarrhea (possibly with blood)
- ◇ Lethargy or weakness
- ◇ Signs of mental confusion, delirium
- ◇ Muscle tremors
- ◇ Seizures
- ◇ Collapsing and lying down
- ◇ Little to no urine production
- ◇ Coma

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Prevention Tips

- ◇ Have a cool and/or well ventilated space
- ◇ Access to plenty of fresh and clean drinking water
- ◇ Never leave your pet in a car as temperatures rise very quickly (even on mild days)
- ◇ Avoid exercise in hot weather
- ◇ Avoid concrete or other area's where heat is reflected with no access to shade
- ◇ Learn to recognise the signs and symptoms of heatstroke
- ◇ Cool your cat down with damp towels
- ◇ Brush your cat daily to remove dead hair & to prevent matted fur
- ◇ Fill a zip lock bag around a quarter full, get out as much air as you can, seal it & lay it flat in the freezer. Place under a towel or sheet to make a cool spot if you cat chooses it.

What to do if you suspect heatstroke?

- ◇ Know how to do Emergency First Aid at home if you suspect your pet has heatstroke. Initial emergency treatment at home should aim to normalise body temperature.
- ◇ Remove your pet from the hot environment immediately.
- ◇ Apply or spray tepid/cool water onto the animal's fur and skin. Then apply a fan/fanning to maximise heat loss.
- ◇ Wetting down the area around your pet can also help.
- ◇ Don't use ice-cold water or ice as this may worsen the problem.
- ◇ Then take your pet to the nearest Veterinarian immediately.
- ◇ Heatstroke is an emergency – always see a vet. Even if your pet looks like they may be recovering or you just suspect they might have heatstroke they should still always be checked by a vet.

HEATSTROKE IS A VERY SERIOUS, LIFE THREATENING CONDITION: IT CAN CAUSE DAMAGE TO YOUR PET'S INTERNAL ORGANS, SOMETIMES TO THE POINT WHERE THEY STOP FUNCTIONING AND CAN BE RAPIDLY FATAL – IT REQUIRES URGENT TREATMENT.



Dying for a drink

At 37°C, birds suffer heat stress, and lose physical condition.
At ~45°C, birds without access to shade and water die.

Please consider providing a safe and reliable source of water for our native birds.

They may literally be dying for a drink

Buying dogs for the right reason

By Kylie Gilbert

With Covid settling in Australia and a large number of households buying or adopting dogs during the lockdowns we are not yet seeing the full fall out of this. Some families buying dogs with the best intentions while others thought bringing a dog into the family while everyone was home was a great idea. Well it can be if you set the dogs up for success and put routines into place to ensure the dogs are getting all of the mental stimulation that they require.

The following is an example of what can happen if dogs are put into situations that are not ideal for them, especially with Children, while I believe all children should grow up with animals these interactions still need to be monitored pets are not toys.

Take Ringo for example, a cute labradoodle puppy. The sort of puppy you see that looks adorable and so innocent. Ringo was a cute puppy but Ringo bites. Bad. He was treated like a stuffed toy by a young child who wasn't supervised with him. When Ringo got big enough he started to defend himself from this unintended abuse the only way a dog knows how. With his teeth.

At ten months old Ringo was surrendered, covered in matts because the family who bought him didn't understand the needs of a hypoallergenic dog. By this time the damage was done. Imagine not washing your hair for months the whole time someone was dragging you around like you were a teddy bear.

So, what do you do with a dog that's snappy and won't let you get close to it? You lock it in a cage. You let your frustrations get to you and you shove him into the cage because he's biting you while you're trying to get him in there. Now he obviously has issues with the cage.

Ringo was sent to a training facility that deals with aggressive dogs. Ringo is not an aggressive dog. Ringo has no trust in people

because all they have ever done is wrong him. Ringo is terrified to be touched the wrong way because all his life he has been shown that touch only leads to pain and hurt.

They said he had no respect and that he was unfixable and unadoptable. Not the case at all. We need to understand the pain and the suffering this dog has been through. The animals don't have a voice but if you know what you're looking at they will tell you their story. Ringo was saved and re-trained. Learning how to trust again, being able to work at his own pace and not being pushed into situations.

Ringo is now well settled. He can sit, stay, come, lay down, roll over, fetch and high five. He is house trained. He follows the rules of the house. He walks well on a leash. Ringo actually does not need training. Ringo needs to recover.

Ringo was a dog that was a gift to a small child. A dog that was supposed to be therapeutic. A dog that was made into a monster. Please remember a dog is NOT a gift. A dog is NOT the responsibility of children. A dog (any dog) is NOT to be left unattended with children. A puppy/new dog is NOT a therapy dog. *Cont'd over page...*



A therapy dog is a therapy dog. It takes years of expensive training to turn a dog into a therapy dog. You don't buy them from some person selling designer puppies out of their backyard.

A dog is NOT an impulse. If you want a non-shedding dog be prepared to take care of that hair. If you want a German Shepard be prepared for all the training required. If you want a Dalmatian be prepared to deal with a stubborn dog.

Dogs are for life and they need to be given all of the tools and set up for success. If you are not prepared for this than maybe buy a furby



A Hopping Mouse as a pet

By Michael Donnelly

The Spinifex Hopping Mouse (*notomys alexis*) is the most widespread of all hopping-mice and is found in Central Australia. They avoid the heat of the day by sheltering in a deep, humid burrow. Their burrow is a horizontal tunnel, about a meter underground, with several vertical shafts to the surface. Entrances are well concealed under clumps of grass.

Spinifex Hopping-mice are relatively easy to obtain and can be kept indoors. As a native mammal in most States they do require a license to be kept. They weigh about 35 grams (range 27 – 45 grams) and have a head-body length of about 102 mm and a tail length of about 137 mm. Consequently, it is an ideal choice for anyone wishing to keep a small native animal.



You can be a first timer or an experienced keeper.

These guys are cute and have interesting habits when compared to keeping normal mice. They are fascinating to watch at night, they love their food and they love to change their habitat around, moving the sand and grasses from one end of the enclosure to the other.

Basic Requirements

If you are about to get a hopping mouse, you need to make sure you have the basic requirements, before you even bring them home! To best enjoy them house them in a dark room and use a small torch or bluelight to watch them forage, etc. Spinifex Hopping Mice are not to be held with other species

Here is a list of the basic requirements for any hopping mouse.

- Enclosures for captive Spinifex Hopping Mice should be constructed of non-chewable material such as glass or metal, to prevent escape. The roof should be removable and made of mesh to ensure adequate ventilation. A glass front on the enclosure

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will allow easy viewing. Provide, for a pair of

- Spinifex Hopping Mice, an enclosure of at least 50 cm x 50 cm x 40 cm (length x breadth x height), and for each additional Spinifex hopping-mouse in that enclosure, an additional 20 cm x 20 cm floor space. The height quoted is the height above the substrate.
- Different substrates can be used including soil, recycled paper, cat litter, sawdust, sand, leaf litter, straw, or eucalyptus mulch. If sand is used, it should be fine, as coarse sand (such as bricklayers sand) is abrasive to the mammals' feet. Fine sand can be sieved for easy cleaning.
- Furnishings that provide opportunities for activity must be included in enclosures. Rocks for the Hopping Mice to climb over should be included, and other items such as fresh branches (leafy native cuttings) millet sprays, wood shavings and small plastic or cardboard pipes, will assist in creating a variable environment within the enclosure. Running wheels could also be provided, ensuring you purchase the appropriate size wheel to prevent inflicting back or foot injuries.
- The recommended temperature range is 15 -25°C. If heating is not available, then the provision of ample bedding material and keeping several mammals together will allow huddling and a greater chance to keep warm.



Distribution of Spinifex Hopping Mice in the wild

- Drip/sip bottle
- In the wild, Spinifex Hopping Mice eat seeds, arthropods, fungi, grass, roots and flowers. A seed mix (finch or small parrot mix) and mixed
- vegetables will be easy to provide. A vegetable mix comprised of carrot, sweet potato, broccoli, cauliflower, apple, and spinach or endive leaf in roughly equal proportions, dusted with calcium and vitamin E powder to prevent deficiencies from occurring in captive animals.



Breakdown

Suitable For People Aged: 7 & over

Feeding Care Time Required: 10 mins a day

Maintenance Time Required: 1/2 Hour twice a week—to clean out enclosure etc

Cost of Upkeep: (approx) \$4 p/week

Life Span: (approx) up to 4 years

Availability: All Year

Adequate quantities of food and nutrients must be provided to ensure that each Spinifex hopping mouse can maintain good health, and meet its physiological demands for states such as pregnancy, lactation, growth, exercise and cold exposure, and to avoid metabolic and nutritional diseases.

Volunteer Position Available

Position Details	
Title	Animal Group Delegate – Fish/aquatic species
Division/Branch/Section	Committee
Appointment Period	Yearly
Paid/Volunteer	Volunteer

The Position:

Animal Care Australia is a national incorporated association representing the interests of all animal hobbyists. The association has a strong committee composed of Delegates (representatives) for each major animal group – dogs, cats, birds, fish, horses, reptiles, farm animals, small mammals, native mammals and mobile educators.

You have the opportunity to genuinely make a difference in animal welfare outcomes and in nationally significant areas of policy review and implementation.

Experience

ACA is seeking a person who has reasonable experience in the keeping & breeding of fish – tropical, freshwater and marine.

Desirable – but not essential

The inclusion of cephalopods in animal welfare legislation will result in Codes of Practice needing to be examined and in some cases to be drafted. Knowledge of keeping these species will be of great benefit.

Having a membership of an Association for the keeping & breeding of fish species or contacts to groups.

Specific Tasks

- Represent all species specific member organisations to communicate current animal-related community and welfare issues.
- Undertake work including drafting of policy advice, project work of a specialist nature, research and analyse current legislation and policies and prepare associated reports for consideration by the Animal Care Australia Committee.
- Work with government, non-government & community stakeholders to ensure policy issues are coordinated and effectively communicated as per community and government expectations.
- Provide support to the Animal Care Australia Executive and ensure effective coordination of the business of the association, including up to date reports for Animal Care Australia's social communications – social media, website and newsletter.
- Abide by and support Animal Care Australia's Code of Ethics, Mission Statement, Objects, Constitution, Communication Policy and Anti-discrimination & Harassment Policy.
- Other duties as necessary.

To enquire or apply please email: aca@animalcareaustralia.org.au and attach your resume or an outline of your experience, along with a brief statement of why you would like to join Animal Care Australia.



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Page 13: ACA Anonymous member

Page 14: [Wallpaper Flare](#)

Page 16: [RightPaw](#)

Page 17: Labradoodle: [Josh Borup](#) from [Pixabay](#) Spinifex Hopping-mouse: [Ken Griffiths](#)

Page 18: [Alice Springs Desert Park](#)

Back cover: [12 Animals of Christmas](#)



General Meetings

Held bi-monthly

Our next General Meeting will be held on January 11th 2021 via Zoom.

Notifications and how to join the meeting will be posted on our FB Page closer to the meeting.

General Enquiries:

aca@animalcareaustralia.org.au



Watch out for our next
issue in March 2021.

Want to read previous issues?

[Back dated Issues](#)

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