



Animal Care Australia

The Animal Care Expert

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



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“Animal Care Australia acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we reside, and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.”



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Watch out for our next issue in March 2023.

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President's Report

By Michael Donnelly

A new year and more challenges.

The Animal Care Australia Committee have gone above and beyond in this past year. The workload and expansion of issues directly affecting animal welfare outcomes in Australia has been met full-on by these wonderful volunteers.

It is truly an honour to be the President of Animal Care Australia where I get to not only work alongside these wonderful people but I can honestly say they have become family. Unless you do what we do, it is hard to comprehend the level of professionalism, experience and dedication they bring to the table.

For that I truly thank each and every member: Sam, Michelle, Sue, Joanne, Karri, Kylie, Rachel and Tracey.

ACA continued to respond to animal welfare act reviews in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Tasmania..

Our consultations have covered the gauntlet of animal based topics. Everything from pets in strata, pet victims of domestic violence, animal shelters, inclusion in Impound Act reviews, the National Horse Traceability Register, proposed amendments to enshrine sentience into legislation, banning of training tools such as prong collars, and other forms of restraints, to prohibition for convicted animal cruelty criminals, local council Animal Management Plan reviews, pet registry reviews and last but by no means least stop puppy farming legislation in NSW, that will not stop puppy farms, but will reduce the number of responsible breeders, as what has occurred in Victoria.

ACA's largest and ongoing battle is with the ever growing influence of the animal rights extremist movement. It has impacted on all levels, in all states. Their more recent change in their language from 'animal welfare' to 'animal protection' has infiltrated the animal welfare act reviews in each state, to which ACA has had to push back against, and we have not always been

successful. Success or not, ACA is having a direct impact on the Animal Justice Party with one politician openly calling us out as 'puppy farmers'- because we support responsible breeding and not restrictions.

On the political front ACA has forged ahead and secured a working relationship with multiple parties.

We are now consulting regularly with state governments and their Opposition in NSW, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia. Our collaboration with the Shooters, Fishers & Farmers Party has strengthened and we are now establishing working relationships with the Katter Party, and One Nation.

There is a long road ahead for ACA,



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especially given the political fronts in each state continue to be influenced by animal rights led groups and organisations rather than focusing on real animal welfare outcomes.

ACA has also strengthened our focus on pursuing greater accountability and transparency of the RSPCA (in all states) and we introduced our own online survey to gather feedback from our members on their experiences with the inspectorates. ACA strongly believes the prosecutorial powers should be removed from the RSPCA and an inspectorate should sit under the direct responsibility of government. We will continue to advocate for change.

ACA introduced a State & Territory Advisory Team designed to have eyes and ears across the nation all working with us to ensure nothing gets overlooked. This new Team is in it's infancy and we are hoping it grows.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our member organisations and supporters for their continued support and I really want to repeat my opening statement by thanking the ACA Committee for their tireless commitment to protecting our pets and our rights to keep them.

I send all our best wishes for the coming holidays and new year. May everyone please take care and cherish your family, friends and most importantly the animals that share their lives with you.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the ***Animal Care Expert***.

Happy reading!



ACA Committee elections at AGM

The ACA Annual General Meeting was held on Monday 14th November 2022.

In accordance with our constitution, the terms of service of one third of our Committee ended and the following persons and positions were re-elected unopposed:

- ⇒ Cat Representative: Michelle Grayson— elected until 2025 AGM
 - ⇒ Dog Representative: Kylie Gilbert — elected until 2025 AGM
 - ⇒ Exhibited Animals Representative: Tracey Dierikx — elected until 2023 AGM
 - ⇒ Reptile Representative: Joanne Payne — elected until 2025 AGM
- and Office-bearer:
- ⇒ Secretary: Michelle Grayson — elected until 2025 AGM



ACA Submissions, Correspondence & Meeting Reports



ACA Supporting Pets In Strata.

The keeping of pets in strata should be the default position with landlords or body corporates needing to show a strong cause as to why a particular pet should not be permitted. The current laws are backward and need to be updated to better reflect the general view of society's values.

ACA has written to Tasmania's Minister for Consumer Affairs, Elise Archer, supporting her recent statement that her government is prepared to review legislation with the view of allowing pets in strata and we have responded to journalists from ABC News and 7 News relating to their articles highlighting the distress being experienced by persons having to choose between their pets or living on the streets, with landlords choosing tenants without pets and not

permitting pets.

ACA has produced an official position document which can be viewed by clicking on this pdf:



To read our submission to the Minister click on this pdf icon:



ACA contacts Local Councils about Epping Animal Welfare Facility.

ACA calls on Councils not to implement three day holding period on abandoned animals

9th September 2022 — ACA responds to RSPCA Vic's intention to reduce animal holding times at Epping Animal Welfare

Facility.

ACA contacted the Whittlesea, Moreland and Darebin City Councils after it was announced they would be taking control of the Facility from the RSPCA Vic.

ACA cited a number of reasons to oppose reducing the holding times from 8 days to just 3 days before any abandoned animal is moved off-site to a private rescue/shelter.

This is clearly NOT in the animals best interests or that of their stressed owners.

To read our submission to click on this pdf icon:



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ACA responds to South Gippsland Shire Council's Draft Animal Management Plan 2022

8th September 2022 —

ACA responds to Council's draft plan.

ACA highlighted issues with placing number restrictions on animal owners. It is clear the numbers are not based on animal welfare or neighbourhood amenity.

ACA questioned the validity of restricting the numbers of birds and small mammals that can be kept.

ACA questioned the validity of requiring costly permits to keep animals.

ACA requested to meet with Council to discuss.

To read our submission to click on this pdf icon:



ACA responds to Victoria's Animal Rights-oriented Animal Care & Protection Plan 2022

17th October 2022: ACA has a number of concerns with this Plan. ACA reminded Animal Welfare Victoria that animal rights/animal protection and animal welfare are not the same thing.

Some of our 30 plus recommendations include:

⇒ ACA questions why the new legislation is underpinned by a single definition of sentience and excluding a more suitable animal welfare model.

⇒ ACA opposes the transition of Codes of Practice into enforceable standards within the regulations.

⇒ ACA strongly recommends that the category of Animals in Entertainment be deleted in its entirety.

⇒ ACA opposes granting any additional powers to Authorised Officers, and

categorically opposes increased powers for any Authorised Officer to enter any dwelling or premises used for residential purposes without permission or warrant or it being an emergency, and we oppose such right of entry to monitor compliance.

⇒ ACA opposes Licences for organising or participating in recreational, show or competition events involving animals.

⇒ ACA supports education prior to infringement notices being issued except for severe and/or deliberate cruelty cases.

⇒ ACA strongly recommends continual funding for education be written into the Act.

ACA's submission can be found here:



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ACA responds to the Reforming Victoria’s Biosecurity Legislation Discussion Paper, 2022

4th October 2022: ACA acknowledged the majority of the reforms outlined within the discussion paper remain outside of our purview, however, we provided the following:

1. ACA supports the objectives of the Biosecurity Legislation Reform in Victoria. Consolidating multiple Acts into one will simplify and clarify expectations of the community and industry to meet biosecurity standards.
2. ACA supports the amendments to Victoria’s Livestock Management Act 2010 to counter the biosecurity risks of animal rights activism on Victorian agriculture, petting farms and equestrian facilities.
3. ACA notes the absence of Animal Welfare throughout the discussion paper. ACA acknowledges that Animal Welfare is outside of the scope of this reform, but the lack of

recognition of the importance of ensuring good animal welfare standards are met while complying with biosecurity legislation is concerning to us. While preventing or addressing a biosecurity emergency, animal welfare must and can be maintained. This must be recognised in the reforms, and the new standards and regulations must ensure good animal welfare at all times, not least when animals must be quarantined or destroyed.

4. The preface of “Reform is an opportunity to: “Better meet business and community expectations regarding transparency, decision-making, and human and animal rights”. ACA recommends ‘animal rights’ is changed to ‘animal welfare.’

You can view ACA's submission here:



ACA could not support Prohibition of Convicted Persons Amendment Bill without amendments

NSW Animal Justice Party MP Emma Hurst has proposed an amendment to the NSW Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act to prohibit ALL persons convicted of ANY animal cruelty offence from owning, breeding or working with animals.

ACA supports the intent of prohibiting persons who have been convicted of serious animal cruelty, however this should be at the discretion of the courts.

The Bill required ALL animal cruelty convictions, even those minor ‘paperwork’

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issues found with the codes of practice/ regulations to be subject to prohibition.

It mandated the court to provide disqualification orders on all animal cruelty breaches, unless there are special circumstances.

The Bill also required any person who owns an animal business or is breeding animals and employs people to prohibit them from working at their establishment.

The Bill also altered the Exhibited Animals Protection Act.

ACA strongly supports the courts being able to make decisions regarding disqualification orders — which this Bill did not provide for.

You can read our response by clicking on the pdf:



POINT OF NOTE:

There is still more to be acted on with this Bill as the amendments did not completely alter the impact of the Bill on serious or aggravated animal cruelty convictions.

It currently is still possible for an animal to be seized if the breeder of the animal has been convicted of any animal cruelty charge, including minor offences within codes of practice AND persons convicted of those same minor offences cannot be employed by an exhibiting animal business.

ACA will continue to seek further amendments



ACA expresses concerns with Sentience Amendment Bill by NSW Greens.

ACA has written to Ministers to express concerns with the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Amendment (Animal Sentience) Bill 2022.

ACA acknowledges and recognises animals are sentient, however, the purpose of this bill is not about animal welfare, but is a stepping stone to advance the ethical position of a minority view of Animal Rights extremists to end all animal ownership, and remove animals from property laws.

This Bill contradicts the recommendations made by the recent NSW Inquiry into the Animal Welfare Act.

ACA advised this should not be supported.

You can read our full response by clicking on the pdf:



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ACA responds to Review of Risk of Importing Rabies into Australia

ACA has concerns with the recommendations outlined within this Draft, namely:

1. ACA does not support the methodology being cited due to the direct and unnecessary impact on animal welfare.
2. ACA questions why the risk assessment draws its conclusions based on trends of overseas fraud without any supporting or documented data showing animals affected by rabies have entered this country
3. ACA does not support the proposed increase from 10 to 30 days for quarantining of dogs and cats.

ACA is of the strong position should the recommendations within this Review be implemented this will lead to extreme overcrowding placing the welfare of animals in quarantine at risk.

ACA makes the following recommendations:

- * To ensure the authenticity of testing of DNA samples, they must be analysed at the time of collection and then repeated on arrival in

Australia.

- * Animal welfare should not be compromised to reduce workload or responsibility of department staff.

You can read our full response by clicking on the pdf:



ACA responds to Improving the welfare of horses during land transport

ACA responded to the Consultation Regulation Impact Statement.

Our members are responsible for equines across the broad range of species, types and breeds, including donkeys, zebra, miniatures, drafts and including handled and unhandled horses.

ACA provided the following feedback:

- * ACA supports the proposed regulatory approach including the proposed revisions to the National Standards for Horse Land

Transport, with some additional recommendations.

- * ACA notes that a one size fits all approach is not suitable or practical. Equines that are very large or very small have not been appropriately addressed in the revisions, and allowances must be included to accommodate animals that are not of an average size to prevent unintentional or unavoidable breaches of the Standards.

- * Exceptions for emergency travel situations that prioritize safety or welfare over the Transport Standards must also be explicitly recognised

You can read our full response by clicking on the pdf:



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ACA responds to NSW Keeping Pets in Residential Tenancies — Consultation 2022

ACA has continually advocated for changes allowing pets to be kept in strata and by tenants. We see this as having benefits that far outweigh any odd incident of negative impact on a neighbourhood.

ACA has reviewed the consultation paper and makes the following recommendations:

ACA supports the changing of tenancy laws to allow the keeping of pets in residential properties.

ACA supports a model where a moderated hearing is the first step in resolving a conflict between landlord and tenant.

If moderation fails, the onus is on the landlord to obtain an order from a Tribunal to prevent the keeping of pets by a particular tenant.

ACA recommends the government produces educational material about the varieties of pets and their needs in order to reduce species bias by landlords and the general public.

ACA will continue to support pets in strata.

You can read our full response by clicking on the pdf:



ACA updates Operations Manual

In addition to being governed by a Constitution, Animal Care Australia operates under the provision of a range of approved policies.

These policies have now been merged into our Operations Manual (2022) and the Manual can be viewed on our website.

The Manual includes the following policies:

- * ACA Organisational Code of Ethics
- * Responsible Breeders Policy
- * Anti-discrimination & Harassment Policy
- * Communications Policy

* Privacy Policy

* Conflict of Interest Policy

These policies apply to all volunteers, members and supporters within the ACA community.

In addition the ACA Committee have implemented a 'Statement of Responsibilities' which applies to all Committee members.

Our Operations Manual (2022) can be viewed here:





ACA attends UNSW Animal Law Conference

By Karri Nadazdy — Assistant to the President

Two of ACA’s Species Representatives, Tracey Dierikx (Exhibited Animals) and Karri Nadazdy (Horses & Livestock) attended the UNSW Animal Law Conference on 10 September 2022, for a full day of Animal Rights indoctrination.

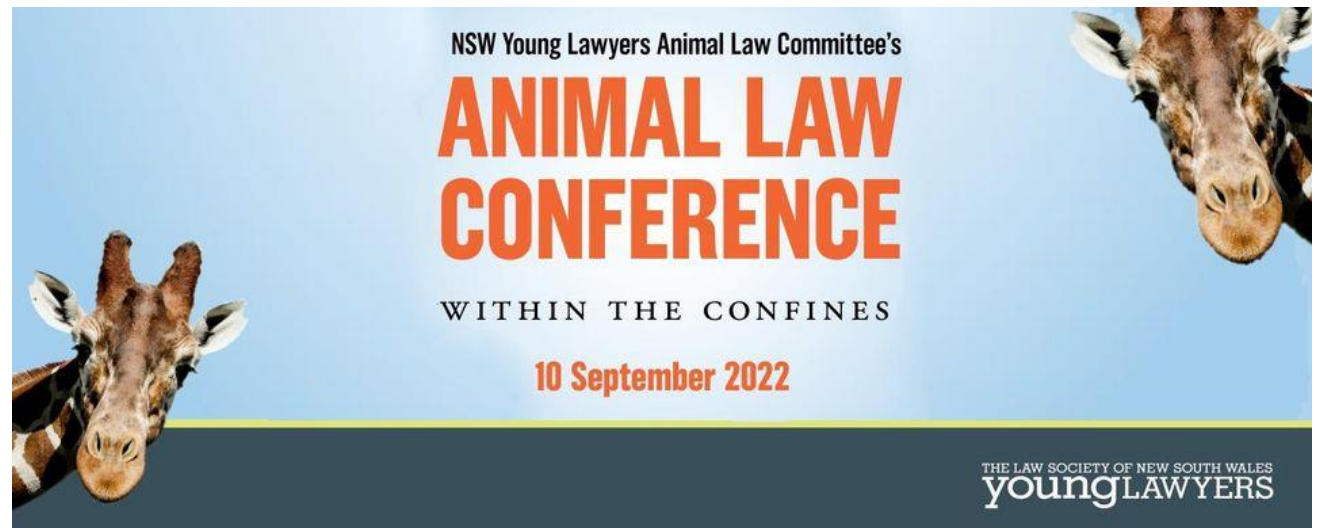
The “Animal Law” Conference was aimed at undergrad and post graduate lawyers, to encourage them to be more involved in Animal Rights activism, and showcase what has been achieved by pioneering Animal Rights Lawyers in Australia so far. It was sponsored by Animal Rights groups, and the gift bag handed out on the day was full of glossy and expensive animals rights propaganda.

Tracey and Karri arrived to find a wonderful university venue for a conference, overlooking Randwick racecourse and a small group of eager, disillusioned young people waiting to be let in. Once inside the venue and the speakers were labelled with name tags, we could discern that around a third of the 100 or so people in attendance were the speakers and organisers. The majority of the remaining attendees were fresh faced under grads, and we also spotted some well known ARE figures in the audience.

The Conference was opened by Siobhan O’Sullivan, the senior lecturer at UNSW on social policy, who told us that changing Ag Gag laws were a key current focus for Animal Rights Lawyers. She stated that POCTAA and agricultural laws in NSW was problematic because it supported “confinement” of animals, and was therefore anti animal, “hypocritical by protecting some animals more than others” and needed to be thrown out in its entirety and redrafted from an Animal Rights perspective.



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ACA: **“how is Guardianship different to fostering?”**

Greenaway: **Guardianships are problematic and need to be banned.**

Hurst: **fostering is to get the animal into a loving home, while Guardianship is to dodge puppy farming laws and profit from lots of puppies.**

Hurst: **Guardianships is an issue because the breeder retains ownership and the guardian cannot override the wishes of the owner, if they decide they don't want to breed the dog after agreeing to, and the breeder has the audacity to take legal action to get their dog back.**

Hurst continued: **fostering is different because dogs are being permanently removed from breeding.**

Greenaway: **foster animals belong to a rescue group, and guardian animals are owned by breeders, and are probably illegal**

Greenaway then continued describing... **the many issues rescue groups experience getting foster dogs back from rogue foster carers who won't return animals they don't actually own, and the rescue group has to take legal action**

Interestingly she also offered some encouraging statistics that only 30% of enrolled Animal Law students were vegans, and how disappointed she was in this, as it showed students are not committed enough.

As ACA continues to highlight, the “Animal Law” title is misleading – it should be called Animal Rights Law – perhaps this figure (30%) proves that students are not getting what they think they are signing up for?

The Conference moved on to a Panel Discussion called ‘*Protecting Companion Animals*’. This included Animal Justice Party MP Emma Hurst, Anna Ludvik the founder of Lucy’s Project, and Anne Greenaway, from Lawyers for Companion Animals.

Ms Hurst stated that it’s a “legal fiction” that animals are property and that “our laws are designed to fail animals”. She repeated her usual trope that puppy farming is completely legal in NSW, and that it was deliberate that one state’s laws (such as an animal keeping ban) cannot be enforced in another state. We thought the many lawyers in the room would correct these statements, but no correction came forward. She felt that Sentience will not be recognised soon, despite the Greens recent motion looking to insert sentience into the NSW Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, and that the real problem is that animals are referred to as property in all legislation, and that has to be tackled at every level, which will take time and has many hurdles.

Ms Greenaway said that animal ‘Guardianships’ (where breeding dogs live in normal family homes as normal family dogs) are problematic and need to be banned. Hurst said that this is something she is pursuing.

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Via an anonymous online portal, Karri asked “how is Guardianship different to fostering?” Ms Hurst stated fostering is to get the animal into a loving home, while Guardianship is to dodge puppy farming laws and profit from lots of puppies. She said that, Guardianships is an issue because the breeder retains ownership and the guardian cannot override the wishes of the owner, if they decide they don’t want to breed the dog after agreeing to, and the breeder has the audacity to take legal action to get their dog back. She continued, fostering is different because dogs are being permanently removed from breeding. Ms Greenaway added, foster animals belong to a rescue group, and guardian animals are owned by breeders, and are probably illegal. She then continued to describe the many issues rescue groups experience getting foster dogs back from rogue foster carers who won’t return animals they don’t actually own, and the rescue group has to take legal action, which is something she assists the rescues with.



Yes, our heads spun round too. They illustrated that these two situations are exactly the same, and encounter the exact same issues under the exact same circumstances.

Karri’s other question to Ms Hurst was, “Emma Hurst said puppy farms are legal. The RSPCA Puppy Farm Taskforce reported that larger facilities were not the problem and were not puppy farms. They have only found 3 small operations to prosecute so far. Do we need to change the definition of puppy farm to close down more breeding operators?”

Ms Hurst’s response was that the overwhelming testimony in the NSW Inquiry was that puppy farm didn’t need to be defined.

ACA notes, this was only stated by the Animal Defenders Office who have declared they drafted Ms Hurst’s Anti-Puppy Farm Bill on her behalf!

Ms Hurst then also (incorrectly) stated that the more animals someone has the higher the welfare risk to the animals, but then she said, “some groups stated it’s

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not about numbers.” She continued to say that this legislation is about encouraging people to ‘Adopt, Not Shop’, by reducing the number of other available puppies.

Ms Hurst also said that she was offended that euthanized animals were being disposed of by councils in landfill, and she implied that pounds were built next door to tips specifically for this purpose to the horror of the audience (in reality, pounds and tips are both built on land owned by the council, and in actuality few are located alongside each other — there’s nothing sinister about it).

Ms Ludvik quite correctly said that we can’t separate humans and animals in a legal context (she was specifically referring to Domestic Violence issues) and that she sees this as a reason to elevate animals to the same level as humans instead of property. She said she “... doesn’t even know what a companion animal is.” and that the term was legally irrelevant. ACA would argue this is exactly why animals need owners to be responsible for them. She said that, “We are at war” referring to Lucy’s Project’s struggle to get donations, and then plugged their

website. She said she was embarrassed to do this. Later, she said it was great how laws can be changed incrementally to firstly ban puppy farming, including kitten farming, “...and then can we ban greyhound and horse breeding!”

The next Speaker was Peter Dunning QC who mounted a legal challenge to so called ‘Ag Gag Laws’ on behalf of Animal Rights Extremist Group Farm Transparency Project, run by former AJP Candidate, Chris Delforce, to give animal rights extremists legal protection to invade any agricultural business. Genuine whistleblowers are already protected under the law, and Dunning’s Challenge was to make Trespass and installing cameras or filming a strangers property without their knowledge legal if it’s for the purpose of ‘public interest’ and to protect animals.

His speech was a long, painfully monotonous timeline of the courts decisions against his challenge, which were very convincing, and sounded absolutely reasonable! He encouraged the law students in the



Gift bag propaganda

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room to continue what he started, by “Exploiting to the fullest what I AM allowed to do under the law...”, and other than feeling exhausted listening to him speak in circles without offering much to say, we were thoroughly convinced that the Court made the correct decision to throw his Challenge into the trash where it absolutely belonged.

We took a much needed break from the conference while the next panel discussed environmental law and issues outside of ACA’s purview, and returned for the Animal Law Institutes presentation on Consumer Law. The “issue” of animals as property and described as “goods” was key to their concerns with current laws. The example given to consider while looking at the various clauses relevant to animals was of a \$10,000 poodle with severe hip dysplasia and worms, being sold by an evil greedy breeder to a loving innocent family (who don’t want to give the dog back). This was a hypothetical example, not one they have actually encountered, and the real life examples were of misleading marketing claims by egg and meat producers that were all settled out of court (and not by the presenters!).

The irony of misleading political claims being exempt from all legal recourse was not lost on us.

The final Panel of speakers was comprised of Mike Rosalky and Namaan Kranz of the Animal Law Institute, Meg Good of the Australian Alliance for Animals, and Tara Ward, of the Animal Defenders Office. This panel was geared at promoting Animal Law careers to the undergrads attending but the speakers all confirmed that there is no money in animal law (they are all funded by grants/donations/sponsors and other jobs with very few paying clients) and that the only real money to be made would be by entering becoming university lecturers, politicians or becoming a bureaucrat. While we were somewhat reassured by this, the students were probably not so!

Tara Ward amused the whole audience by talking about her incompetence and how to pretend to be normal to get a foot in the door. A student asked what other careers would support Animal Law, and Ward answered this question with how there really are no careers, but that the Animal Rights movement desperately needs scientists who will provide research that can back their legal claims, because they don’t have that.

Yes, we were as surprised to hear this as the rest of the audience. A vocal Animal Rights Activist stated that Animal Rights has no scientific backing and the cognitive dissonance did not melt her brain enough to realise its probably because she’s on the wrong side of the fight. Oh wow, were we glad the day were over by this point!!

Throughout the day, questions were fielded from the audience by the online portal, which was very handy as we could pose questions anonymously, and we could see everyone else’s questions even when they weren’t asked of the presenters (most were not). Funnily enough, 80%



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of the questions were posed by ACA's attendees, and most of the other questions were out of date, out of touch, or completely unaware of the present animal law issues. Questions such as "do kitten farms exist?" were very reassuring to us, as it clearly showed that the up and coming ARE of the future are not yet well informed or engaged with the issues that they are claiming to support. This also meant that most of the questions asked of the speakers were ours, as they were actually relevant to the topics discussed, which was very helpful to us to counter-act the claims.

The flip side of this is that it confirmed what we already assumed, which is that people are voting for parties like Animal Justice and the Greens with a very superficial understanding of the issues and ignorantly believing that the Animal Right propaganda is about helping animals.

The Conference was very interesting (and frustrating!) for us to attend, it confirmed that the newly emerging "Animal Law" departments are geared towards recruitment and indoctrination of Animal Rights, not Animal welfare. The various organisations involved in the conference were all interconnected, and worked for each other through their histories, with very little independent thinking. We were reassured to see that the attendees were disengaged from current issues, and not actively participating in extremism. There were a few topics that we will look into further and address through Animal Care Australia.

We have an uphill battle to counter the well funded marketing and propaganda that is being spewed out en masse from these groups. The ARE influence in politics is very real and very vocal, but not representative of 97% of Australians. There's a lot of work to do for a small number of us at ACA, and we need all the support we can get to fight these bad ideologies from continuing to gain traction.

**Animal rights is not animal welfare — don't be fooled by the ideologies —
look at the facts, seek out the policies, ask the important questions.**





What laws affect bird keeping in Australia?

By Sam Davis — ACA Bird Representative

Article first appeared in Australian Bird Keeper magazine: 27/8/22

As many will know, there are a range of laws at each of the three levels of government in Australia, local, state, and federal, affecting aviculture. Which laws govern which aspect of our hobby? This article aims to give you a brief outline of the matter so perhaps when you see CCBFA lobbying for or against some amendment you'll have a clearer understanding of the source of the problem and maybe you'll get motivated to write in support of our action.

All laws at all levels of government are updated at regular intervals, often every 10 years. And of course, amendments can be and are passed by our elected officials in the interim periods. It is during these times that advocating for change is most fruitful, but we are not the only advocates for change – there are others who oppose aviculture.

Local government – all about the neighbours

In terms of animal keeping local government is largely concerned with neighbourhood amenity– factors that may affect your neighbour's enjoyment of their property. Many of us keep dogs and maybe even a cat. Your local Council requires you to register these

animals including their microchip number. This enables lost or escaped animals to be returned promptly and is now used to monitor breeding and identify unregistered and potentially unscrupulous intensive breeding facilities. This is not so relevant to bird keeping unless you run a commercial enterprise or pet shop – most of us are hobbyists.

For birdkeepers neighbourhood amenity focusses on factors such as noise, smell, rodents, proximity to neighbours, etc. Many councils implement a range of controls such as limits on the number of birds and planning controls limiting the size of aviaries. Generally, these controls are not rigorously enforced unless neighbours complain.

But neighbours do at times complain. I have dealt with many cases in my time as CCBFA President and in the majority of cases a sensible solution can be negotiated with Council's compliance officers. However, there is the odd Council, and often it is a single Councilor or more often an overzealous compliance officer who is more intent on the letter of the local law than resolving what is generally a simple neighbourhood dispute.

Despite the above, when local laws are changed it is important to look



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closely at what is being proposed and the potential effects on bird keeping. Just prior to writing this piece I completed a submission opposing some changes proposed by Gold Coast City Council – just one submission to local government of many.

Often Councils produce their local laws regarding birds based on a state provided model set of local laws, it is for this reason that Animal Care Australia (ACA) in association with CCBFA is preparing recommended local laws for birds and other animals.

Planning controls are also in place that govern the size and location of aviaries, particularly in residential areas. Most planning controls for aviaries are state based but enforced by local government. For example, in NSW the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008* permits two aviary complexes up to 10 metres square each in residential area. These are classified as exempt development meaning no development application (DA) is needed. For larger complexes a DA can be lodged.

Experience shows that so long as neighbours are aware and supportive there is rarely an issue. Smaller residential blocks, such as those under 400 square metres require more care as neighbours are far closer – it would be wise to submit a DA if your aviaries are not exempt, and always wise to engage with neighbours from the outset to avoid unforeseen issues.

The rise of animal rights – a real and present danger for all who keep and breed animals

You will all be aware of the increasing influence of animal rights extremists who believe no animals, including birds should be kept in captivity. Organisations such as PETA and Animal Liberation are upfront animal rights organisations. Other organisations are less upfront about their animal rights support. The ex-policy director for RSPCA Australia Jed Goodfellow has been central to the recent formation of the Alliance for Animals described on their website as a “national charity leading a strategic alliance of Australia’s key animal protection organisations to create systemic change for animals.” This newly formed alliance includes Animals Australia, Voiceless, World Animal Protection and Humane Society International who all subscribe to animal rights philosophies.



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Animal Welfare vs Animal Rights-

<https://www.animalcareaustralia.org.au/information/animal-welfare-vs-animal-rights/>





In Australia we also have the Animal Justice Party (AJP) - the political arm of the animal rights movement. The AJP currently has two members in the NSW state government upper house, Emma Hurst MP and Mark Pearson MP and one member in the Victorian upper house, Andy Meddick MP. There are also Councilors elected in a number of local government areas. These politicians are having a real and often concerning influence on animal welfare legislation in these states. The AJP is running candidates in all state elections and many local government elections.

State Government – all about animal welfare and protecting wild native animals

Animal welfare

Government at the state level is responsible for animal welfare. Animal Care Australia's definition of animal welfare is...

Animal welfare means the physical and mental state of an animal in relation to the conditions in which it lives and dies.

An animal experiences good welfare if the animal is healthy, comfortable, well nourished, safe, is not suffering from unpleasant states such as pain, fear and distress, and is able to express behaviours that are important for its physical and mental state.

Currently the laws governing animal welfare generally sit within the

Agriculture or Primary Industries portfolio and hence are the responsibility of the states Agriculture Minister. There are reviews underway of animal welfare laws in many states. In my role as Vice President and Bird Representative for Animal Care Australia I regularly appear at parliamentary inquiries and attend meetings with politicians and senior bureaucrats. Readers can examine relevant submissions and minutes of such meetings on the ACA and CCBFA websites.

CCBFA argues for codes of practice for aviculture at the state level that specify basic standards of care. Such codes already exist, although many need updating. These codes of practice are recommendations and are legally available as a defence should animal welfare charges be laid. Aviculture does a terrific job and has a fantastic history of self-regulation – we do not require enforceable codes that open up our hobby to the overregulation consequences currently being experienced by dog breeders in Australia and many animal keepers and breeders internationally.

State government animal welfare laws is where the war against animal rights extremists is currently being waged.

Animal welfare laws are where animal rights activists in particular the Animal Justice Party's MPs focus the majority of their attention. These activists have a long term plan, they chip away, adding a little bit of regulation here a policy or licence condition there, and over time this

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makes it progressively more difficult to keep animals. They argue against captive breeding whilst promoting overregulation of rescue and rehoming. The end game for animal rights is to put an end to all animal keeping including aviculture.

Protecting wild native animals

State governments also have responsibility to regulate the keeping of native animals including birds, reptiles and some native mammals. This is to ensure the protection of wild populations of native animals. Licensing aims to prevent poaching and it also aims to ensure captive birds are not inappropriately released such that cause issues for wild populations.

During the early 1970s legislation was enacted in most states making it illegal to keep native birds. Within the legislation was a list of exempt species which includes many of the common native species we keep – budgerigars, zebra finches, cockatiels, and many other commonly kept species. In addition to these exemptions were lists of other species that could be kept under licence. This system remains in place in various different forms in all states and territories to this day.

There is a problem with the native bird licensing system. It boils down to the omission of a suitable procedure to move species from licence to exempt or from prohibited onto licence, or indeed from licence to prohibited. Such a process was and has never been enacted in most states – South Australia is arguably an exception.

This problem has caused all sorts of grief and inconsistencies between states.

Most of the effort over decades by numerous people has been directed at moving one or more species from prohibited to licence or from licence to exempt. In Queensland we recently had major changes to these lists with many common species of finch and parrot moving to exempt and many species of softbill now being able to be kept for the first time. A huge win, yet still no procedure for future list changes.

Negotiations in NSW stalled and have recently restarted, and the process is just about ready to get underway in Victoria (don't hold your breath). The issues in NSW and likely in Victoria are due to animal rights influences, for example, the NSW based animal rescue organisation WIRES opposes the keeping of any native animals in captivity. In Western Australia a number of years ago the Minister promised an avicultural consultative committee would be setup to address the issue but this has never come to pass. In the Australian Capital Territory things are much brighter with agreement on list changes – we await implementation.

Details of the negotiations in various states in recent years are all included on the CCBFA website under the documents tab or within the minutes of meetings contained with in our journal Feathered World.

Federal government – all about import and export



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I discussed import and export in detail in the previous edition of ABK so I won't go into detail again. In summary, the federal government is responsible for ensuring animals leaving and arriving through our borders have been legally sourced and that animals entering do not have any disease causing pathogens that are a biosecurity risk to Australia's wild or captive animals.

Sadly, the import and export of birds is so heavily restricted currently that it has created an incentive for smuggling and likely some limited poaching. CCBFA continues to argue for a sensible import and export system for captive bred birds that is accessible to all. We wish to stop the illegal trade and also ensure the system is not used to profit a few unscrupulous operators.

ACA has been busy advocating for pet and companion animal



We need your help



owners, breeders and keepers since 2018, and we do it without any sponsorship or financial support.

We do it because if we didn't a lot of legislative changes that have been proposed would now be law and your lives with your pets would be vastly different to how they are today.

We need your help to continue. We need financial support. We need you to spread the word. Ask everyone you know to join ACA. If you know people who work in or rely upon the pet industry remind them that if the keeping of pets is restricted that jeopardises their future.

We need sponsors and we need donations. We are in this together!





Cats and Arthritis

Source: Dr Julia Adams BVSc & Macathur Veterinary Group

Studies show that arthritis in cats is far more common than owners expect, with between 60% and more than 90% of cats showing radiographic evidence of arthritis in the limb joints. Many of us don't recognise the symptoms in our feline companions as we just simply think they slow down and get tired as they get older.

Certainly, arthritis exists more commonly in older animals, as a part of normal 'wear and tear' on the joints, but it can occur at any age. Other factors involved include breed, weight, nutrition, amount and intensity of exercise, injury (e.g. slipped disc, joint dislocation, fracture), congenital malformation (e.g. hip dysplasia), chronic inflammatory diseases or other inflammatory arthropathies (immune mediated joint disease).

One of the very early signs is that the cat stops jumping up on higher surfaces such as beds and chairs, and just 'slows down'. Typically, as the disease progresses, the cat stops grooming

along its back and base of the tail because it is uncomfortable to reach there. Eventually the cat becomes very grumpy and immobile. Other signs include:

- ◇ An inability to jump up and play as they used to
- ◇ Change of resting locations
- ◇ Difficulty going up or down stairs
- ◇ Difficulty using the litter tray
- ◇ Difficulty going in or out of the cat flap
- ◇ Becoming stiff after resting
- ◇ Difficulty grooming, poor coat condition
- ◇ Not accessing the food bowl as often, weight loss
- ◇ Less exercise, not using scratching post, overgrown nails

- ◇ Less interaction with other pets or owners
- ◇ Aggressive behaviour when being approached, touched or moved (due to pain)



A diagnosis of arthritis can be based on the presence of these signs, especially in cats over 7 years of age, along with a physical examination and x-rays if necessary. Blood and urine tests are usually performed in older cats to look for other medical conditions or prior to starting medication.

Management of arthritis in cats

Medications can be very effective at controlling the pain and inflammation associated with arthritis, especially the newer and safer medications registered for cats. Never give human painkillers, such as aspirin, nurofen and paracetamol as these kill cats very efficiently, so it is important to use only drugs designed for the cat's very

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special type of metabolism.

Injections of pentosan polysulphate (cartrophen) may also be given under the skin, which improve the joint environment by restoring joint cartilage.

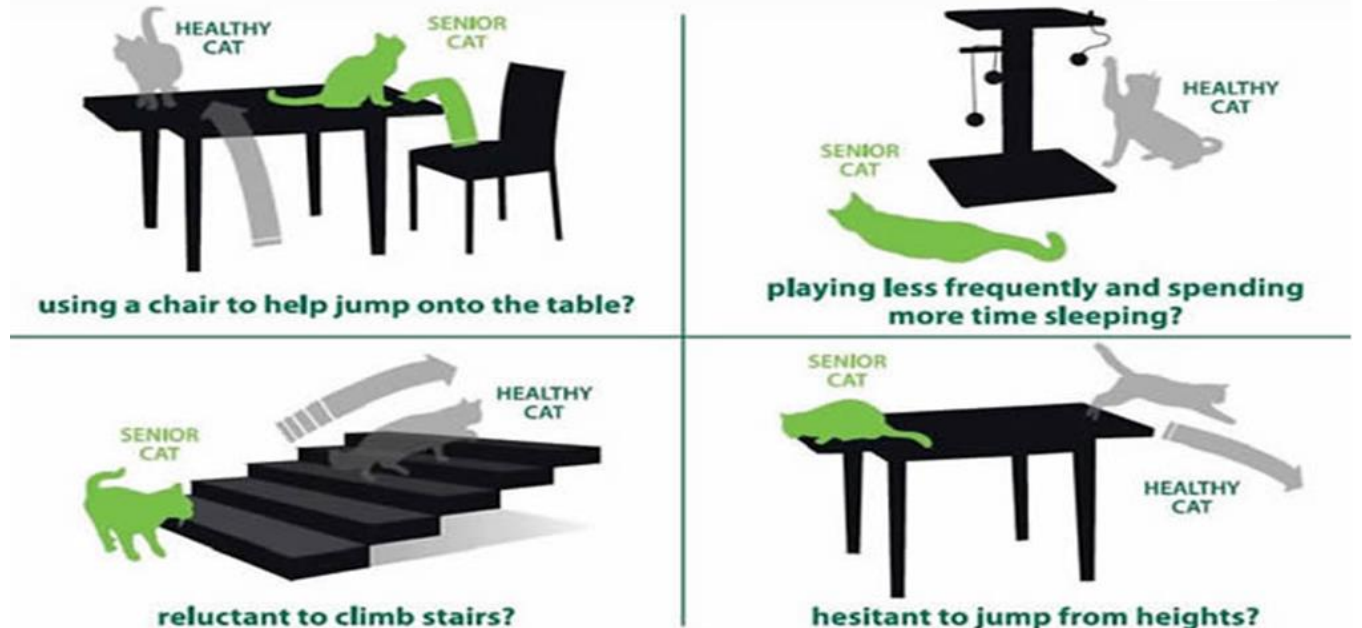
Dietary supplements such as glucosamine, chondroitin, green lipped muscle and shark cartilage may also be useful. The purpose of these nutraceuticals is to improve the health of the fluid lubricating the joint.

Managing your cat's environment is also important, including:

- ◇ soft, comfortable beds placed in easily accessible, quiet locations
- ◇ small steps or a ramp to allow cats to access higher sites (e.g. couch, windowsill, cat flap)
- ◇ easily accessible litter tray with low sides
- ◇ easily accessible food and water
- ◇ regular grooming sessions once pain medication allows
- ◇ provide a suitable 'senior' or weight loss diet as recommended by your vet

Surgery has a role to play in removing cartilage flaps, bone chips, and remodeling the joints where necessary to allow improved function.

So, if your cat is slowing down or showing signs of changes in their mobility - don't delay, see your veterinarian.





Education Not Over Regulation

By Rachel Sydenham — ACA Small Mammal Representative

According to the Animal Medicines Australia ‘Pets in Australia - A national survey of pets and people’ report, 61% of Australian households have a pet, while 90% of Australian households have had pets at some stage.

There are almost 29 million pets in Australia today - more than the estimated human population of 25 million.

Three in five Australian households - or 5.9 million in total - have a pet.

61% of Australian households have a pet today.

90% of Australian households have had a pet at some time.

Pet ownership rates are higher in Australia than many other countries around the world. The latest available statistics from the United States, for example, indicate that only 57% of American households have pets¹, while only 40% of households in the United Kingdom are estimated to have pets².

‘There are almost 29 million pets in Australia today- more than the estimated human population of 25 million.’

It stands to reason that every Australian will inevitably have an animal encounter or many throughout their life and of those, many will inevitably have animals in their care. This means that living with animals is essentially a ‘Life Skill’ that every Australian should know, but unless we are taught, how do we know how to understand, interact and care for animals?

More importantly with select Government parties currently pushing to enforce harsher penalties for animal cruelty, it would stand to reason that we would educate people in how to regard, care for and keep animals along with the laws that surround that responsibility in order to prevent anyone inadvertently causing cruelty to an animal out of ignorance.

It would also make sense that basic Companion Animal education would be introduced into our school curriculum as a starting point to instill such life skills into our children for the future benefit of animals in general. Not just as an elective for secondary and tertiary school entry level but for all grades from kindergarten through to year 12 as a structured subject as we do Maths, English or Science. Doing this would ensure that every student has the opportunity to learn about pet ownership and how to be a responsible pet owner, and more importantly how to interact with animals, as this would surely help prevent situations where children are involved in animal attacks. There is a lot to be said in the old phrase of ‘Prevention is better than cure’.

Unfortunately, bringing animal education into school curriculum is not our governments’ focus. While animal welfare advocates are in high favour of education to prevent animal cruelty, there are minorities with loud voices and standing positions within government that highly prefer brute enforcement, harsher penalties and animal bans. Methods that have been proven not to prevent animal cruelty.



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Whilst there are governing animal bodies i.e.: for dogs and cats, and other small organisations that are involved in mobile animal education initiatives, such programs are very hit and miss and do not target all schools, nor all grades and children. Even Local Government education days set up at local council animal shelters require the public to come to them, so these do not target the community as a whole to learn the much-needed message about responsible pet ownership. Mobile animal education initiatives are definitely a positive direction for animal welfare and even a small audience is better than none, but if we really want to make an impact on animal welfare for the better then we need to think bigger. Companion animal education needs to be solidified into school curriculum as a non-elective, then ALL schools and ALL students will receive that education in their classroom.

The benefits of education outweigh the results of enforcement.

There is definitely a place for enforcement as there are always going to be a minority of people intent on knowingly doing the wrong thing, however, enforcement occurs after an

act of cruelty has occurred, and therefore has not prevented it at all. Enforcement also does not deter an act of cruelty, people who knowingly do the wrong thing are just incentivised to find ways of not getting caught. In fact, a majority of cruelties occur out of pure ignorance and are not an intentional act to do harm at all. Ignorance is easily prevented by education.

On the 28th March 2022, during the 2021 Inquiry into the Approved Charitable organisations under the prevention of cruelty to animals Act 1979, Mark Slater, (then) Chief Executive Officer of the Animal Welfare League NSW was asked by The Honourable Scott Barrett:

“Does educating people work, before the inspectorate needs to get involved, to do things better?”



Marks response was:

“Yes, it is a double-edged sword. It is not necessarily a good thing to focus on prosecution because the nature of animal ownership can sometimes be based on parochial knowledge. To prosecute someone – even though in the eyes of the law ignorance is not a defence, it is better to educate someone than drag them through court for two years and then create a bad taste in someone’s mouth which can perpetuate itself into other problems in terms of animal welfare moving forward. The education does work. Working with some people in terms of ownership, body score, what good care looks like, prophylactics, worming, veterinary care is part and parcel of what the inspectorate undertake on a daily basis. It does work.”

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While enforcement will certainly tackle the deliberate cases of animal cruelty, it will be education that will see a majority of acts of cruelty decline.

How will education help increase animal welfare?

Education will definitely raise standards in animal welfare across the board from companion animals and animals in agriculture to wildlife conservation. It will instill a starting point for responsible pet ownership and animal awareness.

Australia is a diverse and multicultural continent, and many cultures have different views about how they keep and regard animals. Companion Animal education in the school curriculum will bring to families from other cultures the knowledge and awareness they need on how to be responsible pet owners in their communities and that there are laws and expectations required when keeping and/or breeding animals.

Children would understand basic animal behaviour, how to and how not to approach animals and how to respect an animal's space.

This can prevent animal attacks within the home by family pets.

Companion animal education will also teach the responsibilities of pet ownership, and that size and species of the animal kept as a pet does not determine the size of the responsibility nor the costs involved. Children would learn how to make good choices when considering bringing a pet into the home along with the importance and benefits of training, socialisation and containing pets. What is and isn't acceptable when having pets in a public space i.e., keeping dogs on leads etc When not within its premises.

Children would learn how to conduct themselves around Guide dogs and service animals and the important role that they have in our society. Children should also learn the basics in what to do in an animal emergency situation.

If we are to improve animal welfare then we need to stop focusing on the punishment as enforcing harsher penalties and punishment does not address and solve the source of the problem. Instead, we should be preventing

the cruelty from happening to begin with by giving people the knowledge and skills they need to do better.

Education is the long-term solution.





We need to rescue the Rescuers

By Tracey Dierikx— ACA Exhibited Animals Representative

In NSW, the Companion Animals Amendment (Rehoming Animals) Bill 2021 - passed by into law on 4th March 2022 - would have, and has had, far-reaching effects that may not have been foreseen when it was introduced and debated in parliament.

This amendment basically means that all animals in council pounds deemed suitable for rehoming must be offered to at least 2 rescue/rehoming organisations before the pound can consider euthanising them.

The first noticeable outcome that I have personally seen is a rise in the number of new rescue/rehoming organisations in the 'industry'. While this may seem like a good thing on the surface, one needs to fully consider how those new groups are operating. Rehoming animals is not as simple as just taking them from a pound and finding the first person you can to adopt them. If it were that simple, pounds would be rehoming animals easily, and there would be no need for the new legislation.

Broadly speaking, the 'rescue industry' is not bound by any effective oversight. The Office of Local Government (OLG) has a list of approved rehoming organisations that has seen at least 17 new entries since this new legislation passed 8 months ago. There were also 8 groups who either no longer operate, or have chosen not to renew their approval applications. This 'approval' is basically the removal of the requirement for animals to be

desexed or registered with council for up to 12 months while they are in the care of the rehoming organisation – but both of those things must still be done prior to, or at the time of, transfer of an animal to a new owner – with some annual records reported.

Of course there are MANY more rescue/rehoming groups operating than those reflected in the OLG list of 92 (at the time of this article). None of those unlisted are subject to ANY oversight or annual records as those on the list are. There is effectively NO record of where the animals go, how long they are in care, whether they have had the required vet checks or registrations completed, and in some cases even whether they were/are microchipped or desexed before rehoming to an interested party.

I decided to ring a few of the pounds in Sydney – those who actually had a phone number to call and didn't just go to a voicemail telling people to email for an appointment. All that had an actual person answer told me that they have a mass mailing list of rescues that they send notification of animals to, and that those lists extend to many others beyond those approved rescues listed with the OLG. One pound staff member even went so far as to state that they would release animals to non-approved rescues that are 'borrowing' the approved organisations' registration and desexing exemptions. The pounds are determined to move animals out as quickly as possible. To me, it very much looks like pounds



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(at least those that I spoke to) are loathe to keep animals on site, that probably would be better off having a quick and dignified end, in order to avoid any backlash for doing so – even though that may actually be the right thing to do for some animals.

I also called a few of my contacts in the rescue field – those I have known for years and trust are doing the very best for animals that come into their care. The overriding issue that they all complained about was that they are regularly being swamped with offers of animals with severe medical or behavioural issues. Issues that will be time-consuming and costly to rehabilitate the animal to a point where it may be safe to rehome. This is NOT what rescues are meant to be there to do - to take in all the animals that government departments can't be bothered finding a workable solution for, and effectively outsourcing that problem to an industry that is not actually equipped to do any better.

Funnily enough, the three LARGEST rehoming organisations in NSW are exempt from having to consider taking in animals offered from pounds – and one of those organisations also

seems to have stepped back from their pound operations in regional/rural areas since the legislation was passed. One can only draw their own conclusions as to why that may be, as nothing explaining the move has been forthcoming from the organisation.

We also have the compounding issue of the sheer numbers of pets being surrendered for various reasons – most notably reported being the rental crisis issue. Rescues and shelters are FULL to overflowing even before they are then asked to take on more animals from the pounds, and the pressure can be overwhelming when you know what will be the fate of those animals if you can't find room for them. Less experienced rescues/ rescuers may not yet fully understand how much work can be needed, how long an animal will need to be in care, or how to effectively match an animal with a prospective new home. They continue to take on more than they can adequately cope with, and corners may get cut, resulting in poorer outcomes for those animals they had all the best intentions of 'saving'.

In summary, while the legislation was

introduced with noble intentions, the outcome is proving to be fraught with issues that will need addressing sooner rather than later. Simply throwing money at rescues without having an oversight framework as to how those rescues operate is NOT the answer. There needs to be a concerted educational push so that the general public understand that pets are not disposable items, rental tenancy laws need to be adjusted to automatically allow pets (this is under review now), and the rescue industry needs to have some form of oversight into how the various players operate so as to maximise the welfare outcomes for all animals caught up in this mess.





Help protect our frogs and other wildlife

By Michael Donnelly - ACA Native Mammal Representative



The New South Wales Government has raised concerns about the potential invasion of the cane toad into the state. While some individual toads have made their way from Queensland in the past, it has just recently been discovered they are now breeding in NSW. Keep an eye out. Make sure you can correctly identify the difference between cane toads and our native frogs.

Protect what we love

Cane toads have different features to native frogs

NON-NATIVE



CANE TOAD

- ✓ No pads on fingers and toes
- ✓ Poor climbers
- ✓ Bony ridge over eye

NATIVE



BANJO FROG

- ✓ Unwebbed fingers
- ✓ Orange/yellow sides
- ✓ Yellow gland under eye to shoulder

NATIVE



PERON'S TREE FROG

- ✓ Pads on toes
- ✓ Climbs
- ✓ Cross-shaped pupil

SEE IT. REPORT IT.

1800 680 244
dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/sighting

If you see an unusual non-native pest animal, report it to NSW Department of Primary Industries.





We all need to join the same team

By Kylie Gilbert— ACA Dog Representative

The year that was and what the future looks like.... We all need to join the same team

As we all get ready to settle down to enjoy Christmas and Parliaments around the country have had their last sittings you would hope that there would be a sense of relief, a sense that we would have a break from the constant onslaught that has been legislative change in the area of animal welfare for 2022, but the sad reality is this is not the case. Those committed to this cause know that the next 12months could see more pain and heartache for those fighting for people's rights but also for those that own and especially those that breed.

Governments around the country led by an animal rights agenda are gearing up to in some cases introduce new policies and acts, while others like Victoria are looking to further overregulate the already overregulated. As a country we are losing our rights in this area very quickly. It is no longer about what is right for animals from a minimum standards perspective, it is now about if animals should be "owned by a human".

Imagining a world without a dog at the end of the bed or running around the back yard is a bleak outlook.

I can't remember a day in my life that did not include animals, all of which have led happy healthy lives, all of which have been "owned". They have been trained, they have been part of a family and this could soon be just a memory.

While this all sounds very farfetched, I wish it was.

2023 is going to be the year that will certainly shape the future as animal lovers and keepers this is going to be the year that everyone needs to have a voice. This is no longer a drill. This is no longer a "it will never happen to us" scenario and if all sectors of industry and all differing organisations do not come together united, it is a very dark outlook. Whether you own a purebred, a cross breed, a designer breed it doesn't matter they are all the same species, they all require the same care and they are all in jeopardy. It's time to put the elitism and differences behind us and just work together for the future of our rights to own and breed dogs in this country.





How are reptiles rehomed?

By Joanne Payne— ACA reptile Representative

We all know what happens when there is a displaced dog or cat. Either by circumstance, seizures or vagrancy, most companion animals end up at a shelter such as the RSPCA. But what happens when the animal isn't in the 'normal' bracket? What happens if a reptile needs to be surrendered, is found out of area or is seized by the authorities? It is not as straightforward as taking the animal to the RSPCA. Different states have different ways of dealing with displaced reptiles and amphibians.

In NSW, there is confusion around how this happens and has resulted in some very poor welfare outcomes for the animals. The way it has happened for years is no longer working due to the increased workload within OEH. The process has become long, convoluted and corrupt, with most of the reptile societies now refusing to work with OEH. While waiting for a new home, the animals are often left with WIRES carers in inappropriately sized enclosures. There have been instances where

WIRES and OEH have had rehoming days that have been cancelled or large amounts of animals withdrawn from sale due to the condition of the animals. Animals collected from WIRES carers by ballot recipients have been found in horrible conditions with disease, mites and behavioural issues as a result of spending long amounts of time with the carer.

There has been several discussions on how to rectify the problems that have included WIRES and OEH. One was held, and agreed on, while the licensing reforms were being discussed. This way would have taken the responsibility of rehoming these animals away from WIRES and back into the hands of the reptile societies with a streamlined process for handling displaced animals but this has yet to be implemented and OEH have gone backwards in their process for rehoming resulting in much longer wait times. This process has worked in WA with all reptiles going through reptile societies for

rehoming.

Why are WIRES handling the rehoming of pets? Their scope is wild animals, not pets and they have been known to keep certain animals with their carers instead of being put up for ballot. Something needs to change for the welfare of the animals and the transparency of the process to be made public knowledge. Lets just hope that OEH can work with the societies to make some positive changes for the welfare of displaced reptiles, soon.





MISSION STATEMENT

“Animal Care Australia (ACA) is the Peak Animal Welfare Body representing the keepers and breeders of pet and companion animals in Australia”.

ACA encourages continued development of animal welfare standards and Codes of Practice for animal husbandry, breeding, training, sale and sporting exhibitions for a wide range of animal species. Our goal is to promote and encourage high standards in all interactions with the animals in our care. To encourage responsible pet ownership, and the respectful treatment of all animals in our community ACA continues to promote welfare education over regulation



OBJECTIVES

- To represent Animal Care Groups as the peak animal welfare body
- To engage and advise Government and legislators on welfare issues relating to pets and companion animals.
- To protect the rights of ethical hobbyists & animal keepers to breed and keep pets and companion animals.
- To clarify the difference between animal rights and animal welfare
- To promote higher animal welfare outcomes



ACA GENERAL MEETINGS 2023

7.30 to 8.30pm

MARCH 13th

MAY 8th

JULY 10th

SEPTEMBER 11th

NOVEMBER 13th — AGM

Meetings in 2023 will continue via Zoom to ensure members nation-wide can attend..

Any member wishing to join a meeting will need to RSVP by no later than 5pm on that Monday via email: aca@animalcareaustralia.org.au with your details. A link for the meeting will be emailed to you.





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**Pets are for
LIFE**



**NOT just for
Christmas**

