

The Animal Care Expert

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



In this issue:

- ACA reaches out nationally
- Covid-19 impacts
- Animal Rights agenda doesn't slow down
- *Plus lots more.*



President's Report

By: Michael Donnelly

This time three months ago, who would have thought the entire world would be placed into lock down?

As most of you are no doubt aware this has resulted in some massive challenges for all those who keep animals, and greater challenges for those who have animal-based and public-reliant establishments.

ACA's reach certainly grew due to the sudden urgency of animal welfare issues.

ACA found ourselves responding to many scenarios, including questions about lock down restrictions, "Can I go out to feed my horse?" through to our wildlife exhibitors and petting zoo owners solely reliant on people accessing their establishments now suddenly having no income and months of waiting for some form of government assistance. As it turned out, when it arrived that government assistance did not apply to everyone. So the struggle continues, and ACA has been standing alongside other groups providing a united voice to protect the very existence of and hopeful return to normal for those affected.

The past three months has seen ACA communicating with many new stakeholders, expanding awareness of our organisation and gaining more support. Needing to communicate on a federal and state & territory level expanded our reach across the nation.

I found myself in ongoing conversations introducing, negotiating, educating, and championing on behalf of ACA and our members with government representatives from all states/territories as well as Austrade and along the way forming new connections with organisations such as RSPCA QLD, Zoo and Aquarium Association, Wildlife Exhibitors Network and introducing ACA to Agriculture Victoria, Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions to directly contribute in the upcoming review of their animal welfare Acts.

For more on all of that please enjoy this edition of the **Animal Care Expert**.

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News Updates



ACA Responds for a second time to Georges River Council.

9th March 2020 — This Council has opted to ignore recommendations provided by residents and stakeholders.

ACA maintains welfare is not about number restrictions or limiting species allowed to be kept.

Council stated there would be no mandatory limits unless a complaint is received despite maintaining maximum numbers in their policy.

ACA responded to Council:

- *ACA maintains that the rules council adopt should remain consistent whether or not a complaint is received.*
- *Council stated de-sexing 'should' be carried out. This is not definitive therefore could residents be in breach if they own animals that are NOT de-sexed?*

ACA called for this Draft NOT to be accepted or approved without further consultation.

Monday 9th March Council voted for the following:

(a) That Council adopt the Georges River Keeping of Animals Policy (2020), subject to:

- (i) The removal of the maximum number of cats and dogs permitted to be kept on the property.



For our submission click the pdf icon:

Response:

Councillors contacted ACA for more information. Number restrictions for dogs and cats was removed from the proposal. Unfortunately other limits still remained in the wording of the proposal



ACA responds to Impounded Act Review

19th March 2020 — ACA has responded to the Impounded Act Review.

The focus of our response is to:

- see improvements in how impounded animals (strays) are held in Council-run shelters
- have the Act encourage less abandoned animals by implementing incentive-based programs that reward responsible pet ownership
- remove the stigma of having to surrender animals due to hardship or other circumstances



For our submission click the pdf icon:



ACA calls on Federal & State Governments to include veterinary services & care of animals as 'Essential'.

26th March 2020 — In communications sent to the Prime Ministers Office, Deputy Prime Minister, Federal Minister for Agriculture, all State Premiers and the Chief Minister for the NT, along with all State Agriculture Ministers, and Shadow Agriculture Ministers, ACA implored our governments to include animal welfare as an essential practice and service.

Excerpt:

"ACA would like to see a commitment from your Government that the following are deemed essential:

1. *Vets, farriers and equine dentists. Each should have the individual option to only offer emergency services or more (farriers in particular).*

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2. *Animal boarding services with social distancing measures as a mandatory requirement. There are pets in facilities Australia wide with owners still overseas and these services need to be available for people needing to be hospitalised or too ill at home to care for them . It should be noted the already overwhelmed shelters will be inundated if this is not considered as people will have no other choice when family members are quarantined.*
3. *Pet food and stock feed suppliers. These can easily be restricted to delivery only.*
4. *People should be able to maintain their animals located on properties outside of their residential address (animals in open paddock, in agistment services etc) with social distancing measures as a mandatory requirement.*
5. *Temporary caregivers should be given the same rights to tend to stock and companion animals for owners who are unable to return home, are hospitalised or unwell/ disabled/disadvantaged at home. (ie not restricted to only the owner of the animal) “*

Ensuring animal welfare is identified as essential is vital for the health and wellbeing of all animals in this country which in turn will provide peace of mind and comfort to our society.

For our submission click the pdf icon:



Responses:

Written responses from the Qld Premiers Office, as well as the NSW, SA, WA, Qld and Tas State Ministers Offices ensured animal welfare would remain essential.

Telephone communications and interactions with Qld Shadow Minister, the WA Ministers office and the Office of the Premier of NSW and the Office of the Premier of SA provided direct assurances of animal welfare needs.



ACA calls on Federal & State Governments to provide emergency payments to all wildlife exhibitors during Covid-19.

17th April 2020 — In communications sent to the Deputy Prime Ministers Office, Federal Minister for Agriculture, all State Agriculture/Primary Industries Ministers, and the Shadow Ministers, ACA highlighted the lack of financial support from our Federal and State governments that was directly affecting animal welfare and the ongoing existence of many smaller zoos, wildlife parks and more.

Excerpts:

“Currently Wildlife Exhibitors across Australia including zoos, wildlife parks, mobile exhibitors, petting farms, and circuses are all closed to the public due to Covid-19 and social-distancing requirements and because of this are receiving no income. Income that is vital to maintaining the welfare and healthy upkeep of the animals within their care. It’s not just about ‘traditional’ wildlife exhibitors. Businesses that operate camel rides and horse riding centres, those who run public-accessed ‘hobby farms’ are all in the same situation. All animal businesses that rely on the public to visit need urgent help right now.”

“It is imperative that the government offers relief to ensure that animals remain in their existing facility, under the care of keepers that they have bonded with, to maintain their daily routines, thereby ensuring the best welfare outcomes. Sadly, not all operators have been able to achieve this, already resulting in their permanent closure and animals having to be re-homed – placing those animals under unfortunate stress. Stress that could have been avoided had governments considered the plight of this sector sooner. **Cash payments for animal welfare essentials are urgently required.**

Many exhibitors have contacted governments outlining costs and recommending payment sums that would assist. We implore you to take those submissions in to consideration – before matters become more crucial. Continued over the page

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For our submission click the pdf icon:



Responses:

Written & telephone communications with WA and Qld Ministers Office, in addition to confirmation call & letter from Federal Ministers Office.



ACA Meeting with Senator Mehreen Faruqi (Greens Party)

5th May 2020 — Michael Donnelly (President) and Karri Nadazdy (Horse Representative) met with Senator Mehreen Faruqi Greens Party who instigated the Review into a National Horse Register

Discussions included the status of the review and it's recommended Working Group.

- ACA is pursuing a welfare focus for the Working Group
- Senator Faruqi promised to table our questions regarding the register when Federal Parliament resumed.

UPDATE:

- Parliament resumed on Tuesday 12th and ACA's questions were tabled on 13th May
- A response from Agriculture Minister the Hon David Littleproud is now pending.



ACA calls attention to the failure of the Federal Govt's recent funding for wildlife exhibitors as it excludes a large number of wildlife exhibitors.

28th April 2020 Federal Minister, Honourable David Littleproud MP publicly announced a \$94.6 million Morrison Government initiative. The release of the eligibility criteria for the funding clearly outlines the funding is not to include mobile zoos, nature-based and on-farm tourism

experiences, farms, fisheries, reserves, marine-based experiences and also circuses within Australia.

19th May 2020 — ACA has contacted all state & territory Agriculture/Primary Industries Ministers to implore them to join us in supporting ALL wildlife exhibitors.

Animal Care Australia contests only one of the 5 criteria is focused on animal welfare – in stark contrast to the announcement made by Minister Littleproud.

ACA strongly argues that mobile and petting zoos, on-farm businesses and circuses provide a great level of public interaction and inject an equal sum of income into local community sectors which SHOULD NOT exclude them simply because they don't appear in a tourism pamphlet.

These operators provide education, and fulfilment for many at children's birthday parties, agricultural fairs and shows and wildlife-based seminars, and touring country areas.

Solely reliant upon public access for income they have experienced a 100% downturn due to the Covid-19 lockdowns! They all provide a greater understanding of the need for conservation of all animal species.

ACA asks why are they excluded from financial assistance?

This funding is supposed to be for animal welfare — not the tourism dollar.

ACA will continue to pursue further assistance for ALL wildlife exhibitors!



For our submission click the pdf icon:



It was reported in our last edition that the Liverpool Council Animal Facility located in Austral NSW will close on 19 March 2020. Council reversed it's decision the following week—which is great news for local residents searching for their missing pets.

Animal Rights Indoctrination at Monash Uni

By Karri Nadazdy & Michael Donnelly

Animal Rights Extremism is real and it's taking advantage of society's concern for the animals in our care. This concern has borne welfare improvements in zoos, agriculture, and our pets. But this is not due to animal rights, it's animal welfare.

Animal Rights and Animal Welfare are not the same thing and often at odds when applied to real life scenarios affecting animals, particularly when Animal Rights invade legislation and regulations. This extremist invasion is now forging its way into our universities – and the outcome of this will be disastrous.

In theory, **Animal Rights** is the philosophy that all animals (including humans) are equal. It aims to restrict what interactions humans have with animals, by closing animal industries, banning certain practices and legislating reduced human-animal interactions. Humans may only 'enjoy' animals from afar. Extremists openly state animal welfare theories accept that animals have interests but allow these interests to be traded away as long as there are some human benefits.

In reality, **Animal Welfare** is about promoting and improving the life of animals through the prevention of suffering and cruelty. This means taking responsibility for the current and future needs of an animal in context with its social group. Each animal's needs vary greatly by species, and there is no one size fits all. Minimum welfare standards keep improving over time, and animal carers look after their animals to much higher standards than any bare requirement.

Through the article in the 'The Weekly Times' Animal Care Australia (ACA) became concerned with Monash University's recently introduced new Animal Law Course (LAW4230). While Monash should be commended for introducing material specifically related to animal law, we discovered the Course was actually written by Voiceless, a well-funded Animal Rights Extremist organisation and the lecturer presenting the material is Dr Joanna Kyriakakis, a Voiceless Legal Advisory Council member supporting animal rights activism. The course outline shows a heavy bias presented with the obvious outcome to

indoctrinate students into animal rights causes and encouraging activism. ACA noted the law content is minimal. Animal Welfare related laws are embedded into our society: prevention of cruelty, farming, transport, council planning, research and medical, exhibitions, zoos, agricultural shows and even horse and greyhound racing. None of these topics appear to be included in the curriculum. Laws pertaining to animals are already complex and extensive and it is irresponsible to fill time in a law course with animal rights propaganda. For students who want to learn more about animal rights – the responsible solution would be to hold this course within the 'Ethics' curriculum.

ACA contacted Monash University to express our concerns and ask for the course content to be reviewed critically. To re-label the course as an Animal Rights Course or to re-classify it as an ethics or philosophy course, or to leave it as is, but correctly name it: "Animal Rights and Ethics" so as to not mislead students to the real purpose of the course.

We all want to see continual advancement of Animal Welfare and many of us are actively working for greater improvements. It has become more crucial than ever to clarify the boundaries and differences between Animal Rights and Animal Welfare and students should not be subjected to the deception that they are one and the same. Educational institutes are not the place for indoctrination.



Note: At the time of producing this newsletter, ACA has received an acknowledgement of receipt with a promise of a further response —however no such response has been forthcoming.



Petting Zoos. Why the fuss?

By Noeline Cassettari

ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST PETTING ZOOS.

The Animal Justice Party has 'petting zoos' next on their list of 'animals in entertainment' to ban.

Animal Rights Extremists (ARE's) have two arguments against petting zoos:

- ◆ stress to animals, and
- ◆ danger to humans

Scientific studies have two main affirmations for the existence of petting zoos:

- ◆ educational benefits to humans, and
- ◆ health benefits to humans.

The science is supported by the RSPCA, AVA (Australian Veterinary Association), Government Health Departments, and the Department of Education syllabus, and 'The Early Years Learning Framework' for child care centres.

The claims of stress to the animals are travelling, being confined, being handled, being bred and once no longer 'a baby animal', being disposed of.

So what is the reality?

In Australia animal welfare is legislated in each

state and territory. Codes of Practice for Exhibited Animals are legislated in NSW, Victoria & Queensland. The Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Exhibited Animals was developed and endorsed in 2019 by all State and Territory Agricultural Ministers. Those Standards and Guidelines include:

- ⇒ outlining the responsibilities of the animals owners in relation to the enclosures utilised on-site and also at home. Minimum standards must be maintained for how the animals are displayed
- ⇒ dietary and water requirements
- ⇒ regular health assessments
- ⇒ reproductive management to ensure the health of parent & young animals
- ⇒ training and interactive programs that are designed to enhance people's appreciation of and respect for *animals*, as well as ensuring the animals are handled at minimum periods of time
- ⇒ transportation

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Each owner/presenter is assessed and approved by the government department responsible in each State.

Animal identification and records must be maintained. Audits are carried out annually on the location where the animals are kept, covering every aspect of their care, welfare, and the business's operations.

Animal Rights Extremists like to imagine baby animals are torn from their mothers for use in human entertainment. **This is not true.**

Mobile farms use bobby calves, male chicks, male dairy lambs and goats, and orphan animals that are not beneficial in farming. Mobile farms provide these animals a chance at a life that they wouldn't otherwise have. Most animals go on to become loved family farm pets (yes even the steers).

But do the animals really enjoy it?

The sheep and goats run through the long, green paddock grass to the gate each morning when they see a human. The rabbits hop into a pet carrier if it is put on the ground in their enclosure.

A recent study found there to be no difference in stress levels between rabbits that went to a child care centre visit, and those that stayed at the farm for the day.

What about human safety?

Yes zoonotic diseases pass from animals to humans. For this reason governments in every state have guidelines for petting zoos, that include hand washing with soap and water, and a range of other steps. An example can be found here: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Pages/Petting-zoos-and-personal-hygiene.aspx>

We are now all very practised at washing our hands with soap and water. This minimises our chances of disease spreading from humans and animals. Every licensed and insured petting zoo must have hand sanitiser available at all times.

Having looked at the arguments against, what are the benefits?

Animals make people happy.

Watching people enjoy animals makes people happy too. Receiving attention from humans

makes animals happy.

Petting zoos are educational. They teach people how to interact with animals. Adults and children are taught how to safely hold animals.

Petting zoo staff are often veterinary students gaining hands on experience that wouldn't receive otherwise.

People see how animals interact, and realise how gregarious goats are, or that pigs have their own personality and that sheep are smart.

They teach urban families the source of their food, fibre, and many other products. Learning that bacon and ham comes from cute piglets is a reason many people become vegan. So I am not sure why ARE's oppose this lesson!

They teach children and adults what sheep, goats, calves, ducks and donkeys look like. Whilst you might think everyone knows that, picture books don't show the scale, or range of colours animals come in. For most people this is their first opportunity to see that species in real life. So unless a calf is black and white, some adults and children call it a horse. Donkeys, goats and reindeer are often confused, as are ducks and chickens.

Animals play a role in teaching emotional intelligence. They teach empathy and according to studies they have helped top CEOs become successful.

<https://www.foxbusiness.com/business-leaders/want-your-kid-to-be-the-next-big-ceo-buy-them-a-pet>

What next?

Our focus must turn to the AJP's current crusade to ban petting zoos in NSW. If they are successful this will set a very dangerous precedent and start a chain of events that will be difficult to stop or come back from.

All of us - every person who owns and cares for an animals must stand up and be heard.

Why should a small group of people who do not and have not owned or run a petting zoo get to dictate the very existence of a service that provides joy, teaches empathy, shares the love of animals, and educates those that may one day become the advocates for animals across Australia and the world. Join ACA in our fight to stop the Animal INJUSTICE Party!

Horse Report

By Karri Nadazdy

NATIONAL HORSE REGISTER PROGRESS STALLS.

National Horse Register discussions have continued within the horse industry, but the announcement by the federal government that a formal Working Group was created in February appears to have been made prematurely, as no members of the working group have been named, nor have any announcements been made since. Covid-19 should not have impacted the progress of the working group. Horse interest groups, like ACA, have continued to pursue the matter, but appear to be excluded from formal discussions.

ACA secured a meeting with Greens Senator Mehreen Faruqi in May. Sen Faruqi initiated the Inquiry into the National Horse Register, and Chaired the Senate Committee. She had no knowledge of the Working Groups progress, but did offer to ask ACA's questions of the Senate when Parliament resumed. ACA provided questions in writing, and we await a response from Sen Faruqi and the Federal Agriculture Minister, David Littleproud. We continue to have concerns about recreational horse owners, who are the most numerous, and will be most directly impacted by any kind of register, continue to be excluded from all discussions affecting them.

BRUMBIES TO BE CULLED

Recent drives to eliminate entire populations of wild horses, particularly by the Victorian government, have been met with public outrage, and many brumby groups are actively seeking support to stop the culls. ACA does not object to ground shooting of excess horses when rehoming options have been exhausted. This does not appear to be the case in Victoria. Reports of early heavy snow may have halted the culls temporarily, giving rescue groups time to react. A group of experienced horsemen have also banded together to round up what horses they can and move them onto private property, where they will be secured. ACA notes there are various brumby rescue groups working together on this issue.

HORSE SHOWS ARE NOT CIRCUSES!

Another group currently attempting to negatively impact the horse industry are Animal Rights Extremists (ARE) who are pressuring state governments to ban animal businesses such as wildlife displays, petting farms and pony rides. A recent attempt was made in NSW to reclassify all mobile animal shows (such as the Sydney Royal, and local equestrian clubs) as 'circuses', in the hopes that public pressure to close circuses would then apply to all animal activities outside of private property.

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I know I'm stunning, but please don't just
come and pat me!

- I don't always appreciate strangers patting me
- Social-distancing applies to other peoples pets too

Owners' consent matters!

Source: RSPCA Australia (<https://kb.rspca.org.au/>)



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The new definition was proposed within an Inquiry into Circuses and Marine Parks by the AJP. ACA reacted quickly to this proposal, and ACA's position was supported by the members of the Inquiry. Shocking misinformation about these industries is being presented in the news and by some overzealous politicians, by taking overseas information of animal abuses and making blanket statements that it occurs in Australia. This is not helpful to anyone, and we do not wish to see this expanded to attack pony clubs, competitive riding clubs, or recreational carriage drivers. ACA supports the continual improvement of animal welfare standards in equestrian sports, and will continue to fight all attempts to ban animal activities.

COVID 19 LOCKDOWNS AND EQUESTRIANS

ACA engaged with DPI NSW to clarify horse related rules under Covid-19 restrictions, after we learned of how much confusion the restrictions were causing. Most of us were able to continue caring for and training our horses, even in agistment settings. As Covid-19 lockdowns are easing across the country, Equestrian Sports are fortunate to meet non-contact requirements for Stage 1 recreational and sporting activities that can be lifted.

Some organisations, such as Bitless Inc, have been running online shows that can be entered from home, and these are likely to continue to be well supported as we adjust to a 'new normal'. Clubs and casual riding groups will soon be resuming, with many club committees around the country already meeting online to set new dates for the rest of the year's activities. Equestrians in particular need to be conscious of social distancing

requirements that are going to stay with us for a long time to come. While riding and competing these are easy to comply with, but petting each other's horses is now no longer acceptable, nor is touching other people's property and tack. This means ensuring gates and other grounds facilities and equipment are handled safely and consciously and disinfecting procedures are introduced to protect members and volunteers.

A Covid-19 Prevention Policy will be an essential new cornerstone policy of all clubs resuming activities. In case of an outbreak, insurance companies will expect to see this Policy and how the committee enforced it in any liability claims. Member groups who have not yet prepared one can contact ACA for assistance developing one for their club at horses@animalcareaustralia.org.au.

A new outbreak from any animal sporting group will be detrimental to all of us, and we all need to be responsible and help hold each other accountable, to ensure we can continue to participate in the activities we love for the rest of this year, and beyond. Keeping passers-by away from paddock fences and horses while at home or out riding is important to help curb the spread of Covid-19 in coming months as well. People forget that our animals are family, and are included in our 'bubble' that excludes all others.

MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE NOW

Horse clubs around Australia are invited to join ACA and help us continue to represent recreational horse owners and breeders. As an ACA member your club will receive latest industry news and legislative announcements that affect recreational horse owners and breeders, and engage on those issues via our online Horse Advisory Group. Please support us, so we can continue to support you!



Hypocrisies & misconceptions of ARE's

By Rachel Sydneham

"The Animal Justice Party has a long term vision for a kinder Australia but recognises that change will proceed in stages. Many of our policies recognise this and don't simply describe our vision of the future, but the steps required to get there."

(Source: <https://animaljusticeparty.org/policies/>)

And what is this 'vision' that the Animal Justice Party have in their sights when it comes to pet & companion animals?

"AJP Key Objectives

1. *To provide shelters with adequate funding to cater to lost and unwanted animals*
2. *To increase desexing levels through government/veterinary subsidies programs and to **mandate desexing at point of sale.***
3. *Animals such as rabbits, guinea pigs, rats and animal assistants like mareema, donkeys, and guide dogs **must only be bred by licenced breeders under strict controls.***
4. *To **phase out the sale of companion animals**, including birds, reptiles and fish other than from shelters or rescuers.*
5. *To **phase out the breeding of companion animals** until shelters achieve no-kill status with no turn-away, then work with **companion animal NGO's on only** using breeding schemes that benefit the animals involved. (NGO = Non-government organisation)*
6. *To implement and regulate adoption procedures that will better ensure suitable human/non-human compatibility outcomes*
7. *To implement support programs that enable shelters to rehabilitate animals where required.*
8. *To **manage urban free-living cats***

humanely via trap, neuter and feed while recognising the conflicts between their interests and those of wildlife.

9. *To repeal breed-specific legislation throughout Australia.*
10. ***Birds in cages are unacceptable**, aviaries can be used only where release is inhumane.*
11. *To legislate ensuring tenants can not be discriminated against for having companion animals in their care where the property is appropriate for the animal/s involved."*

(Source: <http://animaljusticeparty.org/policieslist/animals/companion-animals/>)

Buried in amongst all the 'fluffy stuff' of things that every animal lover wants to read or hear are key objectives 3, 4, 5 and 10. Read them exactly as they are written.

Objectives 1,2,7,8 and 11 all seem noble until you look at the policy on farming, paying special attention to objectives 4 and 10 in that policy.

*"4. To provide financial support and education opportunities where required that will **encourage farmers to transition to plant based farming.**"*

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“10. As the uptake of plant based diets increases, we will work towards laws that abolish breeding and rearing for slaughter or other exploitation.”

(Source: <http://animaljusticeparty.org/policieslist/animals/farming/>)

These, among the other AJP policies regarding farming, make it pretty clear the goal is to end animal related farming and in particular those that supply for the consumption of meat. Whilst this cause is sugar coated in the ideals of ending the pain and suffering of animals in farming industries, people have missed the long term repercussions of removing these industries altogether.

In fact there are many problems with the idealism of Animal Rights Extremists (ARE) and their view to changing the world to become vegan.

You see, people who love animals are generally pet owners, and the most common house hold pets are cats and dogs. Dogs are naturally classed as carnivores, though are also omnivorous, this means their diet requires a balanced nutrition that is derived from both meat and plant based origins. Cats are classed as carnivore obligate, this means that a cats balanced nutrition is entirely derived from a meat based source and natures blue print for these animals has designed their digestive systems to function specifically to these particular species specific diets. Pet food companies have catered to these required diets for pet owners to be able to ensure that their pet cats and dogs are getting the required balanced nutrition they need. The reality is that without animal farming, there is no dog food or cat food, whether it is manufactured formulated kibble or fresh meat and bones. Without these industries there is no keeping of pets. You will be unable to feed them, and that is the over-all plan that takes us back to the Objectives 3, 4, 5 and 10 of the AJP's Companion Animal policies and their "vision" and "the steps required to get there."

The most concerning thing, is that welfare



barely makes a mention within these policies. Going through the policies the word 'welfare' was only found once. The words and terms 'ban' and 'phase out' though, are the words of choice throughout all of the policies governing animals, so this explains why welfare is not the main focus of the AJP.

Welfare for animals is not required if ultimately animals cannot be kept. This was completely validated when an Animal Rights Extremist AJP supporter, in their own words, posted the following on social media, *[quote]" I also don't care about animal welfare only animal rights. Animal welfare means squat."*[end quote].

A truly frightening revelation indeed! To not care about the welfare of something is to not care about it at all!

The quest to abolish contact with animals has only begun for the AJP, and they seize every opportunity they can to enforce the ideology on to anyone and everyone, and will go as low as using high profile issues coupled with misinformation to push their points across in hopes that people will get caught up in the emotion rather than seeing their true agenda. The latest high profile topic being exploited is Covid-19, declaring its origins to solely eating wild animals and endeavouring to end Australia's Agricultural Industry calling it a ticking time bomb for the next wave pandemic of SARS, Ebola, Avian Bird Flu and Covid-19 and asking why we keep killing and eating wildlife.

Also declaring that they are *'the only political party working to end the spread of deadly diseases at the source: the wildlife trade.'* and it has never been more important to support

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'the only political party working to protect animals and our communities from disease by putting a stop to the cruel NSW wildlife trade.'

They have also gone as far as to compare the kangaroo meat industry as the "Australian wet markets". These claims are unsubstantiated and are completely based on overseas models of total disregard to the welfare of animals and have neither correlation to Australian animal industry nor its standards when it comes to the care and welfare of animals. These claims also disregard the complexity behind how viruses are shed, evolve, transitioned, then jump and spread between species. It simply does not occur by just eating a wild animal, there are many physical and environmental factors involved combined into a cocktail for an animal borne virus to jump to humans.

Whilst AJP can be commended for their persistence, and there are some great objectives mixed in with some of their policies that would be worthwhile supporting, unfortunately Animal Rights is not the answer and animals (domesticated and wild) will not benefit in the long term at all should their true agenda be reached.

Ultimately, everyone with a passion for animals and their care want all animals to live happily and free of cruelty. Higher animal welfare and education is the answer to ensure that all animal related industries have the best welfare outcomes for animals in their care.

While the world is in lockdown the Animal Justice Party (AJP) has used 'The Tiger King' series as their platform for violence against women while referring to dairy cows being likened to rape victims which did not quite get the attention they wanted. They champion the species that can get them the biggest headlines while millions more die to supply a vegan-based lifestyle. With AJP fan-girling in zoom meetings over and in support of PETA, (one of the world's most controversial Animal Rights Extremist groups) it is clear that **Animal Welfare is NOT in AJP's interest. You don't need Animal Welfare if you do not have animals!**

Cat Report

By Helen Toovey

Not more Covid 19 please! Have you heard enough? Do you want to read something different? Well let's give it a go.

The good news is that you get to spend all this time with loved ones include the feline kind. Some people have even taken this time to settle a new furry friend.

Like the humans at the moment, its best to keep your cat or kitten inside. They are much better if they are kept in the home or a contained outdoor enclosure permanently. People say "oh but they miss out on stuff if they are not allowed out!" Sure they do - they miss out on getting lost, getting stolen, attacked by dogs, poisoned, wounds from fighting, abscesses, fleas and ticks or worms to name a few. Traffic takes a huge toll on free-roaming cats. No cats look both ways before crossing a road if being chased!

Cats that are kept contained are much more likely to live a long life. Indoor cats are usually healthier, and you can save on those vet bills if you are not dealing with the rigors of outdoors. While its true that cats enjoy sunshine and fresh air, they do not need to go outside to be happy. It is common to have an enclosure that can be accessed via the house or a patio that has been screened off so that your cat can enjoy what the outdoor has to give without the perils.



Native Mammal Destruction

By Michael Donnelly

Native mammals in this country have taken a beating this year. 2020 has seen our environment impacted by catastrophic bushfires, then major flooding all taking its toll on many species that were suffering from the ongoing droughts that have affected every pocket of Australia.

Ordinarily as the Native Mammal Representative my focus is on native mammals being kept as pets and companions, however this year my attention has turned to responding to highly questionable decisions by government and local councils, and in particular the welfare outcomes of those decisions.

Astonishingly, in NSW animal rescue & rehabilitation groups were locked out of National Parks — NPWS circulated announcements to these groups NOT to support the wildlife, and then ironically just as the world started donating millions to the rescue of wildlife, a different announcement was released praising all for their efforts and encouraging them to continue.

We have seen small standing pockets of koala habitat threatened by the construction of housing estates and the incessant need to continue to log non-fire-affected old growth forests, the attempted total eradication of a local population of Southern-hairy-nosed Wombats, Greater Glider habitat under threat by the expansion of housing estates and the list goes on.

To top that off the South Australian Government announced changes to their 'wild dog baiting' policy making it mandatory for ALL owners of properties involved in the Produce & Agriculture Industry to bait and eradicate all 'wild dog' populations on their properties. This was extended to both sides of the dingo fence — effectively making South Australia a dingo-free zone. The mandatory requirement now means a property owner who did not object to dingoes roaming their

property must by law eradicate them! Anyone with half an understanding of dingoes knows the dingo and 'wild dogs' are two very different species. It is time Australia re-defined the term 'wild dog'. We are about to repeat history — does anyone remember the Thylacine?

Don't misunderstand my statements or my position. I am very much pro-removal of ALL feral/pest species. What I am against is the senseless manner in which certain programs go about achieving that. In this day of technology, habitat destruction and social-awareness of our wildlife extinction rates surely it is time for all of us to sit down together and re-examine how we achieve the best outcomes for everyone — but in ways that put our animals first!

Following public outcry the SA Govt announced the issue with the Southern Hairy-nosed Wombats would now be resolved by destroying some of the troublesome warrens with the relocation of those particular wombats along with building a wombat-proof fence to prevent access to the farmers property, this despite previously issuing a permit to destroy all 200+ wombats supposedly existing on the property.

Wins in Qld saw the Defence Department give up on a proposal to expand it's housing into a koala population.

Pressure on Shoalhaven Local Council saw a win (just—votes were 7-6) to hold off on approval for a housing estate that would destroy Greater Glider habitat. The Council, NSW Dept of Planning & the housing builder/owner all agreeing to sit down and negotiate a better plan. Guess we'll see how that goes!



Bird Update

By Sam Davis

COVID-19 UPDATE

To our knowledge all in-person club events and meetings have been cancelled. Our recommendation to do so up until 14/6/2020 remains in place -

<https://www.ccbfa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/ccbfa-corona-recommendation.pdf>

At this time, it is unclear whether government advice will require restrictions to be extended. We will notify clubs immediately should the situation change. Thanks to all clubs for their prompt response to this situation. Our club network is vital to the social well-being of many of our members, so continuing communication via newsletters and internet technologies is encouraged. It is terrific to see a range of clubs now running or intending to run meetings and other events over the internet using video conferencing and other technologies.

Our May 6th 2020 meeting has been cancelled. We will run our July 1st CCBFA meeting online using Zoom. Meeting details including a link to the meeting will be emailed to all clubs for use by their CCBFA delegate. An internet enabled computer with camera/microphone is best, however a smart phone works almost as well.

VICTORIAN ANIMAL WELFARE LEGISLATION REVIEW

On 20/4/2020 I met via video conference with senior policy staff to discuss general directions for the Victorian review of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986 (POCTAA). Representatives from the Budgerigar Council of Victoria (BCV) also attended. I did not receive a response to my 26/2/2020 email to the VAC and ASA, therefore prior to the 20/4/2020 meeting I rang VAC President Mark Godwill. The VAC was unaware of the meeting but through their President, expressed a desire to remain informed of any outcomes.

My synopsis of the 20/4/2020 meeting approved by government policy staff is on the CCBFA website - <https://www.ccbfa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Vic-Animal-Welfare-200420-Meeting-Synopsis.pdf>

REVIEW OF BIRD SALE CODE OF PRACTICE

We will postpone review of the NSW bird sale code until our July 1st 2020 meeting, which will likely be a video conference. Given interest in the matter from many affiliates in rural areas, regardless of COVID-19 restrictions, a video conference is likely the best way to progress the consultation. In the interim, thoughts and input welcomed from all clubs. Thanks to those who have already commented.

A few points on this matter:

- There is NO way the ABA should submit anything to the NSW DPI whatsoever. I have made this clear to the ABA and I believe they agree.
- The ABA commenced reviewing the code some years ago and have completed some preliminary work. I spoke with ABA president Craig Jeffrey at the Orange Bird Sale who offered to send CCBFA the ABA draft. This has not been received; it is CCBFA intention for this draft to inform the process.

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- The current code was formulated by the ABA with CCBFA input and final ratification. The only recent 2019 change was the clause regarding insurance which CCBFA altered in its version dated 2019 and recently distributed to all clubs as part of this review process. The current version is on our website:

<https://www.ccbfa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/NSW-Bird-Sale-CODE-OFPRACTICE-CCBFA-2019.pdf>

- CCBFA will most certainly be continuing to consult all clubs as the bird sale code is reviewed including the ABA. There will likely be a number of drafts and redrafts required to reach consensus with a final version unlikely until towards the end of 2020 hoping for implementation in 2021.



Welfare Reviews across the nation

By Michael Donnelly

I would like to encourage everyone to promote Animal Care Australia among your pet-owner friends and groups. We are now being recognised by Government in multiple States and at a federal level.

We need numbers to ensure they see us as a key stakeholder especially given the animal welfare laws in NSW, Vic, and WA are currently commencing to be reviewed.

The last time NSW tried to review and implement changes we were all dealing with their attempt to make every pet owner equivalent to a pet shop. Ironically that attempt is what led to the founding of Animal Care Australia.

Now ACA is seen as a key stakeholder in NSW (see attached—taken from the NSW Animal Welfare Reform Review) so we need your help, your voice, and your support to keep that going.

Membership Renewal reminders have been emailed to everyone. If you joined us this year then your membership will carry through to 2021.

You can renew or join us via the website. For organisations and non-credit card users, you can also download a membership form and send it to us with your direct deposit reference or an attached cheque.

<https://www.animalcareaustralia.org.au/join/>

Development of this issues paper

This issues paper was developed by the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) following:

1. **A review of the NSW animal welfare framework** – DPI has a detailed understanding of the existing animal welfare framework developed over many years of administering NSW's animal welfare laws and policy.
2. **Comparison to other frameworks** – A comparison was undertaken across equivalent animal welfare laws around Australia and internationally, and with modern legislative frameworks like NSW's *Biosecurity Act 2015*.
3. **Consideration of modern research and science** – There was an examination of technical issues, drawing on DPI's extensive capability in animal welfare research and development and understanding of modern primary industries practices.
4. **Stakeholder feedback** – This paper considers issues raised with DPI and the Minister by a wide range of stakeholders over recent years. We also examined compliance and enforcement data and outcomes in collaboration with our animal welfare enforcement agencies. Finally, the issues identified in this paper were tested with a selection of key stakeholders (see Box 1).

- | | |
|--|--|
| • RSPCA NSW | • Animal Care Australia |
| • Animal Welfare League NSW | • Australian Veterinary Association |
| • NSW Police | • DOGS NSW |
| • Greyhound Welfare Integrity Commission | • NSW Veterinary Practices Board |
| • Animal Research Review Panel | • Exhibited Animals Advisory Committee |

Covid-19 & the outcome for new furry family members

By Kylie Gilbert

With the Forced isolation due to the Covid-19 pandemic came an increase in puppy sales and adoptions, while to the naked eye this may seem like a lovely thing to do when we are cooped up at home for an extended period of time, but to people in the know this is a real concern.

We know that the majority of dogs that end up in shelters find themselves there with some sort of behavioural problem of course there are those that find themselves there for no fault of their own due to a family falling on hard times, or other circumstance but here I am talking about the majority. The concern for these animals comes from the idea that while they have been adopted and people are home to care for them what happens when these people return to work?

Take for example a dog with anxiety, it is adopted, spends 8 weeks+ with its new family who are stuck at home in isolation only leaving occasionally for essential things and then one day this all stops and they need to return to work, this dog then goes not only back into the anxiety that it came with but chances are increased anxiety, it goes on a spree of destroying things or barking the



neighbourhood down and is returned to the shelter. While people may say that at least it experienced some time in a home environment are we really doing right by the animals?

What has been done to assist these new owners to ensure they are equipped with the tools to properly introduce these animals to their new environments both now and post Covid? What support is available for these families? From what I have seen the answer to this question is nothing, and this is a scary thought, it is great that shelters and pounds are lacking numbers but what is the real cost of this?

This is not a new problem this is just one that has been highlighted by the pandemic. I believe there should be more programs and training for these new families to set them up to succeed, I understand there are lots of dog trainers out there that can help, but these services should be offered at the time of adoption. There should be courses that people looking to adopt, so that they have the tools needed before their new family member arrives so they know what to possibly expect and how to tackle these things, and a list of people they can turn to in the early days to get the problems under control. We need a welfare system set up to ensure that there are more success stories.

Time will tell and for the animals sakes I hope I am wrong.



Looking after reptiles in cooler months

By Joanne Payne

Brrrrr. Its certainly gotten chilly during the past few weeks and as such, many people are asking how they look after their reptiles during this time. Do we let them sleep the winter away? Or increase the heat to try and keep them feeding?

There are several factors to consider like the age and health of your reptile. For most reptiles over a year old, they will slow down come the cooler months and many lizard species will go into a type of hibernation. This means that they will effectively go to sleep until the days start to warm up again. You can adjust the time that your lights come on and off to mimic the natural hours. Some even turn the heat back to the low 20s and this is fine for an animal that is not under a year old and is of appropriate size and is healthy.

Do not feed during this time if your animal has slowed down a lot as they will not be able to digest their food effectively. But if you have a young reptile or its maybe not in the best health, you can continue to heat the same as you would during the summer months.

You may find that the ambient temperatures in your home will mean that your animal will go to sleep even if you haven't dropped your temps or shortened your hours of heating, This can be combatted by upping your heating adequately



by increasing temperatures on your thermostats or increasing the wattage of your globes.

Please keep an eye on your reptiles during this time. Cooler weather can mean that problems with your reptile will not be noticed as fast. Make sure that their heating is working appropriately and that they always have access to fresh water even if they are sleeping. Respiratory Issues (RI) are a problem commonly encountered during this time from inadequate heating. If you hear your animal wheezing or they are opening their mouth a lot, this can be a sign of a respiratory issue and needs vet attention immediately. If you suspect an RI and can't see a vet immediately, increase the heat by a few degrees until you can.

In the meantime, this cooler weather can be an opportunity to do those little jobs that you have been putting off, like changing UV globes and giving everything a good clean. Before you know it, your little pet will be back to their active little selves.





General Meetings

Held bi-monthly

Our next General Meeting will be held on July 13th via Zoom.

Notification and link will be posted on our FB Page closer to the meeting.

General Enquiries:

aca@animalcareaustralia.org.au



Watch out for our next issue in September 2020.

Want to read previous 2019 issues?

[Back dated Issues](#)

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