



Animal Care Australia

The Animal Care Expert

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



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March 2021. Volume 3. Issue 1.

ISSN 2625-0818



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President's Report

By Michael Donnelly

2021 to be a busy year.

Since we last chatted so much has already occurred kicking 2021 off with a bang!

In NSW the announcement of a task force to shut down puppy factories has certainly not set out to accomplish that task, instead causing issues within the dog breeding community. ACA has identified the definition of an animal trade is leaving the door or more correctly the gate open for the RSPCA NSW to incorrectly label all dog and cat breeders as being animal businesses. If that isn't enough, this ambiguity could allow the RSPCA to enter any property without permission, and due to the fact the definition appears in POCTAA it is relevant to ALL animal/pet breeders — not just dogs and cats. Add to that the fact the Code of Practice is clearly written for commercial breeding establishments and we have ourselves some major changes to fight for in NSW. You can read more on page 7.

Once we have managed to get an outcome in NSW it may be necessary to review the other states and territories legislation to ensure the same does not apply.

The coming months are going to keep our Committee extremely busy. Reviews of animal welfare acts are underway in NSW and Victoria with Queensland set to follow as soon as 'care-taker mode' is lifted following their recent State Election, along with Western Australia resuming after their upcoming State Election. ACA has also been informed that reviews are likely to commence in South Australia and Tasmania towards the end of this year.

If the Labor Government is re-elected in WA, they will re-introduce their 'Stop Puppy Farms' legislation, which again ACA will oppose unless it is drastically

reformed to remove restrictions on the numbers of breeding bitches/queens someone can keep and focusses on enhancing education to promote responsible breeding & buying.

Local Councils in Victoria are taking advantage of re-defined definitions in the Planning Laws to limit pet keeping. This will require substantial lobbying to have the legislation corrected and returned to its earlier position. One Council in particular using this to instruct its residents to euthanise all animals that exceed their desired numbers — an absolutely barbaric statement! One which cannot be allowed to be successful.

The best news for ACA by the end of 2020 was to receive written confirmations from the last two states and territories confirming their departments now recognised ACA as a key stakeholder. All of Australia now fully recognises us!

I would like to welcome all of our new members & supporters, and invite you to join one of our Animal Advisory Groups (or more than one if you keep multiple species).

Lots to read in this issue.




Animal Care Australia welcomes your input and to assist us we have established Animal Advisory Groups for each species that is represented on Committee. To

join send an email to:

aca@animalcare.org.au with:

- The name of the representative of your organisation who will participate, or if you are an individual – your name
- The URL of that person's Facebook profile
- The Species Group/s that you wish to join (bird, cat, dog, small mammal, reptile, farm, horse, exhibited animal, native mammal, etc)



ACA Submissions, Correspondence & Meeting Reports.



ACA submits to NSW Inquiry into the Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission

5th December 2020 — ACA noted not all Terms of Reference are welfare related and accordingly we only responded with the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1:

A greater emphasis on the rehabilitation and re-training of greyhounds for the purpose of re-homing is vital.

Recommendation 2:

Improvements to the training of assessors, greyhound owners and the training program are necessary to remove outdated and inappropriate methods.

Recommendation 3:

The Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission (GWIC) and Greyhound Racing NSW (GRNSW) must improve on the communication within and between their organisations.

Recommendation 4:

Improvements to animal welfare standards must have greater key stakeholder consultation and involvement.

To read our submission click on the pdf icon:



ACA submits to the Animal Welfare Act for Victoria—Directions Paper 2020

In relation to the survey, ACA found many of the questions and

proposed options to be ambiguous and requiring further detail or explanation. To this effect, we opted to respond in writing to ensure our views are not lost within the statistical reporting process of a survey in doing so providing inaccurate feedback. A highlight of some of the primary recommendations are:

- ACA acknowledges sentience and proposes it is included as Option 3 - in the Definition of animals.
- ACA supports introducing a requirement to provide a minimum standard of care for animals in a new animal welfare Act
- ACA partly supports escalating offence categories.
- ACA supports a single regulatory framework for performing controlled procedures conceptually however yet again ACA finds the proposals to be lacking of definition and detail.
- ACA supports a risk-based framework.
- ACA supports the need for clear alternatives for managing seized animals.

To read our submission click on the pdf icon:



ACA meets with the NSW Office of Local Government

17th December 2020 — ACA met several staff from the Office of Local Government including the Minister's Deputy Chief of Staff and Director of Policy to discuss ongoing issues the Companion Animals Pet Registry.

ACA was pleased to learn that an entirely

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new Registry is being designed. The new Registry will remove the burden of Local Council delays as well as veterinary record updates by allowing breeders to update their own records and pay fees online via a Services NSW log-in. In addition a new form of breeders verification with existing breeding associations will be introduced with the aim of stopping the current ability to receive and create false breeder identification numbers.



ACA meets with RSPCA Victoria's CEO and their Policy & Advocacy Manager.

17th December 2020 — ACA met Liz Walker (CEO) and Mhairi Roberts from RSPCA Victoria to discuss Victoria's ongoing Animal Welfare Act review as well as the recently announced proposal by Andy Meddick (AJP) to have animals from shelters handed out to rescue & re-homing organisations. ACA expressed our concern with this, as shelters & rescues in Victoria are currently non-regulated and run by volunteers who may have minimal to no training or experience in animal behaviour.

We have agreed to meet regularly (quarterly) throughout 2021 to discuss any issues that arise from the animal welfare review in Vic, and Liz also extended the invitation to contact her at any time if there are other issues of concern.



ACA continues to pursue concerns with RSPCA NSW dog auditing.

24th January 2021 — Following a huge increase in the number of reports of dog

breeders being audited and issued with 'Notices to comply' ACA re-commenced voicing our concerns over the validity of the audits especially given legal advice received confirming the Code of Practice does not apply to all breeders.



ACA corresponds again with NSW Agriculture Minister over ongoing dog audits.

4th February 2021 — ACA again contacted the Ministers Office to highlight content of further legal advice relating to the ambiguity of the legislation and use of the breeding code of practice as the basis for compliance audits.

For a copy of this communication click on the pdf icon:



ACA meets with Political Parties and Senior Bureaucrats to resolve definition of an animal trade.

February 2021 — ACA again contacted the Chief Animal Welfare Officer (DPI) and CEO RSPCA NSW to highlight content of further legal advice relating to the ambiguity of the legislation and use of the breeding code of practice as the basis for compliance audits.

ACA met with Shooters Fishers & Farmers Party members of both Houses to discuss concerns with the RSPCA's handling of dog audits and additionally to draft an amendment to the Minister for Agriculture's POCTAA Penalties & Infringements Amendment which would re-define the definition of an animal-trade.

On that same day ACA held telephone discussions with Ministers from the Labor

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Party (Shadow Ministry) seeking and obtaining their support for the proposed amendment.

26th February 2021 — ACA President, Vice President and our Legal Counsel, met with NSW Minister for Agriculture's Chief of Staff, Senior Policy Advisor, Chief Animal Welfare Officer, Director Strategic Projects - Animal Welfare Action Plan (DPI) and Deputy General Counsel NSW Legal Counsel to discuss correcting the definition of an animal trade.

This meeting acknowledged concerns with the definition as well as the inconsistencies of RSPCA Inspectorate in performing the Compliance Audits.

ACA was requested to provide additional definitions and explanations of an animal trade for consideration by NSW Legal Counsel and the Minister.

In the meantime ACA was informed by Steve Coleman, CEO RSPCA NSW that audits of smaller breeders would cease until the legal question marks were resolved.

This matter is ongoing.



ACA submits Supplementary Questions to Budget Estimates.

4th March 2021 — Utilising our current relationship with Shooters Fishers & Farmers ACA submitted Supplementary Questions for NSW Environment Minister Matt Kean asking to explain the delay in implementing the Native Wildlife License Review. This was copied to Shadow Minister of Environment & other Labor Ministers.

Responding to a request from Jenny Aitchison NSW Shadow Minister for

Agriculture, ACA submitted Supplementary Questions for NSW Agriculture Minister Adam Marshall asking for confirmation of a new definition of animal trade and other related matters. This was copied to Shooters Fishers & Farmers Party.



Victorian Government Departments continue to avoid responsibility of changed definitions in Planning Laws

15th February 2021 — Pets and Animal Welfare, Animal Welfare Victoria confirmed the matter with Planning Law definitions in Victoria IS NOT a welfare issue and needs to be pursued with the Planning Minister's office. Previous communications with the Planning Minister's Office advised ACA that the issue was an animal welfare concern — and not theirs. So the saga continues. ACA will again contact the Planning Minister and in addition will contact the Victorian Ombudsman's Office for an independent decision.

For view our 2021 Correspondence Register please click on the pdf icon:





By Michael Donnelly.

RSPCA NSW Right to enter for dog breeding audits.

In November 2020 the NSW Minister for Agriculture & Western New South Wales announced a Task Force to investigate and prosecute 'puppy factories'. (<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-10-22/rscpa-taskforce-to-target-puppy-farms-statewide-nsw/12801116>)

Animal Care Australia (ACA) welcomed this announcement, but concerns immediately arose as to how the new Task Force would find the 'puppy factories' or would they simply turn to known and registered breeders?

The Task Force was soon re-named the 'Breeding Compliance Unit' (BCU) and appears to have commenced its role in December 2020.

Communications between ACA and the RSPCA surfaced a frightening reply:

*"...the Code of Practice makes no reference to animal trade, rather in the preface **"designed for everyone involved in the activity of breeding dogs and cats and has been developed to protect the welfare of the animals in their care .. for the purpose of enforcing legislation, there is no difference between a "backyard breeder vs a "business".***

Being able to declare any person breeding dogs (or cats) to be a business allows the RSPCA Inspectorate the capacity to circumnavigate the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act Section 24E – Power to enter Land.

ACA believes this to be an over-reach of power and an echo of circumstances from 2017/2018 (Pet Shop Code saga) when an attempt was made to make all animal/pet owners 'commercial entities' if they bred any animal that they owned. That attempt was overturned by people power and yet here we are again – deja vue!

ACA immediately sought legal advice on the statement made by the RSPCA as well as the legitimacy of claiming the NSW Breeding of Dogs & Cats applied to ALL persons who breed dogs and cats, especially given its 'commercial facility structure'.

The immediate advice received was to respectfully disagree with the RSPCA's statement and that a clearer definition was required between a hobbyist breeder and a commercial breeder.

On the 24th November 2020 ACA met with the Minister's Chief of Staff raising our concerns, and followed up with further communications on the 1st December 2020 providing what we believed to be a simple resolution by redefining the definition of 'animal trade' such that it includes clearly commercial operators only.

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“... the intention and target of the BCU should be on unethical breeders – those with a blatant disregard for the welfare of their dogs.”

ACA repeated our concern with the DPI in writing, and via phone conversations stating the fact the vast majority of the Standards do not and could not possibly apply to a person who simply keeps dogs as a hobby or for the enjoyment of having them as pets.

We also highlighted that the intention and target of the BCU should be on unethical breeders – those with a blatant disregard for the welfare of their dogs.

ACA does not believe ‘best animal welfare’ is achieved issuing compliance notices to those who may not have a fence height that is exactly 1.8m, or a whelping box that is a few centimetres too short, or does not have the vets phone number displayed where an inspector wants it to appear or the most deplorable ‘invasion of privacy’ of having to display their phone number on their front gate/point of entry to their ‘facility’.

ACA has sighted multiple posts and reports that registered breeders in suburbs across NSW have become the focus of the new BCU if they have bred and sold puppies any time in the last 3 years.

This is in stark contrast and contradictory to Mr Marshall’s public announcement that: *“a new RSCPA taskforce to investigate and dismantle illegal dog breeding facilities. The team of investigators will work with the New South Wales Police Force Rural Crime Unit to track down and prosecute the perpetrators.”*

RSPCA NSW is looking for a needle in a haystack of honest pet loving breeders. They are starting at the top of the haystack and working one strand at a time to the bottom instead of simply using a metal detector and going straight after the needles!

The needles are sitting for them in plain sight on social media, in gumtree ads, they have even been investigated and reported previously.

Honest mum and dad family breeders who love their dogs and who have been breeding quality puppies to preserve and better their beloved breed are currently being treated as potential criminals by uniformed state appointed officers. We cannot allow state appointed officers, such as RSPCA NSW Inspectors to continue entering people’s castles without an invitation or evidence of a crime.

Recently, ACA President, Vice President and our Legal Counsel, met with NSW Minister for Agriculture's Chief of Staff & Senior Policy Advisor, Chief Animal Welfare Officer, Director Strategic Projects - Animal Welfare Action Plan (DPI) and Deputy General Counsel NSW Legal Counsel to discuss correcting the definition of an animal trade.

This meeting acknowledged concerns with the definition as well as the inconsistencies of RSPCA Inspectorate in performing the Compliance Audits. ACA was requested to provide additional definitions and explanations of an animal trade for consideration by NSW Legal Counsel and the Minister.





By Sue Kowalczyk

The Dangers of Using Wipes Containing BENZALKONIUM

What is Benzalkonium Chloride? It is an organic Salt used in cleaning agents, classified as a quaternary ammonium cationic detergent. It can be used as an antiseptic and preservative in personal care, Healthcare, household, pharmaceutical and industrial products.

Please take this as a warning to anybody who may use these wipes and has cats and other pets. The Main active ingredient is Benzalkonium Chloride and the can be very toxic to cats and does include other pets. Cats are most often the unlucky ones. The main reason for this is because of them walking on the surface that was cleaned with this ingredient and then, going on to groom themselves. This can result in high concentrations of the chemicals in the mouth.

Some symptoms of toxicity are as follows.

- ⇒ **DROOLING**
- ⇒ **RED INFLAMED TOUGUE AND A PAINFUL MOUTH**
- ⇒ **HIGH BODY TEMPERATURE**
- ⇒ **REDUCED APPETITE AND OR DRINKING**
- ⇒ **REDNESS AND IRRITATION OF THE SKIN**
- ⇒ **BREATHING DIFFICULTIES AND COUGHING**

It is always a good idea before cleaning any area your pet may, come into contact with, is to please read the active ingredients and ensure that it is not harmful to your pet.

If you notice your cat acting out of sorts and clearly not themselves and you have used cleaning products recently please ring your vet ASAP as they will require treatment right away to ensure a speedy recovery.

We highly recommend to not use these disinfectant wipes if you have pets But, if you do please ensure its on places that are out of reach to

your animals.

Some of the wipes that containing this ingredient it is wise to check all before use.

- ⇒ **Strike Disinfectant wipes lemon (Woolworths)**
- ⇒ **Pine o clean wipes (Woolworths)**
- ⇒ **Dettol wipes**

Article adapted from A Safe place for Meow Inc



By Rachel Sydenham

Perceptions of a puppy farm.

For those who have not been following recent events in animal welfare, then I suggest you do as there is inevitably going to be changes in legislation to the keeping and breeding of animals as a whole, and these changes will not be exclusive to Companions Animals, (aka cats & dogs).

Long story short; Adam Marshall, (NSW Minister of Agriculture), tasked the RSPCA Inspectorate to form a Puppy Farm Task Force. The goal of this task force was to weed out illegal intensive puppy farm operations where animals are back to back bred throughout their whole productive life, in squalor conditions and denied adequate housing, nutrition, veterinary care, suffering neglect and abuse. This was meant to be about animal welfare.

The goal of this task force was to weed out illegal intensive puppy farm operations where animals are back to back bred throughout their whole productive life, in squalor conditions and denied adequate housing, nutrition, veterinary care, suffering neglect and abuse. This was meant to be about animal welfare.

The RSPCA appeared eager to recruit the new inspectors and then re-named the task force to the Breeding Compliance Unit, (BCU). Since then the BCU has been quick to begin focusing on registered hobbyist dog breeders and auditing these small scale hobbyists under a commercial compliance check list. The check list is made up of the mandatory Standards of an outdated and due to be reviewed Companion Animals Breeding Code of Practice. As this is part of POCTAA any non-compliance can result in the BCU issuing fines of \$500 for each non-compliance. Many of the Standards are trivial and not applicable to most breeders, such as not having 1.8metre fence heights, fire extinguishers in every corner, dogs sleeping in the house and other non-welfare related requirements - dare I say totally ridiculous and not acceptable.

These “audits” were conducted unannounced and quite stressful for members of the dog breeding community. This is not only causing hobby breeders to adjust their practices into commercial style breeding facilities, but, also has them focusing on defining themselves from commercial breeders by insisting that the difference is in the numbers of animals kept and bred and produced. This is where the situation can easily be turned into the ‘Numbers Game’ and then it is no longer about welfare!

Why?

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ethical responsible breeding practices and ensure the health and wellbeing of their animals that they regard as very much loved family members. Call me crazy but if something is illegal, then they are not going to put themselves on the radar by micro chipping, registering and providing any sort of veterinary care and responsibility that could leave a paper trail that potentially leads back to them. Maybe I am crazy, or maybe going to the effort of following up on serious leads, investigating, finding and disbanding illegal puppy farms is all in the 'Too Hard Basket' and isn't cost effective enough? Maybe the RSPCA has lost perspective and their way to understanding what Animal Welfare actually is because they are so caught up in their own egos, the good old Power Trip!

Firstly, an illegal puppy farm, a commercial breeder and a hobby breeder are three different things, and I have been seeing a very slippery slope when it comes to what people perceive as an "Illegal Puppy Farm" and it is a slope that could see hobby breeders being caught up in severe number restrictions of their animals and/or changes in Local Government's Keeping Animals Policies where they may have to choose to abandon their hobby for good! Vendettas do not come cheaply nor without consequences and while the hobbyist dog breeding community view commercial breeders unfavourably, it will do no favours to label them as Illegal Puppy Farms, as that in itself will change the whole dynamics of what a puppy farm is viewed/interpreted as.

The elephant in the room of this topic, however, is the RSPCA! They were tasked to seek out 'Illegal Puppy Farms', under the guise of Breeder Compliance Audits, they searched registers and data from social media to focus on small scale hobby breeders, those who do the right thing by registering their animals, who implement

Even while giving evidence during Budget Estimates (Thursday 25th February 2020) Minister Adam Marshall admitted that the action the RSPCA's BCU has taken was not the intended direction, and that the focus was indeed to be on illegal Puppy Farm operations and not small hobbyist breeders

This leads me to the next point of lunacy that has been making the social media rounds. Ms Emma Hurst of the Animal Justice Party, has been declaring that Puppy Farms are legal in NSW.

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No, they are not legal, if we are to go by the definition of a puppy farm being where animals are intensively bred in squalor conditions, where neglect and abuse is writhe and adequate nutrition, housing and veterinary treatment is denied - all of which are indeed very ILLEGAL in NSW under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, and the very reason why Minister Adam Marshall tasked the RSPCA as The Puppy Farm Task Force. It would seem that Ms Hurst is out of touch with NSW Prevention of Animal Cruelty legislations or perhaps she has a more sinister agenda up her sleeve that could potentially label any breeder as a 'farm'. After all, the Animal Rights Extremist agenda is to stop humans from being involved in the keeping and breeding of animals first and foremost. Ms Hurst often brushes off the opportunity to define what a puppy farm is when asked, or perhaps she does not know how to answer that?



One last thing to touch on!

Animal legislation in Victoria is NOT the direction that NSW wants to go! Victoria is in a sad state of affairs right now when it comes to keeping and breeding of any animal, and it is scary to see how far Animal Rights Extremists have infiltrated the Victorian and Local Governments and the damage they have caused while blindsiding the naïve with their lies. If you love and care for animals, any animal, then you must keep informed, and the best way to keep informed is by joining and supporting Animal Care Australia!



By Joanne Payne

Let's Talk Brumation

With Autumn comes the cooler nights, followed by the cooler, shorter days. It is a time of year that can bring dread and fear into every keeper's life. So many questions that need answering. Do I have to brumate my reptile? Is it safe to brumate my reptile? Are they old enough? And the all-important question, how do I brumate my reptile?

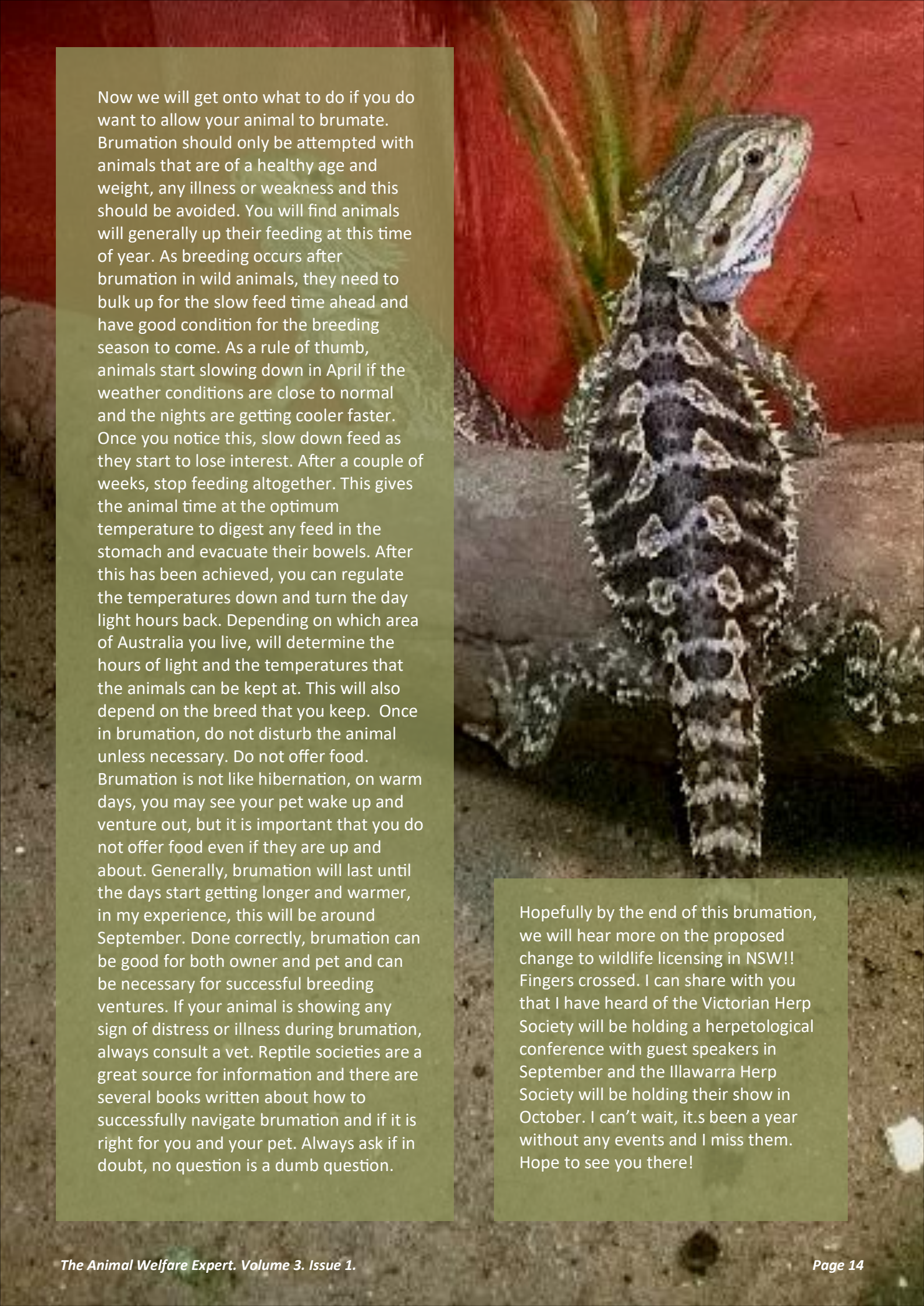
I will try to cover a few scenarios here.

Do you have to brumate your reptile? Well, that is completely up to you. Many keepers have kept both snakes and lizards "awake" during winter with no ill effects to their pet. What is important is to recognise that you will have to adjust your enclosures to ensure that they are kept at the correct temperature as the surrounding environment will contribute to lower temperatures in your enclosures.

This is a good time of the year to also change your UVB globes to ensure that your reptile is receiving the correct UVB levels as globes deteriorate over time.

The recommended time to change globes is around the 6-to-9-month mark. As the days get cooler, check your basking spot temperatures and adjust as needed to maintain correct temps. You may find you will need to up your wattage on globes. You can also cover the top of mesh tanks to promote heat retention. Even with maintaining hotspot temperatures, you may still find that your reptile will slow down and may go into brumation. This should generally be avoided for the first year of life or if the animal has not maintained a good weight through the summer feeding months.

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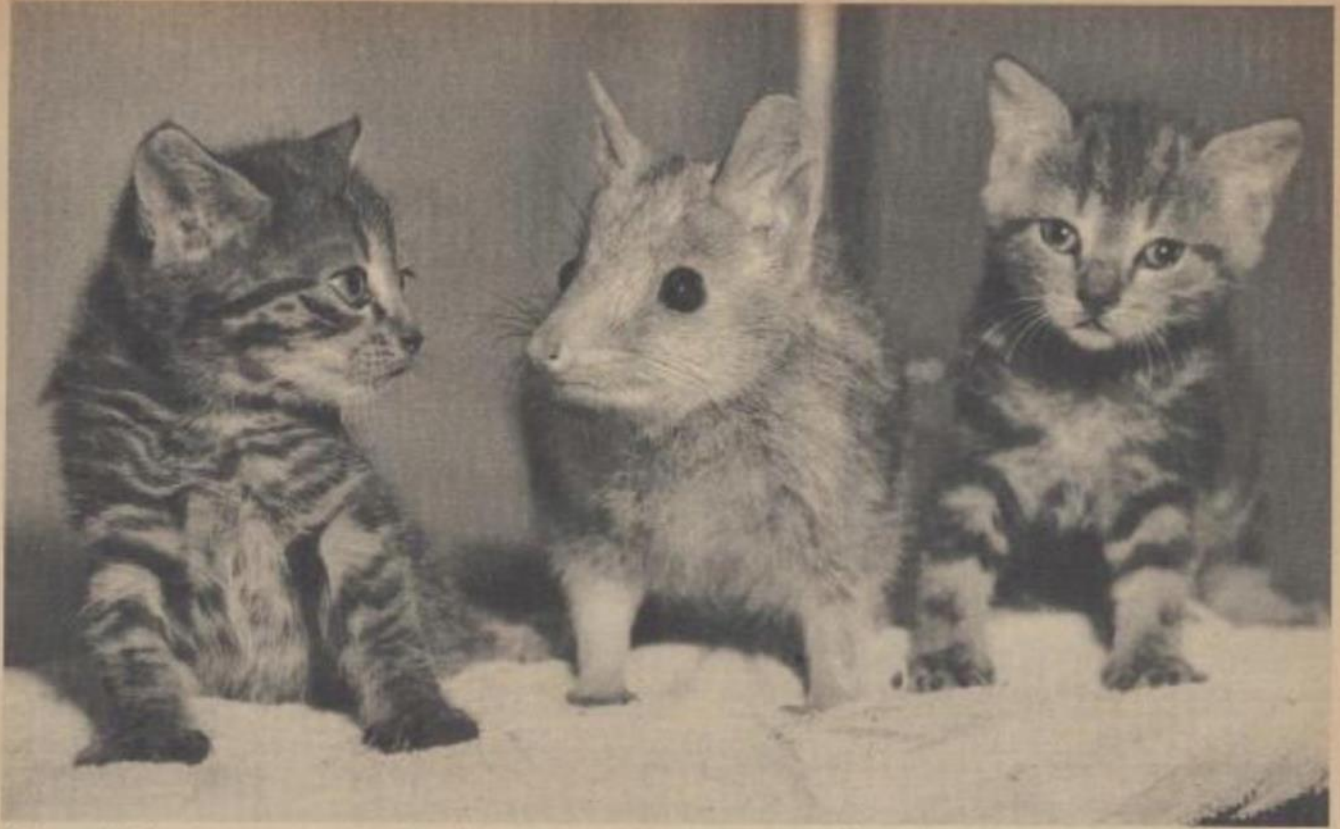
Now we will get onto what to do if you do want to allow your animal to brumate. Brumation should only be attempted with animals that are of a healthy age and weight, any illness or weakness and this should be avoided. You will find animals will generally up their feeding at this time of year. As breeding occurs after brumation in wild animals, they need to bulk up for the slow feed time ahead and have good condition for the breeding season to come. As a rule of thumb, animals start slowing down in April if the weather conditions are close to normal and the nights are getting cooler faster. Once you notice this, slow down feed as they start to lose interest. After a couple of weeks, stop feeding altogether. This gives the animal time at the optimum temperature to digest any feed in the stomach and evacuate their bowels. After this has been achieved, you can regulate the temperatures down and turn the day light hours back. Depending on which area of Australia you live, will determine the hours of light and the temperatures that the animals can be kept at. This will also depend on the breed that you keep. Once in brumation, do not disturb the animal unless necessary. Do not offer food. Brumation is not like hibernation, on warm days, you may see your pet wake up and venture out, but it is important that you do not offer food even if they are up and about. Generally, brumation will last until the days start getting longer and warmer, in my experience, this will be around September. Done correctly, brumation can be good for both owner and pet and can be necessary for successful breeding ventures. If your animal is showing any sign of distress or illness during brumation, always consult a vet. Reptile societies are a great source for information and there are several books written about how to successfully navigate brumation and if it is right for you and your pet. Always ask if in doubt, no question is a dumb question.

Hopefully by the end of this brumation, we will hear more on the proposed change to wildlife licensing in NSW!! Fingers crossed. I can share with you that I have heard of the Victorian Herp Society will be holding a herpetological conference with guest speakers in September and the Illawarra Herp Society will be holding their show in October. I can't wait, it's been a year without any events and I miss them. Hope to see you there!



By Michael Donnelly

Native mammals kept as pets for decades — so why were they stopped in NSW?



Nine-month-old native cat poses with ordinary kittens. Species grows to average over-all length of 2ft 6in. This one is only 1ft 5in—so far.

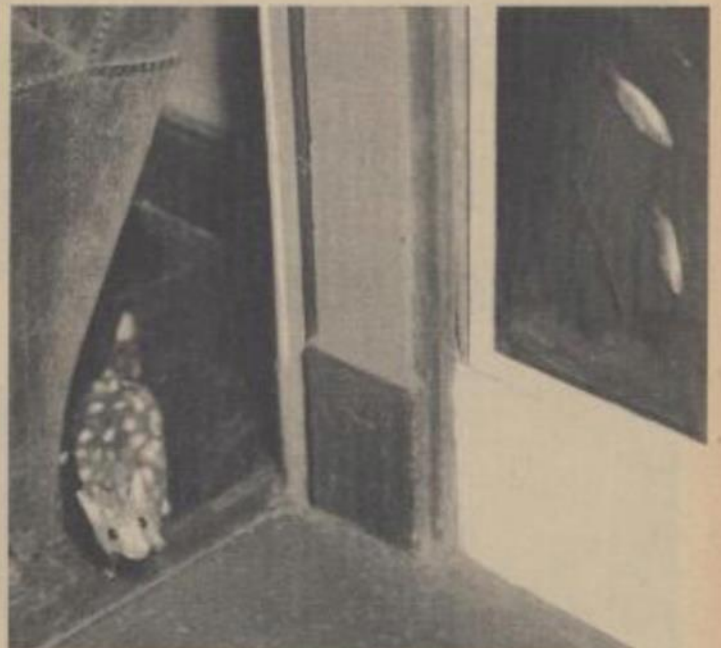
Pet native cat

START turn of the miniature zoo-aquarium owned by Robert McCain, 18, of Palmer Street, East Sydney, and his brothers—John, 13, and Bruce, 8—is a pet Australian native cat. Rescued when apparently de-

serted by its mother and in danger of drowning in a discarded barrel at Picton, NSW, the tiny, spotted marsupial with carnivorous habits has settled down happily, if somewhat shyly, with the other pets.



NATIVE CAT (restrained by Bob McCain) is curious about his diamond-snake zoo-mates—3ft Monte (held by Bruce, in front) and 6ft Carlo (tangled up with John). All are at times given run of house.



A KHELEH in the wild state, native cat proved camera-shy, hid behind chair, but sneaked out to have a peek at fish which share his home. "Cat" looks more like weasel, is smaller cousin of Australian tiger cat—another marsupial.

FDE—Page 76—January 16, 1951

This is from a 1954 Pix magazine, about a Sydney boy who had a pet eastern quoll, "rescued when apparently deserted by its mother and in danger of drowning in a discarded barrel at Picton, NSW."

It is likely to have been one of the last of its kind in the state before the species' apparent extinction on the mainland a few years later.

Ethical responsible ownership is a way of preserving native mammals that are disappearing at a faster rate than protected reserves and zoos can breed them.

Information and scientific-based evidence presented by The Mammal Society of NSW at the last native wildlife licensing review in NSW that showed how successful native mammal keeping is in Victoria and South Australia was totally disregarded. The proposal for a responsible mammal licensing structure, supported by a Code of Practice for the breeding and keeping of native mammals was met with 'screams and literal crying' from representatives of WIRES. Unlike the rest of the licensing review, which has been delayed, this proposition has been shelved until further public consultation can be carried out.

Ironically, WIRES and the Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC) have joined forces to help save threatened Australian wildlife in response to the tragic loss of wildlife and biodiversity resulting from the catastrophic fires over Black Summer 2020. WIRES is contributing more than \$1.6 million to AWC's bushfire recovery projects. The former AWC Chief Executive is now the Deputy Secretary NPWS — the same



GUESS WHAT the McCain boys called their pet! Yes, you're right! Spot is nocturnal in habit, has the curiosity of a possum—and claws! There have been some casualties.



HUNGER didn't get Spot in this spot. Her favorite dishes are day-old chicks (dead), meat, bread-and-butter with sugar, sweetened rice.



SPOT can move like a flash, so bored bunny has little chance of escape when she wants to play. Native cats in same litter may vary in color from greyish-brown to black.

PIX—Page 37—January 16, 1954

END

person who is delaying the implementation of the native wildlife licensing review and who will ultimately decide if the public consultation will occur.



By Kylie Gilbert

Animal Care and Breeding — 'The Victorian Problem'

With so many changes Australia wide with the keeping and breeding of domestic animals it can be a daunting task to keep up. The consultation that takes place when changes are being proposed is also one of those things that is done in a way that ticks a box but the stakeholder's responses are not always considered and the governments will make the changes the way they want. We know that Australia is fast becoming an Animal Rights Country but Victoria is certainly leading the race in AR agendas at this point. Victorian breeders had to fight the proposals put forward in the Domestic Animals Acts (DAA) Amendments, which brought about a Parliamentary Inquiry which concluded that most of the changes were unnecessary and would not in the end make any difference from a welfare point of view, and instead would send these people underground. We saw the inclusion of the Pet Exchange register where

breeders and sellers of dogs and cats are to be registered before selling their puppies or re-homing older dogs, but it is fast becoming apparent that the only ones registered are the breeders and shelters that were already reporting, the ones already visible to the government, while the ones they set out to 'target' continue doing everything as they were. To make the situation even more complicated the government decided they were going to re-define their land use terms, when the consultation paper was released around animals it was based around pigs no mention of domestic animals. The simple explanation of what we are now faced with is that if you are breeder that owns more than 2 'animals' you must apply for a planning permit for a change of land use, but this is capped at 5 'animals' on a residential property. Previously it was stated as 5 dogs, so if you, for example own a house and have 5 dogs and 2 cats you are above your 'animal' numbers.

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“... the only ones registered are the breeders and shelters that were already reporting, the ones already visible to the government, while the ones they set out to ‘target’ continue doing everything as they were.”



To make matters worse the definitions also mention birds as a domestic animal. The issues come firstly for those who had excess permits before the changes that allowed them to own 5 dogs + other animals (for example). The other confusing point is that if you are not breeding you can own 5 animals without a planning permit but once you are breeding the magic number is 2.

The requirements for a change of land use do not appear any different to the requirements under an excess animal permit except for the \$3000 price tag and the need to include the Planning department not just the Animal Management department of a council. Over the last few months, we have been informed of councils that have made suggestions to breeders that they euthanise old animals to bring their numbers down to 2, that they sell their loved dogs and have also been informed that they are not to offer their dogs for stud service or face fines. How are 2 animals enough to maintain genetic diversity? How is it that we can change things without any real consultation? How come breeders are seen as the bad people in this story? The interesting thing is that while writing this article I was researching so that I could refer to appropriate amendments of the definitions and for the changing of ‘production animals’ to include companion animals, but there is no mention of these changes in the government’s own amendments listing. So I have to ask, where has the consultation taken place for these changes?

These draconian laws are going to see a decrease in animal welfare as breeders are forced to either walk away from their dogs or face losing them in the long run.

Animal Care Australia sent correspondence to the Victorian Planning Minister in 2020, receiving the response “that this doesn’t sit with the Minister’s department” and referred us to Animal Welfare Victoria (AWV). Following that referral AWV’s response is quite the opposite – pointing ACA back to the Planning Minister. The changes in the DAA were flagged as a win for breeders with registered organisations as they were told they could own 10 ‘fertile females’ without becoming a Domestic Animal Business but now it looks like the goal posts have changed and again without proper consultation.



By Sam Davis

Bird Species Update

2020 was dominated by COVID-19. This caused pretty much all affiliate club's meeting, shows, sales, conferences, etc. to cease. Many eastern state clubs are only now beginning to run meetings and smaller public events. Larger sales are yet to recommence – those scheduled for later in 2021 still going ahead at this time. It has been a difficult year, however most pleasing to note that most clubs remain strong and viable which sadly has not been the case for numerous people and industries.

Reviews of all animal welfare legislation have begun in earnest in many states during 2020, in particular Victoria and NSW. It is great that we now have in place direct lines and relationships to senior bureaucrats, politicians and also the CEOs of RSPCA Vic and NSW. These connections are direct via CCBFA and also through our strong connection to Animal Care Australia (ACA).

Native animal licensing is another area of focus during 2020. Queensland's new system which in general terms mirrors the proposed NSW system is now in place. In NSW we continue to plug away – the current Executive Director of NSW NPWS, Atticus Fleming is still yet to respond to our proposal made in June 2020, despite his Director, Richard Kingswood and the Minister's Chief of Staff's ongoing assurances. We are confident the ACT will follow the lead of Qld, and NSW, once NSW is sorted. Victoria is just gloving up for a review of their native bird licensing system with only preliminary work undertaken to date. There is still work to be done in WA – they are still yet to implement their promised consultation committee.

There have also been a range of local

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government matters. Gladly many of these have been resolved fairly swiftly and were in general the result of a single overzealous compliance or policy officer.

In 2020 we reviewed the NSW bird sale code and redrafted as a professional document that conforms to modern standards and guidelines. The final drafting and approval to take place during 2021. This document, I'm confident, will go a long way to ensuring the long term self-regulated future for bird sales in NSW – particularly once negotiations during the review of NSW animal welfare legislation get to the codes of practice stage.

Wollondilly council DA for hobbyist animal breeders matter

Overzealous council officers are wishing to interpret the term commercial too broadly such that any animal breeder (including birds) must obtain development approval. Cr Judith Hannan will move that no such overregulation occurs. I am advising and will attend the public forum on March 9 2021 at Wollondilly Council Chambers at Picton from 6.30pm to ensure the matter is swiftly resolved.



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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 IN 2021

7.30 to 8.30pm

MARCH 8th

MAY 10th

JULY 12th

SEPTEMBER 13th

NOVEMBER 8th

Due to ongoing Covid restrictions meetings in 2021 will continue via Zoom until further notice.

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.



Watch out for our next issue in June 2021.

Click to read our [previous issues](#)



Animal Care Australia

