

The Animal Care Expert

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



In this issue:

- ACA appears at another Inquiry
- RHDV2 Vaccine & Survey
- ACA Animal Welfare Policy
- *Plus lots more.*

ACA

General Meetings

Held bi-monthly

Our next General Meeting will be held on September 14th via Zoom.

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

General Enquiries:

aca@animalcareaustralia.org.au



President's Report

By: Michael Donnelly

Animal Care Australia is continuing to grow and be recognised by state & territory governments across the country. In the past three months we have seen a growth in memberships from dog, cat, and reptile organisations as well as circus and pet boarding facilities — this enhances the scope of which ACA now continues to monitor regulation and legislative changes right across Australia.

In the past three months ACA has consulted in reviews on animal welfare policies, and domestic & family violence involving animal abuse. We have opened dialogue with an organisation charged with training the trainers of greyhound re-homing, as well as with Greyhound Racing NSW. Our species representatives have continued to consult with the authorities in relation to a vaccine for RHDV2 for the rabbit community, participate in the advisory meeting for the National Horse Register, and submit to the proposed 'Stop Puppy Farming' legislation in WA.

As the President I attended and provided testimony at the NSW Inquiry into exotic animals in circus and cetaceans in marine parks. I was joined by Jasmine Straga from the Board of Directors for Oceania Federation Mondiale du Cirque and Public Relations Representative of Circus Federation of Australia. You can read more in the article in this edition.

Circus is really struggling during the Covid-19 restrictions — unlike other businesses who are able to operate at a reduced staffing rate etc, the restrictions on numbers within each square metre don't allow for a sufficient audience size to cover the running costs, resulting in all circus still not able to tour. ACA is in ongoing communications with Ministers in all states to achieve some additional support.

ACA will be utilising the provisions provided by NSW Fair Trading to delay our AGM until a suitable online arrangement can be finalised. Our aim is to hold it before the end of year - stay tuned for more info soon.

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

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News Updates



Office of Local Government includes ACA as a key stakeholder

3rd July 2020 — Acknowledgement received from the NSW OLG confirming ACA as a key stakeholder for all future consultations & reviews.

“...I note that the ACA would like to be notified and consulted a key stakeholder in future work undertaken by OLG in relation to companion animals and animal welfare matters. I have therefore ensured that relevant teams have been made aware of the ACA and its terms of reference for that purpose in future.”



ACA meets with NSW DPI for Animal Welfare Policy Review update.

24th July 2020 — Update of review attended by Michael Donnelly & Sam Davis.

Following the review ACA was asked to provide additional feedback on the proposals.

ACA has the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1

The Act should include sections specifying the purpose and general nature of Standards and Guideline documents and that specific Standard & Guidelines are to named in the regulations.

Recommendation 2

The new Act must include a section detailing the importance of Education to achieving the aim and objects of the Act, including a commitment from government to fund education activities. Consider s.6 of the Education Act 1990 for guidance.

http://classic.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/nsw/consol_act/ea1990104/s6.html

Recommendation 3

The word sentence should NOT appear in the Act or subordinate regulations.

Recommendation 4

In terms of enforcement, identifying an animal's psychological state is too subjective. Action on the part of the POI that lead to psychological cruelty should be specified in the Standards and Guidelines (or in the Act or Regs if these actions can be shown to apply to all animals).

To read the full recommendations click on the pdf icon.



ACA Supports plea to state & territory Primary Industries Ministers to provide financial assistance to Circus

16th July 2020 — ACA commences communicating with the Offices of all State & Territory Ministers to assist the circus who are still unable to open to the public despite Covid-19 restrictions being eased in most states.

“... For circus, it is now drawing close to 8 months without being able to perform or tour properly and there are hundreds of workers, performers and animals that desperately need government assistance, with the circus owners quickly running out of savings and assets covering all of these associated costs and this is unsustainable....”

Communications are ongoing.

News Updates Continued over page ...



Animal Justice Party seeks advice from ACA.

31st July — The Hon Emma Hurst MP contacted ACA seeking information regarding potential Boarding Facility Closures during Covid-19 Lockdown.

ACA's response: "ACA currently has not received concerns relating to the closure of, or restriction to boarding facilities in NSW. We understand the NSW Govt follows the Federal Governments lead by declaring anyone employed as essential with the exception of those involved in businesses listed as 'non-essential' (hairdressers, gyms, etc).

ACA has confirmed with NSW DPI that all animal care and animal welfare related tasks and services are essential under POCTAA.

I mentioned your concern today in my meeting with Minister Marshall's Office and they confirmed the same scenario would continue and could not see why there would be a need to change. I have asked for that to be confirmed in writing and will gladly forward that to you upon receipt.

Boarding Facilities in general are privately operated and rely heavily on the existence of tourism and accordingly some restrictions may have impacted on individual operations however, we are not aware of any closures due to Covid-19

restrictions/lock-down. As you have so rightly pointed out these facilities have in fact been operating to ensure front line workers and those who are being treated for Covid-19 and unable to care for their animals have had a place to continue care for their animals.

Should circumstances in the future change and ACA is contacted by people with concerns we will most certainly investigate.

Hope that helps allay your concerns."



ACA submits to Review into Animal Abuse and Domestic and Family Violence

7th August 2020 — ACA opposes statements made by the Animal Justice Party in relation to domestic and family violence laws allowing animals to be offered lawful 'personhood'. It is our assertion this would be detrimental to animal welfare, as it would make it harder for the human victims to leave and legally take their animals with them if they no longer 'own' them. Ownership of animals protects those animals in DFV situations

Click pdf icon for our submission:



ACA National Rabbit Survey

By Rachel Sydenham



Animal Care Australia has recently released a National Rabbit Survey, and we are urging all rabbit groups and pet owners to please complete this survey and share the link with your members and other rabbit enthusiasts.

It is important for all pet rabbit owners and breeders to complete this survey to aid ACA in being able to represent them in federal, state and local government legislations, and to emphasise the importance of domestic rabbits being bred and kept as companion animals.

This survey will also highlight the urgent need for the RHDV2 vaccine to be approved for manufacture and use so that we can protect our pets from the RHDV2 rabbit haemorrhagic virus.

You can access the survey by clicking the survey button.



RHDV2 Vaccine Update

By Rachel Sydenham

Animal Care Australia has been devoted to following up on the development of a RHDV2 vaccine for domestic rabbits after being approached by concerned members of the Rabbit Fancy.

From the moment RHDV2 Rogue virus first appeared on Australian shores it has left a path of death to many wild and domesticated rabbits leaving pet owners and breeders devastated as they helplessly watched their animals suffer through agonising deaths. This sparked an outcry from rabbit owners across the country as they watched in disbelief while other countries obtained a vaccine to protect their rabbits while the Australian government seemingly sat idle and non-responsive to the plight of people urgently seeking a way to protect their pets.

The current Cylap® vaccine is available for protection of RHDV1 and RHDV1- K5, but does not cover the wild RHDV2 strain and this particular virus is far more unforgiving than the other government released strains.

Animal Care Australia has been in constant correspondence with relevant government departments to pursue the development of the RHDV2 vaccine. In March 2019, ACA was informed that research was under way for a Rabbit RHDV multivalent vaccine. With continued persistence, we were able to establish that a vaccine for RHDV2 had in fact passed its clinical studies and was in the hands of the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority, (APVMA). It was still unclear, and departments remained tight lipped as to any information that would secure a pharmaceutical company having any interest in the manufacture of the vaccine.

Early this month, July 2020, ACA was able to establish contact with the owner of a pharmaceutical company who confirmed that they have indeed picked up the application of permit for the RHDV2 rabbit vaccine. The process of approval of a permit for

registration is a long one, so once again there is no timeframe as to when the vaccine may be released. For now it is a waiting game as the permit process moves between government departments.

While this news is positive news for our domestic pet rabbits, the RHDV2 vaccine cannot come soon enough for those of us who cherish our little loved ones and want to see them protected. In the meantime, all recommended precautions for the protection of domestic pet rabbits against RHDV2 Wild strain should be taken to ensure your pets health.

Further information on the protection of pet rabbits from RHDV is available at:

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/other-animals/rabbit-haemorrhagic-disease-virus-rhdv>



Select Committee Inquiry into Circus & Marine Parks

By *Michael Donnelly*

On Thursday 13th August 2020, Michael Donnelly (President) and Jasmine Straga from the Board of Directors for Oceania Federation Mondiale du Cirque and representative of Circus Federation of Australia, appeared as witnesses to provide testimony to the Select Committee Inquiry on Exotic Animals in Circus & Cetaceans in Marine Parks in New South Wales.

In response to the Inquiry Terms of Reference, ACA made the following responses:

- ⇒ ACA finds the Community expectation is being met and to a high standard.
- ⇒ There is no substantiated reason to call into question whether the welfare needs can be met in a circus environment or in a marine park.
- ⇒ ACA SUPPORTS the continuation of breeding of animals as long as those overseeing their care meet the standards as legislated or raise those standards.
- ⇒ ACA OPPOSES the need to phase-out the ongoing care of any animals in circus or marine parks.

In response to the obvious 'alternative agenda' of the Animal Justice Party who negotiated to have this Inquiry launched, ACA made the following points to the Inquiry panel:

- ⇒ Questioned the definition of 'exotic' as used within the Inquiry's Terms of Reference—given no such definition exists within the Exhibited Animals Protection Act. (EAPA) The definition used by the Inquiry could include ALL non-native animals & pets.
- ⇒ Questioned the definition of 'Circus'. No such definition exists within the EAPA. The definition used by the Inquiry would include ALL mobile exhibitors, animal shows/expos or other temporary activities where animals were used for entertainment.

ACA asserted focus should not be on **WHERE** or by **WHO** animals are being kept — instead on **HOW** animals are kept.

When questioned by Ms Hurst (AJP) as to why we believed these definitions were being incorrectly used, ACA recited the failed attempt by the Hon Mark Pearson (AJP) to introduce a Bill in 2018 which would have seen both definitions introduced, effectively banning ALL exotic animals in ANY temporary structure, animal show, fair or circus. We asserted the eBrief provided to the panel members had incorrectly utilised those definitions and then questioned the motive of their use.

Ms Straga also submitted the following research documents:

- ◆ Animals in Australian Circus document
- ◆ Eroni's Circus animal welfare brochures
- ◆ 10 good reasons for animals in circus from European Parliament
- ◆ Letter from Princess Stephanie supporting circus with animals and outlining the problem with animals rights
- ◆ Letters from Euro Parliament Tourism & Transport & Euro Parliament's cultural minister supporting their circus with animals Letter from Euro Parliament's Cultural Minister
- ◆ Document showing animal rights extremism against Australian circus isn't factual incl. photos of husbandry etc
- ◆ Document from the UNESCO Intangible heritage meetings, highlighting countries where governments have come forward outside of UNESCO to support the circus and asked for NSW to do the same.

For our full Opening Statement click the pdf icon:



The Language of Purring

By Helen Toovey

The presence of the purr gives a cat owner satisfaction like no other. While researchers are not certain of how the purr is produced but either way it's a behaviour that has multiple purpose.

The purr that owners seek most is the one that shows a cat or kitten is relaxed, happiness and above all trust! Cats are often introduced to purring by their nursing mother. Mothers often purr when their babies are all content, warm and feeding. You can often even start to hear the kittens copying mum and purring too. Adult cats will also often purr while grooming each other, obviously content.

Another type of purr is one that can indicate injury or illness. This purr can often be deeper, raspier and quite loud. It's thought that this purr helps to reduce the cause of the problem as well as helping the cat self-sooth.

So enjoy the soft, continuous, vibrating sound that indicates a positive emotional state that comes from our furry friend



ACA Animal Welfare Policy & Position Statement

Animal Care Australia has finalised and approved our organisations' Animal Welfare Policy & Position Statement.

This provides the Committee with a foundation when responding to legislation reviews, animal rights extremist propaganda and other 'political' matters relating to animal welfare.

The document was drafted by Committee and consulted with the Species Advisory Groups before being approved on Monday 10th August 2020.

This is a living document and will be regularly reviewed and expanded as ACA grows.

As well as highlighting the difference between animal welfare and animal rights, topics within the document cover a range of welfare matters. These include:

- ◇ Pet and Companion Animals
- ◇ Breeding of pets and companion animals
- ◇ Responsible Breeders

- ◇ Commercial Breeding and 'Pet-farming' Establishments
- ◇ Companion Animal 'Shows, Expos and Competitions'
- ◇ Recreational Carriage Driving
- ◇ Equestrian Activities
- ◇ Dog Sporting Events
- ◇ Not for profit organisations tasked with animal welfare law compliance
- ◇ Council Shelters and Pounds
- ◇ Exhibited Animals
- ◇ Zoos and Wildlife Parks
- ◇ Marine Parks
- ◇ Mobile Educators and Petting Zoos
- ◇ Animals In Research and Scientific Use
- ◇ Animals and Environmental Impacts

The full Policy Statement can be downloaded by clicking on the pdf icon:



Industry and Emergency/Disaster Planning

By Kylie Gilbert

As Australia lives through its first pandemic in 100 years the animal industry has found itself in uncharted waters, we have found ourselves having to justify our existence that how essential the services are that we provide.

Coming from a science background most of the things that have been put into place were common practice in order to eliminate or reduce the possible spread of diseases, they were never a second thought and normal. So, following this pandemic or while we at least learn to live with it what is the new normal for the animal industry and how do we ensure that if anything similar was to ever occur that we would be in the best position possible.

How do we change our procedures? How to we change our priorities? How do we make people take notice?

Firstly, organisations such as ACA and the Pet Care Advocates made sure they had the ear of the government they were on the front foot as soon as restrictions were mentioned to ensure that the people they represent were counted when the final decisions were made. ACA were they're for the pet owners to ensure they were able to care for their animals during this time and ensure the

welfare of their pets. Pet Care Advocates which was formed due to the boarding and day care industry recognising they needed a united voice lobbied the government for the need to continue caring for the animals of others that may be effected by this Pandemic and unable to either care for their animals, or the frontline workers out there doing an amazing job and needed to ensure the safety of their animals. Both organisations succeeded in their endeavours which was fantastic.

But there are other sectors that didn't do the same, that didn't have a united voice and even though some of the corporate organisations in this sector had gained the government's approval the industry turned on itself, instead of seeking that essential status we instead had people calling the government to report people and get them closed, this caused great stress to workers in these corporate settings having people photograph them and abuse them for doing their jobs, which in turn saw the government change rules and deem this sector non-essential, even though under legislation this industry is seen as a welfare requirement, due to an apparent lack of knowledge and procedure this industry sector was forced to close in Stage 4 restrictions in Victoria. This should never have occurred.

So this is a lesson for the future in that the animal industry needs a plan, they need to know what steps to take but more than anything they need to be in the forefront of the governments minds at all times. As they say its too late when the horse has bolted. We can't wait until we are in the middle of a pandemic to get our message out there. This should be a 'business as usual thing.'



U.S. Petting zoo's closure tied to long-standing PETA complaints

A long time Yuma landmark is closing its doors after a long battle with People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The Camel Farm announced it is permanently shutting down. The farm closed temporarily while it tried to fend off legal action, but its owners now say they cannot keep up the fight.

"PETA has constantly misrepresented and attacked small businesses like ours, with the goal of destroying them. Although the settlement was only reached today, PETA has obviously been closely involved and rushed to publish their take in the worst possible light. We are not the first to have been placed in this position nor will we be the last."

"For the past 20 years we've tried to provide a fun, affordable place for families to be able to go and interact with animals. We're grateful to all those who've given us their support over the years. We know that they know the truth. However, we won't be making any effort to reopen the farm. The constant attacks, anxiety, stress, etc have taken their toll."

The Camel Farm has reached a settlement with the USDA that allows it to escape \$125,000 in fines, but forces it to close its doors.

Friday's settlement means the farm can never open again. No word yet on what will happen to its animals.

See the full article at: <https://kyma.com/news/kyma-com-category-news-yuma-county/2020/08/28/yumas-camel-farm-closes-after-20-years/>

In Australia we have PETA Aust, the Animal Justice Party & Animals Australia — all animal rights extremists (ARE's) groups.

Animal welfare must always take priority and those who do not care for their animals should be held accountable. In almost all cases improvements to welfare can be gained by educating and working with those who keep and breed animals. Nothing is gained by a department or government who act with a heavy hand that is being controlled or pressured by ARE ideologies and rhetoric who have absolutely no understanding of the care or husbandry requirements of animals.

With ongoing recognition as a key stakeholder by state & territory Departments of Agriculture & Primary Industries, ACA is dedicated to ensuring such injustice is never allowed to occur in Australia.



'Ending the manipulation and misrepresentation of the circus to the public'

By Michael Donnelly

In reference to articles printed in the Australian Community Media press on August 29th 2020.

Quite frankly I am appalled at the attempt made by Ms Emma Hurst (Animal Justice Party) to purposely mislead and misinform readers, the general public and in doing so manipulate the outcome of the current NSW Inquiry into exotic animals in circus and cetaceans in marine parks.

The most glaring manipulation and misrepresentation is the photograph attached to the article 'Ending animal exploitation in circuses' dated 29th August 2020 and circulated throughout Australian Community Media outlets.

The photograph of a 'supposed lion wagon' is nothing more than a 'stock' image of what is clearly a film industry prop. A closer look at the prop highlights the following:

- Bars look to be hollow and light weight you can see that a couple are slightly bent in the middle.
- No interlocking flat bar running along horizontal in the middle of the bars
- Wooden frame. You can see this from the

way the corners connect inside near the bars.

- The bars are also set into drilled holes in the wooden frames.
- Wheels are not made for work as there are no flat metal strips bolted to the outside of them

This supposed wagon would not hold a domestic cat – let alone a lion.

The inference within the article is that these 'beast wagons' are used by two travelling Australian circuses. These wagons are NOT owned or utilised by any circus in Australia.

The attempt to compare the animals feelings in lockdown to our current lockdown situation is an extremely conniving ploy. The residents within the Melbourne residential towers were permitted far less exercise per day than the animals within the circus.

In her article, Ms Hurst utilises the word 'exotic' to explain the types of animals she wishes to see banned within the circus. In true political form she is playing the sympathy card to manipulate people into thinking Australian circus are using animals 'snatched from the jungle'.

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Permission granted by Stardust to utilise photographs taken by Animal Care Australia during our visit.

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The truth is far more enlightening, beginning with the definition of ‘exotic’. That being: ‘originating in or characteristic of a distant foreign country.’

Let’s look at that for one moment along with the animals cared for by both Stardust & Lennon Bros Circuses.

Between them, they have camels, Rhesus Monkeys, lions, horses, donkeys, ponies, goats, pigs and dogs. By the definition above all of these animals are ‘characteristic of a foreign country’ – however none of these animals have originated from a foreign country. All of the animals in question have been bred in Australia, from multi-generations (multiple decades). Her ploy is to catch you out – ‘the lions are from Africa!’ Yes, maybe they were – but many, many decades ago.

There is no definition of exotic used within NSW Animal Welfare Legislation. What is used, are ‘non-native’, ‘stock’, ‘companion’, and ‘domesticated’ animals. All of the animals in circus including the ‘tame’ lions & monkeys fit within those definitions and therefore are kept and cared for under the strictest guidelines within the legislation. Ms Hurst is attempting to introduce a new word/definition to make the current legislation inapplicable to the circus. By doing so and by introducing a new definition of a circus into the Inquiry she is attempting to round up all traveling exhibitors, education shows, petting zoos, expos, agricultural shows and even the film & television industry.

Another misdirect of Ms Hurst’s is her failure to address the fact the circus has not been prosecuted for animal abuse. She fails to disprove that fact and attempts to gloss over that vital point

by claiming the RSPCA has lobbied against circus for decades. Again failing to point out that the RSPCA inspects the circus very regularly and it also has not been able to substantiate any ‘reported claims of abuse’. In fact the current Inquiry has called upon the RSPCA NSW Inspectorate to provide evidence to the contrary.

Her next most devious attempt to manipulate the truth is the mention of a UK University of Bristol study that ‘concluded it is impossible for circuses to meet the behavioural and welfare needs of exotic animals.’ Having to rely on an overseas study that is over a decade old, not linked to or researched in Australian circus, she could not provide a more current or even Australian-based study?

People would be unaware this study was carried out by Professor Stephen Harris, the very same professor who was discredited for ‘misleading science, ‘cherry-picking studies’ and ‘manipulating evidence’. He was caught out manipulating the results and claiming ‘peer reviews’ were completed when in fact those ‘peers’ were his university students and not the reported ‘peers’ required from within the sectors being studied.

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He was removed/retired from his position soon after those findings.

"Zoochosis ... highly likely animals in circuses experience similar or potentially even worse"
Does Ms Hurst know this for a fact? Can she provide documentation that the animals cared for by Stardust & Lennon Bros are experiencing 'zoochosis' or is this simply another one of her anthropomorphising attempts to speak for the animals – like when she claimed to know what 'Calamity' the dolphin from the Dolphin Marine Conservation Park and 'Liya' the polar bear from Sea World were thinking upon their deaths.

"... a lion in a circus gets just 20m for up to 11 months at a time... for up to 18 hours a day they can be kept in even tinier "beast wagons". Absolute fabrication!

The transport trailer that the lions travel in measures in at 33sqm - it is reverse-cycle air-conditioned and is only utilised for transporting and as their sleeping quarters. The Circus is only permitted to travel for no more than 2 hours without stopping and providing the animals with food and water, with any stoppage of more than 15 mins requiring sides of transport vehicles to be opened to allow full ventilation & light. The circus must be stationary for at least 12 hours in every 24 hour period. The circus travels for 10-11 months of the year staying at each location for approximately 3-4 weeks before

moving on. When on location the lions have full access to their constructed enclosure which measures in at 400 sqm. Totalling this with their sleeping quarters the lions have an area of 433sqm – a far greater size than Ms Hurst's claim! The animals are not being 'caged' in just 20m for 11 months of the year. At a stretch they are restricted to their transport vehicles for a couple of hours every month.

All of the animals within Australian circuses are well cared for, with the highest standards, and are bonded to their carers who truly love and respect them every day. The circus is on 'show' to the public every time it arrives in a location. People from far and wide visit the circus with their cameras, with their social media and this in itself has the circus constantly scrutinised and yes 'inspected' on a daily basis. If these animals were truly being abused and mistreated there would be acknowledged, reported and proven convictions against the circus. There simply are not!

Ms Hurst's issue is not founded on fact of abuse, or fact of poor welfare or fact of bad husbandry – in fact she cannot provide any facts to substantiate her claims – just rhetorical rantings and the 'humanising' of animals for her own political gain.

Article links:

<https://www.illawarramercury.com.au/story/6897967/ending-animal-exploitation-in-circuses/>

<https://www.victorharbortimes.com.au/story/6897967/ending-animal-exploitation-in-circuses/>

ENCLOSURE & TRANSPORT

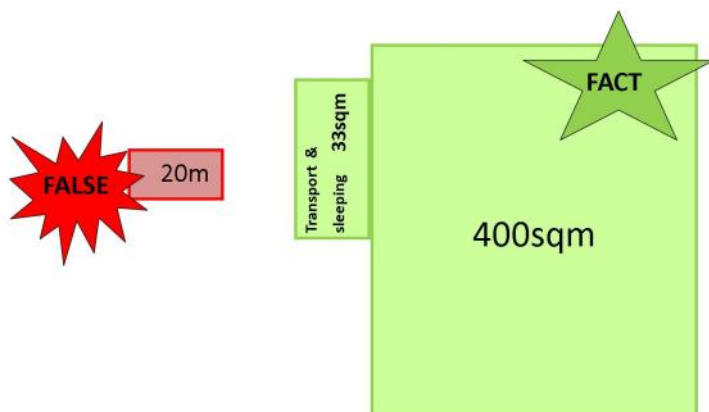


Photo: M.E.Smith

Bird Report

By Sam Davis

NSW Native Animal Licensing Update.

Unfortunately, Atticus Fleming did not respond as promised despite many prompts and reminders from CCBFA President. CCBFA therefore asked ACA President Michael Donnelly to intervene on our behalf via Minister Kean's office. The Minister's Chief of Staff subsequently spoke to Atticus Fleming about the matter. Atticus has contacted ACA indicating a brief on the matter will be put to the Minister's office. This has not yet occurred and is overdue.

We are currently considering progressing the matter via a range of political contacts including Liberal, Labor and SFFP members of parliament in both houses.

Exhibition of exotic animals in circuses and exhibition of cetaceans in NSW.

ACA appeared at this inquiry on behalf of all who keep captive animals. This inquiry was established by the Animal Justice Party (AJP) who currently have 2 upper house MPs in NSW (Emma Hurst and Mark Pearson) and 1 in Victoria, Andy Meddick.

The inquiry claimed to focus on Circus and cetaceans, however the definitions of Circus, Exotic and Wild Animal are particularly poorly defined such that any exhibition of any type of any animal is potentially implicated. ACA was central to this issue being exposed and ACA has been asked to assist the inquiry to redefine these terms, both in terms of the new animal welfare act currently being drafted as well as for the current inquiry.

The quality of the evidence given by ACA President Michael Donnelly was commendable, and in my view was the standout presentation. ACA has had many dealings with Inquiry MPs since which really has raised the status of ACA.

Review of the EPBC Act – Interim Report

In general...

We must be clear about ensuring the bureaucracy does not “wag the dog”. It is my view this needs to be specifically legislated against within the Act.

I have been involved in many areas of government and the environment area is one where this is an enormous issue. It is particularly difficult to have alternative views heard, respected, and acted upon in this space. Too often those working in environment departments who are tasked with implementing environmental initiatives come with their own biases that exclude alternatives.

We need to encourage innovation and support parallel ways of looking at and addressing issues, particularly in the threatened species space.

Inconsistencies between the current EPBC Act and CITES obligations...

CCBFA supports simplifying regulated international trade in captive bred birds, particularly to deter smuggling. There are anomalies in our EPBC Act 1999 that do not reflect CITES and that are currently incentivising smuggling.

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Examining the text of CITES, in particular Article VII...

<https://www.cites.org/eng/disc/text.php>

CITES Article VII (4) states captive bred Appendix I species for commercial export are to be treated as Appendix II species, therefore Article IV applies. Article IV regulates trade in Appendix II species, it requires captive proof from the exporter, however there are no import requirements (from CITES).

And perhaps even more convincing is CITES Article VII (5). This clause makes it clear that captive bred animals require no CITES documentation apart from a captive bred assurance from the Management Authority of the State of export.

Resolution Conf. 10.16 (Rev.) further expands on this notion.

<https://www.cites.org/eng/res/10/10-16C15.php>

Australia has not implemented Article VII (4) or (5) so far as I can tell. I believe as a signatory, we are obliged to do so. We suggest a subsection, say "303FKA Import of captive bred CITES listed species" to correct this omission and if accepted (not so simple) solve the problem.

COVID-19 Update.

Events have recommenced in WA. Unfortunately in most other jurisdictions things have not improved since our last correspondence with most events cancelled or postponed.

The overriding requirements is that ALL bird events, including shows, sales and club meetings must comply with relevant current state government orders, direction and/or guidelines.

CCBFA will continue to hold meetings via Zoom during 2020. It is unlikely we will return to Ashfield RSL until 2021.

NSW Bird Sale Code of Practice Review.

An initial draft code was emailed to all club delegates prior to the meeting.



The final code will be printed in a nicely formatted A5 booklet. We will also prepare summary versions for printing as posters, and simplified version just for sellers and another just for buyers.

The general timeline for approval and implementation is envisaged as follows...

- A formal first draft will be released for the November meeting.
- We envisage re-drafting and finalization at the first few CCBFA meetings in 2021.
- The approved code is copied and circulated widely during the remainder of 2021 so all clubs and sellers are aware of any changes.
- The code comes into force from the beginning of 2022.

Discussion of the initial draft with a range of refinements identified. Delegates are asked to submit further written comment and suggested edits to CCBFA at least 1 week prior to the November meeting.

It is critical that all clubs support the new code including speaking up on any points they would like considered. All animal welfare legislation in NSW is currently under review, there are now 2 Animal Justice Party (AJP) members in NSW parliament, and animal rights extremism is on the rise. It is critical we self-regulate aviculture effectively, particularly for events where we are in the public eye.

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Particular thanks to Jayson Forest and Bruce Goleby for their ongoing work on the draft.

Parrot Import Risk Assessment

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

CCBFA will make a submission prior to the September 19th due date. President Sam Davis attended the webinar for this BIRA on August 31.

Assuming the Psittacine BIRA is approved in similar form to the draft the following will need to occur before any birds can enter the country, particularly listed CITES species.

- a. Species must be on the current live import list. This in itself will likely be a time-consuming undertaking for species not currently on the list. The current list is [here](https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/wildlife-trade/live-import-list) - <https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/wildlife-trade/live-import-list>
- b. The species must be able to be traded under CITES. Currently Australia's interpretation of CITES would prevent many species obtaining the required CITES paperwork. Note CITES comments in "Reports" regarding the review of the federal EPBC Act 1999.
- c. Operational details in terms of the BIRA/quarantine procedures will likely involve the following, assuming the BIRA is approved.
 - i. At least 35 days quarantine and testing pre-export in the source country under the control of a vet employed or approved by the government of the source country.
 - ii. Transport to Australia which involves a range of biosecurity checks and balances. All shipments must arrive into Australia at Melbourne airport.

- iii. Finally 15 days in the Biosecurity Containment Level 3 (BC3) facility at the new Mickelham facility on the outskirts of Melbourne.

Our submission will focus on supporting and promoting the import of psittacines, including congratulating the government officials for their thorough work on the draft.

There are three significant matters the CCBFA submission will recommend should be addressed.

CCBFA supports a regulated import regime that is economically viable, whilst protecting the biosecurity and biodiversity of Australia's captive and wild birds. Such a system will deter smuggling (including poaching). CCBFA would like to see a simplified regime for both import and export much like that in force for other captive bred species such as dogs, cats, horses, etc.

The draft BIRA does not clearly articulate why a BC3 level of quarantine is required. Many other species are quarantined to protect against airborne viruses, bacteria, etc. in lower level facilities. In addition why must the Mickleham BC3 facility be used? Why not allow other approved private, zoo or university facilities? BC3 and use of Mickleham will be expensive and will require large shipments that increase risk should disease be identified.

The exchange of Budgerigars between NZ and Australia should be considered a special case. Consideration of special conditions for an NZ budgerigar team to compete in the annual ANBC competition and then return home. Sam (CCBFA President) has made initial enquiries with both NZ and Aus officials to explore the possibilities.

Unfortunately there has been some unwanted media regarding this matter. CCBFA President has emailed both the Guardian and Birdlife Australia to begin a dialogue. Both articles show complete ignorance of the facts regarding aviculture.

The *Guardian* article - <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/aug/25/federal-government-considers-lifting-ban-on-importing-parrots-25-years-after-it-was-introduced>

The *Birdlife Australia* article - <https://birdlife.org.au/media/govt-considers-lifting-ban-on-importing-parrots/>

Implications of new legislation?

By Joanne Payne

The implication of new legislation in QLD around reptile keeping, has brought up questions about how the review in NSW is progressing??

Lets have a quick look at the implications for the changes in QLD and what this may mean for changes to NSW licencing and the factors influencing this.

Queensland started their consultation for changes to the legislation approximately 2 years ago. After consultation with keepers, pet shop owners and the relevant government agencies, proposed changes were introduced in July with a month to discuss and send in any feedback. ACA contacted a couple of breeders and ran a question in our Facebook Reptile Advisory Group with mixed responses.

To break it down, the proposed changes split licences into categories depending on whether you breed animals or not. The licence prices also varied a lot depending on the amount of animals you kept. One problem with the proposed legislation that ACA members highlighted was one clause that made it okay to humanely euthanise animals if you went over your licence "limit".

This brought up the discussion around children keeping reptiles. There are many a keeper that started out by keeping a pair of animals. These



animals may have bred and there in lies the problem, if the animal produces over 8 young, then you will have to purchase the higher priced licence to move the animals on. This will often fall on the parents and they will not be happy with paying the additional price.

So, what happens to these animals? The fear is that they will be passed on without paperwork or that they will be released. Do these changes mean the end of this as part of the hobby?

These changes have been widely praised by large breeders and the pet shops, but will this monopolise the market and push smaller breeders out of the market due to the increased licence fee, which in turn, will push the prices of animals up. This could be good for the hobby, it could limit the amount of 'fly by night' keepers that just buy adult snakes, breed them and produce a load of animals that are not desirable and causing a glut of animals in the market. Tighter controls though, could make the 'black market' for animals

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explode. ACA is concerned with animal welfare and a lack of responsible ownership that could be caused by these new laws. The fact that the government agencies have given a clause which permits euthanasia for healthy animals, has suggested that QLD has effectively changed the hobby into a business.

But, for these faults, at least Queensland have made progress with their reforms. NSW licensing reforms started four years ago with multiple agencies, breeders and keepers all attending several meetings to discuss how new reforms would increase welfare for the animals and make the workload easier for the relevant government departments. Four years later, we are still no closer to any changes, despite promises that a brief would be put to the Minister, we are yet to see the proposals or for any changes to be put to public consultation. Basically, the department is

sitting on their hands and not willing to come to the party with internal stalling playing a major part in the process.

And why are they stalling? With OEH not able to keep up with current requests for licence upgrades, import/export applications or even checking licence holders bookwork, why would they not want to make changes to the current system to make their lives easier. I have been contacted by several keepers saying that their licence upgrades are taking well over nine months to be processed and that's for the people that are on the phone and contacting OEH continually. I do feel for the department. They have had several changes, funding cuts and loss of employees in the past few years, but this is a system that isn't working. They wanted help with it and now, between bleeding heart animal rights supporters and the actual department, it has been pushed back further. Come on NSW. We need to implement changes as soon as can be done.

ACA submits to WA 'Stop Puppy Farm' legislation

By Kylie Gilbert

Animal Care Australia have made a submission to the Western Australian Government in regard to their "STOP PUPPY FARMING" legislation.

Animal Care Australia supports any government initiatives which see improvement in the welfare of the animals in their state but not those that seek to diminish the numbers.



Welfare is not a numbers game there is no magic number that deems animals will be well cared for. If an owner is restricted, welfare can be an issue for an owner that owns one animal as much as someone who owns 10. We need to ensure that the Australian states start to understand what the word welfare means and not get stuck in the emotive, usually incorrect messages coming from Animal Rights organisations.

Animals bring so much joy to people's lives and enrich them on so many levels, and we need to ensure this continues.

The next debate on this legislation was scheduled for August but is now looking to be raised in September. We will be watching to see how this unfolds.

Volunteer Position Available

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

The Position:

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

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

Experience

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

Desirable – but not essential

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

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

Specific Tasks

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

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



Watch out for our next
issue in December 2020.

Want to read previous 2019 issues?

[Back dated Issues](#)

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