



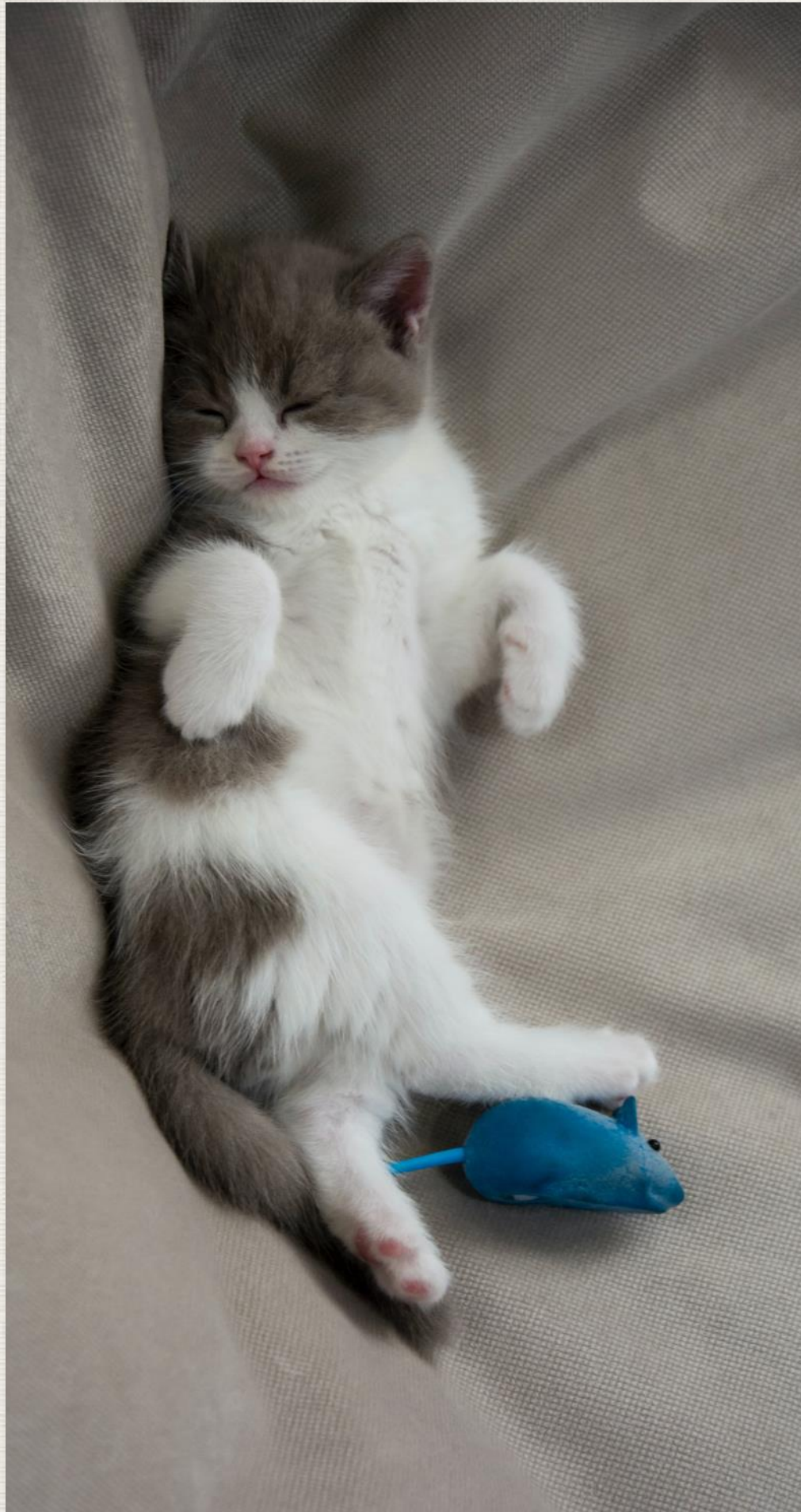
Animal Care Australia

# The Animal Care Expert

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

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Animal Care Australia

**Executive**



**Michael Donnelly**  
President



**Sam Davis**  
Vice-President



**Michelle Grayson**  
Secretary



**Sue Kowalczyk**  
Public Officer/Treasurer

**Species Representatives**



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Birds



**Michelle Grayson**  
Cats



**Kylie Gilbert**  
Dogs



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Horses & Livestock



**Michael Donnelly**  
Native Mammals



**Joanne Payne**  
Reptiles & Amphibians



**Rachel Sydenham**  
Small Mammals



By Michael Donnelly

## **Animals are essential!**

'Animals are essential' - these three words have never had more meaning than they do right now!

This past eighteen months have seen every state and territory experience lock downs. Some short and some prolonged (Vic & NSW).

Governments with all their well meaning attempts to secure our health have forgotten and needed strong reminding that animals are essential — their well-being and health is an essential responsibility for all of us including those formulating the criteria for a lock down.

In 2021 one would have thought previously covered exemptions and criteria would be inherited from previous lock downs? Yet, this is not the case. NSW has needed to renegotiate essential grooming for animals with matted or irritating hair, and Victoria Health simply decided mobile grooming (out door activity) was more risky than allowing people to enter enclosed veterinary surgeries! Why? Not based on sound science—based on that word 'mobile' and not wanting people to be moving about.

Strangely, it isn't just the governments who can't get it right. It is also animal owners. While the grooming issues were confusing, each state did/does have clear directives for the feeding of your animals.

It is your legal responsibility under the animal welfare act in your state/territory to maintain food, water, shelter and exercise (species specific) for your animals. Lock down exemptions allowed for this to occur with mention of purchasing food, and meeting your legal obligations as two separate, yet inclusive, exemptions.

Despite this people still constantly were

'unsure'. Some unsure if it included their horses, some unsure if it included radius limitations and others (most disappointingly) unsure of what their legal responsibilities actually are!

If you own an animal it is vital that you download and read the animal welfare act in your state/territory. Check to see if any Codes of Practice exist for the animals in your care. A lock down is the perfect opportunity to familiarise yourself with your legal obligations.

Of course animals are also essential for our well being. They help us improve our mental health — a factor extremely important in this current Covid-19, bush fire, flood, drought, vermin plagued environment we live in. They provide companionship, support, and love to many of us. They become part of our family.

Animals are essential! The keeping of animals, particularly our natives, is becoming more essential with habitat destruction, a lack of empathy from our governments, big business, and developers. To continue to have animals surround us we have to open our minds, and our hearts to the protection of all animals and that is our responsibility.


Don't let your animals down, and don't support those trying desperately to stop us from keeping animals.

Don't give animal rights activists the power! Don't just sit by when your Local Council introduces pet keeping restrictions. Don't sit by when proposals for further developments are put out for comment! Use your voice! Protect the animals — protect their future — protect our children's right to see, keep, experience and love animals in the same way we all did growing up.

It is a changing world and in this world  
**ANIMALS ARE ESSENTIAL!**

Hope you enjoy this edition.





## ACA Submissions, Correspondence & Meeting Reports.



### ACA contacts all WA Govt Ministers opposing the re-introduced Stop Puppy Farming Bill

**11th June 2021**— ACA send letters to all WA Members of Parliament with the advocating for the government to support education & responsible breeding — NOT restrictions!

The McGowan Labor Governments new laws SHOULD NOT be supported! These WILL NOT put an end to puppy farming in WA — it will increase puppy farms.

These laws will massively increase the numbers of dogs and cats suffering and needing re-homing as seen in Victoria where these laws already exist.

To read our submission click on the pdf icon:



### ACA responds to Victorian Taskforce on rehoming pets

**22nd June 2021** - The Taskforce chaired by AJP's Andy Meddick is to report back to Govt by the end of the year.

ACA recommends the focus of the Taskforce is modified to include the following theme ...

'Strategies to reduce the number of animals requiring rehoming.'

- ACA welcomes the need to regulate the shelter and rehoming organisations in Victoria and this must include the RSPCA Vic.
- ACA has major concerns with the

approach & direction this Taskforce is taking. We do not support the further development or expansion of a shelter/ foster/rehoming industry.

- The Animal Rights ideology of 'adopt – don't shop' is incredibly short-sighted. Shelters are predominantly full of irresponsibly bred and owned animals and this mantra only supports that industry further.
- Most animals in shelters are from irresponsible breeders and have not been raised with the necessary temperament or care needed to find their forever homes. They quickly end up being too much to handle and are abandoned or handed in for rehoming.
- Unregulated shelters & rescues are not required to be trained in animal behaviour and may incorrectly assess animals for rehoming (often unrealistically avoiding euthanasia as a necessary solution) and equally incorrectly assess the new owners capabilities and needs – all resulting in the animals returning to a shelter industry within a short period of time.
- This cycle needs to be broken by providing adequate funding for educating the public on responsible breeding and responsible buying.

To read our submission click on the pdf icon:



### ACA responds to Victorian Review of the Wildlife Act 1975

**June 30th 2021**— ACA's primary recommendation to this review was:

"To promote the keeping of native animals" being included as a purpose within the Act, as:

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- a. Keeping native animals is a precursor to developing an appreciation of our Australian wildlife.
- b. Caring for native animals directly develops empathy with wild animals.
- c. Native animal keeping leads to a strong desire to protect and conserve our environment.

ACA strongly supports the recommendations expressed by other animal keeping based stakeholders such as the Canary & Caged Bird Federation of Australia, the Victorian Herpetological Society and the Marsupial Society/ Wildlife Australia.

Other recommendations include:

- ◆ Form an advisory committee specified within the Act to represent native animal keepers interests.
- ◆ Ensure the review is not influenced by irrelevant issues.
- ◆ A further phase of consultation on the report and government response is necessary
- ◆ Right of entry to check licence conditions must require permission except when a warrant has been obtained.

To read our submission click on the pdf icon:



**ACA provides feedback to revision of NSW Code of Practice for Breeding Dogs and Cats.**

**14/07/21** — Some of ACA’s feedback has recommended:

- the removal of 1.8m height Standard for dog enclosures, to be replaced with a requirement that an enclosure must prevent the escape of the breed being housed.
- the removal of 2.1m height Standard for cat enclosures, to be replaced with a requirement that an enclosure must include a roof and provide an appropriate height comparable to the breed being housed.
- the addition of a definition of ‘enclosure’
- the definition of ‘facility’ be re-defined to exclude a private residence and facility to be replaced with ‘premises’ where applicable.

ACA noted this is an interim Code of Practice (COP) and MUST be replaced during the ongoing review of the Animal Welfare Action Plan with a COP that is focussed on actual welfare outcomes and not ‘compliance-driven’ aims.

To read our submission click on the pdf icon:



**ACA provides feedback to Mandatory reporting of animal fate data by shelters and pounds .**

**03/09/21** — ACA supported the proposal that shelters should make their data public and provided to government. Hower ACA also included:

- ACA sees no point in this revision when no attempt is being made to deal with the reasons why shelters and rescues have abandoned animals in the first place.
- ACA’s calls on the government to stop funding the expansions of shelters and rescues and creating a Shelter Industry.
- ACA calls on the government to reallocate that funding to

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the education of the public on responsible buying, responsible pet ownership and responsible breeding.

- ACA calls on the government to reassess why these shelters are now being inundated.

Since the implementation of the Domestic Animals Amendment (Restricted Breed Dogs) Act 2017 and The Domestic Animals Amendment (Puppy Farm and Pet Shops) Act 2017, irresponsible breeding has increased due to the demise of responsible registered breeders and the limitations on breeding. This has created a higher demand for puppies and kittens.

**What is needed is for the Victorian Government to wind that legislation back and invest in education and the promotion of responsible pet keeping.**

To read our submission click on the pdf icon:



# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**8th November 2021**

**AGM online via Zoom.**

Any member wishing to join this meeting will need to RSVP by no later than 5pm Monday 8th November via email:

[aca@animalcareaustralia.org.au](mailto:aca@animalcareaustralia.org.au) with:

- The name of the representative of your organisation who will participate, or if you are an individual – your name

A link for the meeting will be emailed to you shortly before the starting time.

ACA members only.



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](mailto: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, horse & livestock, exhibited animal, native mammal, etc)



**ACA needs your support so that we can support you and your pets!**



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

[www.animalcareaustralia.org.au](http://www.animalcareaustralia.org.au)

To Join ACA: <https://www.animalcareaustralia.org.au/join/>







## A HEALTH WARNING: DOG DISEASE - EHRILICHIOSIS.

Article text & photo from: [Hervey Bay Rural Supplies](#)

A veterinarian working across northern Australia has sounded a new alarm over what he calls "an explosion" of cases of the deadly dog disease ehrlichiosis.

Flying vet Campbell Costello said thousands of dogs had now died in the Northern Territory and more were dying daily.

"I am sick of looking at dead dogs, tell people down south they have no idea what is coming."

Ehrlichiosis is a disease spread by the common brown tick which was first discovered in northern Western Australia early last year.

Diseased dogs or ticks have since been found in Queensland, New South Wales and South Australia.

Dr Costello, from Outback and Airborne Veterinary Services currently based at the Barkly Veterinary Practice at Tennant Creek, said the re-opening of borders has seen the return of the grey nomads and other visitors for the dry season in the north.

He has already been called on to treat their dogs for ehrlichiosis infections, and keeps seeing a 80 per cent mortality rate.

"Little Fluffy in the back of the van is either going to die up here or be a carrier when they go back home."

Dr Costello said he was appalled there were no biosecurity road blocks for people travelling north to advise them of the outbreak, and warn dog owners to get two kinds of tick protection.

"It just shows you we were not ready for this, or for rabies or whatever else comes in. We are getting crucified up here, we are snowed under ... 80 per cent of the dogs that come in have it. The official advice is that ehrlichiosis is well established but that's not right, it is endemic."

Dr Costello said the disease had not only decimated dog populations in remote communities but was killing backyard pets in urban areas as well.

"Cases are going to explode across Australia after this grey nomad season."

He said the only defence to ehrlichiosis was two forms of tick protection, there are no vaccines.

He said the chewable tablets people often believed provided adequate tick protection were not enough, a repellent like a Pyrethrin collar is also needed.

"That takes five hours to remove a tick, it is only taking 30 minutes to an hour for a tick to pass it on. If you think you can just run your hands over your dog and find the ticks you can't."

"I have been a vet for 11 years and I still miss them."

He was alarmed there was not a greater public biosecurity alert about the disease.

"It has highlighted how underprepared we are when a new disease like this gets in."



Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2021

## ***Australia’s peak animal welfare body warns of an impending welfare crisis as authorities scramble to patch past mistakes.***

**Melbourne, VICTORIA,** A well-meaning attempt to end puppy and kitten farming in Victoria, has instead forced the closure of experienced, ethical and high welfare dog and cat breeders, and ended a number of rare breed bloodlines in Australia. Rather than ending puppy farming, as promised, the legislation has supported a growing network of unregistered and unregulated backyard breeders in numbers greater than the original problem. Recently, a taskforce was announced, heavily focussed on creating a new rehoming industry with no efforts to educate pet owners to minimise the need for rehoming.

As a result, a large number of puppies and kittens are being sold at record prices, without proper health checks, handling, training, or socialisation. All for a quick buck. Many of these animals are soon surrendered or abandoned as their behavioural and health issues overwhelm their new owners, or they grow up to be a different breed or size than what was advertised.

“Limits on how many animals each household is permitted to keep, means that experienced people who once took in these unwanted animals to be retrained, rehabilitated and rehomed now must choose between keeping their own family pets or helping one in need.” Says Michael Donnelly, President of [Animal Care Australia](http://www.animalcareaustralia.org.au). “They can no longer do both, preventing the most experienced and appropriate people in animal care from assisting when they are needed most.”

Rescue groups are not regulated or mandated to have any training, qualifications or licences to operate. The lack of competency means many rescued pets are rehomed without proper retraining, health assessments or ongoing support, leading to further surrenders and abandonment of unsuitable and unhealthy animals.

“The lack of experienced animal welfare experts involved in the development and implementation of these policies is leading Victoria to an inevitable animal welfare crisis” Mr Donnelly said. “Throwing more funds after the horse has bolted will only cause unnecessary suffering of thousands of dogs and cats across Victoria building a shelter industry, and would be better invested in long term solutions that should have been implemented from the start.”

This is where Victoria currently finds itself – in a downward spiral of dumped, unwanted dogs and cats - that are difficult to rehome – with the experts not permitted to assist, and nowhere to keep them. Animal Rights is not the same as Animal Welfare, and the two should not be provided the same powers to make decisions about legislation affecting animal welfare. It’s time to address the real issues here and repair the failing animal welfare system in Victoria, before it is too late.

The Andrews Government has supported a series of poor decisions over the past 4 years in relation to animal welfare, followed by further band aid attempts to cover the problems, that have only made things worse:

2016: Animal rights groups pressure the Andrews government to introduce anti puppy farm legislation.

-more-





2017: The [Domestic Animals Amendment \(Puppy Farms and Pet Shops\) Act 2017](#) is introduced disregarding the input of welfare and industry experts. Focussed only on limiting the number of breeding animals a person can own, and disregarding welfare standards or conditions, commercial breeders are closed overnight, and many registered, ethical breeders cannot meet the new requirements without compromising on animal health and genetic diversity.

2018: The [Pet Exchange Register](#) is introduced to trace the sales of dogs and cats. No industry or welfare experts are involved in the roll out.

2019/2020: The reduction of high welfare breeders leads to an increase in opportunistic, unscrupulous backyard breeders looking to make a quick buck with whatever breeding animals they can find.

2020: The [Animal Welfare Funds Grants Program](#) is launched to provide \$10.5 million of funding to help the industry adjust to the welfare reforms by financially supporting shelters and rescues. This grants program excludes all breeders, including higher welfare breeders, to grow a Shelter Industry.

2021: The [Taskforce on Rehoming Pets](#) is established, again without any relevant expertise, as the latest attempt to correct the failings of the “anti-puppy farm” legislation. The taskforce aims to fix the increasing numbers of surrendered and abandoned animals by introducing more regulations to prop up an already failing system, while doing nothing to educate the buyers and breeders of animals on their responsibilities as pet owners.

Animal Care Australia is the Peak Animal Welfare Body representing the keepers and breeders of pet and companion animals in Australia.

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For further information contact Animal Care Australia Inc  
[www.animalcareaustralia.org.au](http://www.animalcareaustralia.org.au)  
[president@animalcareaustralia.org.au](mailto:president@animalcareaustralia.org.au)  
Phone: 0400 323 843

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Cat Representative: Michelle Grayson

## NSW Pet Registry.

The NSW Pet Registry is the official database under the Companion Animals Act 1988 for registering dogs and cats that live in NSW. The registry is designed to allow owners to update their contact details, change the ownership of pets, report their pet missing and pay the lifetime registration fees and any applicable annual permit fees. It is managed by the Office of Local Government (OLG) and consists of 2 platforms - one of these platforms is 20 years old and the other is 5 years old. The OLG began working in 2020 to design a brand-new platform with better mechanisms for all users – pet owners, breeders and councils.

For breeders, the NSW Pet Registry is not user friendly. A breeder cannot pay online because as a member of a recognised registration organisation receives reduced

fees. A breeder cannot update the registry once a cat or dog has been desexed. A breeder cannot move the ownership of the cat or dog if the new owner doesn't have a Pet Registry profile.

Breeders of cats and dogs are encouraged to set up an online profile, and by doing so, a breeder is allocated a Breeder Identification Number (BIN). In NSW, since 1 July 2019, anyone selling or giving away a cat or dog must use an identification number in any advertising. The identification number can be either a microchip number, BIN or a rehoming organisation number.

The issue with these BIN's is that anyone can obtain one – there are currently no verification checks completed by OLG to ensure the person is registered with a recognised registration body. The current NSW Pet Registry process allows a person to 'identify' as a breeder when setting up their profile and a BIN is immediately created once the profile is successfully set up. The person now holds an official

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BIN issued by NSW Pet Registry and now appears as if they are a registered breeder. People who breed cats and dogs, who are not recognised by registration bodies, are commonly called 'backyard breeders'.

OLG engaged with 28 people/ organisations in their initial interview stage, and it is disappointing that they only spoke with 2 breeders (both dog breeders). Fingers crossed, OLG choose to engage with all recognised breeder registration bodies for both cats and dogs in NSW.

I was invited to the first viewing of the new Pet Registry and it functions so much better from a pet owner/breeder perspective. NSW Cat Fanciers' Association Inc (ACA member) continues to work with OLG on the new system to ensure it functions for breeders.....Stay tuned for further updates.



*Dog Representative: Kylie Gilbert*

## Where have we gone wrong

As has become apparent over the last 12 months the changes to the Victorian Domestic Animals Act (DAA) which was heralded as the gold standard for welfare has done nothing to stop puppy farmers, in fact it has seen an increase in breeding by so-called 'back yard breeders' (BYB) who have undertaken little to no research into the breeds that they are breeding and are simply breeding to make a profit. Given that the average Cavoodle ranges up from \$6000 per puppy and this is generally from untested parents that were purchased purely for making money, we still have a huge problem.

The changes to legislation have decreased the number of registered breeders even though the government made promises to ensure the registered breeders would be granted concessions under the Act. Changes to planning laws have meant this is not a reality. The sad reality is that you can own two dogs and breed them numerous times but own more than that and you must jump through hoops to change your land use.

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Along with the increase in prices for dogs there is also increased media attention on the health issues being seen in dogs. What the average person doesn't realise is the work that goes into breeding dogs and the research that should be done before animals are even considered for mating. Consumers just see a beautiful puppy that they are desperate for, instead of understanding the numerous health tests that reputable breeders undertake. These tests are not undertaken by most designer dog breeders, BYB's and not even all larger commercial breeders. But in Victoria animals are covered under consumer law and seen as 'goods' which means an owner can claim for conditions affecting their animals, three years after buying the animals. This is where the grey area begins as there are some conditions that can be genetic but these conditions can also be caused by environmental factors. One example of this is Hip dysplasia. Any reputable breeder who has a breed likely to have issues with this debilitating condition will test the parents before mating to ensure that they are breeding with animals with low scores, these scores are undertaken by expert physicians not just any old vet.

But, if someone buys a dog and years down the track the dog develops an issue, or one becomes apparent, the breeder may find themselves liable, even though they have done everything in their power to ensure they are doing all possible to breed healthy puppies. To add to this it is also hard for the breeder to prove this may not have been environmental, or over exercise at a young age, or jumping off things, and general rough play, as these can also be causes of this same condition.

Shelters are not expected to provide the same guarantees and most BYB's also able to avoid these claims, as most are probably not contactable after 3 years and these puppies generally come with no real paperwork.

Again like with the DAA changes the people that suffer the consequences from these rules are the registered breeders. The ones who are already traceable, the ones that are bound by codes of practice and codes of ethics that set-out expectations.

Why are animals treated as cars? How can we guarantee any living breathing being, in life genetics can throw curve balls that no one could of even thought of, let alone test for? It's what happens in life. We see the same things with humans.

These very same standards and requirements designed to protect the welfare of the animals and the peace of mind of their owners (buyers) is now the primary undoing of both parties that they were meant to protect. These standards and requirements were strongly influenced by the animal rights movement and NOT by the people with the actual experience, those people breeding the animals with the welfare of their animals paramount.





FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT ONCE AGAIN IGNORES ANIMAL WELFARE

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2021

## "VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT ONCE AGAIN IGNORES ANIMAL WELFARE "

The Victorian Government continues to ignore calls to ensure animal welfare is not only considered as ‘ESSENTIAL’ but is given priority over other less essential services.

With Victoria now heading into 200 days of lock down the Government officials have simply decided mobile grooming (an outdoor activity) is more risky than allowing people to enter enclosed veterinary surgeries!

“A person installing a solar panel or insulation is a higher priority? Let’s also allow sport and the activities that allow gambling to thrive to take a higher priority than animal care,” said Michael Donnelly, President of Animal Care Australia.

Many businesses are encouraged to click and collect – contactless grooming regardless of where it is carried out would have far less risk than other already authorised services. An individual groomer washing, cutting and grooming an animal carries too high a risk? What scientific evidence has been used to make that decision?

The regulations do allow an animal to be taken to a veterinary practice, which requires the payment of a veterinary consultation fee along with a grooming fee and with a shortage of vets available pet owners are finding it very difficult to secure an appointment – that is if they can afford the costs! A vet grooming will use a 40 blade cut – this takes the coat completely off back to the skin. This is not in the best interests of the animals concerned.

Animal Care Australia (ACA) is being contacted by members of the public begging for us to assist them or provide an explanation of the rules which we cannot provide as we are not being consulted on this matter! ACA is a national animal welfare organisation and we are not being heard by those making these ill-informed decisions.

ACA is calling on the Victorian Government to take animal welfare seriously and legislate it as an essential requirement in any and all essential and emergency services regulations implemented now and in the future! “Animals are suffering because the Victorian Government is ignoring their needs,” Mr Donnelly said.

“Animal welfare suffers when you have ill-informed officials, composing ambiguous regulations with no consultation and a closed-minded attitude that they know best. That has to change and it has to change now!” Mr Donnelly said.

- ENDS -

For further information contact Animal Care Australia

[aca@animalcareaustralia.org.au](mailto:aca@animalcareaustralia.org.au)

or call Michael Donnelly – President – 0400 323 843





By Rachel Sydneham

## Who Is A Puppy Farm?

### *(The dangers of blindly backing a headline)*

How a puppy farm is defined will vary greatly depending on who you ask and what they perceive a puppy farm to be.

So let us dive into this one as we discuss some organisations' perspectives of what they interpret as a

"Puppy Farm", and the potential ramifications that can occur from a mere definition, phrase or headline.

To begin with, the classical term of a puppy farm or puppy mill/factory, was one of where animals are intensively bred in poor confined conditions and deprived of adequate nutrition, exercise, healthy social interaction, veterinary attention and care. This is usually accompanied with visions of animals that are severely malnourished, filthy, ungroomed with physical injuries, ailments and in unkept confined environments displaying behaviours of fear, depression and anxiety.

The basis of this is to highlight the breeders intent to unethically intensively produce animals for pure profit with no regard for the animals in their care or their welfare. These are the pictures and descriptions that have been drummed into pet owners and the domestic animal and pet industry for many years. The reality is that the intentional actions and outcomes of a 'Puppy Farm' by classical definition are illegal acts of animal cruelty.

But depending on which people or organisations you ask, and taking into account their own personal agendas and views, the definition or opinion of what a puppy farm is may be skewed.

All agree that animals bred intensively for the purpose of profit is one of the categories that fall under the definition of a puppy farm, but what comes after that is where things start to turn 'grey' and views misalign. These differences of opinions are largely driven by an agenda, however, that agenda may not always be clear and may be hidden with the more classical definition used as a diversion to sway favour to sneak these agendas through unnoticed.

The **Animal Welfare Leagues** website states:

*"Puppy farming (or puppy factory) is defined as an intensive dog breeding facility that is operated under inadequate conditions that fail to meet the dogs' behavioural, social and/or physiological needs. It often results in animals being used as production units for gains without consideration of the animal's health or welfare, and they are often housed in deplorable conditions.*

*Animal Welfare League NSW supports provision of the **Five Freedoms** of animal welfare. The Five Freedoms are internationally accepted standards of care that affirm every living being's right to humane treatment. These standards were developed by Britain's Farm Animal Welfare Council in 1965 and ensure that we meet the mental and physical needs of animals in care."*

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### Five Freedoms:

- Freedom from hunger and thirst.
- Freedom from discomfort.
- Freedom from pain, injury, and disease
- Freedom to express normal behaviours.
- Freedom from fear and distress.

The **Animal Welfare Leagues** website continues:

*“Animal Welfare League NSW believes the production, promotion and sale of animals with a profit motive undermines these freedoms and takes away the ability for the animal to be a valuable individual in our society as a loved pet and companion. Animals that are used for the purpose of intense breeding often have multiple health complications and poorer-quality of life. They are often exploited for financial gain and disposed when no longer of use. Our animals deserve better.”*

Source: <https://www.awlnsw.com.au/puppy-farming/>

The **RSPCA’s** perspective is also as follows:

*“A puppy farm (also known as a puppy factory or puppy mill) is defined as ‘an intensive dog breeding facility that is operated under inadequate conditions that fail to meet the dogs’ behavioural, social and/or physiological needs’.*

***Puppy farms are usually large-scale commercial operations, but inadequate conditions may also exist in small volume breeding establishments which may or may not be run for profit.***

*Puppy farming is a major animal welfare issue in Australia. The main welfare problems associated with puppy farms include but are not limited to:*

*Extreme confinement – in some cases breeding animals may never be allowed out of their cage to exercise, play, socialise, have companionship or even to go to the toilet.*

*Inadequate veterinary care and general care (grooming and parasite control).*

*Unhygienic living conditions.*

*Inadequate and overcrowded housing conditions.*

*Frequent long-term health and/or behavioural problems in breeding dogs and puppies born in puppy farms as a result of the poor conditions they are bred in and a lack of adequate socialisation*

*Puppies from puppy farms may be sold via any avenue of sale including the internet, newspaper ads, markets, car boot sales, pet shops or sometimes at the puppy farm itself. Puppy farms may also use a house as a ‘shop front’ to sell their animals from, so you don’t get to see the appalling conditions they breed dogs in. We don’t know exactly how many puppy farms there are in Australia, as many puppy farms operate in highly remote areas and are not known to authorities, but with the advent of internet sales it is a growing national problem. RSPCA Inspectors have rescued dogs from puppy farms where hundreds of breeding females have been kept in cages in appalling conditions.*

*Be aware that any type or breed of dog can come from a puppy farm (purebred dogs, crossbreeds, mixed breeds), so you cannot judge whether a dog has been bred in a puppy farm based on the breed or type of dog. The only way to be sure is to visit the breeding facility and check out the conditions.”*

Source: <https://kb.rspca.org.au/knowledge-base/what-is-a-puppy-farm/>

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Both the AWL and RSPCA further recognise that living conditions that are confined and unhygienic with animal health, mental and physical wellbeing and welfare being ignored are also inclusive in the definition of a puppy farm. Highlighted within the RSPCA's description, however, is a slightly concerning paragraph that is very ambiguous?

This ambiguity could dangerously put licenced commercial facilities and registered breeders that are practicing a high animal welfare standard, at risk of persecution, which will be explained further into this article.

### ***Agendas Hidden in Plain Sight!***

The Animal Justice Party and Oscar's Law versions also emphasise graphically on what THEY define as a 'Puppy Farm', and to be honest, it all would seem that everyone is on the same page, however, this is where agendas come in to play and lines become blurred.

Oscar's Law outlines state by state of what they deem is currently legal and illegal. An example of NSW versus the Holy Grail of Victoria's Puppy Farm Ban Laws are as follows. Also their expectations for the state of Western Australia as they await the passing of a similar Bill to that of Victoria.

**"Puppy farms are usually large-scale commercial operations, but inadequate conditions may also exist in small volume breeding establishments which may or may not be run for profit"**

#### **Victoria**

- The first state in Australia to ban the sale of animals in pet shops unless they are from a registered shelter, rescue group or pound. This law comes into effect on 1 July 2018.
- The first state in Australia to introduce a cap on dog numbers and a limit on how many litters a dog can have. From April 2018 puppy farmers must not replace breeding stock and must start to phase down to 10 females by 2020.
- First state in Australia to legislate a mandatory vet health check for every dog prior to breeding and post whelping.
- Implemented a public searchable online Pet Exchange Register. Anyone who wants to sell a companion animal must register their details and their 'breeder ID' number must be placed in all online adds. No breeder ID = no ad can be placed.
- Penalties apply to any online trading site who allows ads to be published without a pet exchange register number. The Pet Exchange Register commences 1 July 2019.

#### **New South Wales**

- Puppy factories remain legal as does the sale of animals in pet shops.
- Code of Practice isn't linked to any legislation that triggers its use, therefore puppy factories can operate without any inspections for many years, some have never been inspected. The industry in NSW is mainly self regulated.
- There are no caps on dog numbers, and no caps on litter limits.

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## Western Australia

- Puppy factories and the sale of animals in pet shops remain legal.
- The current Labor Government are drafting legislation that if passed will ban the sale of animals in pet shops, and will be similar to the Victorian legislation.
- The public discussion paper was launched 3 May 2018 and we encourage everyone to read this and provide feedback to the WA state Government.\*

Source: <https://www.oscarslaw.org/legislation-in-each-state.htm>

\* ACA Would like to note, this Bill has now been drafted and passed through the Upper House and is awaiting to be presented to the Lower House. This will be the second attempt at passing this Bill, however it is expected to pass the Lower House.

*“From April 2018 puppy farmers must not replace breeding stock and must start to phase down to 10 females by 2020.”*

The AJP and Oscar’s Law, (both Animal Rights Extremist groups that regularly team together and collaborate with PETA), will sing their praises on the success of Victoria’s Ban Puppy Farm Laws, but take note of the points under Victoria with registered ethical breeders in mind in particular the second point.

In that point everyone, (using the term Puppy Farmer), who is a dog breeder is capped with ‘limits of animals’ allowable to be kept on a property/dwelling as well as the number of

litters produced. This is under State Government legislation and does not include the Local Governments additional by-laws that further restrict the allowable number of ‘animals’ that can be kept on a single property/dwelling.

In most cases many Local Council’s Animal Keeping Policies restrict this number to **just five animals**, with permits and DA’s required for extra animals and/or entire animals being denied, thus forcing people to give up breeding animals altogether and/or forced to choose which pets they will need to euthanize and which to keep. I use the word ‘animals’ because the Local Councils are enforcing the limits of all animals in total per single dwelling regardless of the species you keep.

Despite State legislations, at the end of the day pet owners are bound and need to abide by the Animal Keeping Policies of their Local Government Areas in which they reside and keep animals. Many more LGA’s within Victoria are following suite with these changes to their Animal Keeping Policies. Victoria has become a very animal unfriendly state.



You can view the state of Victoria’s Domestic Animals Act and the list of related legislations via the following link;

<https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestock-and-animals/animal-welfare-victoria/domestic-animals-act/puppy-farm-legislation>

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It is also interesting to note that in the Oscar's Laws statement for NSW the claim that there is no COP linked to Legislation in NSW. This statement is false! The NSW COP for Breeding Dogs and Cats is linked via the regulations in POCTAA and Schedule 1 listing within those regulations. Without them being linked the Animal Inspectorate would not be able to carry out audits on registered breeding establishments.

*"Code of Practice isn't linked to any legislation that triggers its use, therefore puppy factories can operate without any inspections for many years, some have never been inspected. The industry in NSW is mainly self regulated.."*

Now, you may think that I have gone a little off track of the original subject, but I assure you that I have not.

The Animal Justice Party's Emma Hurst will convince you that Puppy Farms are legal in NSW and writhe in numbers, in fact they go on to describe what makes a puppy farm legal in NSW. Here is an excerpt from their website.

*"What is puppy farming?"*

*Puppy farms are businesses that breed puppies for profit, often keeping them in inhumane conditions to produce as many puppies as possible.*

*Many people think that puppy factories are illegal, however they remain legal in NSW as long as they are registered with the council and have a 'permit'."*

Source: <https://nsw.animaljusticeparty.org/the-cruel-reality-of-puppy-farming/>

It is true that a commercial breeder is legally able to operate an animal breeding facility providing that all applications of the facility have been inspected and approved by its local government with a permit granted. There is a lot of red tape involved in just establishing a boarding kennel for dogs, let alone a commercial dog breeding facility. Once any person, individual or facility starts breeding then they are immediately under the scrutiny of the Animal Welfare Code Of Practice for Breeding Dogs and Cats (COP) which is legislated under POCTAA, (Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals Act). If a commercial or domestic breeder does not follow the COP they can be subject to heavy penalties, fines, seizure of animals as well as criminal charges depending on the severity of the breaches.

So if we re-visit the classical definition of a puppy farm, and how we define a puppy farm keeps and treats its animals, then, any one not abiding by the COP for Breeding Dogs and Cats under POCTAA, and found guilty of breaches is carrying out an illegal act in NSW.



You can view the Animal Welfare Codes of Practice Breeding Cats and Dogs document via the following link.

[https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0013/1310431/Breeding-dogs-and-cats-code-of-practice.pdf](https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0013/1310431/Breeding-dogs-and-cats-code-of-practice.pdf)

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This is where the lines do indeed blur because AJP and Oscars Law will insist that Puppy Farms are legal in NSW and need to be banned, but highlighted in the AJP's reasoning of how a Puppy Farm is legal, actually describes Commercial Breeding businesses and registered hobby breeders.

In fact many registered hobby breeders will also refer to a commercial breeding establishment as a 'Puppy Farm' primarily based on it being commercial orientated and marketing specific unusual breed types and designer breed animals at a higher price than the hobby breeder would advertise and sell for. They will be judged purely on the basis that they are breeding animals as a business ergo for profit, regardless of the fact that commercial breeder has an honest reputation or is practicing a higher standard of welfare than the standards of the code of practice they are governed by. Just because a business is breeding animals does not make it a puppy farm under the classical definition, but individual agendas will greatly define how someone perceives something to be and there is no convincing them otherwise.

Even the RSPCA have been caught out in recent events, where they were funded and instructed by the government, (under pressure by Animal Rights Extremist groups), to seek out and shut down 'Illegal Puppy Farms' within NSW, (named the Puppy Farm Task Force). Instead the RSPCA renamed it the Breeders Compliance Unit and then went seeking out and auditing known registered hobby breeders with a check list predominantly designed for auditing commercial breeding businesses, and fining them for being in breach of the COP for Breeding Dogs and Cats. An over reach of enforcement by the Inspectorate with an agenda of making it look like they were doing something with as little effort as possible seemed to counteract the organization's own definition of a Puppy Farm. Or perhaps it is ambiguous paragraphs like the one highlighted below, taken from the RSPCA's definition of a Puppy Farm, that is actually putting registered hobby breeders in the sights of the RSPCA's Inspectorate?

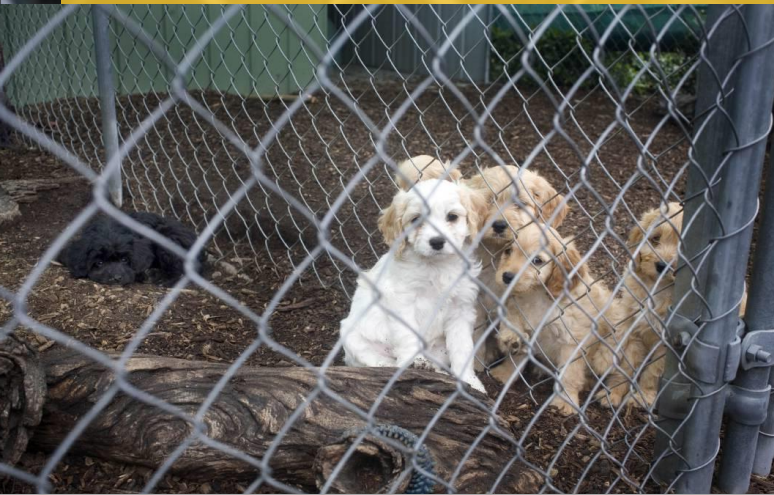
**Puppy farms are usually large-scale commercial operations, but inadequate conditions may also exist in small volume breeding establishments which may or may not be run for profit.**





## **Animal Rights Continue to Infiltrate Government!**

The Western Australian Government is currently in the grip of Animal Rights Extremist groups pushing their agendas with the Dog Amendment Stop Puppy Farming Bill, and so is now travelling down the same animal unfriendly road that Victoria has taken. This bill is usually headlined under two titles, **“Stop Puppy Farming Bill”** and **“The Bill to ban the sale of Puppies and kittens in Pet Shops”**. Both titles used specifically as the draw card to gain favour of voters who love and care for animals.



Irresponsible breeding is a rising issue as a result of ‘Ban Puppy Farming’ legislation in Victoria and soon to be in Western Aust.

Unfortunately, as noble as this Bill sounds in titles, as seen in Victoria this will open the flood gates to irresponsible breeders. The regulations will actually reduce the number of responsible breeders which will then reduce the number of available puppies and kittens. There will be an increase on the demand and value of puppies and kittens which will in turn increase the number of irresponsible breeders looking to make a fast profit from that demand.

Just as seen in Victoria the regulations will see an increased burden and demand on rescues and shelters due to higher numbers of abandoned animals. The Victorian government is now scrambling to fund and create a Shelter Industry to cope with the overflow. So if you

think Bills such as these will solve all the problems, you are going to be sadly disappointed, especially if you keep and care for animals or are a registered hobby breeder passionate about the animals you work with.

Recently released is the news of the second reading of the Bill in Western Australia it now has one more step for it to be passed as law.

Member of Victoria Park (ALP), Hannah Beazley is in support of this Bill and spoke in the House of Representatives on the 17th August 2021 about the new amendments and it’s proposed benefits. She admitted that *“this Bill is not about animal welfare laws or amendments to those laws, that will ‘hopefully(?)’ come. It IS about the breeding and traceability of dogs.”*. Ms Beazley then goes on to say *“... this bill will submit great improvement on animal welfare and prevent cruelty and abandonment by (under RSPCA’s recommendations), enforcing mandatory sterilisation of all animals by 2 years of age, registration from anyone wanting to breed from their dog, a centralised registration system and pet shops becoming animal adoption centres.”*

However, this did not prevent mass abandonment of pets in Victoria. As previously mentioned, the Victorian government is now scrambling to fund and create a Shelter Industry to cope with the overflow.

*“... Is not about animal welfare laws or amendments to those laws, that will ‘hopefully(?)’ come. It IS about the breeding and traceability of dogs.”*



WA Member for the ALP—  
Hannah Beazley.

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It is interesting that the focus is on controlling the animal breeding sector when animals are abused and/or abandoned, while the reason for the vast majority of an animal being abused or abandoned falls into the hands of its owner. It would make more sense to improve animal welfare laws and introduce companion animal education schemes within schools as well as for pet owners than to ban and heavily regulate the animal breeding sector. The rest of Ms Beazley's speech entailed primarily sad stories of actions made by irresponsible 'pet ownership' — not actual breeders — promoting adoption of rescues and her love of her own past dogs to iterate that she is 'on the side of animals'. She continued to add "...that you can apply to be an approved breeder through your local governments..." which will surely hit the same road blocks and rejections to the applications as those breeders in Victoria experienced. Just as Victoria's LGA's immediately commenced altering their Animal Keeping Policies, WA LGA's will start to change their own Keeping Animal Policies resulting in even tighter restrictions on the numbers of animals (not just dogs or cats) that can be kept without a lengthy DA application process and fees.

You can view Hannah Beazley's speech via the following link: <https://youtu.be/gDMTLDq9Ls8>

### **Don't believe or trust the Animal Rights Narrative!**

The sad reality is that Puppy Farm Ban laws will not do what they are so named to do, because ultimately there is no clear definition of whom or what a puppy farm actually is.

This is why we need to focus on animal welfare, education and support, as it is these that will improve the life of animals, raise the standard of care for animals and importantly of all protect animals.

We need to keep animal rights agendas out of legislation, because if we allow their ideology to dictate our laws, then keeping and caring for animals will quickly become a thing of the past. The animal rights agenda is to remove animals from all human involvement; they are just clever at disguising these agendas inside controversial subjects that get our attention and pull at our heart strings knowing that we will blindly believe their narrative without question.

If Animal Rights is involved then we MUST question it! If we do not question it and let them make the laws we will find ourselves all treated as being 'Puppy Farmers'.

***There is no place  
for Animal Rights  
ideology in  
government  
legislation!***

***Animal Rights is  
NOT Animal  
Welfare!***

***Animal Rights  
does NOT protect  
animals!***







*Horse & Livestock Representative: Karri Nadazdy*

## Horses in lockdown

The cancellation of equestrian events due to Covid-19 restrictions is disappointing for many horse riders. All but the biggest clubs struggle to remain viable at the best of times, especially if they have large fixed expenses like grounds, maintenance and insurance to pay.

Some organisations have moved events online. Bitless Inc has been running online shows and committee meetings since 2013 and it took some time to work out how to do this efficiently.

Be kind to the volunteers who put their time into making these events happen – it's a steep learning curve and takes a lot of effort. They do it to maintain a positive connection with you during lockdown and ensure that your membership has value even without live competitions. They need your support.

But its not just events that are affected by lockdown. Many horse owners have been worried about restrictions and how it affects the care of their horses, especially in states like NSW, where the rules seem to change every week.

Rest assured, that ACA went to great lengths in our first lockdown in 2020 to ensure that animal welfare needs were included as 'Acceptable/Essential' reasons to leave home.

Ensuring horses and livestock are cared for properly is a serious welfare issue, and cannot be dismissed.

If you are the caregiver for your horses, even if they are on agistment, you are always permitted to go and spend time looking after your horses, exercising them and maintaining the land they live on.

Horse riding is low risk for spreading Covid-19, it is outdoors, the horses make physical distancing easy, it counts as exercise, and it's good for your mental health as well as your

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horse's.

We've seen a lot of confusion recently, particularly since travel permits were introduced in NSW, with people making statements that are simply not in the lockdown restrictions. When reading new directives, keep in mind that Health Orders are written to tell us what we CANNOT do, not what we CAN do. Exemption orders are there to broadly describe acceptable activities, not every specific circumstance. Try not to make assumptions, or read more into it, than what it actually says.

Ask yourself if your situation is in the spirit of keeping the community safe, and necessary for your *horse's* wellbeing, or just yours? Be honest with yourself and think about whether you are looking for a loophole to justify what you want to do, or genuinely trying to ensure you comply. Is what you have in mind complying with exercise and travel limits and minimising social contact? If it's unclear, ask yourself if it would be a welfare issue for your horse to put the activity off for a few weeks, or perhaps write out a list of pros and cons to help you decide.

Caring for animals, and meeting their welfare needs is always allowed. Everyone's circumstances will vary somewhat, but complying with the lockdown restrictions and caring for your animals shouldn't be stressful. Horse owners are incredibly fortunate to have their horses to look forward to, and spend time with, there's no need to make it any harder on ourselves than it already is. Focus on your horse, and his or her needs and enjoy the quality time with them while you have it. There will be time later to resume competitive goals.







*Bird Representative: Sam Davis*

## Bird Species Update

### ACA update

ACA is busy working on a range of matters of indirect relevance to aviculturists, including:

1. **Pets in strata** – the new regulations are now law. Essentially Owners Corporations can no longer include by-laws preventing the keeping of pets in strata. Current by-laws to that effect are now null and void. Much of the detail is a direct result of ACA recommendations.
2. **Dog and Cats breeding code** – a revised code has just been released. This code resolves a number of problem areas uncovered during the recent RSPCA compliance audits. A new code and new right of access laws for those tasked with compliance will be included in the new NSW animal welfare legislation.



3. **A discussion paper is now out with regard to animal welfare law in NSW.** This paper has resulted in much discussion/argument between all parties, including all political parties. In my role as VP of ACA we have met with the Minister Adam Marshall's office, the Shadow Minister Mick Veitch MP, Emma Hurst MP of the Animal Justice Party and Mark Banasiak of the Shooters, Fishers, Farmers Party. We've also met with the senior DPI staff who are engaged in writing the new Act.

### Victoria Review by the Conservation Regulator - Native Animal Licensing

A further consultation has been commenced by the Victorian Conservation Regulator who manages native bird compliance and enforcement. Crazy given reviews of the larger Wildlife Act 1975 and animal legislation are both well underway and these are the Acts that underpin all activities of the Conservation Regulator.

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This consultation was brought to CCBFA attention recently, and might I say indirectly. I apologise for not widely consulting with all Victorian clubs, but time was of the essence. In addition, the points CCBFA has made are essentially the same as were made in the main Wildlife Act 175 review submission and that submission is included in this submission.

The main points in our submission are as follows.

- A. The current licensing regime for native birds is outdated and is no longer fit for purpose. Risk-based licensing is, in general supported. There is no longer any incentive to take from the wild for the large majority of our aviary species, therefore trivial risk, which should be reflected in the licensing regime.
- B. Aviculturists keep a mix of both native and exotic species; therefore, animal welfare regulation of aviary birds should not be the remit of the Conservation Regulator.
- C. We applaud the intent of the Conservation Regulator to “Inform and educate”, “understand how to comply”, “Collaborate by working with”, etc. described on p7. CCBFA welcomes direct communication from, and looks forward to working with the Conservation Regulator – this has not occurred to date. The consultative committee (see recommendation 4 that follows) should be supported by the Conservation Regulator.
- D. Native animal keeping is a known precursor to conservation awareness, empathy and involvement. Encouraging and supporting native animal keeping should be a central role of the Conservation Regulator.

The full CCBFA submission is at the following link:  
<https://www.ccbfa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/ccbfa-vic-conservation-regulator-submission-300821.pdf>

### **NSW Native Animal Licensing**

On the afternoon of 30/6/21 I received a reply from Atticus Fleming who is the Deputy Secretary of NSW NPWS (he is in charge of NPWS). Atticus indicated a brief would be on his desk by the end of the week and with the Minister shortly after.

No further correspondence received as at 1/9/21.

ACA appealed and has been granted a review of its Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009

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(GIPA) request. The results of the initial GIPA request did not include documents we know exist. We await these further results, or lack thereof, before moving forward.

### **NSW Bird Sale CoP - Update**

Our NSW Bird sale CoP was approved at the July CCBFA meeting for release shortly, but commencing in 12 months time (September 2022) to enable all clubs to inform sellers and buyers.

A list of species permitted to be sold in wire cages and not permitted to be sold in wire cages is essentially finalised. This list will be on the CCBFA website and accessible via QR code. A footnote to S4.7 will direct users to this list.

A media release has been prepared (thanks to Jayson Forest) and A3 posters are being designed.

CCBFA will shortly contact all clubs to determine the number of copies of the code each requires, then print and distribute.

A copy of the code is on our website [www.ccbfa.org.au](http://www.ccbfa.org.au)

### **Parrot Exports**

The Federal Wildlife Trade Office (WTO) within the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment contracted consultants "ThinkPlace" to consider "Options for a National Registration Scheme for Native and Exotic Live Birds".

I have spoken to the head of wildlife trade about our CCBFA proposal outlined below on numerous occasions. I (and others) have also been interviewed by ThinkPlace consultants as have Dr Simon Griffith (Macquarie University) and Dr David Groth (Curtin University) on my recommendation. Both scientists confirm the viability of DNA parentage testing which is at the centre of the CCBFA proposal.

To reiterate, the main points in CCBFA's proposal are as follows.

1. CCBFA is strongly opposed to the introduction of a "National Registration Scheme for Native and Exotic Live Birds".
  - a) This will not prevent smuggling or poaching and will likely enable laundering of illegal birds into the system.
  - b) Registering all CITES listed birds is unrealistic
  - c) The previous National Exotic Bird Registration Scheme (NEBRS) failed. It is also common knowledge that NEBRS enabled smuggled birds to be legalised.
2. Stopping poaching and smuggling is the main aim. For this to occur an accessible yet robust system to ensure birds are captive bred is required.
  - a) Australia's CITES obligations require a captive bred assurance from the Management Authority of the State of export (CITES Article VII (5)). No further CITES permits are required when birds are shown to be captive bred.
  - b) CCBFA acknowledges there are deficiencies in the current system of proving birds intended for export are captive bred.

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c) CCBFA supports the introduction of economical DNA parentage tests using blood spots from the captive parents and from the birds to be exported. DNA testing proves parentage which proves that the birds are captive bred.

d) A simple addition to the EPBC Act 1999 is required to implement the above and CCBFA offers to assist.

3. Captive bred exports should NOT be restricted to “display establishments” aka zoos. Exports should be able to go to anyone, cost effectively with some welfare assurances. This must be the case to minimise smuggling and poaching.

Public consultation, including an online survey, is open until 17<sup>th</sup> September 2021. Clubs and individuals are encouraged to make the above points clear as they complete the survey.

Consultation website is here...  
<https://haveyoursay.awe.gov.au/>



Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> August, 2021

## ***Australia's peak animal welfare body celebrates the inclusion of pets to NSW Strata Scheme Laws.***

**Sydney, NSW, (24 August 2021)** Animal Care Australia is celebrating the introduction of new laws governing the keeping of animals in strata schemes in NSW, commencing on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2021. The new Strata Schemes Management Amendment (Pets) Regulation 2021 makes pet keeping in all strata complexes the default order.

Under the new laws, an owners' corporation:

- can only refuse to allow an animal into the scheme if that animal unreasonably interferes with another resident's use and enjoyment of their lot or the common property
- may still require residents to apply for approval from the owners corporation to keep an animal on their lot
- may still set reasonable conditions in their by-laws to manage the keeping of animals in the scheme.
- Strata by-laws that set a blanket ban on the keeping of any animals within a scheme are not valid.

The laws also include a list of circumstances where an animal causes an unreasonable interference to residents in a scheme. The owners' corporation can take steps to prohibit an animal that is being kept in the scheme if the animal causes a nuisance, hazard or unreasonable interference.

The changes to end discrimination against pet owners has been welcomed by animal welfare advocates, who have worked hard in recent months to develop the Amendment in a way that was fair and in keeping with existing Strata Scheme legislation.

**"Animal Care Australia is proud to be acknowledged as a key stakeholder and work with senior government policy staff on the drafting of these regulations to ensure pet keeping is open to everyone,"** says Michael Donnelly, President of [Animal Care Australia](http://www.animalcareaustralia.org.au).

"Pets are a vital part of our community. Many of us treat them as part of the family. It seems archaic that in 2021 pets would not automatically be accepted in strata in the same way our children are."

Existing Strata Scheme By-Laws with blanket pet bans will be invalid from this week. Owners' Corporations have been advised that they need to review their by-laws to ensure that they comply with the new legislation. By-Laws are permitted to include a registration process for residents wishing to keep pets to allow complexes to keep track of animals and to ensure that those animals meet other regulations in regards to microchipping and council registrations and the like.





The legislation has broader implications than just supporting pet ownership in our community. "With our aging population and governments encouraging our elder society to downsize it makes sense they be permitted to take their pets with them, or for those living alone to have some much needed and loving companionship," Mr Donnelly said , "one of the many factors for people staying in abusive relationships are their pets. With these new regulations that is one less hurdle for someone to get away from domestic violence"

Animals are ingrained in Australian society. There are more than 29 million pets in Australia today, with three out of 5 households owning at

least one pet. We may even see this number increase in light of this change.

Animal Care Australia is the Peak Animal Welfare Body representing the keepers and breeders of pet and companion animals in Australia.

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For further information contact Animal Care Australia Inc

[www.animalcareaustralia.org.au](http://www.animalcareaustralia.org.au)

[president@animalcareaustralia.org.au](mailto:president@animalcareaustralia.org.au)

Phone: 0400 323 843

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*Native Mammal Representative: Michael Donnelly*

## **Netting laws updated to protect native wildlife in Victoria**

In an Australian-first, new laws related to the use of netting on fruit trees has been implemented in Victoria. Regulatory changes now require netting used by households to be fine enough to ensure wildlife can't get stuck and potentially die.

Reports show a number of native species are among the fatalities resulting from larger netting, and include flying foxes, magpies, possums and sulphur-crested cockatoos, with Wildlife Victoria responding to 285 netting cases in 2020.

"We believe our case numbers are just the tip of the iceberg. It's highly likely that a lot of animals may not be called in to Wildlife Victoria because they may already be deceased or they haven't been noticed," spokeswoman Lisa Palma said.

In March 2018, 44 rainbow lorikeets were trapped in netting covering an apple tree in suburban Melbourne and 25 of them died.

The regulatory changes by Agriculture Victoria came into effect on Wednesday 1st September 2021, requiring a mesh size of 5mm by 5mm or less at full stretch.

Photo credit: © TAMSYN HOGARTH







**Animal Care Australia Inc.**  
 PO Box 314 Macarthur  
 Square Post Office NSW  
 2560

Website: [animalcareaustralia.org.au](http://animalcareaustralia.org.au)

Email: [aca@animalcareaustralia.org.au](mailto:aca@animalcareaustralia.org.au)

ABN 36 438 686 995

Tax File No 508 268 553

CFN: 25599



## 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 — AGM**

**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](mailto:aca@animalcareaustralia.org.au) with your details. A link for the meeting will be emailed to you.



Watch out for our next issue in December 2021.

Click to read our [previous issues](#)





Animal Care Australia