



Animal Care Australia

The Animal Care Expert

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



Inside this edition:

- ⇒ ACA appears at QLD Inquiry
- ⇒ Cat aggression part 2
- ⇒ Aviculture saving a near extinct species
- ⇒ ACA visits an intensive puppy breeding facility





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

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Watch out for our
next issue in
December 2022.

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President's Report

By Michael Donnelly

Another three months has past with the never ending challenges of responding to proposed changes to how we can keep our pets occupying more and more of ACA's time.

Thankfully, one aspect of this is moving in the right direction of actually getting ahead of things with the introduction and first team members of STAT (Stat & Territory Advisory Team). This new Team are now focused on building a database of national Local Council Reviews of Animal Management Plans and this will be of great assistance to us in the future.

STAT will also be watching out for issues of concern in each state and advising/supporting the ACA Committee in responding. We still need more members of the Team, especially members who live in WA, SA, TAS, NT & the ACT. My hope is to have multiple representatives in each state and territory. If you would like to join STAT or you know someone who would be ideal for the position please contact us at aca@animalcareaustralia.org.au

Of great concern for ACA and for you our members is the upcoming Victorian Elections.

The recent Federal Election has highlighted a swing away from the two major Parties. The percentage of votes that were gained by parties such as the Animal

Justice Party, The Greens, and other Independents was considerable, and when converted to a state level that percentage (swing) could quite likely see additional party candidates elected.

In Victoria, the only party truly advocating in parliament to protect the rights of companion animal and pet owners has been the Shooters Fishers & Farmers Party, and their sole representative is up for re-election.

Also standing for re-election is the AJP's Andy Meddick, along with several other proposed AJP candidates.

Other minor parties have previously highlighted their support of animal rights based legislation with most supporting the AJP's amendments and motions in parliament, effectively enacting them.

Every Victorian-based companion, pet and animal owner should be greatly concerned and give huge thought and consideration to how they will vote.

As usual, ACA will provide a breakdown of the animal welfare policies for the Parties as the election gets closer and Parties are all confirmed.

There are so many other aspects of concern at this point in time.

QLD legislation changes occurring without supportive data/facts—in fact scientific data is being ignored; the same changes to occur in TAS unsupported by the facts; Native Wildlife Licensing Reviews in both NSW & VIC; the impending outcomes & actions of the NSW Puppy Farm Inquiry, as well as the ever-existing threat of anti-puppy farm legislation in SA; the ongoing bullying and slandering by certain politicians while under parliamentary privilege; the over abuse of powers in QLD by Local Councils, and I could go on for ages.

At the end of the day, ACA will continue the good fight—but we can't do it without you. Join STAT, donate via our website and get your friends to join ACA as a Supporter.

www.animalcareaustralia.org.au/

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

Happy reading!





ACA Submissions, Correspondence & Meeting Reports



ACA responds to Inquiry into QLD Animal Care & Protection Act Amendment Bill 2022.

30th May 2022: ACA generally supports the amendments, however ACA strongly:

1. Recommends the release of draft Regulations are required to accompany this amendment to the Act to ensure and confirm the intent and direction of the Act. Currently the detail that matters is largely unknown.
2. Recommends comprehensive stakeholder and public consultation is required prior to the implementation of any amendments NOT originally included in the Discussion Paper.
3. Recommends the addition of a new clause to the Bill which allows for the consultation and development of Codes of Practice
4. Recommends the deletion of Clause 14 (and subsequently Section 37A) as provision is provided by and is better enforced using the existing offence under Section 18(2)(a)

5. Supports these enhanced accountability provisions of the inspectorate, in particular oversight of the RSPCA QLD.

6. Reinforces its support for restrictions of entry by the inspectorate, particularly with regard to any land used for residential purposes, whether or not such land is also used for commercial purposes.

7. Recommends an appeal process to the chief executive (or delegate) is implemented to provide oversight and a reasonableness mechanism for persons who disagree with compliance decisions made against them.

8. Recommends all prosecutions are under the direct control of the chief executive and performed by a government employed delegate.

Click on the pdf icon for the submission:



ACA responds to Tasmania's Draft Animal Welfare Act Amendment Bill 2022

20th July 2022: ACA has concerns with this Amendment Bill. It is our view this Amendment has not been satisfactorily consulted.

ACA does not support the inclusion of Animals Australia Incorporated as a member of the Tasmanian Animal Welfare Advisory Committee. Animals Australia is an animal rights (protection) organisation, not an animal welfare organisation

ACA is NOT supportive of the majority of the proposed Amendments as they are clearly reflective of the infiltration of animal rights ideologies within the claimed consultation process and do NOT strive towards animal welfare improvement.

ACA strongly recommends this Government gives consideration to adopting the recommendations from the current review of the Queensland Animal Care and Protection Act relating to the powers and accountability of the RSPCA

Click on the pdf icon for the submission:



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ACA requests to meet with new Victorian Planning Minister

20th July 2022: The purpose of the meeting is to discuss ongoing concerns experienced by our members relating to State Planning Laws and the keeping and breeding of dogs which are currently being impacted.

These concerns are relating to the limiting of the numbers of animals permitted on a property to no more than 5 animals. Local Councils have been implementing these restrictions so as to restrict the numbers of dogs a registered breeder can have, in an attempt to circumnavigate the existing legislation within the Domestic Animals Act.

ACA's previous requests were ignored by Minister Richard Wynne.

The matter has now reached an unacceptable impasse where even the Municipal Association Victoria has advised the matter requires to be addressed by the Planning Minister.

ACA will continue to advocate for pet owners.

Click on the pdf icon to read our correspondence:



ACA responds to Gold Coast City Council's Local Law Amendments 2022

29th August 2022 — ACA responds to Council's proposed amendments.

ACA supported Council's recognition that permits and (some) restrictions are an over-regulation and unnecessary.

ACA opposed the number restrictions on bird keepers. It is still clear this decision is not based on animal welfare or neighbourhood amenity. To this end, ACA has requested to meet with Council to discuss.

ACA supported Councils requirement for Minimum Standards to apply regardless of permit removals.

Click on the pdf icon to read our correspondence:



ACA Supports Puppy Factory Education Initiative

30th August, 2022 — ACA contacted the Hon Dugald Saunders MP Minister for Agriculture NSW, and Dr Kim Filmer, NSW Chief Animal Welfare Officer to congratulate the Govt on commencing to educate buyers and sellers about puppy factories and potential scammers.

ACA did have some suggested corrections to the DPI website to improve the message and ensure correct information is being promoted

Click on the pdf icon to read our correspondence:





ACA appears at QLD Inquiry into Animal Care & Protection Act Amendments.

14th June 2022—ACA President appeared as a witness at the QLD Parliament - State Development and Regional Industries Committee Inquiry into the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022

Animal Care Australia – Opening statement

Good afternoon, Chair - I ask that this statement be tabled.

I am Michael Donnelly- President of Animal Care Australia or ACA. ACA is a national incorporated association established to lobby for real animal welfare by those who keep, breed and care for animals.

Our goal is to promote and encourage high standards in all interactions with the animals in our care.

In May 2021, ACA provided a submission to the QLD Review of Animal Care & Protection Act (ACPA) 2001 and we welcome the opportunity to provide further feedback on the proposed Amendment Bill here today.

ACA is in general in support of the proposed changes to the ACPA and the majority of the Amendments within this Bill. However ACA has concerns on the inclusion of clauses within this Amendment that were not part of the May 2021 review, in particular the ban of restraint devices.

Attempts to insert clauses without proper public consultation are not supported by ACA and are not aligned with The Queensland Governments Guide to Better Regulation May 2019. Also of concern is the lack of the provision of any scientific or documented evidence to support the inclusion of restraint devices without public consultation. The lack of draft Regulations for review is inexcusable when the Amendments continually refer to the Regulations -of which there is no inclusion within the current Regulations. The examples provided in the Amendment Bill not only included prong collars but also collars, leads, harnesses and the like. All of which are vital devices in the everyday functioning of animal handling, husbandry, exercise and training. While ACA recognises some of these may be used incorrectly by those not experienced all of these should not be banned.

With this in mind ACA strongly recommends the deletion of Clause 14 (and subsequently Section 37 A) as there is provision provided by and is already enforceable using the existing offence under Section 18(2)(a). Should proper public and stakeholder consultation result in further



ACA President: Michael Donnelly

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amendments in the future, ACA would consider those.

For compliance and enforcement of the Act, ACA does not support this being carried out by the RSPCA QLD, and we strongly recommend the inspectorate be placed with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. The RSPCA QLD and across Australia has time and again proven they are not the appropriate organisation to carry out this task - one which must place animal welfare and higher welfare outcomes above profit and prosecution -one where the animals needs must come first.

Should our recommendation not be supported by government and regardless where the inspectorate are situated, ACA supports the enhanced accountability provisions of the inspectorate. We reinforce our support for restrictions of entry by the inspectorate, particularly with regard to any land used for residential purposes, whether or not such land is also used for commercial purposes.

ACA recommends an appeal process to the chief executive (or delegate) is implemented to provide oversight and a reasonableness mechanism for persons who disagree with compliance decisions made against them. We recommend all prosecutions are under the direct control of the chief executive and performed by a government employed delegate.

Animal Care Australia would like to thank the QLD State Development & Regional Industries Committee for providing us with the opportunity to provide feedback for this Inquiry, and we welcome your questions.



QLD Warning applies to ALL of us.

The Queensland Environment Department has issued a warning relating to the use of baits that are of blue or green colouring.

The Department has received reports attributing the recent deaths of a number of Bowerbirds to blue/green snail bait containing toxic Metaldehyde/Methiocarb.

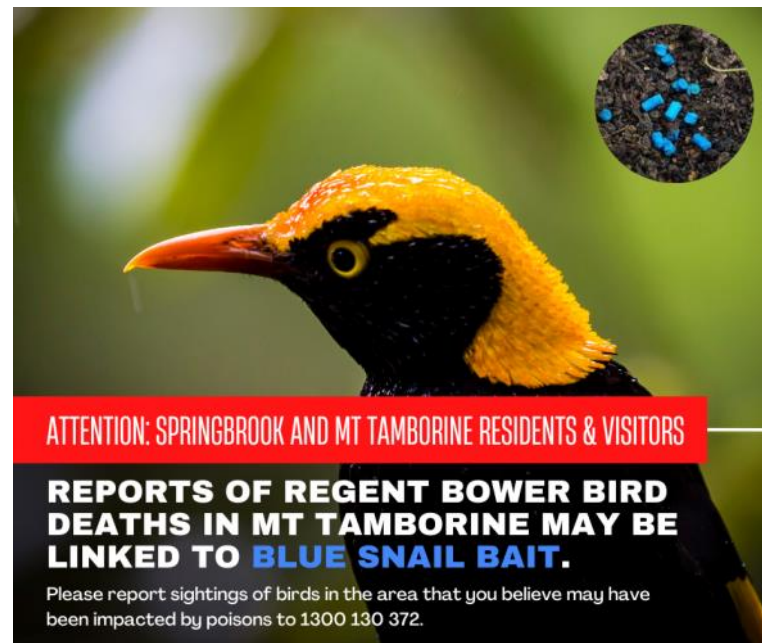
Male Bowerbirds like to collect blue items to furnish their bowers, especially during breeding season. This unfortunately means they are attracted to the blueish colour of the toxic pellets.

While QLD Environment is strongly urging anyone in the Springbrook and Mount Tamborine area to remember that if you are using snail bait, there is a potential for birds or other native animals to be exposed, ACA is urging everyone to take note and consider using alternatives where available.

Please take care when placing baits to ensure they cannot be easily seen or accessed by native animals. Alternatively, you can switch to an iron phosphate bait.

Note: Queensland Environment have misidentified the Bowerbird pictured. Satin Bower Birds usually collect blue objects—not Regent Bowerbirds.

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/QLdEnvironment>





Don't Be Fooled!

First came Animal Liberation, then Animal Rights, Animal Justice, Animal Defenders and now Animal Protection!

Trying to keep up with the Animal Rights Movement?

Confused? Lost? Unsure what to believe?

That's the point – that is what they want!

Australia is fast becoming a country where the keeping of pets and animals is controlled by the Animal Rights Extremists. (ARE's)

Who are ARE's? They consist of organisations and parties who claim their goal is Animal Protection.

What is ARE? It's the enshrining of ideological and anthropomorphising of animal welfare, marketed as animal protection. Animal protection and animal rights have no difference, it's just a new term to mislead the public into assuming its welfare based. Let us be clear – it's not!

Where are ARE's found? Their influences are everywhere. Government, Local Councils, advertising and even making its way into our school education.

How do we deal with ARE's? ACA advocate for real animal welfare, and we reject the marketing of animal protection. Regardless of their marketing – animal protection is not animal welfare.

Whatever they call themselves the aim is to control how we keep our animals and pets.

ACA's aim is to stop them.



Don't be fooled



Okay, let's hope they don't catch on to this one. We're running out of terminologies that appeal to the public.

~~Animal Liberation~~

~~Animal Rights~~

Animal Protection

Different marketing – same product

"Animal welfare is animal care"
www.animalcareaustralia.org.au

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



Did Emma Hurst just go rogue?

22nd August 2022 — in a stark contradiction of her own Party's policies Ms Hurst has publicly announced she does not support cat containment.

This despite the Animal Justice Party's National & NSW Key Objective 7: **Promote responsible animal guardianship including keeping companion animals safe in their homes (e.g. in cat enclosures), and preventing abandonment and accidental breeding. This will prevent the animals from causing environmental damage and reduce the predation of native animals.**

AJP Victoria also recently supported cat containment, declaring 'cats contained to properties will live happy and safe lives' and 'Not only does it protect wildlife, but also protects cats. The financial cost of containing them to your property is offset by the savings on veterinary bills, because your cats are less likely to get injured (roads/vehicles, people, other cats are the three main causes of injuries) and also less likely to get infections and infestations, since you will restrict their exposure (other cats, contaminated soil, rotting carcasses, poisoned items)'

Clearly, supporting the Animal Justice Party and its policies is confusing - even among themselves!

Screenshot source: Emma Hurst Facebook Page, 22nd August 2022



23h · 🌐

I am against cat containment laws – let me explain why.

While I strongly believe cats should be kept inside to protect wildlife, our current regulatory system and the NSW Government's past failures to deal with the increasing number of homeless cats in the state make mandatory, penalty-focused cat containment laws unworkable and will lead to animal cruelty, the accidental killing of domestic cats, further difficulties for people leaving violence, and cause stress and strain on Council staff.

Cat containment laws mean if the cat is outside they can be killed – and that can include all unmicrochipped cats, homeless cats, and cats whose microchip fails to scan.

Our rental laws are also failing meaning many people (including those trying to leave violence) will have reduced options on the rental market. Our rental laws must become companion animal friendly before cat containment can even be considered.

A bloodbath on cats is never the answer – and Council staff don't want to be forced to do the killing. We must get cats registered and microchipped- and they must be desexed.

The science shows that the best way to reduce the number of homeless cats is to run large scale free desexing programs. The Government should also properly fund an educational program about why it is important to keep cats inside.

There are humane solutions - and let's also be honest- what is causing the most damage to wildlife? Cats or the major overdevelopment that has been continuing for years? Stop using animals to distract from the truth.



More faults found with AJP's proposed control of feral horses.

As we all know, the Animal Justice Party and other supporters of horses remaining within our national parks have been strongly pushing for governments to introduce an immune-contraceptive program which they claim will control the breeding of feral horses, eventually resulting in their natural removal.

A United States four-year research project recently found that fertility control did not have the predicted effects on wild horse populations in two locations in Utah.

82,000 wild horses and burros currently inhabit public land in the United States, and a team of Colorado State University researchers recently studied the effects of gelding on a large herd. The practicalities of capture, gelding and post-operative care of wild stallions are challenging, so the researchers did well to geld 42% of the herd.

The research found that gelding did not have an effect on long-term birth rate, nor change the behavior of stallions. This study reinforces the Kosciuszko Wild Horse Management Plan's conclusion that there are currently no reproductive control methods available that are 'highly effective, easily delivered, and affordable' (Plan, 2021, page 21).

ACA supports humane management of endemic and introduced species, appropriate for the area concerned. ACA recognises that the management plan will need to vary based on local needs and species, and clearly this proposed option is not a viable option. Consideration must also be given to the stresses and welfare of

horses whilst being darted or receiving the immunocontraception, especially given the extreme terrain that many of the feral horses inhabit.

ACA supports removal of animals when conducted by best practice and the most humane methods. Animal welfare must be prioritised.

ACA strongly encourages government and private research institutes to continue researching more humane methods for the control of exotic invasives and feral species with the goal of implementing those methods in the near future.

Source: <https://www.kunm.org/news/2022-06-21/study-gelding-wild-horses-is-not-easy-solution-to-overpopulation?>





ACA introduces a national survey of Animal Welfare Enforcement Organisations

Animal Care Australia has provided testimony at Parliamentary Inquiries into the charitable organisations and is seeking your input so that we can present at all future Inquiries across Australia.

We would like to hear about your experiences – good or bad – with either the RSPCA or Animal Welfare League (or both)

Your feedback is anonymous (unless you choose to give us your details) and will assist us in advocating for stronger accountability and reporting from these organisations.

WE are seeking information from you about whether you have donated to the organisations and why? We are also keen to hear about your experiences with their Inspectorate. Did they enter your property with permission? Did they have education or prosecution as their agenda? What was the outcome of their visit? Was the welfare of your animals improved in any way because of their visit?

Please keep your input factual, be the person who has had the experience (we don't need rumours muddying the data) and provide as much detail as you can.

You can take the survey here:

<https://www.animalcareaustralia.org.au/welfare-compliance-organisations-survey/>





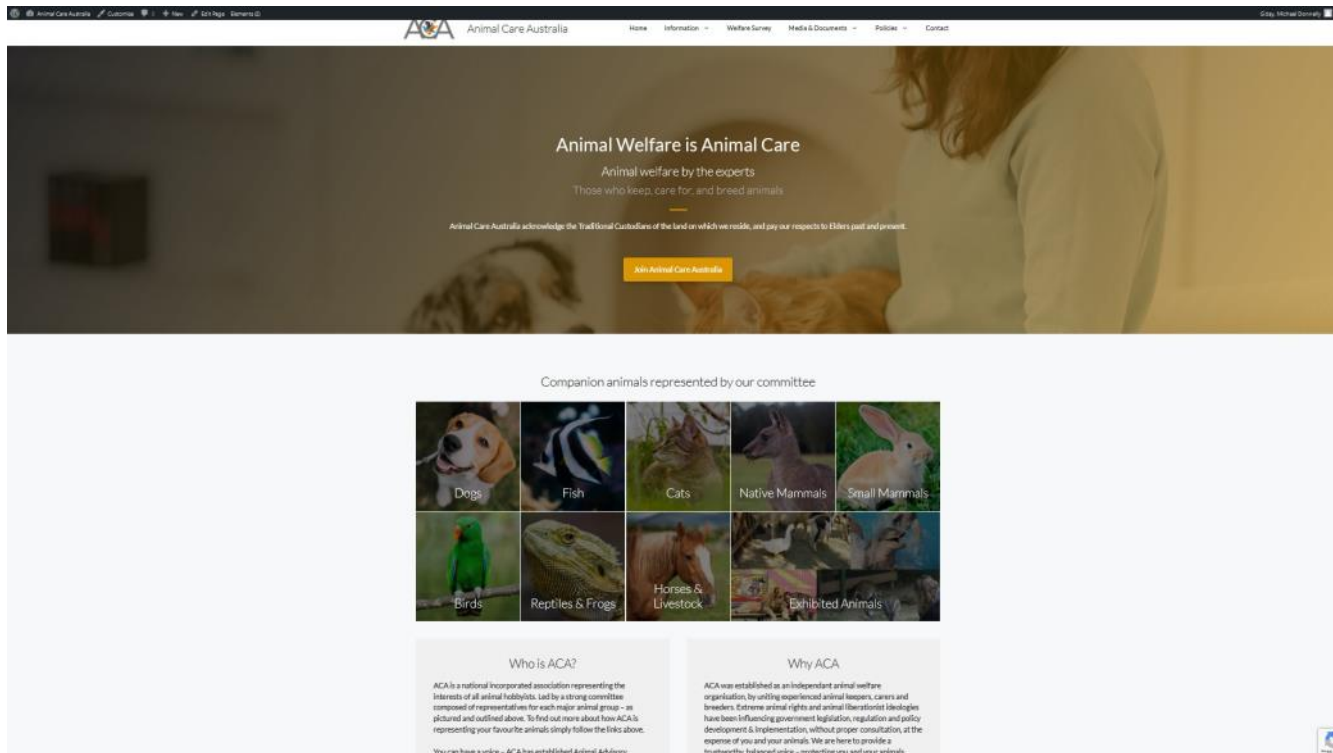
ACA launches a new look website

ACA has updated our website

The Media & documents section has been updated with all documents now sorted into separate categories: ACE Newsletter, Inquiries, Media Releases, Submissions and Local Council submissions. You'll note each document title now commences with the state it refers to or with AUST to highlight our federal consultations.

The Welfare Survey tab is your place to tell us about your experiences with the RSPCA or the Animal Welfare League. With regular Inquiries being scheduled, we need your help to provide information to justify the need to hold the charitable organisations accountable for their actions.

The Policies section has a new section added with the first tab being the location of our organisational policies and the second tab (with coming soon) where our newly reviewed and approved Animal Welfare Policy & Position Statement document will be uploaded and separated into the different categories of our Policies so that you can view individual policies or choose to download our full policy document.



The Information tab now has a longer version of 'Who ACA is', plus outlines our definition of Animal Welfare and the difference between animal welfare and animal rights, along with our Responsible Breeders and Responsible Pet Ownership pages.

We hope this makes it easier for you to find the necessary information enabling you to see how we are representing and supporting you.

ACA will continue to advocate for all pet and animal owners.

ANIMAL WELFARE IS ANIMAL CARE - we are Animal Care Australia!



Ararinha-azul, the Spix's Macaw – return from Extinction

By Sam Davis — ACA Bird Representative

I feel incredibly privileged to have been a part of the return from extinction of the Spix's Macaw (*Cyanopsitta spixii*). Many thanks to Martin Guth, the head of the Association for the Conservation of Threatened Parrots (ACTP) for the invitation. A group of Australians composed of ACTP supporters Garry Stack, Darryl Weal, Peter Barnes, Simon Degenhard (and his son Harry) and I made the long journey to the remote release area in Brazil to participate in the release of the first eight Spix's Macaws to have flown free in 20 years.

My business interests in Australia together with the charity Australian Society for Avian Preservation (ASAP), of which I and Simon Degenhard are Directors, sponsored one of the first eight birds to be released. As many will know Simon has worked with ACTP and in particular the Spix's project over many recent years. Also of note is the work of young Tyson Chapman from the Bundaberg Bird Breeders club who is currently working onsite at the remote ACTP Brazilian facility. It is pleasing to be able to include Australian interests as contributors both financially and in kind.

The last remaining wild Spix's Macaw disappeared in the early 2000s, so it has been some 20 years since their extinction.

The journey to their release has been decades in the making. Some milestones include:

◇ the purchase of thousands of acres of significant Caatinga habitat

just to the southeast of the town of Curaçá in the northern region of Brazil,

- ◇ connecting with the Brazilian government via the Instituto Chico Mendes de Conservação da Biodiversidade (ICMBio) the Brazilian Ministry of the Environment's administrative arm,
- ◇ environmental zoning of a large area of habitat surrounding and encompassing the project land,
- ◇ acquiring remaining captive birds from dispersed locations and owners globally, and
- ◇ learning to breed and maximise genetic diversity with a limited source population, including exclusion of disease and ground-breaking artificial insemination techniques.

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Photo credit: Simon Degenhard



Photo credit: ACTP

first project, the gold standard, a model for private aviculture working with threatened species. The work of ASAP has been inspired by the efforts of ACTP, and I'm confident it will inspire other projects globally.

The initial release witnessed by the world on 11th June 2022 is the beginning of a much longer-term commitment to the species by ACTP and its many sponsors and partners. The ultimate goal is a self-sustaining population - there are many more milestones to overcome.

Spix's Macaw, the star of the Disney Rio movies, is the smallest of the four blue macaws. The others being the well known and much larger Hyacinth Macaw, smaller Lear's Macaw and the extinct Glaucous Macaw. During our trip to Brazil we witnessed Hyacinth, Spix's and Lear's in the wild.

Curaçá is the closest town to the last known wild birds. To the locals the Spix's Macaw is known as Ararinha-azul. The birds are iconic, a flagship species with which the locals identify – somewhat like Australia's Koala or the USA's Bald Eagle. Recognition of Ararinha-azul was widespread throughout all of Brazil. The release was headline news on national television and even projected on the "Christ the Redeemer" statue in Rio de Janeiro. Amazing exposure for the project and in particular for the efforts of the Association for the Conservation of Threatened Parrots (ACTP) and its partners.

The habitat of Ararinha-azul is within the Caatinga region of Brazil. Caatinga means white forest, a low shrubland dry ecosystem. Very different to the rainforests and wet humid regions one normally associates with Brazil. In fact, apart from the cactus, one could be forgiven for thinking they are in one of the many semi-arid areas of

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These are just some of the milestones leading up to the 11th June 2022 release. All has been achieved via private funding, including aviculturists, all with a passion for parrot conservation. This is truly a world class, world

Australia. Dry creek beds crisscross the landscape and only fill during the wet season. Sadly, like many areas in Australia, much of the natural vegetation has been hampered by introduced animals. In the case of the Caatinga it appears that goats are one of the main culprits.

Goats were a common sight throughout the region, very much a part of the local custom with small herds common throughout the area. Unlike feral goats in Australia, these herds are owned by locals and often the lead animal wears a bell to enable the herd to be located by the farmer. I understand there is often little regard for who owns the land with herds free to roam and graze as they please. This presents problems for conservation projects such as the Spix's project. Goats eat young saplings which grow into a food source for the Spix's and ultimately into trees that provide nesting hollows.



ACTP is working with the locals, including education via school programs and other initiatives which are successfully raising awareness and partnering with local people – critical to the long-term success of this de-extinction project. Ownership of the project by locals is critical to habitat restoration and also to protection against poaching, which was likely a significant driver to the species final extinction during the 1900s. Based on discussions and events subsequent to the release, it is clear ACTP, ICMBio and other partners are well regarded by locals in the area.

Just eight Spix's Macaws were released on 11th June 2022. Obviously eight birds cannot re-establish the species.

The release of the first eight birds is essentially a pilot for many future releases to come – another twelve are planned for release in

December, so twenty in total during 2022. Preparation for the release of these initial birds has taken years. A dedicated open U-shaped aviary was constructed. The large design enables longer flight paths that include significant turns to build wing muscle mass and endurance. The all-wire construction means the Spix's are living with and seeing wild birds as if in the wild, including any approaches by outside predators from all directions including above. And of course, they are acclimatizing to living and sleeping whilst exposed to differing day-to-day weather conditions.

The release aviary is located some 700 metres from the main complex and the only human contact is food and aviary maintenance from onsite staff. Visitors are kept well away from the release aviary with a hide constructed to enable observation without undue interference. The preparation for the release is exemplary to ensure the birds have the best possible chance upon release.

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On the morning of 11th June 2022, the release date, representatives of the world's press, Brazilian politicians, government officials, major sponsors and a range of world-renowned parrot experts and photographers made the trek to the remote site and assembled in the observation tent just before dawn. As you can imagine there was quite some anticipation within the assembled contingent. Many had the expectation that upon opening the release hatch the birds would immediately fly free and circle the skies. This was never the intention, rather the aim was for Spix's to slowly emerge, jumping to the feeder adjacent to the release hatch and remaining close by the aviary. This is precisely what happened. The first Spix's emerged just after 9am with others following soon after. A momentous occasion for the project, for the region and for Brazil more broadly.

World renowned wildlife photographer Tim Flach was the official ACTP photographer. Tim's amazing images of the Spix's and the release event were and continue to be sold via the website <https://www.unextinct.earth/>.

There was understandable trepidation over the next 24-48 hour from all present. Would the birds fly off into the distance? Would they find their way back to the release aviary? Would predators sense their insecurity and attack? Etc. A tense time for all involved. In fact, the behaviour of the birds could not have been better. Some exploratory circling of the release aviary with a few venturing as far as the main breeding complex, attracted by the calls of the breeding stock. All birds soon determined how to

One of the first eight Spix's released. Photo credit: Simon Degenhard



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Photo credit: Simon Degenhard



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Pair of Illiger's that were released with the Spix's.

Photo credit: Simon Degenhard

Illiger's will improve both predator awareness and wild food identification and location. This is already beginning to be the case, with the Illigers and with local Cactus Conures (*Eupsittula cactorum*) known locally as Caatinga Parakeets. Reports indicate all birds reacting well to potential birds of prey – vultures at this stage – and some natural foraging is beginning to occur.

The goal for these initial release birds is to breed either within the release aviary or close by – likely just a few pairs. They will continue to have access to feed and water both within and adjoining the aviary and also at strategically located feed stations. The first generation, it is planned, will venture further afield and then second generation further again – each generation progressively becoming more self-sufficient until a self-sustaining population is achieved. Given the birds can take up to five years to be sexually mature, ACTP is very much dedicated to a presence in the area for many many years to come.

The breeding facility onsite in Brazil houses some fifty birds representing the genetic diversity of the species, with many more remaining as an insurance population at ACTP's major breeding centre just outside of Berlin, Germany. The Brazilian birds will breed onsite with future releases intended to be young one year old birds from the previous year. It is envisaged this process will supply sufficient stock to maximise genetic diversity and grow the wild flock over time as well as enable scope to balance the sexes as required.

May I reiterate the professionalism with which this project operates. The staff are the world's best and the science and technologies utilised are cutting edge.

enter and leave the release aviary as was hoped and planned.

Currently, some ten days after the initial release of the first eight the results could not be more positive. All birds are returning to the release aviary regularly, including sleeping within it on most nights. They are flocking with some wild Illiger's Macaws (*Primolius maracana*) which were trapped to form a flock with the Spix's prior to release. It is hoped the

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The Australian contingent (with Denmark's Preden Pedersen (on far left) who witnessed the release are (from left) Garry Stack, Darryl Weal, Sam Davis, Peter Barnes, Simon Degenhard (and his son Harry)

Particular mention must be made of the amazing work of Dr Cromwell Purchase and his wife Candice. Their expertise and dedication to the project is amazing, impressively they have both devoted much of their lives to the project. I recall arriving at the facility the day prior to the release to deliver an ATV and being struck by the isolation and remoteness of the facility. Power is via a generator and no internet or phone coverage. Cromwell and Candice had very recently moved into permanent accommodation, having lived in the kitchen area of the breeding facility up to that time.

The day of the release, after being essentially alone, Cromwell and Candice were engulfed by media, visitors and questions. At the main press conference in the town hall at Curaçá on the afternoon following the release, I think all present would agree Cromwell's intelligent answers and explanations to the world's media were a real credit to the project. When we returned the day after the release, Candice guided a group of us through the facility – her priority was the welfare of the birds at all times whilst showing us through and responding to our questions.

Our gratitude to all involved in this amazing project.



A released Spix's Macaw—note the tracking wire
Photo credit: Vladislav Maruk/ACTP



How visiting local zoos enriched and changed my life.

By Tracey Dierikx — ACA Exhibited Animals Representative

As a child, I was the kid that was always bringing home all manner of lost or abandoned animals, and some that just picked me to be their “friend”, much to the consternation of my long-suffering parents. Some we ended up keeping as pets, but most were either returned to where they came from (in the case of wild animals), or good homes were found for them with neighbours or friends (stray/dumped kittens, etc).

My parents definitely drew the line firmly when I brought home an octopus that had attached itself to a fish that I caught when I was about 6 years old. Oh, and the baby fruit bat I found when out riding my horse as a teenager.

Sitting for a while, watching and noting individual mannerisms, learning to tell individual animals apart by sight, learning family structures, group dynamics, and just enjoying some of the silly antics they all get up to was a whole new world to me and I was hooked!



As fate would have it, I did not pursue a career in the animal industry when I left high school. It wasn't even suggested by our school careers teacher – even though I went to high school in a rural area. I ended up working in the IT industry and eventually that led me to discovering the joys of the DSLR camera.

At this point in time, I was also volunteering with a dog rescue group in Sydney, and it turned out I had a bit of a knack for taking photos of the dogs we had in care that showed their unique and individual personalities – which were then used to advertise them for adoption.

If taking photos of dogs wasn't enough of a challenge, I thought I'd visit a few of the zoos dotted around Sydney and see if I could reflect the unique and individual personalities of the animals there too.

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Now, in order to photograph with the aim of showing the personalities of animals, one must get to know one's subjects. So it was then my mission to talk to anyone who knew anything about the various animals in each zoo, and learn a bit about each animal from the carers' perspectives, a casual observer's perspective, and my own perspective as I watched those animals go about their daily activities.

Sitting for a while, watching and noting individual mannerisms, learning to tell individual animals apart by sight, learning family structures, group dynamics, and just enjoying some of the silly antics they all get up to was a whole new world to me and I was hooked!

Fast forward a couple of years, and I was made redundant from yet another IT job, so I decided to have a complete career change.

I studied to be a zookeeper at TAFE and I also studied vet nursing shortly thereafter. I have had the absolute pleasure of working the hardest, most physical, most dirty, and demanding job that ever existed.

I have experienced extreme highs, bonding with exotic animals, and extreme lows, when old "friends" have passed away. But I wouldn't swap a minute of it to go back to the relatively well paid and clean IT industry. The pay isn't great, the hours suck, and the demands are many, but the rewards are myriad... best job ever!



Careful when driving

By Michael Donnelly — ACA Native Mammal Representative

Be alert!

Be prepared to stop!

It is the beginning of breeding season for many of our native mammals and that means they are on the move looking for partners.

Of particular note right now are koala, echidna and wombats.

Don't end their quest with your need for speed!



'A Western Sydney Meet-up with Emma Hurst' - a trip to see what really happens.

By Rachel Sydenham — ACA Small Mammals Representative

It was Sunday 11th August and the Animal Justice Party were hosting a 'Western Sydney Meet Up with Emma Hurst!' for 11am at the Sydney Vegan Market held in the Sydney Olympic Park NSW.

A small group of us thought, "why the heck not?" Off we went to see what Ms Hurst has to say and see for ourselves what the hype is about and to what scale the support is. It is a vegan market after all so obviously 'everyone' will be there in droves to meet their idol.

So, Tracy, Sandra and myself were off on a vegan adventure for the day but not without ensuring that we had our combined animal sourced proteins, McDonalds egg and bacon muffins, to start our day before we got to the markets.

The sun was shining and the markets were a bustle with people and pooches enjoying their day, checking out the vegan promoted wears and various sweet and savory foods. Even we were keen to try out some of the vegan delicacies, and we were not disappointed!



ACA trio: (l-r) Rachel, Tracey & Sandra

We quickly located the AJP stand for reference to the meet and greet with Emma Hurst and then established we had time to check out all the vegan stalls before 11am.

Tracey commented about the 'hairy eyes' that were cast at her a couple of times by a member or two of the AJP stand, and to be honest I did not think much of it until I happen to glance over at the stall and had one of the members give me the full stink

eye vibe, it was a little un-nerving to say the least.

Sandra bee lined for the food stalls while Tracey made friends with just about every dog. Everyone was so friendly and we found ourselves striking up conversations with stall holders and market goers. It was such a relaxed and easy going atmosphere.

11am came about and we were wondering where Emma was, and by 11.12am Sandra went to the AJP stand and asked if Emma was making an appearance today. We were starting to think that she was going to be a no show. The members ensured Sandra that Emma was just getting out of her car and was on her way over to the market and AJP stand. A couple of minutes later Emma made her appearance.

We stood back a little to first let her get organised and for us to observe before joining into the crowd and conversation, however, by 25 minutes past 11 after greeting and a brief conversation with a member of the public and the AJP stand members, Emma was off striding towards the nearby park to sit with 6 to 8 peers on the grass for the next two hours about 100

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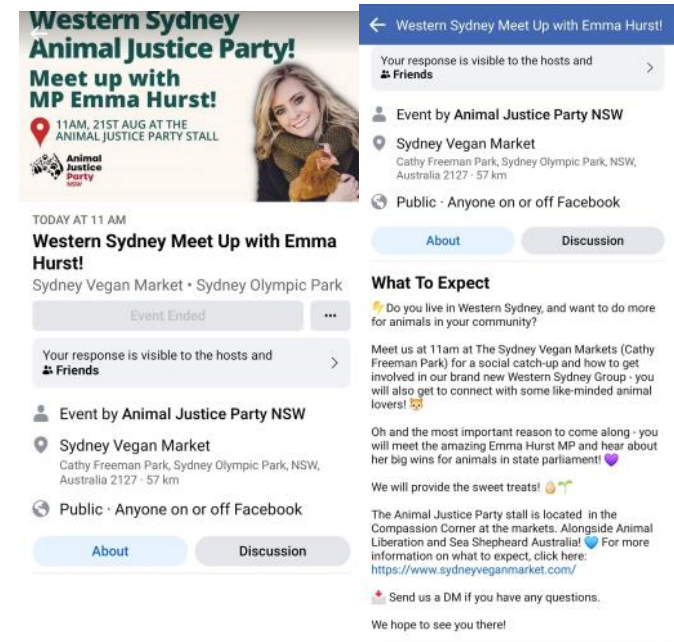
The AJP stand with guest Hon Emma Hurst watching the crowds stroll by.

Vegan Market, it must have been a very disappointing turn out for Ms Hurst in which she promptly realised upon arrival and finding there was not a crowd of fans waiting to adore her. Her next move? Turned to the comfort of her peers in the adjacent park for a social catch up. (Note: purely speculation based on observational view).

Needless to say that we were not going to chase her down, but instead enjoyed the atmosphere of the markets and beautiful day whilst quietly observing the situation from afar, which did not eventuate into anything more than it was to begin with. A non-event.

I suppose it is true that not all vegans are animal rights extremists but all animal rights extremists are vegan and clearly a very small minority at that.

By 2pm we decided it was time to be on our way and to leave Ms Hurst to her non-event and her small handful of like-minded friends on the grass, on a perfect sunny day.



As for us, Sandra, Tracy and myself certainly enjoyed our little outing and we got to try new foods, meet new people and every pooch did not escape a cuddle and fuss from Tracey.





ACA Visits an Intensive Puppy Breeding Facility

By Karri Nadazdy—ACA Horse & Livestock Representative

Photos below: Onsite vet clinic and puppy play area

Earlier this month, several members of the ACA Committee visited Rockley Valley Cavoodles at Bathurst. Rockley Valley Cavoodles is an intensive breeding facility breeding cavoodle puppies for Kellyville Pet Shop.

The first thing one notices upon arrival is that this purpose built facility has been thoughtfully designed to be dog friendly as well as easy to clean and maintain. Biosecurity standards are high - our first stop is to disinfect our shoes, hands and have the biosecurity protocols explained. The hardest rule to follow - no touching the puppies. Oh gosh, what a challenge for a team of animal lovers! I'm pleased to report that we all passed the test., despite the incredibly cute temptations put in front of us!

John Grima owns the facility and guided us on a tour of the property. The stud dogs live on site all year, and they all came running from playing on the far side of their large grass yard to greet us, tails wagging. John tells us their names and that most of them are house dogs. It can get cold out in Bathurst, and adjoining the yards through a doggy door is a heated room with beds for the dogs to relax in, even when they are out in the yard.

All of the female breeding dogs live off site on a Guardianship program. This means that the dogs live with a family, in their home, and only come back to the facility for breeding and whelping. After 3 litters over 3 years, the dogs are desexed, and ownership is transferred to their guardian for them to live out their lives at home. This arrangement means that dogs can be normal family pets and don't live fulltime at the facility.



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The whelping bays are well thought out for good welfare and are easy for staff to maintain and monitor. The bays surround the central, in house vet clinic, and laundry, and indoor puppy play and socialisation area. Its heated for the puppies and mums comfort. Each bay has an indoor and outdoor section. The dog bed is indoors and the puppies are born inside. There is a doggy door in each bay that allows mum to access the outdoor section of the bay. She has to step over a low barrier that keeps the puppies inside, so she can have a break from them when she chooses to. We saw 12 litters there at the time of our visit. The puppies and their mums were all appeared healthy and friendly and wanted our attention.

Outside is a large dog play area with toys, a shallow pool, kids play equipment to climb on and a huge dinosaur. The puppies have a checklist of handling and basic training goals to meet to prepare them for life with their new owners. Each puppy's health and growth milestones and training achievements are recorded and monitored. The facility was deliberately designed to resemble a home environment. The gates are the kind you'd find in suburban backyards, the indoor areas resemble a normal kitchen. even the size of the yards is based on the size of a quarter acre block.

Much of the facility is empty. There's empty yards, and empty whelping pens. It doesn't feel very intensive, but there's around 60 litters born at the facility each year.

We were all impressed with what was being achieved at Rockley Valley to ensure high welfare standards. With so many dogs in one place, it's convenient for the RSPCA and local council to monitor, its easy to staff and to maintain a high standard. We know it exceeds the states minimum standards for intensive breeding facilities, and most facilities will not look like this. We know that puppy farms also exist that don't try to meet any standards at all. Even with the additional government funded resources thrown at RSPCA NSW, their dedicated Puppy Farm Taskforce has failed to find them.

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Most of us at ACA would prefer to see puppies raised in homes, with doting families, and not commercially raised in an intensive breeding facility, even temporarily in one as professional and thoughtfully planned as Rockley Valley. Most state governments in Australia are now bending under pressure from Animal Rights groups to eliminate all puppies bred in private homes, even by ethical breeders. The restrictions and minimum staffing ratios being introduced into legislation means intensive breeding facilities are likely to become the norm, as demand continues to outstrip supply. How many will aim for the high standards set by Rockley Valley and how many will only maintain the bare minimum? Is that really what we want to see happen to dog breeding? Is this really a welfare improvement? Is this really the best we can do for our dogs?

ACA Committee members with Rockley Valley owner Mr John Grima





Feline Aggression - part two

By Michelle Grayson—ACA Cat Representative

Aggression with humans

PLAY AGGRESSION

To a cat, play is all about prey. Body postures of play aggression are the behaviours a cat shows when searching for and catching prey. She stalks her target from behind a door or under a chair. She crouches, twitches her tail, flicks her ears back and forth, then pounces, wrapping her front feet around the prey, chewing it and kicking it with her back feet.

We enjoy watching these cat antics, but kittens don't know when to stop. Their rough play can result in scratches and little bites that don't break the skin. You must teach your cat when enough is enough; otherwise, as she gets older, the scratches may get deeper and the bites harder.

Solution:

- ◇ Use a fishing pole type of toy to keep her away from your body when playing with her.
- ◇ If she starts chewing or scratching any part of your body, immediately say "uh-uh," and redirect her to a toy. If she continues to chew or scratch after you say, "uh-uh," stop playing immediately. Never hit her or yell, or she'll become afraid of you.
- ◇ Don't resume playing until she has calmed down; then use the toy.
- ◇ Some cats are easily overstimulated, and their play can escalate into true aggression. Pay close attention to your cat's body language; if she's getting too intense, stop playing immediately and give her time to cool off.

PETTING AGGRESSION

Sometimes when you're petting your purring cat, she might bite you out of the blue. Cats vary in how much they'll tolerate letting you pet or hold them. There are usually warning signs that they're reaching their limit, but their signals can be subtle and hard to detect.

Look for:

- ◇ Restlessness
- ◇ Tail twitching
- ◇ Ears turning back or flicking back and forth
- ◇ Turning or moving her head toward your hand
- ◇ A sharp meow, low growl, or a hiss
- ◇ She may even put her teeth on you lightly to tell you to stop.

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When you see any of these signals, it's time to stop petting the cat immediately and let her sit on your lap, or go her own way. Never yell or hit; any kind of physical punishment almost always makes the problem worse, as it makes the cat more likely to bite. She might fear you and/or associate petting with punishment.

Solution:

- ◇ If you have a cat who doesn't like being petted, you could try to win her over with food rewards.
- ◇ Before your cat shows any of the behaviours described above, offer her a special titbit of food. Pet her lightly for a short time while offering her treats. She'll come to associate being stroked with more pleasant things.
- ◇ Stop petting before you see the signs of irritation. If you keep petting until the cat reacts badly, you've defeated the purpose. Each time you work with your cat, try to pet him for slightly longer periods using the food.



REDIRECTED AGGRESSION

Redirected aggression occurs when a cat is aroused (in a bad way) by an animal or person, but has no outlet for her naturally aggressive feelings. The cat gazing out the window may have seen another cat outside, which makes her want to defend her territory. When she can't get to that cat, she attacks the first thing that crosses her path. She's so worked up about that strange cat that she's not aware that she has redirected her aggression to you.

Solution:

- ◇ Observe your cat closely before approaching her. Does she:
- ◇ Stare so hard out the window that she doesn't know you're there?
- ◇ Not respond when you call her?
- ◇ Jerk her tail back and forth?
- ◇ Growl, hiss, or meow loudly?

Don't mess with her! Clap your hands loudly to break her fixation, or just walk away and let her calm down by herself. You may also be attacked if you try to interfere with two cats fighting. Don't get in the middle of it. Use a squirt bottle or pillow to break up the fight and distract the cats.

TERRITORIAL AGGRESSION

Cats are by nature very territorial. Usually, cats only feel the need to defend their territory from other cats. Occasionally a cat may become dominant with their owner. It is important to give "time outs" and redirect their attention with loud noises (clapping or banging a saucepan with a spoon) or squirt with a water bottle. Cats that are aggressive to humans due to dominance are dangerous and often need medication in combination with behavioural modification to treat.

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ACA introduces the State & Territory Advisory Team (STAT)

We Need You STAT!

In order to ensure ACA can respond to issues as quickly as possible, we will be creating a State & Territory Advisory Team (STAT).

The role of the team will be to monitor the increasing activities of government, local councils and of course animal activism, in each State. We will be seeking a volunteer from each State and Territory to join STAT. They will advise us directly and participate in coordinating ACA's response.

Could that be you?

If so, email us at aca@animalcareaustralia.org.au and tell us where you are located and why you'd like to join our STAT initiative.



OTHER EXPLANATIONS

If your cat's behaviour has started suddenly, there could be a medical issue causing it. Take her to the vet for a check-up; if she gets a clean bill of health, she needs behaviour modification.

If her behaviour improves when she's confined to one room, her aggression may be due to stress in her environment (loud kids, other cats or pets).

Animal behaviour is a fascinating and sometimes complex subject. If you have questions about your pets behaviour, contact your veterinarian.



ACA President named in Pet Industry's 30 Game Changers

Michael Donnelly, President, Animal Care Australia

When Michael Donnelly became President of Animal Care Australia two and a half years ago, ACA was relatively unknown. Now the organisation is recognisable and participating in animal welfare and other legislative reviews around the country.

Under Donnelly, ACA has been involved in changes to animal welfare acts, pets in strata laws, impounded livestock acts, the National Horse Traceability register, has appeared as witnesses at multiple Parliamentary Inquiries, and challenged local councils on their restrictions on pet keeping.

"The nomination is a bit of a shock. I truly would never have thought what I am doing is or would ever be acknowledged in such a way as this. It's also an honour – one which I cannot describe. It makes all the long hours, stress, that complacency, and even ridicule feel more worth it. It puts all of that into perspective. I want to thank those who nominated me, and Pet Industry News for providing this opportunity."

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What led you to a career in the pet industry?

I wouldn't say this is a career in the traditional sense that I am earning a wage or looking to strive up a ladder of success. I have kept and bred animals all of my life and so back in 2017 when the NSW Department of Primary Industries tried to limit our capacity to continue keeping pets I saw the need to fight back but also to try and pull the pet keeping community together. So, I changed my focus and dropped everything

and devoted every free moment into taking action and rallying the troops. I set up a Facebook-based lobbying group 'Pet Owners R Not Pet Shops' and started collaborating with the bird and reptile associations.

There is power in numbers, and politicians listen to that. If you get the politicians on side, then you can stop the government department pushing it's agenda through. What most people don't realise is the proposed changes would have every pet owner needing

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to have a set up greater than a pet store and closer to the biosecurity measures expected of a zoo. From our understanding the Minister at the time would have signed off on those changes. The proposal was actually on his desk. No one would have been keeping pets.

What annoys me is the complacency held by so many of those pet owners we tried to rally around. "Oh it'll never happen"

I would love a dollar for every time I heard that, Yet it was going to happen.

That whole scenario opened the door to where I am today. A founder and President of Animal Care Australia.

What is your proudest achievement so far in your career?

I'd have to say it is the national recognition of Animal Care Australia. When I became President the organisation was relatively unknown and now some two and half years later we are participating in animal welfare and other relevant legislative reviews around the country. The proudest aspect of that is it's being achieved by a wonderful group of volunteers. I could not have achieved that without them and we're achieving so much more every day.

Animal Care Australia has been involved in changes to animal welfare acts, pets in strata laws, impounded livestock acts, the National Horse Traceability register, appearing as witnesses at multiple Parliamentary Inquiries, challenging local councils and their ridiculous restrictions on pet keeping and all of that being driven by an overzealous and radically ideological agenda from the animal rights movement, predominantly publicly dominated by the Animal Justice Party but clearly influenced by PETA. The Federal Election has required us to look at all the Party's animal welfare policies – it's an eye opener to say the least. I couldn't



begin to tell you how much influence the AR movement have on our governments at all levels – but they need to be stopped and that is what Animal Care Australia is here to do. That is what drives me.

Do you have any goals or plans you would like to achieve in the coming year?

This next year will be important for pet owners and keepers – we will see more influences on government and that will trickle down to the rest of us. I want to grow Animal Care Australia. I hope we will have the opportunity to establish a stronger in person presence in each state and territory, and I want to lead that push and continue to encourage the committee. I want to continue to hold other organisations accountable for their ideologies and their actions.

What impact do you hope to leave on the pet industry?

Animal welfare is not animal rights and I want that message relayed around this country. I would love to see that complacency I mentioned earlier diminished and replaced with an understanding

that we all must fight to keep our pets – to keep our Australian way of life – to ensure our children and their children know what it's like to keep a guinea pig, bearded dragon, parrot, goldfish, pony or a cat and dog.

Also, if something happened tomorrow that meant I couldn't continue this role, I want people to have been inspired to keep fighting. To stand up for themselves, their children and their animal family members. Politicians only listen to the loud voices and to those that make their point known. The radicalism in today's society must be overwhelmed and placed back into its ideological boxes where it

belongs.

How does it feel to be nominated in Pet Industry News' Industry Game Changers list?

The nomination is actually a bit of a shock. I truly would never have thought what I am doing is or would ever be acknowledged in such a way as this. It's also an honour – one which I cannot describe. It makes all of the long hours, stress, that complacency, and even ridicule feel more worth it. It puts all of that into perspective. I want to thank those who nominated me, and C & I Media (Pet Industry News) for providing this opportunity.



Pet Care Instructions document



We never want to think our pets may need an Emergency Contact — but if for whatever reason you cannot be there for them - ensure the person who can, knows everything they need to know.

In an emergency or just needing pet-sitting care, know that you have left the important information with a friend or neighbour.

Click on the pdf icon to download a copy of ACA's Pet Care Instructions sheet and make sure you give it to the person who will take care of your pets while you are away.



Good for your toast - but toxic for your pets

With the current push for us to help the farmers by purchasing more avocados this is just a reminder they are good smashed on toast but they are toxic for most pets.

While there may be few exceptions (dogs & cats can eat small amounts - though this even risks pancreatitis due to the high fat content of avocado, while the skin & leaves are toxic to rats/mice) ACA strongly recommends avoiding avocado in your pets diet, or researching to check if your pet can consume it.

Safer to avoid than risk it.





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 2022

7.30 to 8.30pm

MARCH 14th

MAY 9th

JULY 11th

SEPTEMBER 12th

NOVEMBER 14th — AGM

Meetings in 2022 will continue via Zoom to ensure members nation-wide can attend..

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



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