



Animal Care Australia

REGISTER OF MINUTES

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SYMPOSIUM – 8th July 2018

Proceedings of an Animal Welfare Symposium attended by community based animal groups to explore ways to work cooperatively to represent their common interests and promote their combined animal welfare expertise to the public and government. The meeting was held at the Bill Spilstead Complex for Canine Affairs Luddenham Road Orchard Hills commencing at 2.15 pm.

In attendance:

Robert Zammit	Chairman	Sam Davis	Canary & Cage Bird Federation of Aust
Michael Donnelly	Herpetocultural Co-operative of NSW	Ivan Cindric	Finch Society of Aust
Susan Batho	Blue Mountains Rabbit Club	Graeme Batho	Rabbit Breeders Association
Sandra McLean	Rodent Fanciers of NSW	Karin Nadazdy	Bitless Inc
Helen Toovey	AICC	Grant Holman	NSW CFA
Anthony Stimson	Mobile Wildlife Educators Association	Julia McConnell	Reptile Rescue and Education Service
Lynette Brown	Dogs NSW	Brian Crump	Dogs NSW
Ian Manton	Budgerigar Society of NSW	Graeme Phipps	Avicultural Society of NSW
Paul Terrett	Dogs NSW	Christina Rafton	Dogs NSW
John Hubble	Central Cumberland Pigeon Federation	Hugh Gent	Australian National Kennel Council
Neville Burns	Blue Moutains Rep Aware Mobile Wildlife Educators Association		
Apologies	Exhibition Stud Poultry Australia: Australian National Racing Pigeon Board		

The President of Dogs NSW Lynette Brown welcomed all attendees. Dr Rob Zammitt who chaired the meeting introduced himself and gave a short overview of his involvement in Government Legislation and his recent intervention with Ray Hadley and Minister Blair in the POCTA Revision debate. He then asked everybody to introduce themselves and their organisation. After the individual introductions Sam Davis and Brian Crump addressed the meeting.

Sam Davis gave a brief update on the campaigns that the bird fraternity had been involved in, in particular the recent Victorian Legislation; he expressed concern that Animal Rights Organisations have stolen the Animal Welfare debate and have representation on many influential committees. With regard to NSW Government Legislation the Nationals are onside he had a meeting with the DPI Acting Chief Welfare Officer Kim Filmer who is approachable. He reminded the meeting that originally, Codes were written with advice from breeders but the Public Servants had taken them over, the groups we represent are the experts and we need to re assert our influence. The public do not know the difference between Animal Rights and Animal Welfare. The organisations here today can become a powerful voice for animals and owners and he could see interest in joining from other States. Sam suggested that we call ourselves Animal Care Australia, caring for and about animals.

Brian Crump highlighted that by working together we could form an alliance representing many thousands of Hobbyists and pet owners which would make it hard for the legislators to ignore our advice, especially as the numbers could translate into votes which experience has shown that the Government is very conscious of. Brian emphasised that the RSPCA and AWL are given prominence for

their activities but in reality they are just raiding the small profit makers and concerning themselves with enforcing the physical requirements of the POCTA standards with no real concern for the health and wellbeing of the animals, illustrated by their support for the new style of large commercial breeding establishments. Animal Rights organisations do not concern themselves with behavioural measures of animals happiness, cortisol studies of animal behaviours under differing scenarios have provided a dataset for measuring stages of happiness which could be our answer to the Animal Rights anecdotal stories. He was of the opinion that Hobby Breeders understand their species, commercial breeders do not and there is certainly no after sales service from them. PIAA promote themselves as representing us which not correct.

After these presentations there was considerable input from all present much of which, it was agreed, would be useful for future activities and was a confirmation of the wide range of expertise contained within the group.

Paul Terrett reminded those present that there were to be State Elections in March 2019 and that we must get a strategy together without delay. We need to establish dialogue with all political parties and lobby politicians and candidates especially in marginal seats. We need to position ourselves so that Politicians will realise that we represent hobbyists not commercial interests.

The meeting agreed that it would be advantageous for all the groups to work together. Lyn Brown said that it would be an important component of the alliance that all groups had a Code of Ethics which would carry great weight when we were promoting ourselves.

After some discussion it was decided that name to work under would be Animal Care Australia, Sam Davis agreed to source designs for a Logo. Everyone was in agreement that for the protection of all members we should incorporate. Christina Rafton volunteered to also reserve the name ACOZ and facilitate all the other requirements of incorporation. With regard to the development of a Mission Statement it was resolved that suggestions could be sent round by email with a final decision to be made at the next meeting.

In closing, the meeting gave a vote of thanks to Robert Zammit for his Chairmanship, and to Sam Davis, Brian Crump and Michael Donnelly for arranging the meeting and Dogs NSW for hosting.

The meeting concluded at 4.50pm: Next Meeting Saturday 8th July at 2pm

NOTES

On behalf of Dogs NSW Lyn Brown said she had had comments on the Dogs NSW Complex and suggested that other groups might like to utilize it for meetings and events. If anyone would like to have a tour they should meet her at 1.00pm on the day of the next meeting.

Contact List Attached.

Contact List

Name	Organisation	Phone	Email
Sam Davis	Canary & Cage Bird Federation of Aust	0411253512	president@ccbfa.org.au
Ivan Cindric	Finch Society of Aust	0428656653	ivan.cindric@bigpond.com
Graeme Batho	Rabbit Breeders Association	0410890073	gbatho@gmail.com
Susan Batho	Blue Mountains Rabbit Club	0449722534	susanbatho@bigpond.com
Sandra McLean	Rodent Fanciers of NSW	0414736052	jornmclean@yahoo.com.au
Karin Nadazdy	Bitless Inc	0402074447	secretary@bitlessinc.org.au
Helen Toovey	AICC	0400071676	tooveycrew@bigpond.com
Grant Holman	NSW CFA	0412894099	holmangrant@gmail.com
Anthony Stimson	Mobile Wildlife Educators Association	0404899466	Ant8er@hotmail.com
Neville Burns	Blue Mtns Rep Mobile Wildlife Educators Association	0247591832	nevilleburns@bigpond.com
Julia McConnell	Reptile Rescue and Education Service	0400960696	reptilerescueservice@gmail.com
Robert Zammit	Chairman		robert@vineyardvet.com.au
Lynette Brown	Dogs NSW	0245722383	proexport@bigpond.com
John Hubble	Central Cumberland Pigeon Federation	96228545	johnhubble@msm.com
Brian Crump	Dogs NSW	0419417813	spitz@bigpond.net.au
Ian Manton	Budgerigar Society of NSW	0413452282	ian_manton@bigpond.com
Paul Terrett	Dogs NSW	0419270161	Paulterrett@bigpond.com
Christina Rafton	Dogs NSW	0450799523	cr@taxfix.com.au
Graeme Phipps	Avicultural Society of NSW	0409314285	graemephipps@gmail.com
Michael Donnelly	Herpetocultural Co-operative of NSW	0400323843	westman1967@optusnet.com.au
Hugh Gent	Australian National Kennel Council	0458465124	hughgent@bigpond.net.au
Ron Roberston	Canary & Cage Bird Federation of Aust	9452 2396	secretary@ccbfa.org.au
Walter Hichell	Pigeon Fanciers Society of NSW	47822292	hitchell@bigpond.net.au
David Walker	Australian National Racing Pigeon Board		dcw010445@gmail.com
Brendan Sharpe	Exhibition Stud Poultry Australia	0421 105 041	bsharpe16@hotmail.com

MINUTES – 28th July 2018

A summary of resolutions arising from the second meeting of representatives of organisations supporting the formation of Animal Care Australia. The meeting was held on 28/7/2018 at the Bill Spilstead Complex for Canine Affairs Luddenham Road Orchard Hills.

In attendance:

Robert Zammit	Chairman	Sam Davis	Canary & Cage Bird Federation of Aust
Michael Donnelly	Herpetocultural Co-operative of NSW	Noelene Cassettari	Farm Animal Exhibitors Assoc
Michelle Grayson	NSW Cat Fanciers Association	Graeme Batho	Rabbit Breeders Association
Sandra McLean	Rodent Fanciers of NSW	Karin Nadazdy	Bitless Inc
Helen Toovey	AICC	Brian Read	Finch Society of Aust
Anthony Stimson	Mobile Wildlife Educators Association	Julia McConnell	Reptile Rescue and Education Service
Lynette Brown	Dogs NSW	Brian Crump	Dogs NSW
Ian Manton	Budgerigar Society of NSW	Graeme Phipps	Avicultural Society of NSW
Sue Kowalczyk	Australian Independent Cat Council	Christina Rafton	Dogs NSW
Rachael Sydenham	NSW Fancy Rodent Society Inc	Hugh Gent	Australian National Kennel Council
Glen Hosey	Australian Independent Cat Council	Ben Lloyd	Finch Society of Australia
Bob Barnes	NFSA	Merrilee Polley	Rabbit Breeders Association of NSW
Apology	Neville Burns: Blue Mountains Mobile Wildlife Educators Association		

The Chairman, Dr Rob Zammit opened the meeting at 2.15pm and informed the meeting that he had received Interstate inquiries concerning the establishment of ACA, he invited all attendees to introduce themselves, the meeting then had extensive discussions on the formation of Animal Care Australia resulting in the following resolutions, which it was noted should be actioned as soon as possible so that ACA would be in a position to deal with any proposed Legislation or change of Government.

Incorporation:

It was resolved that the organisation be incorporated as Animal Care Australia Inc. Dogs NSW indicated that it would cover the costs of Incorporation until ACA was financially viable. Christina Rafton offered to assist with gaining incorporation.

Membership:

It was resolved that the membership of Animal Care Australia would be Clubs/ Sub Clubs, plus

Associate Members who would not have voting rights. A condition of membership will be to have Standards, Codes of Practice and Ethics with a commitment to upholding the “Five Freedoms”, Freedom from hunger and thirst: Freedom from discomfort: Freedom from pain, injury and disease: Freedom to express normal behaviour: Freedom from fear and distress. The Committee will have the right to veto Membership Applications.

Constitution:

It was agreed that the Department of Fair Trading Model Constitution be adopted with amendments made to tailor it to ACA requirements, it was agreed that they would be circulated with feedback to be sent to Rob Zammit within 2 weeks.

Objectives:

A number of suggested Objectives, which could also be incorporated in a **Mission Statement**, were put forward and it was agreed that they would be circulated with feedback to be sent to Rob Zammit in time to be considered at the next meeting on Monday 13th August. **(See Annexure A)**

Office Bearers and Committee:

After discussions on the representative structure of ACA the following were appointed.

President/Spokesperson	Dr.RobZammit Bv.Sc	029627 1257	robert@vineyardvet.com.au
Secretary	Hugh Gent OAM	0458465124	hughgent@bigpond.net.au
Treasurer/Public Officer	Sue Kowalczyk	0497867496	muzee454@gmail.com
Committee (Group Representatives)			
Birds	Sam Davis	0411253512	president@ccbfa.org.au
Cats	Helen Toovey	0400071676	tooveycrew@bigpond.com
Dogs	Lyn Brown	0245722383	proexport@bigpond.com
Farm Animals	Noeline Cassettiari	0415707708	noeline@bigpond.net.au
Horses	Karri Nadazdy	0402074447	secretary@bitlessinc.org.au
Reptiles	Michael Donnelly	0400323843	Westman1967@optusnet.com.au
Small Mammals	Rachael Sydenham	0401165558	rattikinsrattery@gmail.com
Education	Graeme Phipps	0409314285	graemephipps@gmail.com
Veterinary	Vacant		

In addition to the Representatives for specific Animal Groups it was resolved to have an Educational Group and a Veterinary Group.

Web Page. Facebook:

Sam Davis undertook to organise the website. The FB would be discussed at the next meeting.

Logo:

It was agreed that the Logo would be discussed at the next meeting and anyone who has other designs for consideration should submit them to Sam Davis.

The meeting closed at 4.50 pm.

Next Meeting: Monday 13th August at 7.30pm

MINUTES – 10th September 2018

Minutes of a Meeting of Animal Care Australia held 10/9/2018 at the Bill Spilstead Complex for Canine Affairs Luddenham Road Orchard Hills commencing at 7.30 pm.

In attendance:

Robert Zammit	Chairman
Sam Davis	Canary & Cage Bird Federation of Aust
Michael Donnelly	Herpetocultural Co-operative of NSW
Hugh Gent	Australian National Kennel Council
Lynette Brown	Dogs NSW
Helen Toovey	AICC
Paul Terrett	Dogs NSW
Karri Nadazdy	Bitless Inc
Noelene Cassettari	Farm Animal Exhibitors Association
Anthony Stimson	Mobile Wildlife Educators Association Mobile Wildlife Educators Association
Rachel Sydenham	NSW Fancy Rodent Society
Mitchell Hodgson	Native Mammal Keepers of NSW
Visitors	
Kim Filmer	Chief Animal Welfare Officer and Group Director Animal Welfare at the Department of Primary Industries
Cindy Jackson	
Marie Callins	
Colin South	
Apologies	
Brian Crump	Dogs NSW
Christina Rafton	Dogs NSW
Bob Barnes	NFSA
Graeme Batho	Rabbit Breeders Association
Susan Batho	Blue Mountains Rabbit Club Blue Mountains Rabbit Club
Grant Holman	NSW CFA
Sue Kowalczyk	Australian Independent Cat Council
Glen Hosey	Australian Independent Cat Council
Michelle Grayson	NSW Cat Fanciers Association

Item 1. Address by Dr.Kim Filmer

At the commencement of the meeting the Chairman welcomed Dr.Kim Filmer the Chief Animal Welfare Officer and Group Director Animal Welfare at the Department of Primary Industries.

She explained to the meeting that the Department had been split into two groups, Bio Security and Animal Welfare and she was the Group Director for Animal Welfare, her responsibilities included, implementation of the NSW Animal Welfare Action Plan, implementation of animal welfare strategies and policies, risk analysis to underpin policy decisions and engagement with stakeholders and the community to reform animal welfare, along with Emily Staniforth her Stakeholder Engagement Officer, she would welcome calls on issues of concern to members of ACA. A Veterinary Surgeon by profession her background was in farming, she did not embrace the extremist welfare policies of either the Left or right wing but would seek the middle ground, the main objective is that outcomes must be based on science.

The meeting was opened to questions; the Chairman explained that the members of ACA were concerned with the time available to negotiate on proposed legislation before the State Elections in March and a possible change of Government. Kim thought that it was very unlikely that anything would eventuate in the near future as the Number 1 priority for the DPI was dealing with the consequences of the Drought.

Questions were raised on the development of new legislation or reviewing existing legislation and if the DPI would involve ACA members at the drafting stage rather than when the draft was completed as this would avoid situations as had happened with the recent POCA proposals, the response was that we would be consulted at the start of the process rather than at the end.

Dogs NSW raised concerns that they had made proposals to the DPI some months ago and had sought a meeting with Dr. Filmer but had not received a reply, Kim said that she had seen the material and would provide a response.

Discussions arose on the involvement of the RSPCA in DPI planning as recent events had illustrated that their goal was more towards implementing legislation that would provide tools to enforce the requirements of the 5 Freedoms, and their other published objectives, rather than workable solutions to animal husbandry regulation. Further discussion on the activities of the RSPCA led to questions as to who they were ultimately responsible to, they were an enforcement agency to implement Government legislation, but, unlike the NSW Police Service, also an enforcement agency implementing Government legislation, RSPCA did not have an Ombudsman to oversee their activities and the only recourse available for people who felt that they had been unfairly persecuted by the RSPCA was through the Courts which was beyond the financial capacity of the average citizen. The meeting resolved that ACA lobby the Minister to insert an appeal process in any legislation that involved enforcement by the RSPCA.

Item 2. Reports on Government Legislation.

There were no reports on Government Legislation

Item 3. Hills Council Legislation

Although the consultation period had expired with regard to proposed legislation limiting the number of dogs that can be kept on a property, and only one submission had been received, the meeting resolved that ACA write to the Hills Council and the Office of Local Government pointing out that the Councils actions are not consistent with State Government Legislation.

4. CCBFA issues with OEH

Sam Davis gave a report on negotiations that his organisation were having with the Office of Environment and Heritage. There are moves to introduce a Commercial Licence for all owners.

5. Membership of ACA for Affiliate Clubs

Sam Davis informed the meeting that his Association had discussed how to manage this and would probably have a levy on their associate clubs membership renewals which would make them an associate of ACA.

Michael Donnelly suggested that we should develop a Membership Form and agreed to undertake its production.

6. Marketing of the ACA Brand to clubs Nationally.

The meeting agreed that it was important that ACA be a national organisation, the Chairman agreed to write a letter for the Secretary to distribute as widely as possible.

7. Logo

The meeting considered a number of designs and chose the Logo that is at the head of these minutes. Rachel Sydenham who had created the selected logo explained its design.

- Capital letters for the acronym, as the ACA will stand for something and represent.
 - The letter "C" cradles the animals as it will represent that the ACA embrace all creatures great and small.
 - The abstract representation of the animals as layered silhouettes or outlines is simple.
 - We obviously could not fit all species in, and we did not want the logo to be too busy, people would just end up lost trying to count or identify a "C" crammed full of animals.
-
- So snake to represent reptiles
 - Rat to represent rodents
 - Rabbit to represent small pets
 - Cat
 - Dog
 - Kangaroo for wildlife
 - Horse for livestock
 - Bird for the avian

Clean, simple but undeniably identifiable as to who we are and what we are about.

8. Web Page / Facebook

The meeting discussed the layout for the FB Page, it was resolved that there would be a main page and a member groups page. Michael Donnelly undertook to develop the page.

9. Motto

After some discussion it was resolved that the ACA Motto would be "Animal Welfare by the Experts"

10. General Business

The meeting discussed the effect of the drought and the availability of hay.

The meeting closed at 9.46pm

Next Meeting 8th October 2018

MINUTES – 8th October 2018

Minutes of a Meeting of Animal Care Australia held 8/10/2018 at the Bill Spilstead Complex for Canine Affairs Luddenham Road Orchard Hills commencing at 7.30 pm.

In attendance:

Michael Donnelly	Herpetocultural Co-operative of NSW
Sam Davis	Canary & Cage Bird Federation of Aust
Hugh Gent	Australian National Kennel Council
Brian Crump	Dogs NSW
Christina Rafton	Dogs NSW
Karen Hedberg	Dogs NSW
Helen Toovey	AICC
Grant Holman	NSW CFA
Karri Nadazdy	Bitless Inc
Noelene Cassettari	Farm Animal Exhibitors Association
Anthony Stimson	Mobile Wildlife Educators Association Mobile Wildlife Educators Association
Rachel Sydenham	NSW Fancy Rodent Society
Mitchell Hodgson	Native Mammal Keepers of NSW
Glen Hosey	Australian Independent Cat Council
Sue Kowalczyk	Australian Independent Cat Council
Julia McConnell	Reptile Rescue and Education Service
Michelle Grayson	NSW Cat Fanciers Association
Merrilee Polley	Rabbit Breeders Association of NSW
Sandra McLean	Rodent Fanciers of NSW
Fran Grant	Visitor
Michelle Dalli	Visitor
Sarah-Joy Cooney	Visitor
Apologies	
Graeme Batho	Rabbit Breeders Association
Susan Batho	Blue Mountains Rabbit Club Blue Mountains Rabbit Club
Lynette Brown	Dogs NSW
Paul Terrett	Dogs NSW
Graeme Phipps	Avicultural Society of NSW
Brian Read	Finch Society of Australia
Colin South	

In the absence of Dr.Zammit the meeting was Chaired by Michael Donnelly

Item 1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th September 2018 were confirmed as a true record of proceedings there were no matters arising.

Item2. Reports on Government Legislation.

There was no further action to report on the Hills Shire dog numbers Legislation, Secretary to check if Dr.Zammit had written to them. **(ACTION Secretary)**

Sam Davis reported that negotiations with OEH re Native Animal Licencing were dragging on and that a scheduled meeting with the Department had been cancelled. WIRES who also influence National Parks had not been helpful in the negotiations. There was further discussion on the problems associated with dealing with Government Agencies in this area. It was resolved on the Motion of Sam Davis/Rachel Sydenham that ACA seek support from the Minister for the Environment. **(ACTION Sam Davis)**

Item 3. Financial Matters

The Treasurer reported that an Account had been opened with the Commonwealth Bank, at present it can only accept deposits not make payments. There were discussions on dealing with outstanding accounts, Dogs NSW confirmed that the \$1,000 was a loan and that after payment to the Logo Designer there would only be \$431.30 left so we had to move quickly on acquiring Membership Fees, it was confirmed that they were > 50 members \$25. + 50 Members \$100. Associates/Individuals \$10.

Michael Donnelly confirmed that he was preparing an Application for Membership Form which would be available on the web site and a PDF format for postal applications. **(ACTION Michael Donnelly)**

5. Social Media.

Michael Donnelly gave a progress report on the FB Page, there would be a Closed Page for Committee & Associates and a Public Page, access details would be emailed to members.**(Action Michael Donnelly).**

It was agreed that the Administrators would be the Group Representatives and the Secretary.

The website would be a Home Page, an About Us Page with information about ACA, and a membership/joining Page, and individual pages for each Group. It would just be an information site without contact details except for an email address for each group representative, this email link to be a 'blind' link.

Each Group would have the opportunity to put a case study of interaction with Legislators, if they do not have one the POCTA experience can be used,

6. Delegates Reports

Rachel Sydenham reported that the Queensland Rabbit Cubs were on Board.

7. Progress with COP's for Minister.

There was some uncertainty as to what the Minister actually wants, it was resolved to seek clarification from Rob Zammitt. **(ACTION Secretary)**

8. General Business.

There was a discussion on how ACA Member Groups would engage with their Interstate counterparts, Sam Davis volunteered to draft an introductory letter which could be modified to suit individual situations. **(ACTION Sam Davis)**

There was discussion on initiating interaction with other Organisations/Groups to make them aware of ACA and ascertain their position on Animal Welfare Legislation, it was agreed on the motion of Sam Davis/Noelene Cassettari that the first organisation to be invited to address ACA would be the RSPCA.

(ACTION Secretary)

The Secretary reported that due to prior bookings Dogs NSW were unable to make a room available on Monday nights, the only night available on a regular basis would be the 2nd Tuesday of the month, this date was not suitable for the Cat Group as they had a conflicting meeting on that night. The Secretary was requested to try for the 3rd Tuesday of the month. **(ACTION Secretary)**

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

Next Meeting TBA

MINUTES – 21st February 2019

Minutes of a Meeting of the Committee of Animal Care Australia held 21/02/2019 at the Bill Spilstead Complex for Canine Affairs Luddenham Road Orchard Hills commencing at 7.30 pm.

In attendance:

Robert Zammit	Chairman
Michael Donnelly	Herpetocultural Co-operative of NSW
Sam Davis	Canary & Cage Bird Federation of Aust
Hugh Gent	Australian National Kennel Council
Karri Nadazdy	Bitless Inc
Noelene Cassettari	Farm Animal Exhibitors Association
Anthony Stimson	Mobile Wildlife Educators Association Mobile Wildlife Educators Association
Rachel Sydnenham	NSW Fancy Rodent Society
Sue Kowalczyk	Australian Independent Cat Council
Apologies	
Lynette Brown	Dogs NSW
Helen Toovey	AICC
Graeme Phipps	Avicultural Society of NSW

Item 1. Apologies

As listed

Item 2. Matters arising since the last meeting.

The Committee discussed the Brumby cull at the Singleton Army Base. Karri Nadazy said that she was disappointed at the Committee response to her request for ACA to make a protest. Rob Zammit said that he would not be letting the matter rest and it was reported that Grant Holman was still investigating and that a report would be given at the next meeting.

Item 3. Upcoming State Election

Discussion was held on what action ACA should be taking in the run up to the State Election, it was resolved that the main political parties be engaged.

4. Membership.

It was resolved that membership applications from 1800022 would need to be approved by the Committee. If no objection was raised within 24 hours of the Committee being notified, the application would be approved. It was further resolved that anyone on the current membership list who had not paid their subscription by the 11th March would no longer receive meeting notices or minutes. MD and HG to write letter to current non-financial members.

5. Financial Matters

The Treasurer reported that the account now stood at just over \$1,400.

It was resolved to follow up with Dogs NSW re the promised \$1,000 seeding funds.

6. Website

Michael Donnelly reported that from next week Credit Card or Direct Debit would be available for subscriptions but not Pay Pal.

7. Contact with Members

Michael Donnelly agreed to take on the position of Membership Secretary and produce a Newsletter, he would also organise the contact lists.

8. Process for approval of action on behalf of ACA

Arising from the previous discussion on ACA action on specific issues it was agreed that a process needed to be introduced for the fast approval of action on urgent issues. Karri Nadazy agreed to draft a Protocol.

9. Species Specific information for website

Michael Donnelly reported that not all groups had provided material for the Website, he was particularly concerned that nothing had been forthcoming from Dogs NSW. It was suggested that Master Dog Breeders be invited to join ACA, the Secretary advised that if this occurred Dogs NSW would certainly withdraw.

10. General Business

Rachel Sydenham gave an update on the problem with importation of Vaccine for HDV2, it was ascertained that this was a Federal rather than State issue and it was agreed that Rob Zammit would contact the Veterinarian who had conducted the testing.

Sam Davis emphasised that amendments to POCTA would be specific to the Code of Practice for keeping individual species, the DPI and both sides of Government had agreed that consultation prior to drafting of legislation was acceptable and that all Organisations should consult with the RSPCA prior to making submission to the DPI. Michael Donnelly agreed to develop a Template to assist with preparation of submissions.

Regarding the Political Agendas of Animal Rights and Animal Welfare Organisations it was agreed that both the Shooters Fishers & Farmers Party and the Animal Justice Party be invited to address the meeting to be held on 11th March.

The meeting closed at 10.25pm

Next Meeting 11th March

MINUTES – 11th March 2019

Minutes of a Meeting of Animal Care Australia held 11/03/2019 at the Bill Spilstead Complex for Canine Affairs Luddenham Road Orchard Hills commencing at 7.30 pm.

In attendance:

Robert Zammit	Chairman
Michael Donnelly	Herpetocultural Co-operative of NSW
Sam Davis	Canary & Cage Bird Federation of Aust
Hugh Gent	Australian National Kennel Council
Grant Holman	NSW CFA
Karri Nadazdy	Bitless Inc
Noelene Cassettari	Farm Animal Exhibitors Association
Rachel Sydenham	NSW Fancy Rodent Society
Sandra McLean	Rodent Fanciers of NSW
Graeme Phipps	Avicultural Society of NSW
Lyn Brown	Dogs NSW
Michelle Grayson	NSW CFA
Rebecca Coventry	Visitor
Kevin Nesbitt	Visitor
Kaylene Dore	Visitor
Ben Mack	Visitor
Keely Hegg	Visitor
Apologies	
Sue Kowalczyk	Australian Independent Cat Council
Anthony Stimson	Mobile Wildlife Educators Association
Mitchell Hodgson	Mammal Society

Guest Speaker

The Chairman introduced Emma Hurst the Lead Candidate for the Animal Justice Party at the upcoming NSW State Elections. Each Group gave her a short resume of their activities. Emma addressed the meeting and was closely questioned on the AJP Objectives, Members found a lot of contradictions between her presentation and statements on the AJP Website.

After Emma had left the meeting it was resolved that Sam Davis and Rebecca Coventry both make a Summary of her Presentation to be sent to the Committee prior to being forwarded to her.

Correspondence

Nil

Shooters Fishers & Farmers Statement

Sam Davis & Noeline Cassettiari acknowledged the Shooters Fishers and Farmers Party who apologised for not being able to attend the Meeting.

Membership

The meeting was informed of the Committee Resolution that any organisation or individual who had not submitted a formal Membership Application by 11th March would not receive further Meeting Notices or Newsletters.

Website and Newsletter

Michael Donnelly made a presentation of the website and requested that the groups who had not provided material for their section to do so as soon as possible. The meeting congratulated Michael on his work.

Reports from Member Organisations

Karri Nadazy reported that the National Horse Registry was looking into unifying horse legislation and requested that ACA make a submission. It was agreed that Karri would prepare a Draft and send it to the members for comment.

Following discussion at the Committee Meeting Rob Zammit reported that he had discussed the Brumby Cull at Singleton with Steve Coleman and Scott Myers of the RSPCA who had claimed that the reports that they had approved the cull were not accurate and that they had not attended the cull or signed off on it, these comments were supported by Grant Holman who had monitored the events through the Heritage Brumby Association who were prepared to rehome the Brumbies, it was agreed that Defence had given out a lot of misinformation, Rob Zammit said that he was not going to let the matter rest.

Reports from Guest Organisations

Kevin Nesbitt, (Greyhound Rescue) gave the meeting an overview of the difficulties being experienced by Greyhound Breeders and Rescuers trying to work under the current Legislation and the effect it was having on the welfare of Greyhounds. Rob Zammit said that he had good connections within the Greyhound Industry and offered to help, Kevin was invited to join ACA.

General Business

Lyn Brown asked the meeting for any feedback concerning the upcoming elections, they had had concerning their species. Rob Zamitt said that we had good connections with the Major Parties. Graeme Phipps said that he did not see any problems with Labor if they won Government.

Michael Donnelly believed if the Government changed the agreements his Association had negotiated with OEH could have to be started all over again.

Graeme Phipps announced that he was moving to Victoria to take up a new post, he would be hoping to get ACA moving in that State, he introduced Rebecca Coventry his replacement in the Education Group of ACA.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm

MINUTES – 8th April 2019

Minutes of a Meeting of Animal Care Australia held 08/04/2019 at the Bill Spilstead Complex for Canine Affairs Luddenham Road Orchard Hills.

In attendance: As per attendance book. **Apologies:** Noelene Cassettari. Anthony Stimpson

The Chairman, Rob Zammit, opened the meeting at 7.30pm

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed.

Matters Arising.

There were no matters arising.

Correspondence

Outwards:

Emma Hurst, Animal Justice Party

Inwards:

Nil

Treasurers Report.

The Treasurer reported that the current balance was \$2,0320

Membership:

The meeting discussed Membership Applications from people whose websites indicated that they were commercial dog breeders, Lyn Brown informed the meeting that ACA could expect to receive more applications from similar sources as Membership of ACA and use of the Logo would give them credibility which they could not get anywhere else. It was resolved that people who fell into this category would be called Supporters,

they would not have voting rights or be able to use the ACA Logo. It was further resolved that all Dog Applications would be checked by Lyn Brown.

Michael Donnelly undertook to draft a Welcome Letter for new members incorporating the Mission Statement and Objectives.

Group Reports

No Group reports recorded

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

MINUTES – 13th May 2019

Minutes of a Meeting of Animal Care Australia held 13/05/2019 at the Bill Spilstead Complex for Canine Affairs Luddenham Road Orchard Hills commencing at 7.30 pm.

In attendance: As per attendance book. **Apologies:** Noelene Cassettari.

The Chairman, Rob Zammit, opened the meeting with a statement that following the discussions at the last meeting regarding overtalking speakers, future meeting would be run under Renton's Guide for Meetings and Organisations.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

It was established that due to email problems the minutes of the April meeting had not been received by members. It was agreed that they would be sent out to be approved electronically.

Matters Arising.

Michael Donnelly confirmed that the proposed changes had been made to the Membership Application Forms and a welcome letter had been developed.

Sam Davis asked for clarification of the Supporter Membership Category, it was agreed that it was intended for individuals from Commercial Enterprises that would not be admitted as Members, the individuals would not have voting rights and would not be allowed to claim endorsement by ACA.

Correspondence

Outwards:

Emma Hurst Animal Justice Party re State Election Result.

Inwards:

Response from Emma Hurst.

Advice from Dogs Victoria that they had taken up Membership of ACA.

Arising from the Dogs Victoria advice it was resolved that the Committee would discuss the setting up of Interstate Branches.

Treasurers Report

The Treasurer reported that the present balance was \$1,942.00

Reports from Member Organisations

Cats: The Cat representatives explained that due to the number of Groups in NSW and the fact that they were all fiercely independent any Report would only be the views of individual Groups. The Chairman said that he had not been successful in achieving unity at the Sydney Royal, but he would continue to work on improving cooperation between the Groups.

Birds: Sam Davis reported that they would be seeking meetings with the new NSW Govt Ministers especially as there were changes to be made to the Native Animal Act, he also reported that the Victorian Bird Groups were very interested in setting up a Victorian Branch of ACA.

Reptiles: Michael Donnelly reported that he was still following up clubs to join ACA

Dogs: Lyn Brown reported that Dogs NSW had been blindsided by DPI/OLG on the new Companion Animal Register, despite having a Representative on the Govt Advisory Panel and reassurances that a Dogs NSW Membership number would be accepted as a BIN this was now in doubt. Arising from this Report it was resolved that ACA write to the NSW State Government and ask that Domestic Animals be moved from DPI Jurisdiction to the Office of Local Government if it still existed after the Government re organisation.

Horses: Karri Nadazy reported that the submission to the National Horse Registry inquiry into Unified Legislation had been finalised.

Rabbits: Rachel Sydenham reported that there had not been any progress towards the release of the HDV2 Vaccine, the Chairman said he would follow up with some of his contacts.

Website and Newsletter

Michael Donnelly reported that all was running well with the Website despite some emails being hacked, as reported in matters arising from the April Minutes that the proposed changes had been made to the Membership Application Forms and a welcome letter had been developed.

Presentation:

The Education Group Representative Rebecca Coventry gave a presentation “Exploring Animal Welfare Education” and outlined the processes for setting up training modules based on experience in keeping and breeding dogs.

Key Points:

- Any POCTA changes will include a requirement for education.
- ACA Groups must be able to show that they are meeting Animal Welfare requirements.

Arising from the Presentation it was resolved that Rebecca would draft minimum welfare requirements for individual species

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

MINUTES – 10th June 2019

Minutes of a Meeting of Animal Care Australia held 10/06/2019 at the Bill Spilstead Complex for Canine Affairs Luddenham Road Orchard Hills commencing at 9.15 pm after the General Meeting.

In attendance: Robert Zammit, Michael Donnelly, Sam Davis, Hugh Gent, Lyn Brown, Rebecca Coventry, Karri Nadazdy, Helen Toovey, Rachel Sydenham, Sue Kowalczyk. **Apology:** Noelene Cassettari.

The Committee discussed the way forward for ACA and the following actions to be taken:

- That the July Meeting would be a “Strategic Planning Meeting” for the Committee only. **ACTION: Rebecca**
- That the #1 priority was to establish contact with Ministers Shelley Hancock and Adam Marshall and with Kim Filmer **ACTION: Rob**
- In regard to the General Meeting decision that draft minimum welfare requirements would be developed for each species it was suggested that not all Groups were not ready to proceed at this time, Rob stressed that it was imperative to have them in place as the Minister could call for them at any time. **ACTION: Rebecca**
- A letter be written to Federal Minister Matt Keene stating that ACA was disappointed to hear that further Aerial Culling of Brumbies was to be carried out. **ACTION: Hugh/Rob**
- After robust discussion it was agreed that ACA would discontinue aggressive publicity against the Animal Justice Party, however a Chart would be developed on the Animal Welfare Policies of Political Parties. **ACTION: Karri**

The meeting closed at 9.35pm

MINUTES – 8th July 2019

Minutes of a Meeting of Animal Care Australia held 8/07/2019 at the Blue Cattle Dog Hotel commencing at approx. 8pm.

Note: Venue was double booked - relocated to the Blue Cattle Dog Inn.

In attendance: Michael Donnelly, Rachel Sydneham, Sam Davis, Helen Toovey, Rob Zammit, Karri Nadazdy, Noeline Cassettari.

Apologies: Sue Kowalczyk, Anthony Stimson, Lyn Brown and Hugh Gent.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Previous Minutes for 13th May 2019 only received today – Committee not had time to review – will need to report back at next meeting

Matter arising from minutes: not addressed – see above.

Correspondence In: Print: None. Social Media – one email and two Facebook messages – all regarding Get Wild.

Correspondence out: Print: Adam Marshall NSW Minister for Agriculture. Social Media – Rob's response formulated last week was sent to all 3 recipients.

Financial matters: No financial report. Michael estimated the bank balance at around \$1,000

Memberships: Michael reported 4 new members received by post – yet to be sent to Committee for approval. Michael acknowledged receipt of membership form from Dogs Vic

Member organisation Reports:

Rachel (Small Mammals): Georges River Council has opened submissions on limiting numbers of small mammals and birds that can be kept in residential properties. Some of the numbers are unrealistic, and unreasonable. Rachel to check if proposed policy is in breach of Local Government Act and collect more information before any action taken.

Rachel (Small Mammals): Gumtree ads restrict ages of puppies and kittens etc as per DPI code of practice, but not all small mammals such as rats. Rat pups are being sold at 2 weeks old, as their eyes are only just opening. General agreement amongst the committee that small animals should be at least 8 weeks. Victoria has no minimum ages. ACA need to have draft codes on this to provide to DPI and ministers as the opportunities arise.

Helen and Karri agreed to write a standard introductory letter based on Sam's existing format for ACA reps to use in future. This will be written following the strategic meeting.

Website News:

Some email glitches have been experienced following the hack last quarter, but should now be resolved. Committee to contact Michael if still having issues.

General Business:

State delegation:

Discussion about what State branches of ACA could look like along with the practicalities of meetings with interstate members and committee members. General discussion of various issues that could warrant additional representation to what we already offer.

Discussion of keeping issues known to the committee, and control of outgoing communications in ACA's name. Also member numbers are growing, but hard to justify additional representation at this stage. Many of our member clubs are already national clubs, which could create complications.

General agreement that animal groups would be more practical to coordinate than State branches. Online groups to connect members, or skype meetings and emails could be utilised more effectively to encourage more member engagement.

Majority agreement to maintain our current committee structure focussed on animal groups, without State branches.

General discussion about how to live-stream future General meetings, so more interstate and isolated members can participate without having to travel. Format suggested as skype or similar, in limited access on the ACA website for members to access live during meetings, and the recording available publically afterwards.

Committee meetings would remain accessible to committee only, and can be moved to skype or similar if interstate committee members join the committee.

Further thought and investigation is required to determine our needs before attempting to live stream ACA meetings.

Government Engagement:

Discussion of how we can best propose a seat for ACA on the new Animal Welfare Advisory Council. Sam to contact Dogs Vic on their progress regarding an AWAC seat.

Michael to write to Steven Dawson, in WA suggesting inclusion of an ACA rep on Consultation Committee.

Sam's local member has promised an introduction with Adam Marshall MP. Rob and Michael to attend the meeting with Adam Marshall.

Constitution

Michael to edit the ACA Constitution correcting grammar and spelling, and updated membership levels in time for the AGM, including writing an anti-discrimination/ant-harassment policy and clarifying how member clubs select their rep for the committee.

Get Wild Membership

ACA was contacted by 3 non-members asking if Get Wild was a member of ACA. Rob replied without committee approval stating that Get Wild was immediately suspended. Committee discussion about Get Wild's relationship to ACA, and what action, if any, should be taken, regarding the recent legal action against one of Get Wild's Directors, Mr Brighton.

While Get Wild is a financial member organisation of ACA, Mr Brighton is not and has stepped down from all activities with Get Wild, and is effectively no longer associated with the business. If his appeal fails, he will be unable to obtain a licence from DPI in future, so will be prevented from re-joining the business at a later date. Rob expressed grave concerns about having any connection to Get Wild, even without Mr Brighton's involvement.

As an email has already been sent to the enquiring parties, majority agreement was reached that it was not necessary for ACA to engage on the issue any further and leave the matter status quo until after the Court Appeal has been heard and a determination reached. Committee to review again at that time.

Karri stated that emailing a response to a member of the public regarding the status of one of our members, without committee agreement, and without contacting the member concerned first, was unprofessional and should not happen again.

Rob took offense at being called unprofessional by Karri, stated that he resigned from ACA and left the room. He did not return.

Committee unanimously agreed to invite Rob to remain as an Ambassador/patron

AGM Processes - to be discussed at next meeting

Membership Drive - to be discussed at strategic meeting

Meeting closed: Approx 10pm

Minutes taken by Karri Nadazdy.

Amendments – added by Michael Donnelly.

- Adjustment of apologies – Lyn Brown had advised of her apologies.
- Insertion of Committees motion to invite Rob to remain as an Ambassador/patron.