



MEDIA RELEASE

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Animal Care Australia Inc
www.animalcareaustralia.org.au
president@animalcareaustralia.org.au
Phone: 0400 323 843

NEW GOVERNMENT A WIN FOR ANIMAL WELFARE

Animal Care Australia celebrates incoming Labor Animal Welfare Plan

Sydney, NEW SOUTH WALES, (23 May 2022) Australia's peak animal welfare body, Animal Care Australia, is relieved to see Animal Welfare back on the federal political agenda.

Labor has promised to establish an independent Inspector-General of Animal Welfare (IGAW) and Live Animal Exports, along with \$1 Million a year to establish the IGAW as a statutory position operating independently within the federal Department of Agriculture.

"Accountability and transparency is something that Animal Care Australia has been arguing for since our inception in 2018" said Michael Donnelly, Animal Care Australia President. "Animal Welfare needs to be protected from, and held independently outside of political agendas, especially extreme animal rights ideologies."

Over the past decade, the lack of good animal welfare policies by the major parties has seen the rise of extreme animal rights groups filling the vacuum. This has been to the detriment of Australian companion and domestic animals, by gradually replacing both good and bad welfare policies with animal rights bans and restrictions. Labor's IGAW is an opportunity to establish National standards and accountability on important Animal Welfare issues.

This is not just about Live Animal Exports - companion animals and other animals in captivity have been negatively impacted by recent changes to state legislation across the country. Animal Welfare will now have Federal oversight, which should offer improvements and protections to welfare standards.

"It's time the government took control of the compliance of animal welfare legislation instead of outsourcing it to charitable organisations." Mr Donnelly said. "If not, those responsible for Animal Welfare compliance need to be held liable for their actions."

Animal Care Australia regularly consults with state departments regarding Animal Welfare, providing a clear and informed perspective in the revision of animal welfare policies. Just this year, ACA appeared as a witness in Parliamentary Inquiries investigating Puppy Farming in NSW, reviewing the NSW Animal Welfare Act 2021, and the Effectiveness of the Approved Charitable Organisations under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. ACA's input has been positively received.

Animal Care Australia congratulates the Albanese Labor government and looks forward to meeting with the relevant Minister as we work together to tackle the animal welfare challenges we have been trying to address for so long.

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If you would like more information about this topic, please call Michael Donnelly on 0400 323 843 or email president@animalcareaustralia.org.au

About Animal Care Australia

Animal Care Australia (ACA) is a national incorporated association lobbying for and advocating for higher welfare outcomes for animals by educating hobbyists and keepers and lobbying governments.

ACA was founded in early 2018 to establish an organisation run solely by volunteers to lobby for real animal welfare. With extreme animal rights and animal liberationist ideologies influencing government legislation, regulation and policy at our expense and to the detriment of our animals and pets, it has become necessary to provide government with a balancing voice.

By uniting the broad spectrum of animal groups, collectively we offer an experienced, sensible approach to animal welfare. We estimate our foundation ACA clubs currently represent well over 150,000 members and that is just in NSW alone!

By educating our members and the general public about the importance of treating animals with kindness and respect for their needs, and promoting the humane treatment of animals to improve animal welfare outcomes, Animal Care Australia is in the unique position of lobbying and advocating for all animals within our care.

Animal Care Australia provides priority to the following:

- lobbying government for stronger welfare outcomes
- lobbying government to increase education of the public in animal welfare and best care techniques
- educate the public on handling their animals with kindness & respect and the importance of their needs
- educate the public in the differences between animal welfare and animal rights

Photo: Michael Donnelly, President, Animal Care Australia.

