



**Northern Beaches Council – Draft Keeping Animals Policy
Synopsis of meeting with Louise Kerr
Tuesday 7th January 2020 11am.**

On 24th November 2019, a submission was sent to Northern Beaches Council by Animal Care Australia's (ACA) Small Mammals Representative, Rachel Sydenham, in response to the Northern Beaches Council's proposed Draft Keeping Animals Policy.

Within this submission ACA was seeking changes to the following proposals:

- **Maximum number of small animals kept as pets.** How this would affect hobbyist/ breeders, especially those who are active members of the animal communities, (clubs, societies and associations).
How this would affect natural colony animals that normally thrive in large social groups.
- **Minimum distance of 3 metres for small animals to be kept from nearest dwelling, public hall, school, hospital, premises used to manufacture, preparation, sale or storage of food or any building listed.** How this would affect pet owners, and hobbyists, who live in smaller properties and/or condensed dwellings.

ACA's submission was aimed at securing the following desired outcomes:

- 1) To have the cap on numbers of any individual small mammal species removed from the draft policy.**
- 2) To have the minimum distance of 3 metres from the nearest dwelling to be removed from the draft policy.**

On Tuesday 7th January 2020, Rachel Sydenham and Michael Donnelly (President) met with Louise Kerr and her associate.

The Draft Keeping Animals Policy was a result of the amalgamation of local councils into the one Northern Beaches Council. Both Council representatives were extremely willing to receive our feedback and additional advice.

The meeting ended very positively with ACA achieving both desired outcomes. Louise stated the Draft Keeping Animal Policy would have to be re-written in entirety, which would take some time and in the meantime the existing policies of the old local governments are still in place for residents.

ACA offered to forward a copy of the ACA Responsible Breeders Policy, so that the Northern Beaches Council could use it as a reference and also to understand our welfare expectations of our members better. The policy has been sent along with a recommendation that council a statement that "Council recommends you join an animal keepers group for the species you keep", within the new Draft Keeping Animals Policy.

We received assurances that we would be contacted to review the revised policy once it was completed.