



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

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT ONCE AGAIN IGNORES ANIMAL WELFARE

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

## **"VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT ONCE AGAIN IGNORES ANIMAL WELFARE "**

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

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

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

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

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

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

ACA is calling on the Victorian Government to take animal welfare seriously and legislate it as an essential requirement in any and all essential and emergency services regulations implemented now and in the future!

“Animals are suffering because the Victorian Government is ignoring their needs,” Mr Donnelly said.

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

- ENDS -

For further information contact Animal Care Australia

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

or call Michael Donnelly – President – 0400 323 843

## 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.  
Credit: K. Nadazdy.