



“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

PETS WIN HOMES IN NSW STRATA SCHEMES

Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> August, 2021

## ***Australia’s peak animal welfare body celebrates the inclusion of pets to NSW Strata Scheme Laws.***

**Sydney, NSW, (24 August 2021)** Animal Care Australia is celebrating the introduction of new laws governing the keeping of animals in strata schemes in NSW, commencing on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2021. The new Strata Schemes Management Amendment (Pets) Regulation 2021 makes pet keeping in all strata complexes the default order.

Under the new laws, an owners’ corporation:

- can only refuse to allow an animal into the scheme if that animal unreasonably interferes with another resident’s use and enjoyment of their lot or the common property
- may still require residents to apply for approval from the owners corporation to keep an animal on their lot
- may still set reasonable conditions in their by-laws to manage the keeping of animals in the scheme.
- Strata by-laws that set a blanket ban on the keeping of any animals within a scheme are not valid.

The laws also include a list of circumstances where an animal causes an unreasonable interference to residents in a scheme. The owners’ corporation can take steps to prohibit an animal that is being kept in the scheme if the animal causes a nuisance, hazard or unreasonable interference.

The changes to end discrimination against pet owners has been welcomed by animal welfare advocates, who have worked hard in recent months to develop the Amendment in a way that was fair and in keeping with existing Strata Scheme legislation.

**"Animal Care Australia is proud to be acknowledged as a key stakeholder and work with senior government policy staff on the drafting of these regulations to ensure pet keeping is open to everyone,"** says Michael Donnelly, President of [Animal Care Australia](http://www.animalcareaustralia.org.au).

“Pets are a vital part of our community. Many of us treat them as part of the family. It seems archaic that in 2021 pets would not automatically be accepted in strata in the same way our children are.”

Existing Strata Scheme By-Laws with blanket pet bans will be invalid from this week. Owners’ Corporations have been advised that they need to review their by-laws to ensure that they comply with the new legislation. By-Laws are permitted to include a registration process for residents wishing to keep pets to allow complexes to keep track of animals and to ensure that those animals meet other regulations in regards to microchipping and council registrations and the like.

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The legislation has broader implications than just supporting pet ownership in our community. "With our aging population and governments encouraging our elder society to downsize it makes sense they be permitted to take their pets with them, or for those living alone to have some much needed and loving companionship," Mr Donnelly said , "one of the many factors for people staying in abusive relationships are their pets. With these new regulations that is one less hurdle for someone to get away from domestic violence"

Animals are ingrained in Australian society. There are more than 29 million pets in Australia today, with three out of 5 households owning at

least one pet. We may even see this number increase in light of this change.

Animal Care Australia is the Peak Animal Welfare Body representing the keepers and breeders of pet and companion animals in Australia.

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For further information contact Animal Care Australia Inc

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## **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