

ANIMAL CARE AUSTRALIA Inc.

Annual Report



2019 — 2021

Two year period due to Covid restrictions



Animal Care Australia

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



“Animal Care Australia acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we reside, and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.”

Produced: *December 2021*

Annual Report 2019 — 2021

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Mission Statement

“Animal Care Australia (ACA) is the Peak Animal Welfare Body representing the keepers and breeders of pet and companion animals in Australia”.

ACA encourages continued development of animal welfare standards and Codes of Practice for animal husbandry, breeding, training, sale and sporting exhibitions for a wide range of animal species.

Our goal is to promote and encourage high standards in all interactions with the animals in our care. To encourage responsible pet ownership, and the respectful treatment of all animals in our community ACA continues to promote welfare education over regulation.

Objectives

- To represent Animal Care Groups as the peak animal welfare body
- To engage and advise Government and legislators on welfare issues relating to pets and companion animals.
- To protect the rights of ethical hobbyists & animal keepers to breed and keep pets and companion animals.
- To clarify the difference between animal rights and animal welfare
- To promote higher animal welfare outcomes



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 based on centuries of expertise keeping and breeding animals. Extreme animal rights and animal liberationist ideologies currently influencing government legislation, regulation and policy are at expense of real animal welfare and hence to the detriment of our animals and pets. ACA provides 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 ACA membership clubs currently represent well over 200,000 members.

ACA is in the unique position of lobbying and advocating for all animals within our care. The association represents each of the following major animal groups – dogs, cats, birds, horses, reptiles, farm animals (hobby-farming), small mammals, native mammals and mobile and wildlife educators.

When lobbying government, ACA prioritises the following:

ACA strives for implementation of stronger achievable animal welfare outcomes using and based upon the extensive expertise of our members.

ACA prioritises education over regulation as the most effective and economical means of improving animal welfare outcomes nationally.

ACA opposes animal rights, an area of much confusion for the general public. We strive to highlight and educate the public on the differences between animal welfare and animal rights.

To this end, ACA has engaged with government on a range of issues throughout Australia. The Appendix that follows outlines some of these matters, including parliamentary inquiries, Ministerial, MP, Department Director meetings, appointments as major stakeholders, and numerous submissions in NSW and various other jurisdictions nationally.

Our goal is to promote and encourage high standards in all interactions with the animals in our care. To encourage responsible pet ownership and the respectful treatment of all animals in our community.

Sadly many legislative changes are proposed and implemented due to the pressures of the animal rights extremist (ARE) movement and their subsidiaries.

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When this happens the welfare of animals is jeopardised by the introduction of restrictions and over-zealous regulations. The picture is painted with rainbows and promises of improving animals lives, while the true-colours are hidden until it is too late.

ACA will continue to:

- Lobby for higher animal welfare outcomes in welfare Acts
- Change the narrative of animal welfare from punishment to education
- Make higher animal welfare the 'norm' among pet owners
- Oppose restricted breeding legislations.
- Oppose restrictions on pet numbers that can be kept (now only 5 animals in some Local Councils)
- Oppose the creation of a Shelter Industry
- Introduce education about pet ownership into primary & higher school education curriculums
- Encourage education on responsible pet ownership, responsible breeding and responsible buying of pets.
- Lobby for greater funding of education on responsible pet ownership, responsible breeding and responsible buying of pets.
- Support pets in strata
- Lobby for greater accountability of animal welfare compliance organisations
- Oppose Animal Rights Extremist propaganda
- Oppose Animal Rights Extremist influences on government
- Oppose 'personhood' rights being provided to animals
- Encourage research into more alternatives for 1080
- Encourage expansion of and education about existing alternatives for 1080
- Support continuation of animals in education arena (zoos, mobile exhibitors etc)
- Support and legislate for the protection of animal victims of domestic violence

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- Oppose programs that allow the release or continuance of feral animals in the natural environment
- Support initiatives for the subsidising of de-sexing programs
- Outlaw the possession of crush and bestiality videos
- Strengthen animal welfare Acts by removing ambiguity and clearly defining animal cruelty
- Ensuring species specific Standards (Codes Of Practice) for keeping and breeding are introduced
- Legislate against leaving animals in hot vehicles
- Support the expansion and continuation of native animal keeping with appropriate licensing and welfare standards
- Oppose trail closures to horse riders, carriage drivers and dog walkers
- Ensure the draft National Horse Traceability Register provides welfare benefits to horses



President's Report

My appointment as President came amidst an uneasy time for Animal Care Australia (ACA). The organisation had only been running for less than 18 months and was barely recognised by any government authority in the country.

The Committee, in my opinion, was still finding it's way and there was a clear divide on how ACA should go about achieving it's objectives.

Now, two years later, ACA is recognised by each appropriate government department responsible for animal welfare in every state and territory., as well as most environment-based departments.

I acknowledged that to achieve our objectives ACA needed to become more proactive in responding to animal welfare based reviews. To confidently achieve that ACA commenced drafting an Animal Welfare Policy and Positions Statement to establish the foundation of each submission that would follow. The final version would be approved in August 2020.

To assist ACA in upholding higher animal welfare standards, we needed a Code of Ethics that each member organisation would agree to abide by and educate their membership bases on.

From an Occupational Health & Safety perspective, we have adopted an, Anti-discrimination/ harassment Policy, Privacy Policy, Communications Policy, Conflicts of Interest Policy, and Operations Manual.

Our correspondence is also recorded in our online Correspondence Registers.

Within the first few months of becoming President, ACA had responded to two NSW Legislative Committee Inquiries, and we were requested to provide testimony at both. For these we opposed the attempts by the Animal Justice Party to introduce their own version of an 'Independent Office of Animal Welfare' and a ban on exotic animals in circus, as well as banning dolphins in marine care. More is available on page 21.

Our Committee underwent some changes and has since seen some members move on and we have welcomed new members. I am very proud and appreciative of each member of the ACA Committee. They give their time and personal expenses to ensure ACA can respond where necessary. Volunteers are never thanked enough. Without this group of volunteers, ACA would never have become a nationally recognised organisation.

We have responded to animal welfare based reviews in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia.

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Our consultations have covered the gauntlet of animal based topics. Everything from pets in strata, pet victims of domestic violence, animal shelters, inclusion in Impound Act reviews, the National Horse Traceability Register, proposed horse riding trail closures, national bird registration schemes, local council Animal Management Plan reviews, pet registry reviews and last but by no means least stop puppy farming legislation in Western Australia and NSW, that will not stop puppy farms, but will reduce the number of responsible breeders, as what has occurred in Victoria.

ACA's largest and ongoing battle is with the ever growing influence of the animal rights extremist movement. When ACA first 'met' the Animal Justice Party (AJP) it was via the Hon Emma Hurst. At that time we condemned the AJP's Animal Policies, in particular their Companion Animal Policies. They directly oppose the keeping and breeding of companion animals and pets. Not long after that meeting their NSW-based website suddenly saw a change in the wording of their policies. Gone was the use of the words 'ban' or 'phase out' and now you really need to read between the lines to see their objectives. Another recent change in their language is from 'animal welfare' to 'animal protection'. Why? It became apparent to most people animal welfare is not their actual objective.

Is this all a good outcome or a bad one? I'll leave that to you to decide. What it does show is ACA is having a direct impact on the AJP and that they no longer have free reign to directly influence government, policy and to some extent the public.

On the political front ACA has now met with and secured a working relationship with multiple parties.

In NSW, we have a good working relationship with the current government, the Labor Party (Opposition) and with the Shooters, Fishers & Farmers Party. We have also met several times with the Animal Justice Party's, Emma Hurst.

In Victoria, we are currently building our relationship with the current government, and the Shooters, Fishers & Farmers Party.

While in WA the Opposition has consulted with us to assist to combat the puppy farm legislation being pushed strongly by the McGowan Government.

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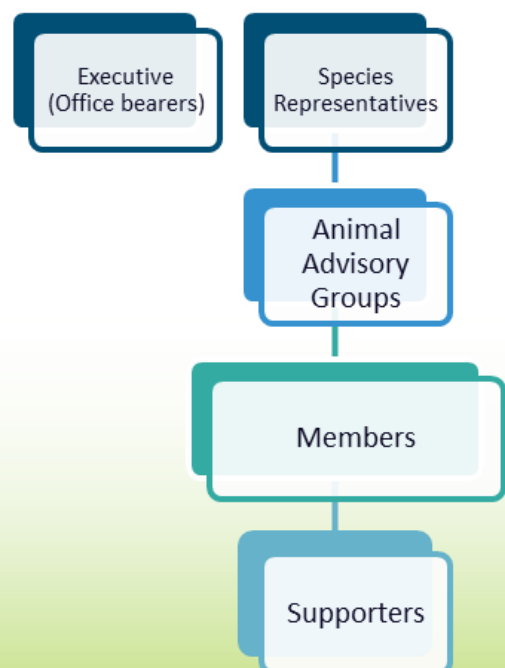
Communications between ACA and current government ministers in the other states has seen us acknowledged by each of them during the initial stages of the Covid-19 pandemic to ensure animal welfare was deemed essential, as well as seeking support for animal exhibitors shut down by lockdowns. There is a long road ahead for ACA, especially given the political fronts in each state continue to be influenced by animal rights led groups and organisations rather than focussing on real animal welfare outcomes.

Finally, I am available to you — our members and supporters. If you have a concern then contact me — happy to chat.

Michael Donnelly — ACA President.

Structure

Animal Care Australia is governed by a committee comprised of the Executive and Species Representatives from all pet & companion animal species. Representatives are appointed by Member Species Organisations. Executive (Office bearers) are nominated and voted by the Delegates.



Committee

Executive



Michael Donnelly
President



Sam Davis
Vice-President



Michelle Grayson
Secretary



Sue Kowalczyk
Public Officer/Treasurer

Species Representatives



Sam Davis
Birds



Michelle Grayson
Cats



Kylie Gilbert
Dogs



Exhibited



Fish & Aquatic



Karri Nadazdy
Horses & Livestock



Michael Donnelly
Native Mammals

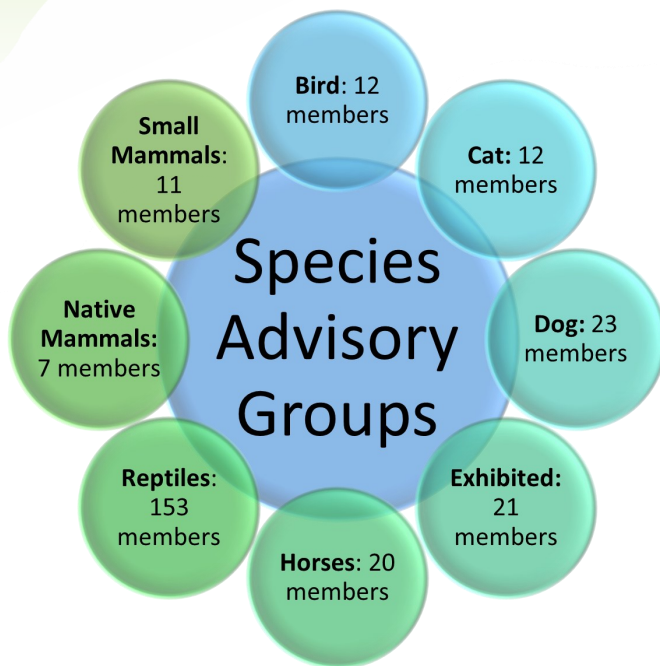


Joanne Payne
Reptiles & Amphibians



Rachel Sydenham
Small Mammals

Species Advisory Groups



Species Advisory Groups are comprised of the Species Representative, at least one other ACA Committee member, and members of Animal Species Organisations. Upon approval of membership members and supporters are invited to participate on an Animal Advisory Group, providing our members with a voice.

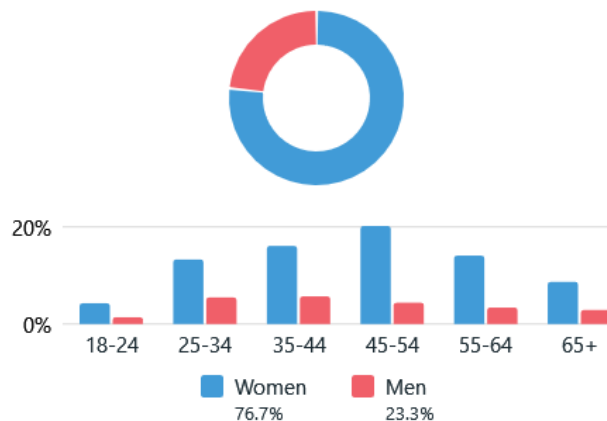
Membership

383
member
organisations and
supporters.

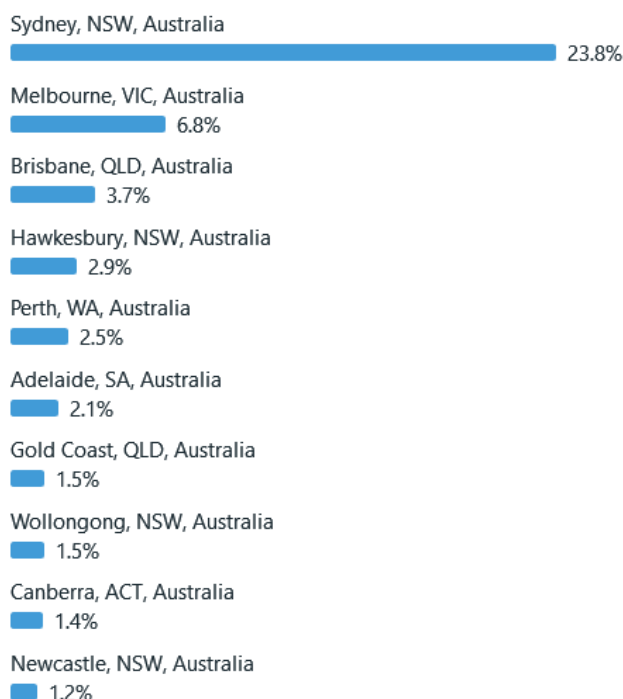
Each organisation in itself representing it's own membership. With several of the organisations being nationally represented the last estimate of overall representation was in excess of **200,000 members**.

Social Media

Age & Gender



Top Cities



Our social media reach has been far greater with posts relating to Essential Welfare during the initial covid lockdowns being shared 1,000's of times each post. One in particular reached **32.9k people**.

Posts relating to dog and cat breeding legislation, including the NSW Breeding Code of Practice and the Animal Justice Party's NSW Puppy Farm Bill also saw high sharing rates.

- ACA Presidents Public Statement regarding the AJP Bill: **13.8k shares**
- Revised NSW Breeding Code: **6.6k shares**
- ACA opposing the WA McGowan Govts Puppy Farm Legislation: **4.5k shares**, and
- ACA opposing the inclusion of psychological suffering in the definition of cruelty: **3.5k shares**

2428

regular social
media followers

Financial Statement 2019 - 2020

Animal Care Australia

Incorporation: INC 1801209

ABN 36 438 686 995

PO Box 314 Macarthur Square Post Office NSW 2570



Summary	Total Current Period
Total Other Operating Expenses [P]	\$ 598.17
Income - Memberships	\$ 1,361.06
Yearly Total	\$ 762.89

Total Brought Forward	\$ 1,001.40
This Year	\$ 762.89
Total Balance:	\$ 1,764.29

Income \$ 1,361.06

Income Type	Statement Period	Current Period	Total
Membership (Direct Deposit)	01 July - 30 Sep	\$ 175.00	
	01 Oct - 31 Dec	\$ 10.00	
	01 Apr - 30 Jun	\$ 380.00	
			\$565.00
Membership (Paypal)	01 Apr - 30 Jun	\$ 0.38	
			\$0.38
Membership (Stripe)	01 July - 30 Sep	\$ 62.34	
	01 Oct - 31 Dec	\$ 66.64	
	01 Jan - 31 Mar	\$ 120.38	
	01 Apr - 30 Jun	\$ 346.32	
			\$795.68
Donations			
Total Income		\$ 1,361.06	

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Operating Expenses

\$

598.17

Expense Type	Description	Current Period
Bank Fees	CommBizz - Jun 2020	\$ 0.90
Website	Website Update - Dec 2019	\$ 147.00
Website	Domain & Hosting - May 2020	\$ 194.80
Zoom Subscription	Yearly	\$ 255.47
Total Operating Expenses		\$ 598.17

Prepared by Michael Donnelly – President

Approved as an accurate record for financial year 2019-2020



Michael Donnelly
President
12th November 2021

Financial Statement 2020 - 2021

Animal Care Australia

Incorporation: INC 1801209

ABN 36 438 686 995

PO Box 314 Macarthur Square Post Office NSW 2570



Summary	Total Current Period
Total Other Operating Expenses	\$ 570.09
Income - Memberships	\$ 3,051.25
Yearly Total	\$ 2,481.16
Total Brought Forward	\$ 1,764.29
This Year	\$ 2,481.16
Total Balance:	\$ 4,245.45

Operating Expenses	\$	570.09	
Expense Type	Description	Current Period	
Bank Fees - Commbiz	01 Oct - 31 Dec	\$	0.60
	01 Apr - 30 Jun	\$	0.60
Website	Website Update - Sept 2020	\$	110.00
Website	Hosting - May 2021	\$	120.00
Facebook Survey Subscription	Yearly	\$	108.00
Zoom Subscriptiom	Yearly	\$	230.89
Total Operating Expenses		\$	570.09

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Income		\$ 3,051.25	
Income Type	Statement Period	Current Period	Total
Membership (Direct Deposit)	01 July - 30 Sep	\$ 245.00	
	01 Oct - 31 Dec	\$ 10.00	
	01 Apr - 30 Jun	\$ 930.00	
			\$1,185.00
Membership (Paypal)	01 Oct - 31 Dec	\$ 128.19	
	01 Jan - 31 Mar	\$ 449.15	
			\$577.34
Membership (Stripe)	01 July - 30 Sep	\$ 640.25	
	01 Oct - 31 Dec	\$ 28.56	
	01 Jan - 31 Mar	\$ 215.58	
	01 Apr - 30 Jun	\$ 9.52	
			\$893.91
Membership (Cheques)	01 July - 30 Sep	\$ 395.00	
			\$395.00
Donations			
Total Income		\$ 3,051.25	

Prepared by Michael Donnelly – President

Approved as an accurate record for financial year 2019-2020



Michael Donnelly
President
12th November 2021

Achievements

Highlights of what ACA has responded and contributed to:

- ♦ **The Feasibility of a National Horse Traceability Register for all Horses** - supporting the introduction of a national register but only in conjunction with additional legislative changes
- ♦ **Animal Welfare Act 2002 (the Act) Review – Western Australia**, proposed changes of transporting of horses and livestock, highlighting flaws and failures in some of the proposed changes
- ♦ **Corresponded with WA Minister responsible for Wildlife Licensing Review** — to prompt explanation about delays in consultation process to prompt further activity.
- ♦ **Corresponded with QLD Minister responsible for Wildlife Licensing Review** — to prompt explanation about delays in consultation process and inconsistency between species being accepted on Class licensing system.
- ♦ **Victorian Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Draft 2019** - responding to proposed changes.
- ♦ **Right to Farm Bill 2019 – NSW** — supporting the intent of the Bill and highlighting the lack of protection for pet keepers & hobbyists against animal rights trespassers on our properties.
- ♦ **Draft Research Animal Rehoming Guidelines - Department of Primary Industries NSW** — responding to proposed changes allowing the re-homing of research animals to include private keepers.
- ♦ **Legislative Council Select Committee on Animal Cruelty Laws in New South Wales** - supporting the RSPCA & Animal Welfare League but with strong recommendations for change in the areas of transparency, accountability and seeking an independent auditor such an ombudsman or review committee.
- ♦ Presented as a witness in the **Legislative Council Select Committee on Animal Cruelty Laws in New South Wales** — Parliament House .
- ♦ **Exhibition of exotic animals in circuses and exhibition of cetaceans in NSW** — supporting both circus & marine parks where best welfare practices have been proven, in addition to seeking assurances animals in other ‘mobile’ shows or exhibitions are not included or affected in the future.
- ♦ Presented as a witness in the **Legislative Council Select Committee Exhibition of exotic animals in circuses and exhibition of cetaceans in NSW** — Parliament House

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- ◆ **Review of the Impounded Act** — submission
- ◆ Liaised with the **Offices of the Premiers & Chief Ministers of each State & Territory** during Covid-19 to ensure pet welfare is classified as 'essential travel'.
- ◆ Contacted the **Offices of the Deputy Prime Minister, Federal Agriculture Minister, and the Agriculture/Primary Industries Ministers of each State & Territory** calling for immediate financial assistance to all wildlife exhibitors, zoos., animal-reliant businesses and circus.
- ◆ Submitted to the **NSW Animal Welfare Reforms Issues Paper**.
- ◆ Submitted to the **NSW Attorney Generals' Office Review into animals victimised during domestic violence**.
- ◆ Corresponded with **Members of NSW Parliament** supporting the lifting of bans on pets in strata, and proposing an additional clause to suggested amendments to the Strata Management Act.
- ◆ Corresponded with **Greyhound Racing NSW** to highlight concerns with greyhound behaviour assessments
- ◆ Submitted to the **NSW Inquiry into Greyhound Welfare & Integrity commission**. Calling for the GWIC & GRNSW to work more closely together.
- ◆ Consulted with **NSW Office of Local Government** on legislative changes to Strata Management Act resulting in several recommendations being adopted.
- ◆ Submitted to the **NSW Draft Horse Riding Management Plan—Wollemi National Park**
- ◆ Submitted to the **QLD Land Transport of Horses Submission Paper 2021**
- ◆ Submitted to the **Federal Assistance Animals Review** supporting a stronger recognition of assistance animals and their owners
- ◆ Submitted to the **QLD Review of Animal Care & Protection Act 2001**
- ◆ Submitted to the **Taskforce for Rehoming Pets in Victoria** highlighting the flaws in the shelter

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industry and recommending funding into the prevention of the numbers of animals needing rehoming than the creation of a shelter industry



- ◆ Submitted to the **WA Dog Amendment Bill** opposing the Bill.
- ◆ Submitted to the **Victorian Wildlife Act Review** supporting the continued keeping of native animals.
- ◆ Consulted with **NSW Dept of Primary Industries** on their review of **NSW Breeding of Dogs & Cats Code of Practice**.
- ◆ Submitted to the **VIC Mandatory Reporting of animal fate data in shelters**.
- ◆ Submitted to the **National Registration for Birds Scheme 2021** opposing the introduction of a national registration scheme.
- ◆ Corresponded with all **NSW Parliament Ministers & Members** in response to the Animal Justice Party's proposed **Companion Animal Amendment (Puppy Farms) Bill**. Categorically opposing the Bill and providing convincing breakdown of the Bill for the MP's to oppose it.

To date ACA has responded to the following Local Councils who have introduced or reviewed their Animal Keeping Policies:



- ◆ **Georges River Council NSW**
- ◆ **Northern Beaches Council NSW**
- ◆ **Golden Plains Council VIC**
- ◆ **Knox City Council VIC**
- ◆ **Central Coast City Council NSW**
- ◆ **Macedon Ranges Shire Council VIC**
- ◆ **City of Townsville Council QLD**

Parliamentary Inquiries

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL CRUELTY LAWS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

At Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney, on Thursday 13 February 2020

PRESENT

The Hon. Mark Pearson (Chair)

The Hon. Lou Amato

The Hon. Mark Banasiak

Ms Abigail Boyd

The Hon. Sam Faraway

The Hon. Emma Hurst

The Hon. Matthew Mason-Cox

The Hon. Walt Secord

The Hon. Mick Veitch (Deputy Chair)



ACA's Opening Statement:

Good afternoon,

I am Michael Donnelly – President of Animal Care Australia, and alongside me is Sam Davis – Vice President. Animal Care Australia is a national incorporated association established to lobby for real animal welfare by those who keep, breed and care for animals. Our goal is to promote and encourage high standards in all interactions with the animals in our care.

Animal Care Australia or ACA encourages continued development of animal welfare standards and Codes of Practice for animal husbandry, breeding, training, sale and sporting exhibitions for a wide range of animal species, including pets, companion animals, animals used for educational or entertainment purposes or kept for conservation

To encourage responsible pet ownership and the respectful treatment of all animals in our community ACA continues to promote welfare education over restrictive regulations.

ACA supports the current charitable organisations that being the RSPCA NSW and Animal Welfare League in maintaining their roles in the enforcement and education for the prevention of cruelty to animals. We see no reason for the creation of an Office of Animal Welfare or Independent Welfare Organisation to investigate animal cruelty. We believe the creation of that Office would be a

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backward step – government departments are universally inefficient whilst RSPCA NSW and AWL are already achieving the same goals that any other government department would. Despite this, we acknowledge there are improvements that must be made – however that is true of any organisation and particularly those over-seeing areas of high emotional impact such as investigating and prosecuting acts of animal cruelty.

ACA acknowledges many cases, likely the majority of cases, of significant animal cruelty currently go undetected. Public opinion is equally divided between those who publicly condemn the organisations tasked with compliance for inaction and those who condemn them for having too much focus on one area or one set of individuals. It is with that in mind that our focus and response to this Inquiry is not on the charitable organisations but rather the single factor we consider as the problem – the Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals Act. POCTA is 40 plus years old and I'm sure we all agree is outdated and extremely challenging to comprehend making it more difficult to adhere to or interpret how to legislate effectively.

While the concept and big picture aim of POCTA is widely known– the actual Act, the accompanying regulations, and its standards and guidelines are unknown by the vast majority of those it affects – those who keep animals – with the vast majority essentially clueless as to what their legal responsibilities are. This is not their fault. The fault lies in the lost purpose of POCTA – in particular ineffective education and hence poor implementation of best welfare outcomes for our animals. The responsibility of that failure rests on the shoulders of all previous governments and by default the departments responsible for the governance of POCTA.

We can do better, and the current review of POCTAA is the opportunity.

To move forward Animal Care Australia has made several recommendations

- RSPCA NSW/AWL to be more accountable and transparent in their actions and investigations with that accountability being overseen by the NSW Ombudsman Office or equivalent.
- A review of the powers for enforcement focused on natural justice and the protection of the presumption of innocence until proven guilty. Animals are being seized and held for long periods of time on the presumption of guilt – this is not in the animal's best interest and often legal counsel recommends guilty pleas to avoid excessive fees, rather than on the merits of the case.
- The prosecutorial stage of an investigation transferred to the Department of Public Prosecutions perhaps with a full time funded police prosecutor working within RSPCA NSW and/or AWL.
- ACA supports the need for more sustainable funding – but does not support this process being a fully government funded organisation - as this is contradictory to the term 'independent'.
- With the current review of POCTA - ACA recommends streamlining the Act ensuring a better

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stakeholder understanding of the Standards & Guidelines and with a stronger focus on education and welfare over prosecution. Having stated that, we equally support the strengthening of fines and sentencing terms of those found guilty of aggravated or intentional abuse.

To be clear, ACA opposes the implementation/creation of an Independent Welfare Organisation.

ACA's full submission to the Inquiry is here: [ACA Submission](#) Our response to questions taken 'On Notice': [On Notice](#)

INQUIRY INTO EXHIBITION OF EXOTIC ANIMALS IN CIRCUSES AND EXHIBITION OF CETACEANS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

At Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney on Thursday 13 August 2020

PRESENT

The Hon. Mark Banasiak (Chair)
The Hon. Catherine Cusack
The Hon. Emma Hurst (Deputy Chair)
The Hon. Sam Farraway
The Hon. Peter Primrose
The Hon. Mick Veitch

PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE

The Hon. Lou Amato

ACA'S Opening Statement:

Good afternoon,

I am Michael Donnelly – President of Animal Care Australia, and joining me today is Jasmine Straga. I would ask that Jasmine be permitted to provide a brief introduction following mine.

Animal Care Australia or ACA is a national incorporated association established to lobby for real animal welfare by those who keep, breed and care for animals. Our goal is to promote and encourage high standards in all interactions with the animals in our care.

ACA encourages continued development of animal welfare standards and Codes of Practice for animal husbandry, breeding, training, sale and sporting exhibitions for a wide range of animal species, including pets, companion animals, animals used for educational or entertainment purposes or kept for conservation

To encourage responsible pet ownership and the respectful treatment of all animals in our community ACA continues to promote welfare education over restrictive regulations.



ACA contends the community has an expectation that the welfare of all animals kept in our care is of a high standard and no less than the standards legislated regardless of whom the carer may be – pet owner, zoo keeper, or circus. There is an expectation that through greater education and regular review of those standards any and all improvements to husbandry and welfare techniques are implemented constantly improving welfare standards for all animals. Therefore in response to this Inquiry:

- **ACA finds the Community expectation is being met and to a high standard.**
- **There is no substantiated reason to call into question whether the welfare needs can be met in a circus environment or in a marine park.**
- **ACA SUPPORTS the continuation of breeding of animals as long as those overseeing their care meet the standards as legislated or raise those standards.**
- **ACA OPPOSES the need to phase-out the ongoing care of any animals in circus or marine parks.**

The concerns raised within the Terms of Reference are not shared by ACA. However, ACA does have concerns relating to definitions within the Terms of Reference.

Currently the Exhibited Animals Protection Act does not provide a definition of a circus rather it refers to a ‘mobile establishment as outlined in Section 22 of the Act’. Section 22 provides a list of mobile establishments which include circus. Our question to this panel in reference to exotic animals held in a circus is = what defines a circus? Is it the intention of this Inquiry to act under the definition proposed by the Hon Mark Pearson in his 2018 proposed Exhibited Animals Protection Amendment (Prohibitions on Exhibition) Bill?

That definition can and will encompass most animal exhibitions - both public and private. Mobile petting zoos, mobile educators, agricultural shows, local fairs, the film & television industry and even animal shows and expos would be affected. We question whether there is a broader goal at play prohibiting any ‘exotic’ animal to be held within circumstances fitting that definition, and not solely aimed at Stardust or the Dolphin Conservation Marine Park, instead, one that would have a far reaching impact on the community and all who are involved in any form of ‘animals used for entertainment’.

This brings ACA to question the definition of exotic animal cited in the Terms of Reference, that being: ***“any animal that is not native and is not a stock or companion animal.”***

ACA notes there is no existing definition of an ‘exotic animal’ in the Exhibited Animals Protection Act 1986. Additionally the **Standards for Exhibiting Circus Animals in New South Wales** published by the Department of Industry in 2019 has no inclusion of that definition. There is however the definition of a domestic animal recorded as being: “any of the various animals which have been domesticated

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by humans, so as to live and breed in a tame condition”.

For us this draws into question the validity of the terms of reference given there are currently no animals or cetaceans held within Australian circus or marine parks that are not living in a tame condition.

Animals are no longer ‘taken from the wild’ for the use in Australian circus, raising further doubt as to the authenticity of the use of the term ‘exotic’ – unless this Committee is intending to draw down on the ‘non-native’ element, which if so, would then include, camels, water buffalo, macaws, foreign marine animals such as seals and the list would go on. Inclusion of the latter marine animals would immediately prohibit the capacity of the marine park to give sanctuary to any of those species deemed un-releasable resulting in them needing to be euthanased.

Stardust has publicly stated all their lions have been spayed and the Dolphin Marine Conservation Park has also publicly stated their dolphins will not be bred in the future. The community expectation is that there will be no future breeding or exhibiting of these particular animals and as such ACA must question whether there is an underlying motive to this point of reference?

Should this Inquiry find it appropriate to phase-out the ongoing care of exotic animals (which ever they are deemed to be) what is the proposed method of care for these animals?

Ongoing animal rights social media posts state the animals should be moved to sanctuaries. Is this Committee aware the Marine Park is already recognised as a sanctuary for animals deemed un-releasable and that Animals All Around is already the home of retired zoo & circus animals – yet is licensed as a circus? Is this Committee willing to acknowledge a sanctuary for any retired animals still requires enclosures, requires care of the animals and requires funding?

If animals are being well-cared for and loved in their current spaces – ACA asks what is the point of uprooting animals, forcing them to undergo higher stress during transportation, during quarantining, leaving behind the carers that they know and trust and the stress of being introduced to new surroundings, new carers, and potential new local environmental factors, such as polluted ocean that would not be filtered to levels they are accustomed to? This action WOULD most certainly be an animal welfare issue and NOT in the best interest of the animals.

The focus on the caring of our animals should not be based on WHO or WHERE they are being cared for but HOW the welfare is maintained. Interference by those who anthropomorphise the agenda more often than not leads to negative animal welfare consequences.

It is our contention those who do not have experience, training or a realistic understanding of how any animal can or should be kept should not be involved in or influencing the care of animals. The determination of standards within any legislation MUST be influenced by the experts – that being those who care for breed and maintain animals.

ACA’s full submission to the Inquiry is here: [ACA Submission](#) Our response to questions taken ‘On Notice’ and Supplementary Questions: [On Notice](#)

Bird Report

ACA is truly influencing the legislative process – we’re making a difference.

The past 2 years have been dominated by COVID-19 causing meetings to move online, including our own ACA meetings but also government meetings. Perhaps a blessing in disguise, as Zoom and Teams meetings avoid time consuming travel to major cities.

Reviews of all animal welfare legislation have begun in earnest in many states, in particular Victoria and NSW. It is great that ACA now have in place direct lines and relationships to senior bureaucrats, politicians and also the CEOs of RSPCA Vic, Qld and NSW. We are also engaged with the extreme animal rights movement to ensure their radical proposals do not chip away at the rights of people to keep and breed animals.

Our work holding the RSPCA to account, particularly in NSW, has ruffled some feathers. Issues with so called “puppy farm” audits, proposals to build a larger shelter industry and draconian thoughts of licensing have kept ACA busy. The “puppy farm” issue is a current favourite of animal rights extremists. So much of ACA’s time has been spent researching and presenting the facts of the issue to avoid negative consequences. Sadly, poor outcomes continue to occur in Victoria and are now likely in WA due to animal rights influence on breeding regulation.

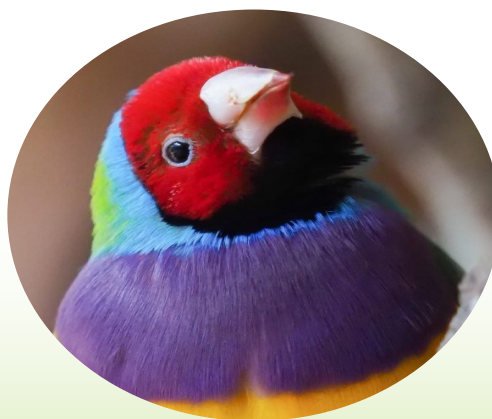
Native animal licensing has been a particular area of focus for birds. Queensland’s new system which in general terms mirrors the proposed NSW system is now in place. In NSW we continue to plug away – we have many assurances it will go ahead, however the delay is frustrating at best. We are confident the ACT will go ahead shortly. Victoria is just gloving up for a review of their native bird licensing system with preliminary work undertaken to date. There is still work to be done in WA – they are still yet to implement their promised consultation committee.

There have also been a range of local government matters. Gladly many of these have been resolved fairly swiftly and were in general the result of a single overzealous compliance or policy officer reviewing council policy. ACA is looking to promote and have state governments implement model local laws (or equivalent) that make sense, and hence avoid many issues that currently arise in different councils.

And finally, many thanks to ACA President Michael Donnelly on behalf of all ACA members nationally and all animal hobbyists generally. Michael’s work output for ACA is massive. The number of submissions, meetings, phone calls, emails, etc. is incredible. On a personal note, I appreciate Michael’s intelligence, diplomacy, and sense of humour.

Sam Davis

Vice President and Bird Representative



Cat Report

2020 and 2021 were busy years with a variety of responses provided. As a general rule, issues that arise combine both cats and dogs as well as other companion animals, and there was any one particular issue relating solely to cats that came up.

The revamp of the NSW Pet Registry began and the outcomes developed looked extremely promising until the project was placed on hold earlier this year. The new platform was going to integrate all sections of the community who use the system – pet owners, breeders, rescues, shelters, local councils and veterinarians – making it easier to use for everyone.

We have seen more changes coming into effect in certain states as well as legislation to regulate the breeding of cats and dogs. These changes are made without any meaningful consultation with people who are involved in breeding of companion animals.

We have seen an increase in decisions made by some local councils relating to the breeding of cats and dogs being influenced by animal rights activists. It is disappointing to continue to uncover decisions or policies being made without any understanding of the process of breeding animals.

Whilst the past 2 years has been busy, work is already underway preparing for what is coming in 2022.

Michelle Grayson

Secretary and Cat Representative



Dog Report

It has certainly been a big year nationally for legislation that has included dogs. In a country that now seems to be becoming very breeder unfriendly we have been involved in many submissions and government discussions including:

- Macedon Ranges Shire Council's Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021-2025
- Golden Plains Shire Council's updated draft of Local Law - Keeping animals
- NSW Companion Animal Amendment (Puppy Farms) Bill 2021
- NSW Animal Welfare Discussion Papers
- Taskforce on pets in shelters in Victoria.
- Lobbying Victorian Parliament members to include pet grooming as an essential service
- Communicated with NSW DPI to obtain essential grooming for pets in NSW
- Responded to Mandatory Reporting of kill rates in shelters in Victoria
- The WA "Stop Puppy Farming" legislation
- and many more.

It is as important as ever that we are the voice for the breeders and owners of dogs in this country as it going to become increasingly harder in the future to own and breed dogs if we do not do something now and fight against the strong Animal Rights push that we are seeing at the forefront of all political decisions. Animal rights does not belong in politics we need to ensure animal welfare stays the priority instead. Being an election year next year in Victoria and New South Wales it is as important as ever to really study the candidates and understand what their platforms and alliances are.

I am honoured to represent this part of ACA and will continue to fight wherever is needed.

Kylie Gilbert

Dog Representative



Exhibited Animals Report

As the founding representative for Exhibited Animals I have unfortunately seen a lot change in a short time.

Circuses in NSW no longer exhibit lions. There are no longer any mobile animal farms delivering educational sessions to schools and pre-schools in Sydney.

On the plus side, I am very impressed with the position of influence ACA has made for itself in the same short period of time. Members of parliament are now seeking out ACA for assistance with decision making. As most decision makers in politics don't know the difference between animal rights and animal welfare, it is wonderful to have ACA countering Animal Justice Party policies when necessary.

Thank you, Michael especially, for the time and commitment you have put in to ensure the well being of animals in humans care.

For most people that do share their life with animals, there is no greater enjoyment in life. Thank you ACA for your ongoing efforts that make this enjoyment still possible.

Noeline

Exhibited Animals Representative (2018-2020)



Horse & Livestock Report

Horses and livestock are usually grouped together, however issues affecting horses also often overlap into domestic and companion animal matters. ACA has always stood up for livestock animals kept as pets and companions, in similar ways to horses as well.

Horse welfare issues are increasingly being raised by the public spotlight. Often times it's a lack of education regarding the species specific needs of horses (anthropomorphising them), and sometimes its the horse industry's frustratingly slow steps to modernise. Racing, Jumps Racing, Carriage Driving Tours and Horses in the Olympics have been severely, and permanently, affected by this Public Licence To Operate, often driven by Animal Rights Activists, and not always unfairly.

Whether we like them or not, the commercial horse industries of racing and sponsored sport supports the recreational and companion horse owner in many ways, financing much of the industry's supply needs, creating supply chains, and furthering veterinary advancements. While we often feel separate from the commercial horse activities, we are part of the same industry and need to pay attention to what happens around us, especially in relation to public perception, as this will increasingly affect every horse owner in one way or another.

Its with in mind that I have represented the Horse Members of ACA to our various Australian governments.

Since our last AGM, on behalf of (and usually with) ACAs Horse Group Members, I have contributed to the following submissions:

- Inquiry into Animal Cruelty Laws in NSW
- Georges River Council Animal Keeping Review
- NSW Impounded Act Review
- Select Committee on Animal Cruelty Laws
- Knox City Shire Council Animal Keeping Review
- Central Coast Council Keeping Pets
- NSW Pet Registry
- Victorian Animal Welfare Directions Paper
- Select Committee into Exotics in Circuses and Cetaceans in Marine Parks
- National Horse Traceability Register
- NSW Review into Animal Abuse and Family Violence
- South East Wollemi Horse Riding Management Plan
- QLD Land Transport of Horses - Consultation Paper 2021



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- QLD Review of Animal Care and Protection ACT 2001
- Victorian Taskforce on Rehoming pets
- WA Stop Puppy Farming Amendment
- NSW Strata Schemes Laws - Keeping Pets
- NSW Animal Welfare Review Discussion Paper
- Golden Plains Shire Councils updated draft of Local Law - Keeping Animals
- Macedon Ranges Shire Council Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021-2025
- Companion Animal Amendment Bill 2021

Written to:

- Monash University regarding their biased Animal Rights Law Courses
- All NSW Ministers to remove the ban on keeping pets in Strata schemes
- Hawkesbury City Council to confirm rumours of trail closures

Had Meetings with:

- NSW State Government regarding the Impoundment Review
- Greens MP Mehreen Faruqi regarding the Horse Traceability Working Group
- State Member for Hawkesbury and NPWS regarding the Wollemi Horse Riding Plan

As well as drafted several ACA press releases and educational Social Media memes:



- “AJP’s NSW Puppy Farm Bill Misses The Mark” 20.10.21
- “Pets Win Homes in NSW Strata Schemes” 24.8.21
- “Caring for Horses or Livestock in NSW Lockdown” 23.8.21
- “AJP Lunacy - Empty What Tanks”
- “Pets and Fireworks - Horses”
- “Sharing the Road with Horses”
- “Victorias Restrictions”
- “Beware of Scammers”
- “Slow Down for Horses”
- “Moving Horses in Lockdown”
- “Just because I’m Small Doesn’t mean I’m not a real horse”
- “Why Do we love to Hate Vegans”

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ACA is continuing to grow and gain recognition as a key independent stakeholder in all Australian Animal Welfare issues.

I'm proud to continue to contribute my small part to such a passionate team of animal advocates, and hope to see more Horse Members joining in the Good Fight to ensure that Horses and Livestock keep us company in our paddocks and communities for a long time to come.

Karri Nadazdy
Horse and Livestock Representative



Native Mammals Report

For those unaware native mammals are kept as pets in most states & territories in Australia, the exception being Tasmania & Western Australia.

In NSW and Qld the only species permitted are native rodents, while in the remainder, most species can be kept under varying licensing arrangements.

My role has predominantly been occupied lobbying in NSW and Qld to have the lists of permitted species expanded. Sadly, these two states have proven to be extremely stubborn in following the scientific evidence proving native animals (mammals included) can indeed be kept in private ownership and instead have succumbed to the pressures of the animal rights and wildlife carers movements. Both of these groups seem to conveniently ignore the fact South Australians and Victorians have been keeping natives for decades with no proven poor animal welfare outcomes. In fact, in South Australia several endangered & vulnerable species have been maintained and bred to such great numbers that owners have had to cease breeding due to the unavailability of new homes for them. The latter group also ignore the fact they are private keepers of native mammals under the same licensing conditions that would otherwise apply to those wanting to keep natives permanently, and we all know many are keeping their natives permanently.

My attention has also swayed beyond just native mammals as pets and in my role I have responded to issues where animal welfare concerns have been raised. These include, but not limited to lobbying for the installation of wildlife crossings during the Appin Road Widening Review in NSW, not only to ensure one of the last remaining chlamydia free populations of koala in NSW are protected and able to remain connected but also all of the wildlife now shown to utilise such corridors, to opposing a proposed slaughter of Southern Hairy-nosed Wombats in South Australia, and submitting to the wildlife licensing reviews in NSW, Qld and more recently in Victoria.

There will be much more to be done in the coming year or two, particularly in NSW where it seems we are dealing with a Deputy Secretary who doesn't give a about native wildlife licensing and is far more engrossed in ensuring his picture appears in the media alongside the Minister while ignoring the fact a review commenced in 2016 and its proposals are now moving into it's sixth year of in-action.

Fun times ahead.

Michael Donnelly

Native Mammals Representative



Reptiles Report

May 2020 – Appeared on Friday Night Reptile Talk with Troy Kuligowski. Talked about Animal Justice Party and set up the Reptile Advisory Group online. Had quite a few people join ACA that night.

June 2020— Qld Review of reptile licensing – approached Queensland herp group to offer assistance with submission.

October 2020 – NSW Office of Environment & Heritage (OEH) commenced venomous snake licence keeper inspections. Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, these were conducted in a way that was detrimental to keepers with the inspectors demanding access to premises despite covid lock downs and social-distancing being enforced, and in no way, supportive of animal welfare issues. Officers were using coercive measures to gain access to keepers homes, bullying keepers and were not listening to requests from concerned home owners. After ACA contacted OEH, inspections stopped but recommenced in March 2021. ACA then contacted people within upper management without much success, receiving a brush off response. The matter is still being pursued with Minister's Chief of Staff.

March 2021 – ACA sought to find out what was happening with the NSW native wildlife licensing review that had commenced in 2016 and consultations ended in 2018. Again upper management provided no real response and proceeded with constant delaying tactics.

ACA proceeded with a Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (GIPA) request seeking copies of the proposed report outcomes, which was successful but noticeable missing information. A further GIPA was submitted with more of the same. This matter s ongoing and ACA will continue to pursue that fact the department is not being open or transparent with communications regarding the licensing review.

June 2021— approached Victorian Herpetological Society re Review of Wildlife Act in Victoria and submitted to the review, supporting the continuation of wildlife licensing and highlighting the need to keep animal rights ideologies out of the Wildlife Act.

Joanne Payne
Reptiles Representative



Small Mammals Report

The past two years have been and still remain very challenging, as I endeavour to represent Small Mammal groups and pet owners in ensuring that their rights to keep, care for, and breed the animals they keep are sanctioned and not removed by Animal Rights agendas.

The unfortunate fact is that a majority of Small mammal pet owners are blindly in support of Animal Rights groups, not understanding the repercussions that this support will have on them being able to keep, care for or breed their animals in the future. The animal rights movement can be cleverly persuasive in their use of misinformation through social media using high profile controversial topics that pull at the heart strings embellished with lies, and relying on a following of people who will not research the actual facts to know better.

What has made the last two years challenging has been finding a way to educate animal keepers and pet owners with the facts, to help them distinguish the difference between animal rights and animal welfare. I and my fellow species representatives also have been trying to help make pet owners aware of the true agendas of the animal rights movement, and that ultimately that agenda means the removal of ALL animals from human interaction and even worse, literally the removal of animal species from existence. This may sound far-fetched but sadly this is already playing out in a couple of states and becoming reality.

As challenging as it has been, I strongly advocate for education in improving the standards of animal welfare, and raising the bar in how we keep, care for and breed our animals to a gold standard. This is why I am proud to be an animal groups representative of Animal Care Australia, this is where we are making a difference that will improve the standard of animal welfare which in turn will make animals live better and happier lives.

In the ACA Small Mammal Groups Representative role, I along with the other animal group representatives, have been able to contribute a say to local government changings of Keeping Animals Policies to ensure that animal owners are afforded their right to keep, care for and breed their animals. With Animal Care Australia growing and becoming a key stakeholder in animal welfare policies Australia wide, we have been able to cause governments to pause and reconsider how they change and write their policies and the negative effects that enforcing restrictions on pet ownership and breeding will have on their voting communities.

Each species group representative of Animal Care Australia are not limited to matters only relating to the species and groups they represent, but in fact also have been involved in a number of consultations on local government Keeping Animal Policies, as well as animal welfare legislation

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matters and enquiries at federal and state level, so that Animal Care Australia can be the voice for its members as a whole.

All submissions and consultations to various local and federal government Animal Welfare and Keeping Animal Policies can be viewed on the Animal Care Australia website.

2019-2020, much of my focus was on the matters affecting the rabbit pet and breeding community with the rollout of RHDV1-k5 virus, and the aggressive spread of the RHDV-2 wild variant and a severe lack of understanding in the need for a vaccine to be manufactured and rolled out to protect the community's pets from pain, suffering and death.

I was able to establish communications with the DPI and CSIRO to confirm that there were development and trials underway with a multivalent rabbit vaccine being designed to protect rabbits against the RHDV-1, RHDV1-K5 and RHDV-2 wild variant. I was also given information that a stand-alone vaccine for the RHDV-2 wild variant had indeed passed clinical studies and was picked up by a pharmaceutical company who was then entering upon the registration and approval for manufacture and use of the vaccine with the APVMA. It was estimated that the vaccine would be possibly approved in 6 months' time, though that was in January 2021. I had contacted the owner of the pharmaceutical company three times throughout 2021 and even he was unsure as to when the APVMA would actually get around to granting the vaccine approval, so meanwhile it still sits on their shelf and the rabbit community is still waiting.

Another massive set back was the Covid-19 epidemic, as the CSIRO dropped its study and trials on the Multivalent vaccine to help pursue the study and development of vaccines for Covid-19. As the CSIRO work on a priority basis, there is likely no time line as to when the study and trials may resume for the multivalent vaccine for RHDV, or if they are to resume at all.

There may be a light at the end of the tunnel through an alternative avenue, according to one of my sources, though it too is likely not to eventuate for a couple of years and has a lot of government red tape to wade through and will require huge financial backing.

In July 2020 ACA created a National rabbit survey for the general public to take part in and to shed some light and retain data on how important rabbits are within the pet and breeding community and to possibly gain some added attention to the necessity of getting a vaccine developed, manufactured and rolled out to the community sooner rather than later to better protect their pets. The survey was distributed to as many rabbit clubs and rabbit related social media networks and

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platforms nation-wide that I could possibly find, and it could be filled out anonymously by its participants. The survey ran for approximately 10 months and received 596 participants in that time. The survey showed that a vast majority of rabbit owners and carers were uninformed and unaware of the dangers of the RHDV virus and its variants within the areas they resided. Unless someone actually has their rabbit's death investigated by autopsy by a willing veterinarian to have samples sent to CSIRO for conclusive testing along with regular reporting of unusual rabbit deaths in pet and wild populations forwarded to Rabbit Scan Pest Smart, there is no information on viral spread and threats to areas where people keep rabbits as pets. Local Land Services and councils don't always deem it necessary to divulge information of RHDV1-K5 and Myxomatosis releases in areas to inform pet owners to take extra precautions to protect their pets.



To further add to concern, I myself have found some Veterinary practices giving false and misleading information in regard to the level of protection the currently available Cylaps vaccine provides while also using availability shortages of the Cylaps vaccine to create a rush of urgency. Going to lengths to boost sale of the product by claiming that if administered at minimum every 6 months or less your animal will be protected by all RHDV variants. This is absolutely false and when it was brought to a particular practices attention by myself and a couple of other community members well knowledgeable in the vaccine, its efficacy and contraindications, how wrong their information was, they then just blocked all commenting, but still left the advertisement with the false claims and misinformation. This is concerning as this kind of misleading information endangers peoples pets by firstly potentially causing the animal harm through over exposure of a vaccine that already has been clinically studied with proven efficacy of up to 18 months for the RHDV1, and secondly, causes the animal harm through owner complacency as they assume that their pet is completely protected once vaccinated, so do not continue to use precautions. Nor are vets advising to continue with said precautions.

It is believed that the Cylaps vaccine as statistical analysis of the data showed vaccination delivers a highly significant effect on survival of rabbits exposed to the RHDV-K5 virus. In other words, statistical analysis of this data shows that vaccinated rabbits will survive exposure to RHDV1-K5 and there is no field or experimental evidence, (in other words no actual clinical study done either way, this is purely based on statistical analysis), to suggest that the currently available vaccine will not provide protection against the K5 variant of the virus. The current vaccine does not, however, protect rabbits from the RHDV-2 wild type strain nor Myxomatosis. So vaccinated or not, all rabbit owners and carers still need to practice all preventative measures to protect their animals from

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potential threat of disease

For an overview of the rabbit virus vaccine matter and information pertaining, it can be seen in our ACE bi-monthly members' online magazines. First article June 2019 Vol.1 ISSN 2625-0818 Rabbit Virus Report.



I mention the above as it really brings attention to the lack of education in the pet owning community that surrounds these animals and their care and how easily a bit of knowledge can help to avoid pain and suffering. I hope to reach out and work with the rabbit community in creating education and awareness for all rabbit owners, breeders and carers in the future.

In other small animal news, Covid-19 has put a fairly huge pause on many organisations with some of the smaller clubs barely surviving if at all. Many of my emails reaching out to small mammal related organisations were fairly unresponsive and those that did respond explained that during the current events they are unable to action a formal response due to not being able to hold meetings to discuss matters within their committees and financial members. So I have had to pause on contacting the various organisations until the world can resume some sort of normalcy again.

To our current ACA Small Mammal members, I thank you for your support and I look forward in continuing being your representative.

Rachel Sydenham

Small Mammals Representative



Policy Documents

The documents linked below are available on our website:

<https://www.animalcareaustralia.org.au/policies/>

[ACA Code of Ethics—Nov 2019](#)

[ACA Animal Welfare Policy & Positions Statement 2020](#)

[ACA Constitution 2021](#)

[ACA Operations Manual](#)

[ACA Anti-discrimination Policy](#)

[ACA Communications Policy](#)

[ACA Privacy Policy](#)

[ACA Conflicts of Interest Policy](#)

[ACA Correspondence Register 2020](#)

[ACA Correspondence Register 2021](#)

[ACA Response to Puppy Farming Legislation](#)



To the future

Over the next few years, I would like to see ACA cement itself within each state and territory. It would be wonderful to have state-based representatives that directly feed information in and out of the Committee.

I would like to see more inclusion and involvement with our Animal Advisory Groups.

More volunteers in supporting roles, such as social media, publicity, and data research would greatly benefit ACA and the Committee.

I believe ACA should focus on three major points:

1. The ongoing animal welfare reviews.
2. Combatting animal rights extremists' influence. We really need to become more proactive in this arena.
3. Local Council Animal Management Plans are regularly reviewed and this is where the AR movement are targeting pet owners as these Plans are usually not promoted and brought to attention.

It is no longer appropriate for ACA to function as an animal welfare organisation and just call for governments to educate the public on animal welfare. We now must ensure all sides of animal welfare are held accountable. This will be a complicated and often difficult process to achieve, but a necessary one.

ACA must continue to stand up for all who keep, breed and care for animals.

Protecting the rights of every one to own a pet is just as crucial as ensuring the pets are well cared for, loved and treated kindly. That is ACA's goal for the future ...



**“... because every pet
deserves to be loved”**

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