

6th August, 2022

Minister Elise Archer MP

Attorney-General, Minister for Justice, Corrections and Rehabilitation, Workplace Safety and Consumer Affairs, and the Arts

Support for legislation allowing pets in strata.

Animal Care Australia (ACA) is a national incorporated association advocating for higher welfare outcomes for animals by educating hobbyists and keepers and consulting with government at all levels.

ACA strongly encourages any review of current strata legislation with the aim of allowing pets in strata as the default position of the legislation. The aim is to create a clear ability for owners and tenants in strata complexes to keep pets. Any exceptions to the law must only require landlords to assess instances where a pet creates a substantiated issue for neighbours or the animal's welfare is significantly compromised.

ACA strongly encourages all levels of government to promote and encourage the keeping of pets as they provide extraordinary mental health benefits for all of us. Any restrictions only serve as a detriment to our pets and those wishing to keep them.

When giving consideration to a review of legislation, ACA encourages your department to prioritise the following three principles:

Principle 1 -

The large majority of TAS residents would like to keep pets, or are already keeping pets.

Principle 2 -

Pets greatly enhance the mental health of the community.

Principle 3 - Pet keeping should be encouraged, with the caveat that it does not adversely affect others.

As a nationally recognised animal welfare organisation, with members within your electorate, we look forward to participating and consulting in advancing the existence of pets in strata.

Should you have further enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'M Donnelly'.

Michael Donnelly
President, Animal Care Australia.
0400 323 843

Appendix:

ACA was founded in early 2018 to establish an organisation run solely by volunteers to advocate for and encourage real animal welfare based on centuries of expertise keeping and breeding animals. Animal owners and keepers are currently poorly represented in law making decisions, By uniting the broad spectrum of animal groups, collectively we offer an experienced, sensible approach to animal welfare.

ACA is in the unique position of consulting 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 consulting and advocating with 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 stark differences between animal welfare and animal rights.

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. Further details are on our website www.animalcareaustralia.org.au

ACA has engaged with government on a range of issues throughout Australia, including parliamentary inquiries, Ministerial, MP, Department Director meetings, appointments as major stakeholders, and numerous submissions nationally, at all levels of government

We welcome any opportunity to consult or work with your department in advancing the welfare of animals and the continued capacity for people to keep pets.