



Animal Care Australia

2022

ANIMAL CARE AUSTRALIA Inc. Annual Report 2022



Animal Welfare is Animal Care

Annual Report 2022

1st October 2021— 31st October 2022



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: *November 2022*

Contents

4	Mission Statement & Objectives
5	President's Report
7	Structure
8	Membership Involvement
9	Social Media
10	Financial Statement 2021-2022
14	Parliamentary Inquiries
23	Bird Report
25	Cat Report
26	Dog Report
27	Horse and Livestock Report
29	Native Mammals Report
30	Reptiles & Amphibians Report
31	Small Mammals Report
32	To the future
33	About Animal Care Australia



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

President's Report



The Animal Care Australia Committee have gone above and beyond in this past year. The workload and expansion of issues directly affecting animal welfare outcomes in Australia has been met full-on by these wonderful volunteers.

It is truly an honour to be the President of Animal Care Australia where I get to not only work alongside these wonderful people but I can honestly say they have become family. Unless you do what we do, it is hard to comprehend the level of professionalism, experience and dedication they bring to the table.

For that I truly thank each and every member: Sam, Michelle, Sue, Joanne, Karri, Kylie, Rachel and Tracey.

ACA continued to respond to animal welfare act reviews in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Tasmania..

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 amendments to enshrine sentence into legislation, banning of training tools such as prong collars, and other forms of restraints, to prohibition for convicted animal cruelty criminals, local council Animal Management Plan reviews, pet registry reviews and last but by no means least stop puppy farming legislation in 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. It has impacted on all levels, in all states. Their more recent change in their language from 'animal welfare' to 'animal protection' has infiltrated the animal welfare act reviews in each state, to which ACA has had to push back against, and we have not always been successful. Success or not, ACA is having a direct impact on the Animal Justice Party with one politician openly calling us out as 'puppy farmers'- because we support responsible breeding and not restrictions.

On the political front ACA has forged ahead and secured a working relationship with multiple parties.

We are now consulting regularly with state governments and their Opposition in NSW, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia. Our collaboration with the Shooters, Fishers &

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Farmers Party has strengthened and we are now establishing working relationships with the Katter Party, and One Nation.

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.

ACA has also strengthened our focus on pursuing greater accountability and transparency of the RSPCA (in all states) and we introduced our own online survey to gather feedback from our members on their experiences with the inspectorates. ACA strongly believes the prosecutorial powers should be removed from the RSPCA and an inspectorate should sit under the direct responsibility of government. We will continue to advocate for change.

ACA introduced a State & Territory Advisory Team designed to have eyes and ears across the nation all working with us to ensure nothing gets overlooked. This new Team is in it's infancy and we are hoping it grows.

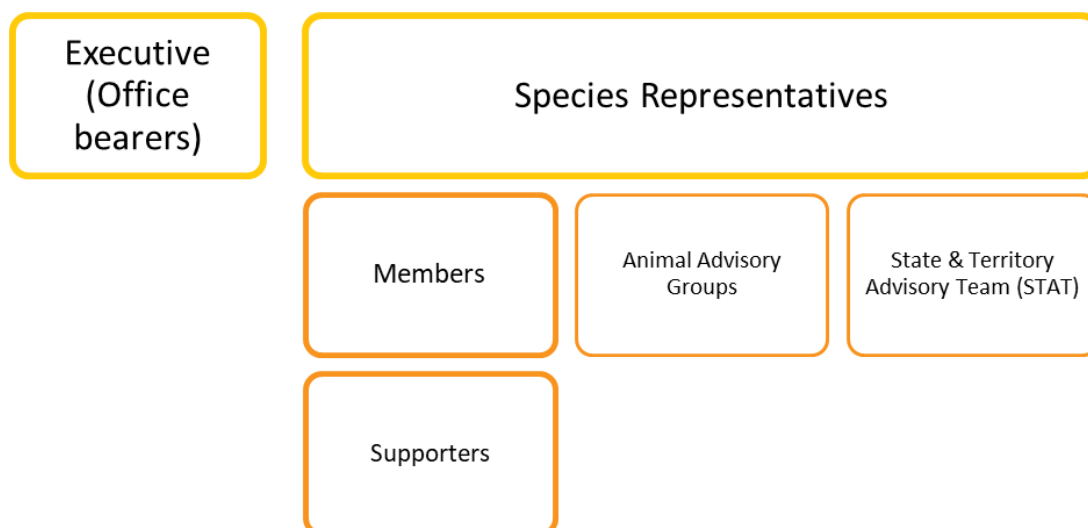
Finally, I am available to you — our members and supporters. If you have a concern then contact me — happy to chat.

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.



Executive 2022-2023

- **President:** Michael Donnelly -> **Assistant to the President:** Karri Nadazdy
- **Vice President:** Sam Davis
- **Secretary:** Michelle Grayson
- **Treasurer/Public Officer:** Sue Kowalczyk

Species Representatives 2022-2023

- **Birds:** Sam Davis
 - **Cats:** Michelle Grayson
 - **Dogs:** Kylie Gilbert
 - **Exhibited Animals:** Tracey Dierikx
 - **Horses:** Karri Nadazdy
 - **Native Mammals:** Michael Donnelly
 - **Reptiles:** Joanne Payne
 - **Small Mammals:** Rachel Sydenham
- Vacant positions: **Fish and Insect**

Membership involvement

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



443

**member
organisations and
supporters.**

Members:

Each member organisation in itself represents it's own membership base.

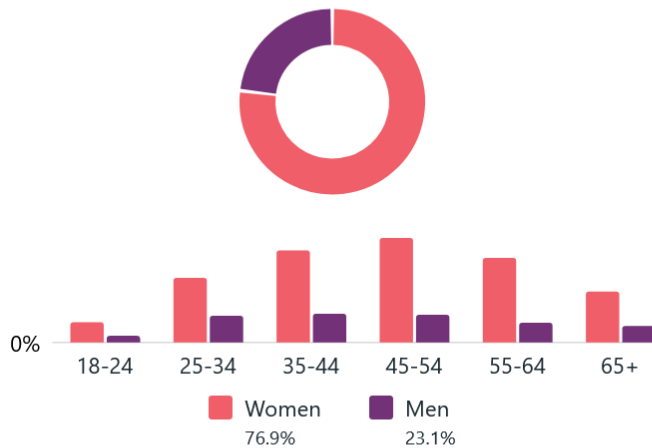
With several of the organisations being nationally represented the last estimate of overall representation was in excess of **200,000 individuals**.

Members & Supporters Discussion Group:

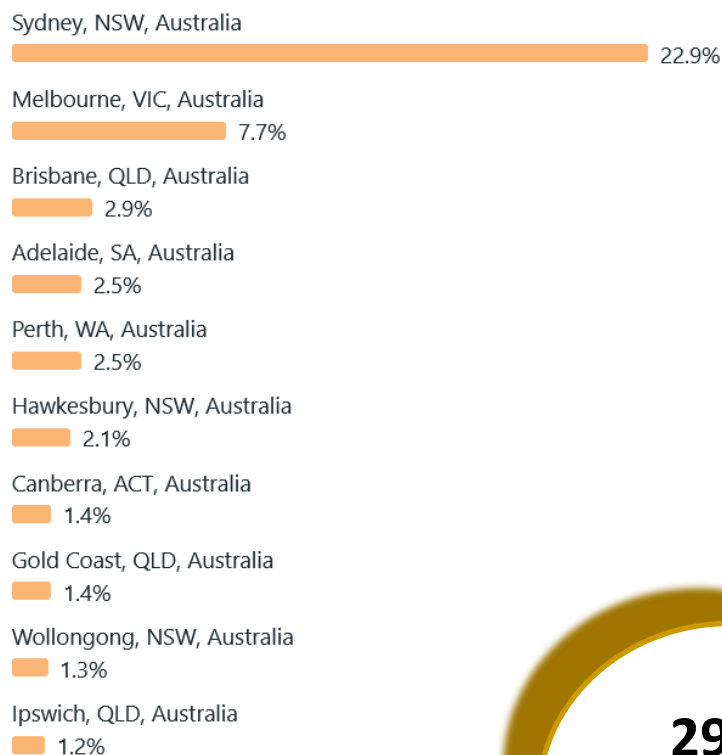
Members and Supporters are invited to join our closed Facebook Discussion Group where they can share with us their stories and issues that directly affect them.

This provides a safe space away from the public page and potential ridicule, especially following recent events of animal rights advocates harassing and bullying breeders and those who defend their rights to breed animals.

Age & gender ⓘ



Top cities



Social Media

Our social media reach has been far greater with posts relating to changes to animal welfare legislation. Each being shared 1,000's of times. One in particular reached **25.9k people**.

Posts that saw high sharing rates.

- QLD Govt banning prong collars: **25.89k shares**
- Animal Rights Rhetoric—puppy farm post: **22.73k shares**
- Be a responsible buyer post: **12.2k shares**, and
- ACA responds to misleading Sunday Telegraph article:: **9.74k shares**

2972
regular social
media followers

Financial Statement 2021 - 2022

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 Income	\$ 3,744.87
Total Expenses	\$ 1,762.73
Yearly Total	\$ 1,982.14

Total Brought Forward	\$ 4,245.45
This Year	\$ 1,982.14
Total Balance:	\$ 6,227.59

Prepared by Michael Donnelly – President

Approved as an accurate record for financial year 2021-2022

Michael Donnelly

President

14th November 2022

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Income		\$ 3,744.87	
Income Type	Statement Period	Current Period	Total
Membership (Direct Deposit)	01 July - 30 Sep	\$ 530.00	
	01 Oct - 31 Dec	\$ 25.00	
	01 Apr - 30 Jun	\$ 25.00	
			\$580.00
Membership (Paypal)	01 Jul - 30 Sep	\$ 762.10	
	01 Oct - 31 Dec	\$ 285.90	
			\$1,048.00
Membership (Stripe)	01 July - 30 Sep	\$ 448.51	
	01 Oct - 31 Dec	\$ 110.86	
	01 Jan - 31 Mar	\$ 81.38	
	01 Apr - 30 Jun	\$ 211.12	
			\$851.87
Membership (Cheques)	01 July - 30 Sep	\$ 75.00	
	01 Oct - 31 Dec	\$ 150.00	
			\$225.00
Donations	01 July - 30 Sep	\$ 1,040.00	
			\$1,040.00
Total Income		\$ 3,744.87	
Note: Membership (Stripe & Paypal) - bank charges deducted prior to transfer.			

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Operating Expenses	\$	1,762.73	
Expense Type	Description	Current Period	
Bank Fees - Commbiz	01 Jul - 30 Sep	\$ 0.30	
	01 Oct - 31 Dec	\$ 0.30	
	04 Apr - 30 Jun	\$ 0.90	
Website	Domain Renewal - July	\$ 59.85	
	Hosting	\$ 120.00	
Fair Trading Returns	Dec	\$ 63.68	
	Jan	\$ 143.83	
General and Administrative	Printing	\$ 142.98	
Zoom Subscriptiom	Yearly	\$ 230.89	
Legal Fees	Sept	\$ 1,000.00	
Total Operating Expenses		\$ 1,762.73	

What did we do?



Highlights of what ACA has responded and contributed to:

- ♦ VIC — [Mandatory reporting of animal fate data by shelters and pounds](#)
- ♦ NSW — [Animal Welfare Reform Discussion Paper](#)
- ♦ AUST — [National Registration for birds 2021](#)
- ♦ VIC — [Golden Plains Council](#)
- ♦ VIC — [Macedon Ranges Shire Council](#)—responding to concerns with Draft DAMP.
- ♦ QLD — [City of Townsville Council](#)
- ♦ NSW — [Licensing and regulating cat and dog breeders](#)
- ♦ VIC — [Macedon Ranges Shire Council – Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021-2025](#)
- ♦ VIC — [Bayside City Council](#)
- ♦ NSW — [Upper Lachlan Council](#)
- ♦ TAS — [Pets In Strata — Minister Archer](#)
- ♦ QLD — [Gold Coast Council Local Law Amendments](#)
- ♦ VIC — [Animal Welfare Act Plan 2022](#) (renamed: Animal Care & Protection Act)

Legislative Amendments:

- ♦ NSW — [Companion Animal Amendment \(Puppy Farms\) Bill 2021](#)
- ♦ QLD — [Animal Care & Protection At Amendment Bill 2022](#)
- ♦ TAS — [Animal Welfare Act Amendment Bill 2022](#)

Parliamentary Inquiries

Standing Committee on State Development — Inquiry into Animal Welfare Policy NSW 2022

Opening Statement:

Good afternoon,

Chair – I ask that this statement be tabled.

I am Michael Donnelly – President of Animal Care Australia or ACA, and I am joined today by Sam Davis – Vice President. ACA represents keepers and breeders of animals nationally, our goal is to promote and encourage high standards in all interactions with the animals in our care.

Firstly, a new Animal Welfare Act with no definition of animal welfare?

ACA has detailed recommendations in our submission, but some key points we'd like to highlight are:

1. Education to measurably improve animal welfare outcomes must be enshrined in the Act.
2. The implementation of a Companion Animals Welfare Panel similar to that of the Stock Welfare Panel.
3. Enforcement activities must be subject to strict accountability and transparency provisions – which are missing from this draft.

These matters must be resolved, particularly given we have no draft Regulations. We recommend this Committee insists both the final Bill and Regulations are provided together for the consideration of the NSW Parliament.

ACA encourages animal welfare education over restrictive regulation. Education must be legislated to measurably improve animal welfare outcomes which in our opinion the draft Bill does not do.

Education includes the continued promotion of animal welfare Standards and Codes of Practice. ACA is disappointed there is no requirement within the Bill for key stakeholder collaboration or inclusion in the development, management and promotion of Standards or Codes of Practice. This must be included in the Act. History tells us, it should not just be presumed that we would be invited to collaborate. As key stakeholders, we haven't been included on the Animal Welfare Advisory Council



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either.

A Companion Animals Welfare Panel will provide an opportunity to alleviate the intimidation experienced by pet owners and to educate and improve animal welfare.

ACA is astonished the draft Bill – despite its title - is predominantly void of strategies for improving animal welfare outcomes. A minimum standard of care, although supported, does little to improve animal welfare!

In fairness, the opportunity for this may exist within the Regulations – but how would we know that when we have no draft regulations? For example, as has been stated by previous witnesses, what will be exempt from, or included as, exhibited animals?

This draft Bill removes liability of the authorised officers and their organisations, whilst making very little effort to improve their accountability and transparency. How can the NSW Government or DPI claim the enforcers will be held accountable if they are not being held liable for their actions?

Charitable organisations should not have the power to act as the police, prosecution, judge, jury and media all at once. This is wildly out of step with all other legal structures in our society.

For this reason, ACA is calling for the prosecutorial powers to be removed from the charitable organisations. This should not come as a surprise to this Committee as several States have or intend on removing the RSPCA as prosecutors of cruelty cases for a range of reasons.

Additionally, we do not support previous suggestions of allowing third parties to prosecute. We also call your attention to the submission from the Australian Privacy Foundation which we fully support.

The ambiguity of Section 66 (2) allows for the breeding of companion animals to be classed as a commercial activity and therefore voids the requirements of entry outlined in Section 67 for residential premises. This is of great concern potentially allowing the chaos of the recent dog audits to be repeated on a broader scale.

We would like to thank the Chair and the Committee for inviting us to appear today and welcome questions.

Closing statement:

ACA appreciates the opportunity to be here today and a consulting stakeholder with the DPI, and we look forward to further collaboration as the Bill is refined and regulations developed.

ACA supports the full extent of the law being handed down on persons guilty of willfully breaching the Act. However - guilty or not - all Australians should be entitled to a fair trial, which is not currently the case here.

We are scheduled to appear at the Inquiry into the charitable organisations with more to say on the effectiveness of those organisations. ACA recommends this Inquiry considers the testimony and

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recommendations of that Inquiry before finalising its report as we believe it is all pertinent to this Bill.

Before any member here today signs off on this Bill – please ensure you review our detailed recommendations in our submission with the view of implementing them to ensure animal welfare outcomes are improved.

To misquote our Premier: “This is a one in a fifty year chance to get it right!”

ACA’s full submission to the Inquiry is here: [ACA Submission](#) [Supplementary Submission](#)

**Legislative Council, Portfolio Committee 4 - 2021 Inquiry
into Charitable Organisations in NSW**

Opening Statement:

Good morning,

Chair – I ask that this statement and document be tabled.

There you are going about your daily routine in the garden.
One of your children is asleep in full view on a sun lounge nearby.

A car arrives. Your gate is opened, you look up to see what is happening and notice two people, in full uniform. They look like the police – all the equipment including what appear to be weapons. There’s just one difference the uniform colour is wrong.

Without asking your permission, one officer walks towards your child while the other immediately approaches you. Your request for them to identify themselves is ignored. You are however told they have arrived because someone has reported that you abuse your children.

You are taken aback by this claim and begin to ask for more details. All the while the officer has looked at your child – now no longer sleeping.

You are enraged. How dare these people! You ask if they have a warrant to be on your property. You are again ignored. You repeat – and this time told they don’t require one.

The officer declares your child looks ill. Has this child been to a doctor? You respond yes, and they are being treated.



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You expect the next question to be seeking the details of that doctor – but it isn't. Instead, the officer starts talking to someone on his phone.

Quickly it is declared that this child must see someone immediately.

Despite knowing your child is not in pain, and is exhibiting all the behaviours etc that you were informed would occur and are normal – you offer to take the child straight away back to their treating doctor.

“No that is not sufficient – this child must be seen by our doctor” That doctor is well over an hours drive, while your doctor is 15mins down the road.

The child is immediately grabbed and forced into a secured section of their vehicle.

Your child's eyes are fixated on you – wondering why you are not stopping them! Your child begins to scream in opposition to being manhandled. There isn't a damn thing you can do.

They leave you with a receipt for your child.

You phone your doctor – who tries to contact them. Nothing!

The next day you are asked a series of questions by one of the officers from the previous day. Your mind is on the health of your child – not on their repetitive and seemingly irrelevant questions. Never the less you respond. They leave – again.

Days go by – each day you call to check on your child – each day you are told nothing.

On the 5th day you are informed their doctor determined your child could not be helped and in their wisdom they terminated the life of your child. Unknown to you, that day, 5 days ago was the last time you would ever see your child!

Now you cannot collect that child's remains – as you are being charged with child abuse and failure to provide adequate medical care.

You now face the loss of your child – and if found guilty – the loss of your job, and more.

Can't happen? Right? The Police cannot do that without a warrant. A doctor cannot make that decision without a court order. You – the person charged must be provided with the opportunity to defend yourself. The child's doctors - not just one doctor – but several, school counsellors, teachers, and other family members would all be consulted before any decision was made on the child's fate.

Now replace that word child with family pet, and it ALL can happen and it does!

Worse still – no warrant. No court intervention. No opportunity to say goodbye. No opportunity to have an independent assessment of your pets health – why not? Because it has been euthanised & cremated – without your knowledge. No opportunity for a fair trial – you can't challenge – there is no way of doing that with the sole evidence your family pet - having been destroyed.

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Our state governments allow this to happen every day – they do nothing to stop it. They even pass the buck back to the organisation that took your pets life!

No accountability. No liability. No appeals process and god forbid you do fight it and prove your innocence – no compensation – not even an apology.

Today we shouldn't be sitting here talking about Annual Reports and the effectiveness of the organisations – we should be striving to stop this inhumane behaviour from continuing.

Last week the RSPCA stated they shouldn't be held liable because what they do is in 'good faith'. The contents of the document we table today question their understanding of what 'good faith' is.

Thank you for your time. We welcome your questions.

Closing Statement:

We ask that Minister Saunders acts in the best interests of the public and the animals and revokes the authorisation of the RSPCA NSW as an approved compliance organisation – that would be an act of good faith to the people of NSW.

ACA's full submission to the Inquiry is here: [ACA Submission](#) [Supplementary Submission](#)

Select Committee – Puppy Farming in NSW — Select Committee on Puppy Farming in NSW

Opening Statement:

Good morning,

Chair – I ask that this statement and related survey results be tabled.

ACA represents keepers and breeders of animals nationally, our goal is to promote and encourage high standards in all interactions with the animals in our care.

"There are an estimated 200 puppy farms located in NSW ... which is a legal operation producing 103,000 puppies annually"

"Dogs are often living in filth, deprived of social interaction ... with animals kept in squalid conditions and forced to breed and produce litters until they can no longer cope."

"... dogs are often kept in small, empty crates for most of their life without ever seeing the daylight."



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Those are not statements from ACA – they are Ms Hurst’s words from an article dated April 2nd 2022 in the Daily Mail UK.

“Most puppy farms are secretive and out of public view and are almost impossible for authorities to locate ... there are likely thousands of dogs living in squalid conditions on these puppy farms, but because of secrecy of the industry ... it's impossible to know exactly how many there really are.”

Also from the same article! So which is it? We have an actual estimate with a very specific number of puppies, or the industry is so secretive it is IMPOSSIBLE to know?

Rather than play the speculation game I’d like to focus on some facts.

Fact: The very conditions described by Ms Hurst in that article are NOT legal – they directly defy welfare standards outlined in both POCTAA and the Breeding Code of Practice. Poor food, squalid conditions, mass breeding, restrictive confinement, and so on. All illegal in NSW.

Fact: The description outlined in that article and social media propaganda produced focusses on what the general public find abhorrent, but nowhere in any legislation or even the Terms of Reference for this Inquiry is an agreed definition of what an actual puppy farm is.

It is agreed no-one likes ‘puppy farms’ but what is a puppy farm? ACA’s own social media posts have seen an array of opinions. That array and the lack of a definition will have resulted in many submissions that would be based on ideological and perfect world responses, and not the reality of the problem.

ACA is appalled by the idea of puppy farming, but in the real world the primary issue we should be focused on is educating breeders and the public on what are ethical breeders and what they offer as opposed to the unethical breeders who blatantly disregard all laws and act immorally.

Fact: ACA recently surveyed all Councils in NSW – provided to you today - seeking data on the total number of DAs, and DAs in the past 3 years, both rejected and approved for what Council refer to as ‘dog breeding facilities’. We received 84 responses from 128 Councils. The majority reported no ‘puppy farms’ – err – breeding facilities, and most of the others just 1 or 2 facilities. In addition, just 15 new breeding facilities state-wide were recorded in the past 3 years.

Based on the results of our survey, combined with the RSPCA NSW puppy farm taskforce experience, leads ACA to seriously question whether there is a significant ‘puppy farm’ problem at all, and, in particular, is this problem deserving of the funding and attention it currently receives?

The great migration across the border into NSW is not proven.

Of the 10 Councils on the border, 8 of whom responded, only 3 DAs have been identified in the past 3 years – one facility being the Moama facility is well known to authorities.

Where is the evidence Councils are inundated? Underground/secretive puppy farmers won’t apply for DAs!

While on Councils, those in Victoria are now refusing to approve the Excess Animal Permits that

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allow for retired older animals to remain with their forever families. They are forcing them to give up or euthanise their animals. Legislative sanctioned forced rehoming and killing! Councils should not be playing as compliance officers in this manner, and NSW Councils will be given full control if the current Puppy Farm Amendment has its way.

Fact: The proposed NSW Puppy Farm amendment requires all excess dogs to be desexed if they are to be kept. It also requires all non-breeding females to undergo a hysterectomy as an 8 week old pup or kitten – not cruel correct? Yet during this past month's Inquiry into Animal Welfare the AJP and cohorts opposed surgical AI – a surgical procedure of far less implication than a hysterectomy. A major hypocrisy! One is cruel – but the other isn't?

Fact: The proposed Amendment doesn't even fit within the NSW Companion Animals Act which centres on the registration and management of dogs and cats to ensure they do not cause nuisance, endanger or otherwise affect neighbourhood amenity.

The placing of restrictions on the numbers of females, and age of breeding males etc only incentivises the unethical breeders. It's simple to understand: Less puppies annually equals higher demand which equals higher sales price which incentivises greedy breeders. Simply put – anti-puppy farm legislation equals MORE puppy farms. This has been proven in Victoria during the Covid pandemic, with the media releases from the RSPCA Victoria and the shelter industry in Victoria.

Final Fact: Unethical breeders or puppy farms are not going anywhere regardless of the outcomes of this Inquiry. The only real way of reducing them is to educate the public. When was the last time you saw an advertisement from any government on responsible pet buying or responsible pet breeding? Want to stop the unethical breeders – then pull them out of the shadows by educating the public and leave the responsible breeders alone.

Thank you for this opportunity, we welcome any questions.

Closing Statement:

Animal Care Australia does not support regulations that will further restrict breeders who are doing the right thing by their animals.

So called Puppy Farm regulations only penalise the ethical breeders and incentivise the rest. It's time the public are educated in responsible pet ownership.

Welfare education over regulation is the best solution.

ACA's full submission to the Inquiry is here: [ACA Submission](#) [Supplementary Submission](#)

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Portfolio Committee 2 - Health Inquiry — Use of primates and other animals in medical research in New South Wales

Animal Care Australia was not called as a witness to provide testimony.

ACA's full submission to the Inquiry is here: [Submission](#)

Standing Committee on State Development — Inquiry into QLD Animal Care & Protection Act Amendment Bill 2022

Opening statement:

Good afternoon Chair – I ask that this statement be tabled.

I am Michael Donnelly – President of Animal Care Australia or ACA.

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.

In May 2021, ACA provided a submission to the QLD Review of Animal Care & Protection Act (ACPA) 2001 and we welcome the opportunity to provide further feedback on the proposed Amendment Bill here today.

ACA is in general in support of the proposed changes to the ACPA and the majority of the Amendments within this Bill. However ACA has concerns on the inclusion of clauses within this Amendment that were not part of the May 2021 review, in particular the ban of restraint devices. Attempts to insert clauses without proper public consultation are not supported by ACA and are not aligned with The Queensland Governments Guide to Better Regulation May 2019. Also of concern is the lack of the provision of any scientific or documented evidence to support the inclusion of restraint devices without public consultation. The lack of draft Regulations for review is inexcusable when the Amendments continually refer to the Regulations – of which there is no inclusion within the current Regulations. The examples provided in the Amendment Bill not only included prong collars but also collars, leads, harnesses and the like. All of which are vital devices in the everyday functioning of animal handling, husbandry, exercise and training. While ACA recognises some of these may be used incorrectly by those not experienced all of these should not be banned.

With this in mind ACA strongly recommends the deletion of Clause 14 (and subsequently Section 37A)



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as there is provision provided by and is already enforceable using the existing offence under Section 18(2)(a). Should proper public and stakeholder consultation result in further amendments in the future, ACA would consider those.

For compliance and enforcement of the Act, does not support this being carried out by the RSPCA QLD, and we strongly recommend the inspectorate be placed with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. The RSPCA QLD and across Australia has time and again proven they are not the appropriate organisation to carry out this task – one which must place animal welfare and higher welfare outcomes above profit and prosecution – one where the animals needs must come first. Should our recommendation not be supported by government and regardless where the inspectorate are situated, ACA supports the enhanced accountability provisions of the inspectorate.

We reinforce our support for restrictions of entry by the inspectorate, particularly with regard to any land used for residential purposes, whether or not such land is also used for commercial purposes.

ACA recommends an appeal process to the chief executive (or delegate) is implemented to provide oversight and a reasonableness mechanism for persons who disagree with compliance decisions made against them. We recommend all prosecutions are under the direct control of the chief executive and performed by a government employed delegate. [2]

Animal Care Australia would like to thank the QLD State Development & Regional Industries Committee for providing us with the opportunity to provide feedback for this Inquiry, and we welcome your questions.

ACA's full submission to the Inquiry is here: [Submission](#) [Supplementary Submission](#)



Species Representative Reports



Bird Report

Numerous government matters affecting aviculture continue at national, state and local government level. The amount of our taxes spent on government paperwork and consultation followed by discussion papers, meetings, phone calls, is incredible. Often matters seem to revolve in circular fashion with minimal progress – it is very frustrating. However, if ACA was not involved then the extreme animal rights mobs would have progressed their agenda to stop all captive animal keeping far more than has occurred.

Areas addressed by ACA of relevance to birds include:

Animal welfare legislation reviews in many states including ACA evidence at a range parliamentary inquires, meetings with MPs and Ministers, detailed submissions, etc.

Native animal licensing reviews in NSW (which continues to be an ongoing frustration) and commencing in Victoria. I don't know how many hundreds of hours has been spent on the NSW issue, the lack of openness, accountability and transparency is shocking.

Strata scheme and tenancy laws governing the keeping of pets including direct input into legislative changes. There has been much success in this area.

Numerous council local laws that attempt to restrict unnecessarily our ability to keep birds. ACA has written many submissions and appeared at various council meetings in many states during 2022.

Many of the above include attempts to simply overregulate our freedom to keep our birds. This is the modus operandum of animal rights extremists - nothing to do with animal welfare. They purposefully plan a slow and steady introduction of more and more restrictions. People then choose another pastime without all the bureaucratic red tape.

I implore all to take seriously the threat of animal rights extremism to the future of aviculture. The extremists have members of parliament in both NSW and Victoria and councilors in a number of local governments under the Animal Justice Party (AJP) political party banner. And we now have the formation of the Australian Alliance for Animals which combines a range of high-profile

extremist organisations. They are motivated and well resourced – they aim to shut us down.

Our first line of defense is Animal Care Australia (ACA).

Thanks to those bird clubs who have joined ACA - I encourage all clubs to do so. ACA now has connections to politicians in every state and direct contact with Ministers in most states. ACA's ability to reach the decision makers is such a bonus for all animal keepers, including bird keepers. Please encourage all bird clubs to join and I encourage everyone to become supporters.



On behalf of all of aviculture in Australia, many thanks to ACA President, Michael Donnelly, for his incredible work throughout 2022.

Sam Davis

ACA Bird Representative.





Cat Report

Just when I think I can take a moment to breathe, another consultation, policy, amendment or review comes up. It's constantly fighting to change the narrative from those pushing Animal Rights and who strive to remove the opportunities to have a companion animal of your choice.

Many of the items that need responses are not solely related to cats, but encompass most companion animals, however dogs and cats are closely aligned, and there are trends that come through where a change starts in one state and flows at some point to another state. We are seeing this now with Puppy Farm amendments which began in Victoria and is now being used as the 'Best Practice' model for other states such as NSW and WA.

A lot of focus has been in NSW over the past year with a variety of consultations, meetings, reviews and responses that I have contributed to over the past 12 months:

- ⇒ Draft Animal Welfare Policy in NSW
- ⇒ Puppy Farm Amendment Bill in NSW
- ⇒ NSW DPI Breeder License Scheme Consultation
- ⇒ Amendments to NSW DPI Code of Practice for Breeding of Dogs and Cats
- ⇒ Consultation for NSW Pet Registry upgrades
- ⇒ Consultation for new Rehoming Practices for Animals in NSW
- ⇒ Local Council Management Plans
- ⇒ Animals in Research in NSW

Whilst changing laws and council policies may have some results on the serious breaches of animal welfare, we must educate people of all ages about responsible pet ownership to improve of all animals.

Michelle Grayson

ACA Secretary and Cat Representative





Dog Report

Another big year for dogs and legislation. We have seen other states jump on board in trying to adopt the Victorian Puppy Farm legislation as it is seen as the gold standard for stopping “puppy farmers”.

There has been a huge push by the AJP this year around legislative change. Some of which have been quite welcoming such as around domestic violence but others connected to shelters and pounds have missed the mark and only time will tell of the fallout from this.

Puppy Prices nationally seem to be continuously rising, as do the shelter numbers post covid lockdowns.

Unfortunately the climate of animals rights vs animal welfare are the worst I have ever seen them and it is certainly a very scary future short term if this trend continues. As an organisation we have managed to highlight to governments the difference between the two and have been invited to speak at many Inquiries and meetings which is an amazing achievement given the history of consultation in this country around animal related bills.

As the Dog Rep I have been involved in the following throughout the year:

Inquiries: NSW Select Committee on Puppy Farms — providing testimony.

Meetings/Workshops:

- Mick Veitch NSW Shadow Minister Primary Industries
- Tony Perrett QLD Shadow Minister Agriculture
- Nicola Centofanti SA Shadow Minister Primary Industries
- Kim Filmer, Chief Animal Welfare Officer, NSW DPI
- NSW Puppy Education and Awareness Workshop,
- Robbie Katter MP QLD,
- NSW Office of Local Government Rescues and Rehoming Review



Scheduled upcoming meeting: Peter Walsh VIC Shadow Minister Agriculture

I thank the members of ACA for supporting me in my role as the dog representative

Kylie Gilbert

ACA Dog Representative



Horse & Livestock Report

This year has seen the further reduction of equestrian access to trails and public spaces, as well as the continued attacks on working animals, and animals in sport by Animal Rights Extremists. The difference between Animal Rights and Animal Welfare is increasingly (and deliberately) blurred to confuse the public into supporting poor policy outcomes that remove animals from society.

In my role as ACA's Horses & Livestock Rep, over the past 12 months, I have written the following **submissions to:**

- National Horse Land Transport Standards
- Victorian Animal Welfare Act Review
- Victorian Biosecurity Legislation Reform
- FEI Global Equine Ethics & Wellbeing in Horse Sports Survey
- National Horse Traceability Working Group Business Rules
- NSW Unattended Property Reform (stray animals)

Contributed **in part to the following submissions:**

- Tasmanian Animal Welfare Amendment Bill
- QLD Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill
- NSW Inquiry into the approved charitable organisation under POCTAA
- NSW Animal Welfare Reform
- NSW and TAS Strata Legislation
- NSW Keeping Pets in Rental Review
- Multiple Council Domestic Animal Management Plans

Attended Stakeholder meetings and conferences:

- NSW Office of Local Government: Unattended Property (stray animals) reform
- University of Melbourne: Animal Welfare in the 21st Century
- UNSW Animal Law Conference



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and Appeared in the Regional Horse News, regarding Victoria's Animal Welfare Reform.

I've also kept up to date and reported on the progress of:

- National Horse Traceability Register Working Group
- Foot and Mouth Disease, JEV, Lumpy Skin and Hendra Virus in Australia
- Welfare initiatives by FEI, EA, and RSPCA impacting horse owners
- Animal Rights groups targeting Equestrian activities and animal businesses

And I am currently working on:

The Draft Standards and Guidelines for the Health and Welfare of Horses in WA (due December 2022)

More stories for the Regional Horse News.

Additionally, in my ATTP Role, I:

- Researched and drafted ACA's Victorian Election Scorecard
- Met with One Nation's Federal Senator Malcolm Roberts
- Met with Prof David Mellor regarding Welfare Aligned Sentience
- Wrote several press releases

Karri Nadazdy
ACA Horse and Livestock Representative and,
Assistant to the President





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.

Since my last report, issues and policies relating to native mammals as pets have been relatively non-existent.

The Victorian Wildlife Licensing Review was responded to by ACA in late 2021, and in my capacity as Native Mammals Representative, there was not a great deal to contribute. The test will come once the results of the Review are made public and we see how strongly the animal rights influence will impact the revised Act.

In NSW, a Wildlife Licensing Reforms Team was created this year, and it was made very clear to me from onset that native mammals would not be considered as part of the current reforms nor at any time in the foreseeable future.

This again is as a result of organisations such as WIRES and the RSPCA using their considerable influence on National Parks & Wildlife to restrict native animal ownership. This is solely based on ideological pressure that is unfounded and not grounded in scientific support.

So that fight will need to be taken on in the years to come.

In the meantime, ACA will continue to advocate where ever necessary for native mammals to be kept under the appropriate animal welfare legislations and codes of practice specifically designed for each species.

Michael Donnelly
ACA Native Mammals Representative





Reptile Report

This year has not been overly eventful for the reptile agenda in Parliament and Local Council policy changes.

Most events are just an ongoing saga from the past few years in NSW. The changes that have been recommended to be changed in the Biodiversity Act 2016 have not eventuated and in most cases, taken a backwards step, and as a contributing stakeholder, on the Species List Advisory Council, ACA will continue to seek completion of this.

In December I contributed to the ACA feedback on the Victorian Native Wildlife Licensing Review.

For the past year (and longer) I have continued to express concerns with how the rehoming of reptiles is carried out in NSW and we have sought meetings with NPWS, the Environment Minister's Office and the Shadow Minister,

Our meeting with Penny Sharpe, Shadow Minister, initiated an overview of the licensing issues and acted as introductions to a working relationship, which will be important following the NSW election.

Our letter to Environment Minister, James Griffin, resulted in a meeting with Honora Campbell, Senior Policy Advisor. Discussing the lack of action re Biodiversity Act recommendations with wildlife licensing, concerns about reptile rehoming and more.

ACA intends on meeting shortly with Licensing staff and other Senior staff to discuss our concerns with the delays of reptiles finding permanent new homes, particularly after it was revealed a majority of animals were removed from a recent rehoming day due to ill health while in the care of WIRES.

The welfare of our reptiles must be given a higher priority than the red-tape of NPWS policy protocols.

Joanne Payne
ACA Reptile Representative





Small Mammals Report

Although it has been a very hectic year for ACA responding to the many various Government Inquiries into animal legislations along with consultation into Local, Federal and State government draft policies in keeping animals and animal welfare, not a lot has been focused on Small Mammals.

To be honest, they are mostly overlooked, which can be a good thing in some respect, however, quite often they are generalised and lumped in with other not often mentioned animals, so potentially fall into vague categories of legislation that are often overlooked or misinterpreted.

There was only a small number of LGA's where a keeping animals draft policy dictated restrictions on the number of rodents, (mice), guinea pigs, rabbits and ferrets to be kept on premises, with ACA responding accordingly that welfare was not dictated by how many animals were kept, and in fact it was more detrimental to keep many of the colony derived species in lesser numbers.

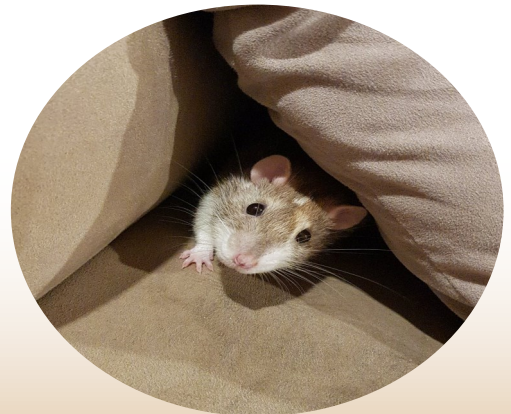
In May 2022 the APVMA issued an emergency permit to allow supply and emergency use of FILAVAC VHD K C+V SUSPENSION for immunisation of rabbits for the RHDV2 and RHDV1 virus strains. This is in force until 31st May 2024.

I have still yet to follow up with Trielda in regards to their stand alone RHDV2 vaccine registration permit with the APVMA, if it has been pulled or still on the shelf awaiting approval? Also there is the question to the Department of Primary Industries as to the progress, if any, of their multivalent RHDV vaccine or have they completely scrapped it in the wake of Covid vaccine development and trials?

Currently there is some speculations and much controversy when it comes to RHDV and vaccines, and it is interesting that the DPI insisted that a vaccine MUST be developed and trialed within Australia and can not be imported, yet Filavac VHD K C+V is European owned developed and trialed. All politics aside, the pet rabbit community consensus is applauding the release of a vaccine regardless. The vaccine is supplied in Australia through Ceva Animal Health Pty Ltd.

This year has also seen many small mammal clubs resume their show meetings and getting back to normalcy after Covid. Many clubs suffered financially due to the lockdowns, however some have persisted and come out the other side and are rebuilding their member base.

Rachel Sydenham
ACA Small Mammals Representative



To the future

This next year will be important for pet owners and keepers – we will see more influences on government and that will trickle down to the rest of us.

Animal Care Australia will need to continue to grow. We aim to establish a stronger in person presence in each state and territory through State & Territory Advisory Team.

Animal Care Australia will continue to hold other organisations accountable for their ideologies and their actions.

Animal welfare is not animal rights and that message needs to be relayed around the country. Pet owners and breeders of all the species need to waken out of their world of complacency and understand that we all must fight to keep our pets – to keep our Australian way of life – to ensure our children and their children know what it's like to keep a guinea pig, bearded dragon, parrot, goldfish, pony or a cat and dog.

People need to stand up for themselves, their children and their animal family members. Politicians only listen to the loud voices and to those that make their point known. The radicalism in today's society must be overwhelmed and placed back into its ideological boxes where it belongs 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”



Animal Care Australia

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

ACA was founded in early 2018 to establish an organisation run solely by volunteers to advocate 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 representing all animals within our care, including 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 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 differences between animal welfare and animal rights.

To this end, ACA has engaged with government on a range of issues throughout Australia. The list 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.

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

When this happens the welfare of animals is jeopardised by the introduction of restrictions and over-zealous regulations. Their 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:

- Advocate 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 Commercialised Shelter Industry
- Advocate for the regulation of all rescues and shelters
- Introduce education about pet ownership into primary & higher school education curriculums
- Encourage education on responsible pet ownership, responsible breeding and responsible buying of pets
- Advocate for greater funding of education on responsible pet ownership, responsible breeding and responsible buying of pets.
- Support pets in strata
- Continue to call 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 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
- Clearly define the role of sentience within animal welfare and rebuke its misuse within legislation
- Ensuring species specific Standards (Codes Of Practice) for keeping and breeding are introduced
- Support and call for legislation 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



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