



Animal Care Australia

2023

# Community interaction



**Animal Welfare Policy & Position Statement**

*Version 3 — July 2023*

***Animal Welfare is Animal Care***

# Animal Welfare Policy & Position Statement

This document sets out the policies and position statements of Animal Care Australia Incorporated. It is intended that this document will operate as a living document, which will be improved upon as policy is updated.

We encourage all members to suggest edits and additions, with a view to clarifying policy and to improve the administration of the organisation.

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

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# Definitions

For the purpose of this document, Animal Care Australia utilises the following definitions:

**Animal welfare** means the physical and mental state of an animal in relation to the conditions in which it lives and dies.

An animal experiences good welfare if the animal is healthy, comfortable, well nourished, safe, is not suffering from unpleasant states such as pain, fear and distress, and is able to express behaviours that are important for its physical and mental state.

**Animal Rights** means humans should not make use of, own or benefit from animals in any manner, and the immediate abolition of animal ownership in any form.

Historically this has taken the form of animal rights, animal liberation, animal justice and animal protection.

**Animal Rights Extremists/activists** are political parties, associations/organisations, and individuals that will go to any length to manipulate societal understanding and legislative reform to achieve the abolition of animal ownership. Throughout this document referred to as ARE's.

**Commercial Pet Industry** means businesses or other services where the aim is to make a profit from selling animals, products or services directly relating to the keeping of pets and animals.

This includes entities such as pet shops, grooming services, agistment providers, etc

**Commercial Shelter Industry** means the commercialisation of shelter/rescue services that are operated under a profit-driven model and/or placing the existence of the service as a priority over the welfare of the animals. The Shelter industry has existed for years. The commercialised shelter industry is relatively new and is a concept driven by animal rights ideologies and a lack of government commitment to resolving the issue of abandoned animals.

**'personhood' rights** means the legislated removal of the property status of animals from being owned by a person/s resulting in the animal acquiring its own 'rights'.

**Pet and Companion Animal Community** means the collective of community-based associations, groups, and individuals (both keepers and breeders) who share the common interest of the caring for and keeping of pets and companion animals.

**Pet Factory, Puppy Factory/Farm** is any unethical operator/breeder is any person/entity who is breeding an animal with poor welfare outcomes in defiance of the animal welfare standards.

**(Animal) Sporting Industry** means the collective of events and activities in which people, business/enterprises, and organisations are involved in the producing, facilitating, promoting, or organising of activities involving the inclusion of animals in a sporting capacity (such as racing).

# Introduction

Animal Care Australia was founded in early 2018 to represent the interests of animal keepers and breeders throughout Australia. Animal Care Australia was established as an organisation where the real animal welfare experts, those who keep, care for and breed animals would advocate for real and improved animal welfare.

With extreme animal rights and animal liberationist ideologies influencing government legislation, regulation and policy at our expense and to the detriment of our animals and pets, it has become necessary to provide government with a balancing voice.

Just over 60% of Australian households own pets. It is estimated more than 24 million pets are kept in the care of our community. Pet/animal ownership provides companionship for many within our society including, the elderly, the lonely, and our young generations.

The keeping of pets and animals teaches a sense of responsibility, an awareness of the importance of animals to exist and to co-exist with us. Animals provide us with an understanding of life, love, loss, and a sense of belonging. The continued keeping of animals as we grow from youngsters into adults allows us to improve our skills in animal husbandry, and leads to advancements in animal welfare.

Originally founded to speak on behalf of owners of pet and companion animals, Animal Care Australia quickly recognised there is a need to expand our purview to include all animals held in 'captive' care with the exception of commercial livestock and it's directly associated activities, such as live export etc.

The Association has a strong committee composed of representatives for each major animal group – dogs, cats, birds, horses, fish, insects, reptiles, hobby farm animals, small mammals, (pet) native mammals and exhibited animals.

Animal Care Australia's membership base is comprised of animal keeping associations (members) and individual pet owners (supporters). We recognise the role played by animal keeping organisations in educating their members, and we call upon government to fund educational initiatives for the general public.



Animal Care Australia's position is to promote welfare education over regulation. 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.

We support and consult in the continued development of animal welfare law at all levels of government, including federal, state and local government. ACA will consult on all relevant legislation to protect your rights as an animal owner. We will continue to defend against changes that could impair your ability to keep, show, compete or work with, and to engage in all lawful activities with your animals and pets.

Animal Care Australia acknowledges the requirement under legislation to ensure minimum animal care standards can be enforced. We support mandatory minimum standards and codes of practice designed to encourage the improvement of higher animal welfare. Animal Care Australia recognises animal keeping organisations are well placed as experts in their specific species and we strongly encourage their inclusion in the development and review of both minimum standards and codes of practice.

As a society we have a responsibility to provide 'whole of life' welfare and protection for all animals living within our care, and accordingly Animal Care Australia will continue to advocate for the rights to ethically breed animals, and promote responsible breeding activities that are designed to ensure the highest welfare outcomes, thereby protecting the continued existence of each species and breed. Animal Care Australia does not discriminate against species or breeds where the appropriate care for the health and welfare, in compliance with all state/territory laws that govern the keeping of those animals, is being met.

*For the purpose of this document all legislated Acts of federal and state parliament, associated regulations, policies, standards and guidelines, codes of practice, local government laws, etc. that influence or deal directly with matters of animal care and welfare will be referred to hereafter as "animal welfare laws".*





# Community Animal Expos, Club Shows, Competitions & Recreational Activities

# Community Companion Animal Expos, Club Shows, Competitions and Recreational Activities

There are many social animal groups and organisations that hold shows, expos and competitions across a wide range of species. Groups and organisations should instill and implement internal codes of practice for the holding of these events. These codes of practice must ensure strong welfare standards are met which include:

- the use of holding & exhibiting (display) cages designed for minimum stress and providing easy access to feed and water.
- animals exhibited outdoors may be exposed to heat or cold, so must be provided with suitable shelter and protection from extreme conditions.
- display areas should provide a space where animals exhibiting symptoms of stress can be immediately removed from public view.
- limits on numbers of animals permitted per cage to ensure no over-crowding or potential fighting.
- display cages must be able to be secured to prevent the accidental release/escape.
- animals that may pose a potential risk to the public due to possible biting or are venomous (such as some reptiles, arachnids & other invertebrates) must have protective area of fencing or defined boundaries ensuring a safe viewable distance for the public.
- if there is a need for animals to be transferred from one cage to another – an enclosed and sealable area should be provided by the organisers to prevent the risk of escape.



**Animal Care Australia supports companion  
animal Expos, Club shows and competitions**

Social animal groups and organisations hold additional events that enhance interaction and allow the animals to display their skills while exercising. These include horse riding events, dog sport activities, training activities and more.

Unfounded concerns from Animal Rights Extremists (ARE's) have been raised in regards to the following:

### Recreational Carriage Driving

This activity is being forced out of national parks, recreational spaces and other suitable public spaces with rule changes contrary to public wishes. Increasingly carriage driving is limited to private property or public roads, which can be unsafe due to careless motor vehicle drivers.

Many horses are not suitable for riding, and most people cannot keep up with a horse at any pace above a walk, so driving is a great activity for them to keep them fit and healthy. It also meets horses' innate need to explore their surroundings. Ponies and mini horses in particular can end up spending much of their lives contained in small yards in order to restrict their access to excess feed, but this also restricts the self exercise larger paddocks provide.



Carriage driving can be the perfect activity for minis, outgrown kids ponies, or horses who cannot carry weight on their back. The weight of a correctly sized carriage puts almost no weight on the horses' back, and the horse only pulls the carriage when increasing pace or going uphill. A horse can comfortably pull twice their own weight on level ground, and half that on hills or rough terrain.

Horses NEED a lot of exercise to live long healthy lives, and to feel good about themselves, improving their mental state.

Horses with proper training enjoy driving as much as their humans do. The public are usually excited to encounter carriage horses.

Carriage driving is popular amongst the disabled and former riders, who, due to injury or illness, can no longer ride or walk with their horse. Driving keeps horses active and well cared for in their forever home for longer.

### Equestrian Activities

Horses and ponies may engage in a wide variety of equestrian activities. Competitive sports can range from club level gymkhanas, to endurance events, showing and horse agility, up to the elite levels of dressage, show jumping, reining and mounted archery. Non-competitive activities can include trail riding, trick training and hiking.

Horses and ponies benefit from lots of exercise and enrichment that training provides. Most horses enjoy their activities and outings, and regular outings with horses helps prepare them for emergency evacuations (it's too late to teach a horse to load into a trailer when the bushfire is already next door)



and to be calm and safe in strange environments. Horses that regularly engage in a wide range of activities are viewed as more valuable - not just in monetary terms but because a well educated horse with a wide range of experiences is a calmer, quieter and safer horse to handle and ride or drive.

Owning horses is no longer a symbol of elitism or wealth. Most modern horse owners are ordinary people, who make many personal sacrifices to take good care for their animals. Welfare standards are constantly improving in animal husbandry and competitive sports, and modern horse handling methods have evolved well beyond the 'old days' of breaking horse's spirits.

Animal Care Australia supports owners who ensure their horses and ponies live in horse friendly accommodations, are appropriately educated, and are fit enough to comfortably participate in the activities asked of them, with comfortable, well-fitting equipment.

### **Dog Agility and Show Events**

Many dog breeds are utilised in different activities such as fly-ball and other competitive sports organised by community-based social groups and associations and are separate to the greyhound racing industry.



Animal Care Australia has no objection to these events continuing, as long as the appropriate breeds are utilised within the appropriate events, and high welfare standards are maintained during training, participating in the event and care at home.

Animal Care Australia does not support the existence of breeding standards that result in the loss of physical function where the appearance or presentation of the animal takes precedence over the health and well-being of the animal.

**Animal Care Australia supports animal agility events, equestrian activities, recreational carriage driving and dog sporting events**



Animals interacting  
within society

## Pets in rental housing

Research has shown that there are health benefits, both mental and physical when owning a pet. Such benefits can help promote a more harmonist environment within a strata environment, as caring for an animal can decrease the severity of depression and anxiety, as well as relieve stress.

Many of the arguments against pets being kept in strata could equally be applied to the impacts that children can have on a property. In many cases children are arguably as destructive and more of a nuisance than pets could be. To discriminate against animals is simply pandering to the bias of individuals.

Rationale in support of pets in strata complexes:

1. Owners/tenants should be able to keep animals without having to inform anyone, as this a basic right. A right that should exist without the need for cumbersome 'red tape' which some owners' corporations rely on and seem to relish!
2. Pet ownership is popular in Australia. It provides comfort and prevents loneliness, and as we have seen during the recent months of the pandemic, pets have become more essential than ever to daily family life. Small animals are well suited to living indoors with their owners. They brighten our lives, and give us routine and structure. The majority of households in Australia have pets, and legislation needs to catch up to current sentiments in the community.
3. With the rapid increase in high density housing in Australian centres, increased urbanisation, reduced human interaction and more time spent in front of screens, pet ownership has become essential for our mental wellbeing and emotional health. Children learn from pets to be responsible, about obligations, about how to cope with grief, and how to develop routines.
4. Responsible pet ownership involves spending time with our animals, training them, caring for them, and growing emotionally with them. Animals teach adults and children about empathy, which makes them better community members. This should be supported by legislation.
5. Many people escaping domestic violence are limited in their options to find accommodation that allows pets, and remain in unsafe situations longer than they should.
6. The default position that animals should be permitted (unless they are problematic) would assist our most high risk and vulnerable community members to be safe. As a community, we need to support their animals to support them. This should be supported by legislation.



7. Vulnerable community members such as the elderly, disabled and those struggling with mental health issues also frequently have pets, for support and comfort and to give their daily lives meaning and purpose. This is not insignificant. Pet owners have been shown to live longer, happier and healthier lives. Having someone relying on you to get out of bed every day and take care of them is incredibly meaningful, and comforting. This should be supported by legislation.
8. Allowing pets in strata is about supporting our community, being reasonable and empathetic to the needs of our most vulnerable while ensuring children develop the emotional range to live in a crowded world.
9. As Australians move into more high rises and the ¼ acre block becomes an icon of the past, we need more support from government to ensure that our communities are able to have the well-rounded, diverse lifestyles that are necessary to develop healthy communities that care about each other.

### Some basic principles:

#### Principle 1 -

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

All research, including the Animal Medicines Australia report, supports this principle. Indeed, given the current difficulties keeping pets due to By-laws and to many council's numbers-based regulation, ACA suspects the percentage of residents wishing to keep pets to be substantially higher than statistics indicate.



Given the overwhelming support for pet keeping, ACA recommends Acts are edited to remove all restrictions on pet keeping.

Report: (<https://animalmedicinesaustralia.org.au/>)

#### Principle 2 -

Pets greatly enhance the mental health of the community.

There is an enormous body of evidence supporting the therapeutic value of pets to the mental (and also physical) health of the community. Beyond Blue's, "[Pets and their impact on mental health](#)", is an excellent introduction to such research.

Laws and By-laws that attempt to restrict the ability to keep pets will impact on the mental health of residents. Such regulation, as the recent NSW Court of Appeal case found are oppressive, and in ACA's view are also harsh and unconscionable.

### Principle 3 -

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

Model By-laws should also be amended to make it clear to all owners and tenants that pets are permitted, however they must be kept under control when on common property and they must not cause a nuisance to other lots.

## Animal Care Australia supports pets in strata/ rental housing.

### Animals on Public Transport

Throughout much of the world, pets are allowed on public transport. Each country/region has slightly different rules governing how the pets are to travel.

In Australia, public transport is looked after by the state governments. This means the rules stating whether pets are permitted on board differs between each state. Please note, for this section we are NOT referring to Accredited Assistance Animals that are permitted across Australia to travel on all public transport. Below is a breakdown of rules relating to pets travelling:



**Australian Capital Territory:** Canberra and the ACT is fairly pet-friendly when it comes to public transport, as long as you have a small pet.

Pets are allowed on both the new light rail line and buses, as long as you ask permission off the driver. However, they need to be in a box, basket or other appropriate pet container, which means this is only really an option for smaller pets.

**New South Wales:** Pets are allowed on buses, light rail and ferries in NSW, albeit they need to travel in a suitable carrier at all times when on board. This means it is only really a practical transport option for small dogs and other small pets.

It's also a requirement to ask permission from the driver or crew, who, as long as your pet is in a carrier, are most likely to deny permission if the service is reaching capacity. Animals may also be refused if they are unclean, seem vicious, or are likely to annoy or threaten other passengers.

Unfortunately, pets are not allowed on any of the state's trains, including the metro trains, plus on coaches, even if in a carrier. This means it's difficult to transport pets longer distances using public transport in NSW, including between Sydney and the surrounding cities of Wollongong and Newcastle.

**Northern Territory:** The Northern Territory is one part of Australia that prohibits pets in its public transport rules.

**Queensland:** Pets have limited access to public transport in Queensland. At the moment, pets are only permitted to travel on the Brisbane River ferries and CityCats.

Unlike in Sydney, both small and large dogs are permitted, either in an enclosed carrier or wearing a leash and muzzle, on the outside deck. Dogs are also not permitted onboard during peak hours, 6:00am to 8:30am then 3:30pm to 7:00pm on weekdays.

Plus if a service is full, you might be asked to wait for the next one. Dogs are also welcome on board the CityHopper service, a free ferry that runs roughly every half hour in between North Quay and Sydney Street.

**South Australia:** Pets not permitted to travel on public transport in the state.

**Tasmania:** Pets are also not permitted to travel on public transport in the state.



**Victoria:** The most pet-friendly state in Australia when it comes to public transport, with pets allowed on a wide range of public transport services.

Metropolitan trains, allow both small animals in a container or larger dogs wearing a leash and muzzle permitted. It's recommended though to avoid peak hour, between 7am and 9am and 4pm and 6pm on weekdays. Small pets are also allowed on board trams, buses and regional V/Line train services, as long as they are travelling in a suitable container. The only non-pet-friendly services are V/Line coaches, which only allow assistance animals.

**Western Australia:** Pets are not permitted on public transport in the state.

Australia is way behind the times and society expectation when it comes to pets being permitted on public transport.

This is why Animal Care Australia supports amendments to all relevant legislation permitting pets to travel.

Animal Care Australia supports the model in Victoria with the exception that coaches should also permit pet travel under similar conditions to other public transport in Victoria.

Animals should not be permitted to roam freely, and passengers (the general public) with phobias or allergies should be provided with access without coming into immediate contact with the animals.

That is, animals may be within pet carriers, a separate carriage on trains or trams, or separate sections on buses and ferries. Dogs not in pet carriers should be on a leash and harness.

## Animal Care Australia supports pets on public transport

### Assistance Animals

ACA strongly suggests the definition of an Assistance Animal NOT be restricted to the *Disability Discrimination Acts*, that being:

*“... a dog or other animal that:*

- is accredited by a prescribed animal training organisation or under a State or Territory law, or*
- is trained to assist a person with disability to alleviate the effects of the disability and meet the standards of hygiene and behaviour appropriate for an animal in a public place.”*

Many people keep animals for emotional support - **Emotional Support Animals**. These animals provide support for people with special physical or mental needs, providing comfort, companionship, they relieve loneliness as well as help with depression, anxiety and motivating their owners to get out and about. These animals do not receive any specialised training to qualify them as assistance animals by law, however they do play a major positive role when it comes to mental health.



The Assistance Animals definition does not apply to non-certified ‘facility animals’ or ‘therapy animals’ who are partnered with health care, educational or other professionals to support people in various facilities (such as schools, learning or rehabilitation centres, care homes, therapy clinics, psychiatric facilities or courts) and who live either at the facility or with their handlers. These animals are an integral part of our society and people living within strata lots should not be penalised or discriminated against simply because their particular animal and/or needs do not fit within an existing definition.

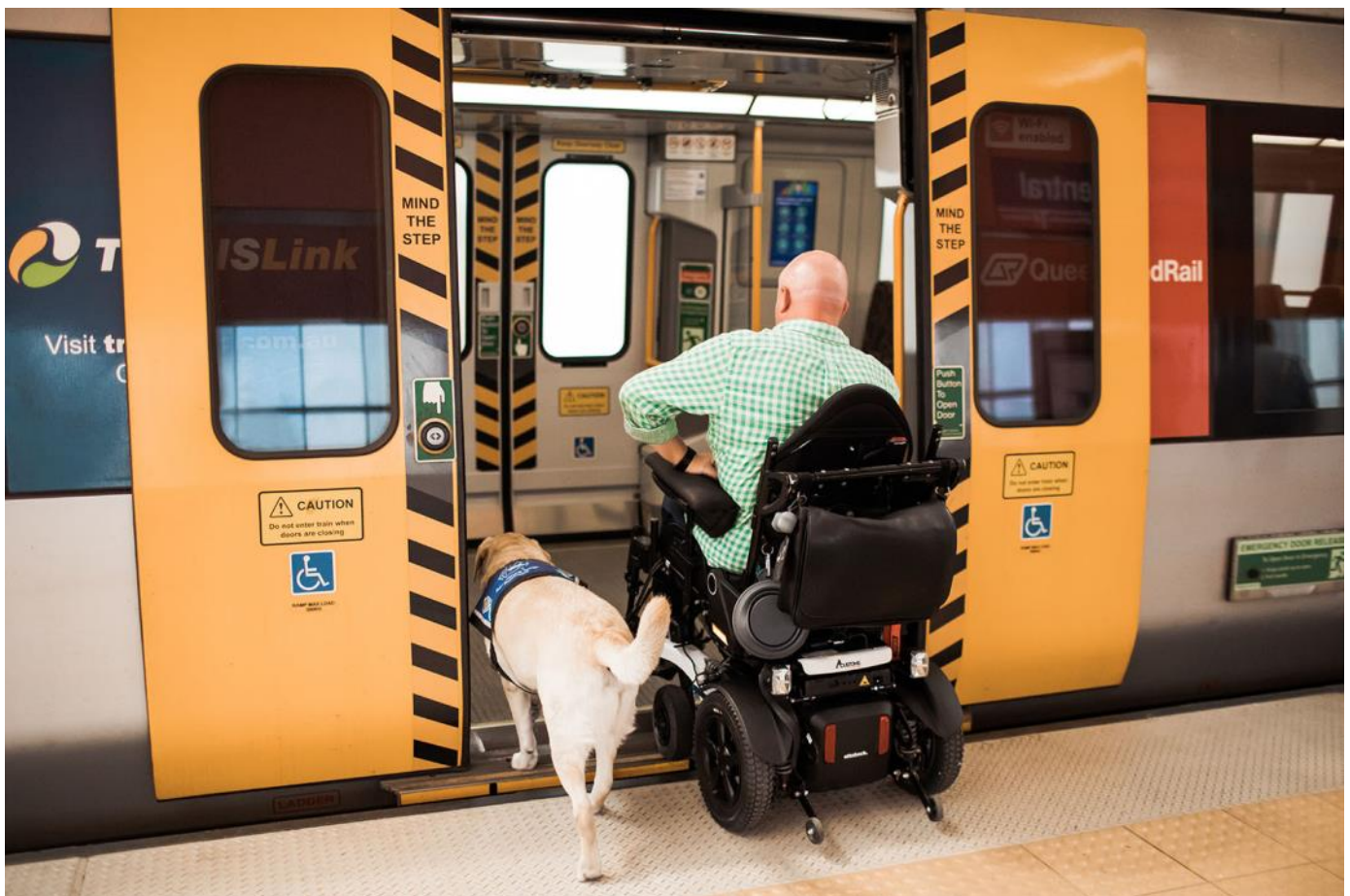
The Accreditation process must be expanded to include Assistance and Therapy Animals as well as broadening the inclusion of other species (not just dogs) as many species have the ability of providing

the support and needs of these vital roles.

In rental housing, there should be no burden of proof that an animal is either an Assistance Animal or an Emotional Support Animal. Requirements should be based so they are not related to any impact on other lot owners.

Both Assistance Animals AND Therapy Animals should be permitted to travel on public transport without restrictions, as long as they and are adequately accredited and identifiable.

## **Animal Care Australia supports greater expansion and accreditation of Assistance Animals and Therapy Animals.**



## Pets in Aged Care

Traditionally, residential care homes and retirement villages have been pet-free zones, with residents having to give up their pets when they move in. Thankfully, aged care homes are increasingly welcoming pets through the door, due to the increasing evidence of the benefits of having a pet. Research shows that having pets around can boost health and wellbeing of elderly people, and the benefits can also be seen socially, emotionally and cognitively.

The benefits of allowing pets to live in nursing homes are well established:

- ◆ Being allowed to take a pet into aged care can ease the transition of the move
- ◆ Pets can reduce feelings of loneliness
- ◆ Pets can reduce levels of stress and anxiety, lower blood pressure and increased aerobic activity
- ◆ More people may choose to live in aged care facilities if they are allowed to take their pet with them
- ◆ Lower number of pets taken to animal shelters
- ◆ Pets create a sense of independence for their owners
- ◆ Pets in nursing home boost the morale of both staff and residents
- ◆ The responsibilities of owning and caring for a dog, for example, can encourage increased levels of motivation and physical activity. It also provides companionship and a sense of purpose by looking after it. Owning a pet can also help people deal with stress and grief.
- ◆ Research has also found that dog and cat owners make fewer visits to the doctor and spend less time in hospital. They also tend to have lower cholesterol and blood pressure compared to people who don't have pets.



The love and companionship offered by pets is particularly important in residential care, where a much-loved pet can help ease the transition from moving from their home to an aged care residence. While there are challenges with pets in aged-care facilities, the benefits far outweigh the demands. Pets can be an integral part of aged care homes, just like they are in the wider community.

As the Australian population ages, the demand for aged care accommodation is likely to rise, and so should the need for including companion animals in these facilities.

Animal Care Australia supports pets in aged care, with some simple provisos:

- ◆ Animals may be owned by the facility itself or may be brought in and privately owned by individual residents.
- ◆ The management of associated risks to the animals and residents is achieved through the establishment of a veterinarian–client (the facility) –patient relationship.
- ◆ Animals should also undergo behavioural assessment by a suitably qualified veterinarian/

behaviourist prior to entry and this should be reviewed on a regular basis.

- ◆ The facility and individual owner(s) of the pets should enter into an arrangement for regular veterinary care with a veterinary professional, including arrangements for out-of-hours emergencies.
- ◆ A suitable agreement/arrangement should be in place between the facility, the pet owner and the family for the continued care of the pet during it's time at the facility as well as when the time arrives that either the owner or the facility is no longer capable of caring for the pet.
- ◆ The welfare of the pets must be centric to the above arrangement at all times.

In some situations, it's not feasible to live with a pet in a nursing home. Pet-friendly facilities might be full (demand often outstrips supply), located in an inconvenient part of town, or just plain unaffordable. Under these situations Animal Care Australia supports the inclusion of Pet Therapy Animals, in which a trained animal provides vulnerable people, including the elderly, with much-needed emotional support.

Frequent, hands-on interaction (lots of cuddles and pats) with a therapy animal has been shown to reduce blood pressure, alleviate chronic pain, stimulate memory, and boost morale. From Alzheimer's to isolation, pet therapy can treat a wide range of cognitive, emotional, mental, and physical conditions.

Alternatively, facilities that can be deemed "pet-friendly," but unable to allow pets to reside, can mean the family pet is allowed to visit during the day, but will need to reside with a loved one for the rest of the time.

## Animal Care Australia supports pets in aged care



Photo: Shoalhaven Zoo



Exhibited Animals

## Exhibited Animals

The Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Exhibited Animals have been endorsed (April 2019) by the Agriculture Ministers (AGMIN) and are regulated into law by State and Territory governments. These outline strict requirements that ensure the animals' welfare requirements are met by licensed exhibitors.

Animal Care Australia recognises the need for separation of exhibited animals and animals used for entertainment purposes.

Examples of exhibited animals include:

- Zoos and wildlife parks
- Marine parks
- Mobile education displays
- Circus

Animal Care Australia will strive to ensure we are included in all consultation processes during reviews.

### Zoos and Wildlife Parks

Australian zoos and wildlife parks have evolved quite rapidly from the days of small concrete and steel cages to enclosures that replicate natural environments. Husbandry and enrichment have kept pace and been the driving force behind this evolution.

Today zoos and wildlife parks predominantly include:

- education
- breeding of threatened species,
- rescue and rehabilitation programs and
- serve as a permanent home for animals where release has been deemed impossible.



They are vital for education, research for conservation purposes, and accordingly must adhere to strict guidelines and legislation regarding all animal behaviours, enclosures and most importantly the welfare of the animals.

**Animal Care Australia supports zoos and wildlife parks**



## Marine Parks & Aquariums

Australian marine parks & aquariums have a multitude of different animals including penguins, seal/sea-lion, aquatic animals and in certain cases polar bear and cetaceans (dolphin). A number of these animals are rescued species and the remaining are considered 'domesticated' and are no longer taken from the wild (apart from those rescued) and all are deemed unsuitable to be released into the wild.

Marine parks & aquariums are vital for education, research for conservational purposes and act as homes for animals who would otherwise be euthanised. So-called 'Shows' are a vital and necessary aspect of the animal's daily routines, they provide enrichment and are designed to replicate natural behaviours. They are designed to ensure complete muscle exercise and hence maintain body strength and physical well-being.

# Animal Care Australia supports marine parks and aquariums

## Circus

Australian circus have a multitude of different animals including dogs, ponies, horses, goats, pigs, water buffalo and camels.

Animal Care Australia takes particular note that:

- all of these animals are multi-generational born within the circus
- by definition within animal welfare Acts, these animals are all 'domesticated' animals
- none of the so-called 'wild or exotic' have been taken from the wild, and
- on welfare grounds should never be released back into the wild as suggested by Animal Rights Extremists
- circus animals should remain with their carers where welfare conditions are being maintained.

Animal Care Australia notes the recent removal of rhesus monkeys and lions from the Australian circus



(Stardust) due to the inability to obtain/renew public liability insurance while the circus maintained keeping those animals. The monkeys and lions have now been retired to a privately owned zoo.

This is a direct influence of the animal rights movement who were unsuccessful in Parliamentary Inquiries to have these animals removed from the circus – despite their claims of success.

## Animal Care Australia supports animals in circus

### Mobile Educators and Petting Zoos

Mobile educators and petting zoos are required to meet strict guidelines, within each State and Territory especially designed to protect the welfare of animals, particularly during transport. These services are vital to our community for education and to promote conservation. Bringing the ‘farm’ or the ‘bush’ to children, and isolated communities, as well as those who otherwise would never see or understand the nature of how



animals exist is important to the very future of animals continuing to exist. To see, touch, and experience an animal in real life far out rates a picture on a computer or television screen.

Animal Care Australia will continue to monitor and consult in ongoing reviews of the ‘animal welfare laws’ which govern these services to ensure welfare needs and standards for the animals are maintained and in doing so, support the continuance of these services.

## Animal Care Australia supports mobile educators and petting zoos



# Animal Care Australia