

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Animal Care Australia Inc

Version 3 — July 2023

Animal Welfare is Animal Care

Annual Report 2023

1st November 2022— 31st October 2023



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.”

Approved: *November 2023*

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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

President's Report



Once again the Animal Care Australia Committee have gone above and beyond in this past year.

The commitment displayed by the Committee — all volunteers — to meet and manage the workload and expansion of issues directly affecting animal welfare outcomes in Australia has been met phenomenal.

I've said it before and it is warranted again, it is truly an honour to be the President of Animal Care Australia where I get to not only work alongside these wonderful people. 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 am deeply thankful to each and every member: Sam, Michelle, Sue, Joanne, Karri, Kylie, Rachel and Tracey.

I would also like to acknowledge the assistance from the members of our State & Territory Advisory Team.

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

Our consultations have covered the gauntlet of animal based topics. Everything from pets in strata, pet victims of domestic violence, animal rescues & shelters, participation in Impound Act, Cat Management Strategy, Pet Census, Veterinary, Biosecurity and Conservation Act reviews, proposed amendments to enshrine sentience 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 consultations 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.

As per every year, Animal Care Australia's largest battle continued with the ever growing influence of the animal rights extremist movement. A movement that this past year spread from no longer just the Animal Justice Party but to include the Greens Party. So many of their pre-election policies in both Victoria and New South Wales included a substantially higher number of animal rights agenda-based policies. This change is impacting on all levels, in all states.

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The insistence from the Animal Justice Party to change their language from 'animal welfare' to 'animal protection' has continued to infiltrate the animal welfare Act reviews in some states and we have not been successful in convincing government to drop the changes.

Success or not, Animal Care Australia is having a direct impact on the approach by animal rights political parties — with notable changes in language, policy pages being re-recorded and approaches to issues becoming increasingly public-friendly. It could be argued this is to our own detriment as now the devil is purely hidden in the details and it is no longer as easy to highlight the true agendas to the public.



On the political front Animal Care Australia has continued to secure working relationships with the majority of parties.

Despite elections in Victoria and New South Wales that resulted in a change of Government in one state and new ministers in both states, we are consulting regularly with state governments and their opposition in NSW, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia. In New South Wales our collaboration with the Shooters, Fishers & Farmers Party continues strongly and we now have standing agreements of continued collaboration with the Liberal Democrat, and One Nation. as well as the majority of Independents in the Legislative Assembly. In Queensland we continued our working relationships with the Katter Party, and on a Federal level with One Nation. Our strong relationship with the Victorian Shooters, Fishers & Farmers Party also continues following their return during the election.

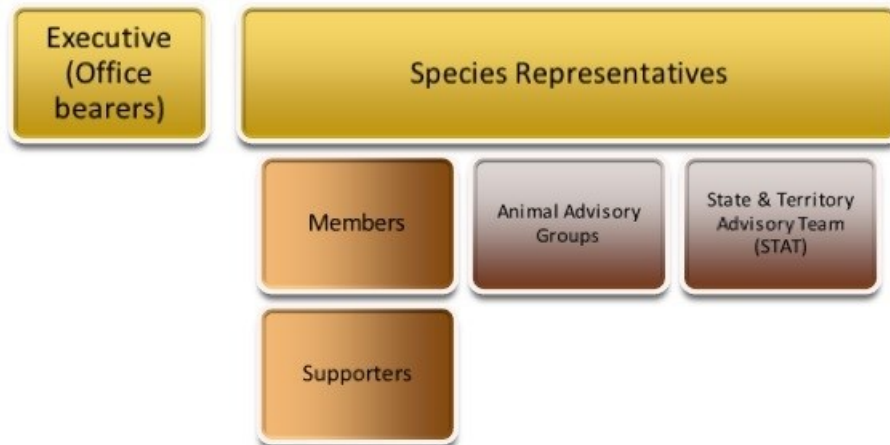
Animal Care Australia has also strengthened our focus on pursuing greater accountability and transparency of the RSPCA (in all states) and we have been collating the feedback from our members on their experiences with the inspectorates in order to respond to upcoming Inquiries. Animal Care Australia will continually strive to have the prosecutorial powers removed from the RSPCA and inspectorates under the direct responsibility of government. We will continue to advocate for change.

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.

The **State & Territory Advisory Team** is comprised of the Assistant to the President, at least one other ACA Committee member, and volunteer representatives from within each State or Territory.

Membership Representation:



465
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.



Social Media

Our social media reach has been far greater with posts relating to changes to animal welfare legislation.

3208
regular social media followers

Gender



■ Female ■ Male

Top cities

Sydney, NSW, Australia



Melbourne, VIC, Australia



Adelaide, SA, Australia



Brisbane, QLD, Australia



Perth, WA, Australia



Hawkesbury, NSW, Australia



Gold Coast, QLD, Australia



Canberra, ACT, Australia



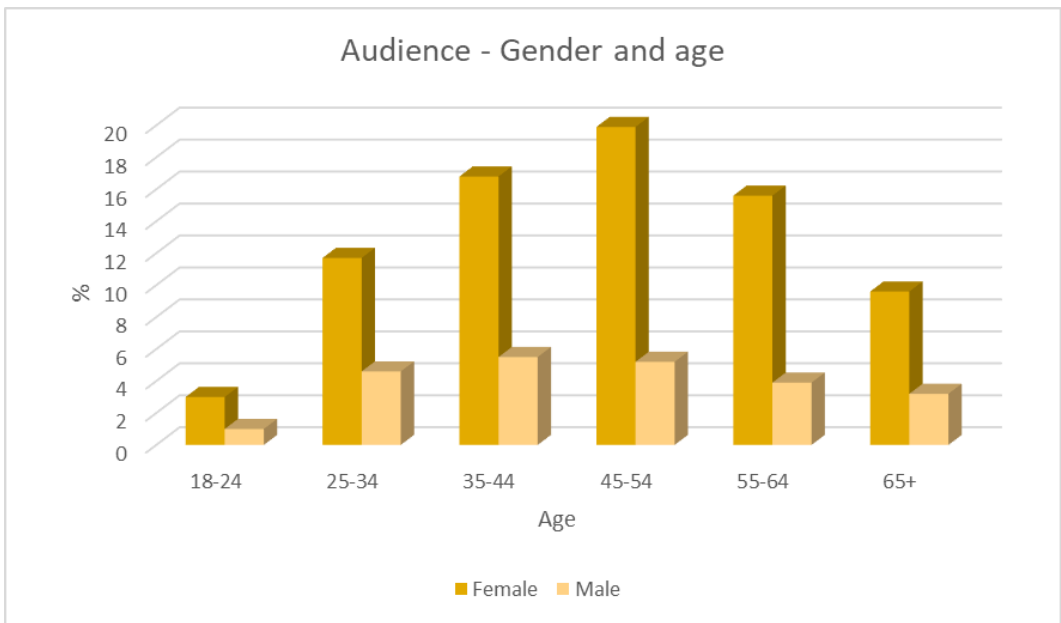
Wollongong, NSW, Australia



Townsville, QLD, Australia



Audience - Gender and age



Financial Statements 2022-2023

| Summary | Total Current Period |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| | |
| CBA | |
| Total Income | \$ 6,676.10 |
| Total Expenses | \$ 3,394.60 |
| Yearly Total | \$ 3,281.50 |
| Brought Forward | \$ 6,227.59 |
| Total CBA | \$ 9,509.09 |
| | |
| PayPal | |
| Total Income | \$ 790.53 |
| Total Expenses | \$ 990.55 |
| Yearly Loss | \$ 200.02 |
| Brought Forward | \$ 369.18 |
| Total Paypal | \$ 169.16 |
| | |
| Total CBA | \$ 9,509.09 |
| Total Paypal | \$ 169.16 |
| Total Assets: | \$ 9,678.25 |

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Commonwealth Bank

| Operating Expenses | | \$ | 3,394.60 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Expense Type | Description | Current | Period |
| Bank Fees - Commbiz | 01 Jul - 30 Sep | \$ | 0.30 |
| | 01 Jan - 31 Mar | \$ | 0.30 |
| | 01 Apr - 30 Jun | \$ | 0.60 |
| Website | Domain Renewal | \$ | 59.85 |
| | Hosting | \$ | 120.00 |
| | Support & Development | \$ | 437.50 |
| Email Hosting | | \$ | 545.16 |
| Honorary Payment | July-December | \$ | 1,000.00 |
| | January-June | \$ | 1,000.00 |
| Zoom Subscription | Yearly | \$ | 230.89 |
| Total Operating Expenses | | \$ | 3,394.60 |

Commonwealth Bank

| Income | | | \$ 6,676.10 |
|-----------------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Income Type | Statement Period | Current Period | Total |
| Membership (Direct Deposit) | 01 July - 30 Sep | \$ 635.00 | |
| | 01 Oct - 31 Dec | \$ 50.00 | |
| | | | \$685.00 |
| Membeship (Stripe) | 01 July - 30 Sep | \$ 254.82 | |
| | 01 Oct - 31 Dec | \$ 71.86 | |
| | 01 Jan - 31 Mar | \$ 24.26 | |
| | 01 Apr - 30 Jun | \$ 33.78 | |
| | | | \$384.72 |
| Membership (Paypal) | 01 Jul - 30 Sep | \$ 500.00 | |
| | | | \$500.00 |
| Donations | 01 Oct - 31 Dec | | |
| | 01 Apr - 30 Jun | \$ 5,000.00 | |
| Change.org | Year | \$ 106.38 | |
| | | | \$5,106.38 |
| Total Income | | \$ 6,676.10 | |

Note: Membership (Stripe & Paypal) - bank charges deducted prior to transfer.

Paypal Account

| Income | | | Expenses | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| | | | \$ 990.55 | | |
| Income Type | Statement Period | Current Period | Expense Type | Description | Current Period |
| Memberships | 01 July - 30 Jun | \$ 680.53 | Website | Domain Renewal | \$ 34.90 |
| Donations | 01 Oct - 31 Dec | \$ 50.00 | | Support & Development | \$ 26.25 |
| | 01 Apr - 30 Jun | \$ 60.00 | Email Hosting | | \$ 35.40 |
| Total Income | | \$ 790.53 | Media Releases | 01 Oct - 31 Dec | \$ 88.00 |
| | | | | 01 Jan - 31 Mar | \$ 286.00 |
| | | | | 01 Apr - 30 Jun | \$ - |
| Summary | Period | | News Subscription | 01 Jul - 30 Sep | \$ 8.00 |
| | | | | 01 Apr - 30 Jun | \$ 12.00 |
| Total Income | \$ 790.53 | | Transfer to CBA | 01 Jul - 30 Sep | \$ 500.00 |
| Total Expenses | \$ 990.55 | | | | |
| Yearly Total | 200.02- | | Total Operating Expenses | | \$ 990.55 |
| Opening Balance | \$ 369.18 | | | | |
| This Year | 200.02- | | | | |
| Total Balance: | \$ 169.16 | | | | |

What did we do?

Highlights of what Animal Care Australia has responded and contributed to:

Local Councils:

October 23, 2023

QLD_Tablelands Regional Council

September 27, 2023

QLD_Moreton Bay Council – follow up

September 27, 2023

SA_Coorong District Council - Draft Animal Management Plan

September 17, 2023

VIC_Wyndham City Council

September 6, 2023

WA_Vincent Council — Draft Animal Amendment Local Law 2023

September 6, 2023

NSW_Lane Cove Council — Introduction of Wildlife Protection Areas

September 1, 2023

SA_Port Adelaide Enfield Council— Companion Animal Project

August 6, 2023

VIC_Yarra City Council — Council Order Review

July 16, 2023

QLD_Rockhampton Regional Council – Review of the Animal Management Strategy 2020-2023

June 21, 2023

NSW_Hilltops Council – Draft Domestic Animal Management Policy

June 2, 2023

NSW_Snowy Valleys Council Animal Management Policy

April 28, 2023

VIC_Hume City Council — DAMP Review



April 1, 2023

QLD_Moreton Bay Council – Animal Management Review

Submissions to Reviews and Legislative Amendments:

October 9, 2023

TAS_Public Submissions on draft Racing Regulation and Integrity Bill

September 27, 2023

SA_Developing a Biosecurity Bill for South Australia

September 27, 2023

NSW_Blue Mountains National Park and Kanangra-Boyd National Park Draft Plan

September 24, 2023

NSW_Kosciuszko National Park Wild Horse Heritage Management Plan

August 27, 2023

QLD_Strong Dog Laws

August 27, 2023

NSW_Improving NSW rental laws

August 27, 2023

VIC_Biosecurity Strategy Consultation Draft 2023

July 16, 2023

AUS_Proposal to delete unassessed psittacines from the Live Import List

June 2, 2023

AUS_Australian Welfare Task Group Secretariat.

May 22, 2023

AUS_Reserve Bank of Australia to consider welfare of pets

May 22, 2023

AUS_Inspector-General of Animal Welfare: Consultation Paper

April 28, 2023

NSW_Biodiversity Conservation Act Review

April 1, 2023

SA_Animal Welfare Act Review

April 1, 2023

AUS_Animal Welfare Ministers — Consider compassionate animal welfare assistance

February 20, 2023

NSW_Protected animal specimens draft code of practice 2023

February 20, 2023

SA_Veterinary Services Bill 2023

February 20, 2023

NSW_Biosecurity Act Review

February 20, 2023

SA_Biosecurity Bill — Public Consultation Summary — February 2023

January 3, 2023

NSW_Rehoming Reptiles Proposal

December 21, 2022

WA_Horse Welfare Act — 2022

November 30, 2022

NSW_Keeping Pets In Rentals

November 30, 2022

QLD_Improvement of welfare for transporting horses

November 30, 2022

AUS_Draft Review Importing of Rabies

November 28, 2022

NSW_Draft Strata Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 (Draft Bill)

November 21, 2022

TAS_Strata Introduction Minister Archer

Parliamentary Inquiries:

October 23, 2023

NSW_Inquiry into the proposed aerial shooting of brumbies in Kosciuszko National Park

August 27, 2023

NSW_Inquiry into pounds

July 26, 2023

NSW_Inquiry into veterinary workforce shortages in NSW

May 20, 2023

VIC_Road Safety Submission — vulnerable road users

Parliamentary Inquiries

Inquiry into vulnerable road users in Victoria – 24th August 2023.

Opening statement:

Good morning,

My name is Karri Nadazdy and I am the Horse & Livestock Representative for Animal Care Australia.



ACA is a national incorporated association established to advocate 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. I am here today, on behalf of all Victorian Equestrians, whether they are ACA members or not.

ACA was concerned to learn that the laws for vehicles passing ridden and driven horses on our roads are so lax, they are effectively non-existent. The current rules put the responsibility of staying safe on the equestrian, and not the motorist.

In 2019, Melbourne City Council reacted to an issue with how motorists were behaving around horse drawn carriages. Instead of resolving the issues, they decided it was just easier to ban the horses. This is NOT the answer. The horses were not hitting the cars, the cars were hitting the horses. The elderly, the disabled and children are also hit by cars but I doubt anyone on this Committee would agree that all vulnerable road users should be banned from using the roads. It sounds ludicrous to say that, but that's exactly what the Council did to the carriage horses. The problem was not solved and 3 years later, we are still discussing the same issues. Despite horses sharing the roads since the very early days of settlement there has been no substantial changes to protect them.

Currently there is a recommendation to slow down when there is a horse on the road ahead but there is no enforceable law. We cannot re-educate drivers on laws that don't exist. I hope that today, we can make some progress to include and protect horses and their humans under Victoria's legislative umbrella, and ensure that bans and restrictions of horses and their humans isn't repeated.

ACA thanks you for the opportunity to speak today and for recognising that equestrians deserve to be safe on our roads too.

I welcome your questions.

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

NSW Veterinary Workforce Shortage - 29th August 2023

Opening Statement:

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

I am Michael Donnelly – President of Animal Care Australia and I am joined today by Karri Nadazdy – the Animal Care Australia Horse & Livestock Representative.



Animal Care Australia represents keepers and breeders of pets and companion animals nationally and our goal is to promote and encourage high standards in all interactions with the animals in our care.

Our members rely on the veterinary industry for everything from checkups on litters of puppies and kittens, to assisting with impactions in reptiles, or colic in horses and the most painful of all helping us to say goodbye to a pet who has over the years become a part of the family.

Their commitment, dedication and empathy is what most of us respect. In return they endure long hours, poor wages, an ever increasing level of abuse from a changing society and this clearly takes a toll. Yet this is not unheard of, we know emergency workers and health system workers all experience the same.

During the Covid pandemic those workers rightfully received a lot of praise and recognition. Strangely despite the veterinary industry also being listed as essential workers – that hasn't carried through after the pandemic. Yet they are essential. They help us protect the well-being of our pets and animals.

We need to educate society on how to respect those who help protect us and our loved ones and that includes the vets. We need to help the industry accelerate the education of new workers. We need to improve access to veterinary services. We need to improve the services that the vets rely on – housing, improved wages, and safer, free access to mental health assistance when they need it. As any other essential worker will tell you – the experiences they have in one day are more than most of us face in our lifetime.

We are here today to support the veterinary industry and to share how vital they are to us - pet owners - and to offer some solutions for this Committee and the government to consider.

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

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

To the future

This next year will continue to be important for pet owners and keepers – we will see more influences on government especially with the federal governments intention of implementing an Office of Animal Welfare. This will trickle down to the states and territories and we already know several larger animal rights organisations have the ear of the key politicians at both federal and state levels.

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

Animal Care Australia will continue to hold other organisations accountable for their ideologies and their actions — and this is becoming more difficult as they continue to adjust the language and terms that they use — making them sound and appear to pet friendly.

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.

Sadly this past year has seen one major organisation remove itself from all political situations and is refusing to actively protect its own hobby and members. Why? All because one member of the committee received an abusive phone call from an animal rights activist that had greater ramifications than I'm sure even the activist was hoping for.

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.

That is ACA's goal for the future ...

“... because animal welfare is animal care”

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.

Animal Care Australia 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. Animal Care Australia provides government with a balancing voice.

By uniting the broad spectrum of animal groups, collectively we offer an experienced, sensible approach to animal welfare.

Animal Care Australia 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, Animal Care Australia prioritises the following:

- ◇ Animal Care Australia strives for implementation of stronger achievable animal welfare outcomes using and based upon the extensive expertise of our members.
- ◇ Animal Care Australia prioritises education over regulation as the most effective and economical means of improving animal welfare outcomes nationally.
- ◇ Animal Care Australia 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, Animal Care Australia 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 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.



Animal Care Australia 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 traceability register provide welfare benefits to the animals being registered.



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