

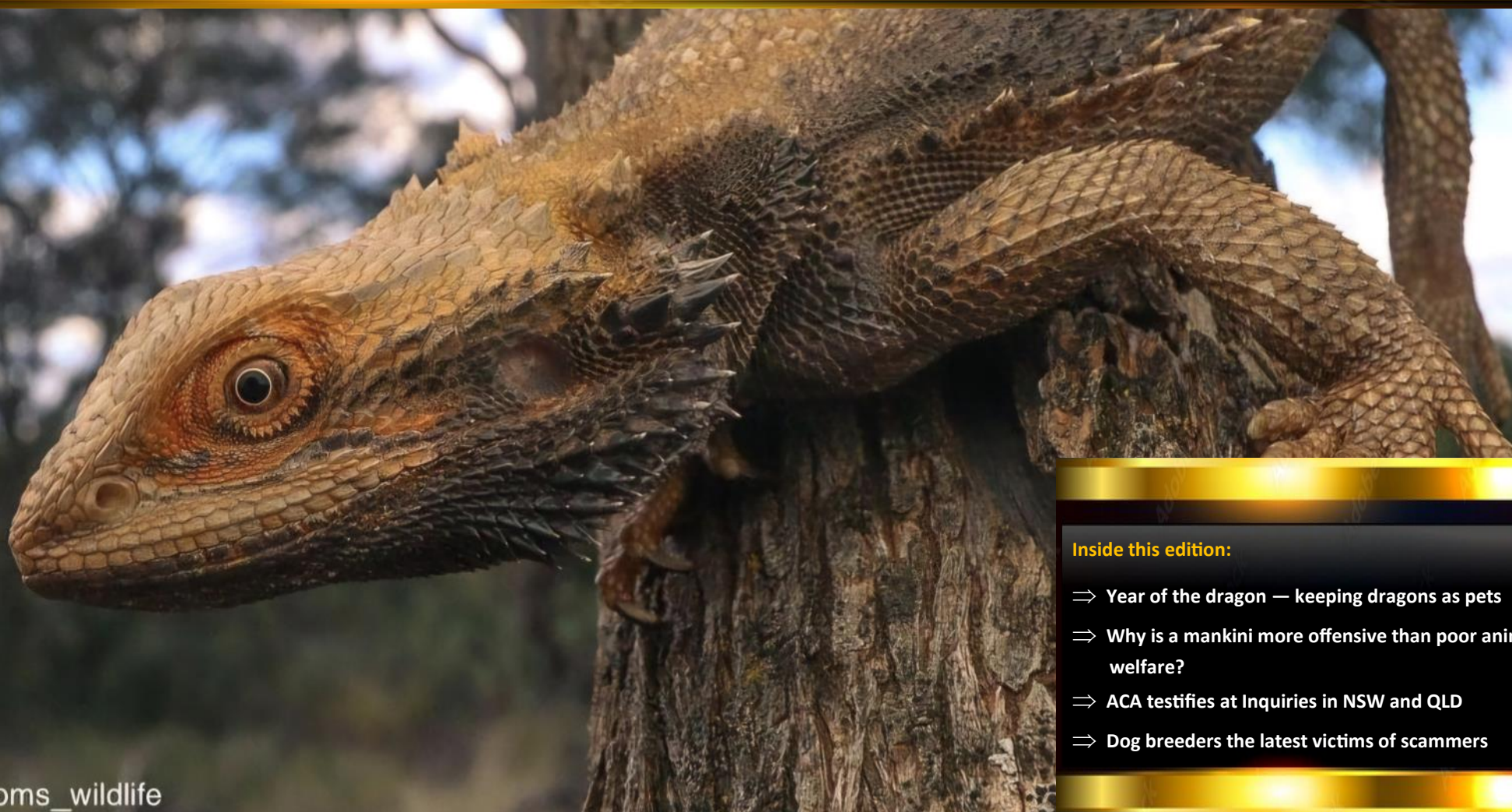


Animal Care Australia

The Animal Care Expert

Quarterly newsletter of **ANIMAL CARE AUSTRALIA INC.**

"Animal welfare by the experts — those who keep, care for and breed animals"



Inside this edition:

- ⇒ Year of the dragon — keeping dragons as pets
- ⇒ Why is a mankini more offensive than poor animal welfare?
- ⇒ ACA testifies at Inquiries in NSW and QLD
- ⇒ Dog breeders the latest victims of scammers

@Toms_wildlife



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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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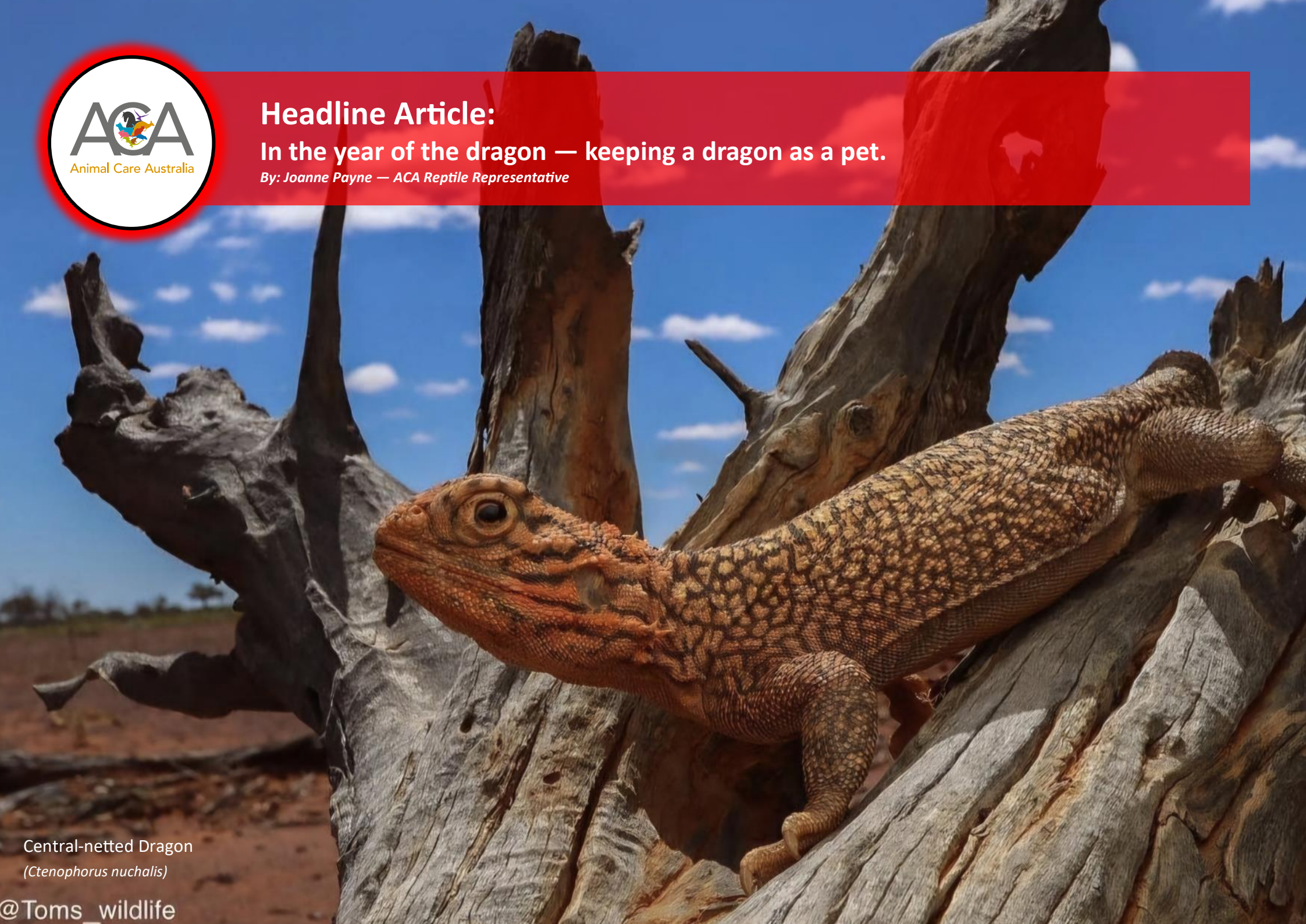
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Headline Article:

In the year of the dragon — keeping a dragon as a pet.

By: Joanne Payne — ACA Reptile Representative



Central-netted Dragon
(*Ctenophorus nuchalis*)

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With 2024 being the year of the dragon, there's no better way to kick off the year than with an article about our amazing dragons in Australia.

Currently in Australia, there are 11 genera and over 70 species of Dragon that call this continent home. Many are kept in private collections and the Bearded Dragon has become one of the most popular pets in the world.

In America, the humble Bearded Dragon is kept in more homes than any other pet. The hobby has seen remarkable colours and textures of bearded dragons on the market, nothing like their wild cousins.

If you're thinking of owning a dragon, there are a few things you need to familiarise yourself with.

Firstly, native reptile ownership is the only way to legally own a reptile in Australia, and it is regulated. We have included some details about licensing requirements in each State latter in the article.

Bearded Dragons aren't the only dragons to be celebrated in the keeping hobby. Lets go through a few to show you the wide variety that are being kept.

Bearded Dragons

(pictured on the cover of the newsletter)

There are several species of bearded dragon being kept in captivity. These include, Central, Eastern, Pygmy and Western.

They are all oviparous (egg layers) and are generally found in hotter and drier areas of Australia. In the wild, they can often be seen perched up high, surveying their territory and communicating with other dragons by using a series of head bobs and arm waves. They really are great to just watch with their communication.



Central Bearded Dragon
(*Pogona vitticeps*)

Eastern Water Dragon

(*Physignathus lesueurii lesueurii*)

Photo: @kaigold99



Water Dragons

A larger species of dragon found around waterways on the Eastern Coast of Australia from Victoria up to northern Australia. There are

two recognised subspecies of Water Dragon; the Eastern Water Dragon, *Physignathus lesueurii lesueurii* and the Gippsland Water Dragon, *Physignathus lesueurii howittii*.

They generally enjoy cooler climates.

They are sexually dimorphic with the males being larger and more brightly coloured with patches of red under the belly. They are often

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kept in large, outdoor enclosures as they are quite tolerant to temperature extremes.

Forest Dragons

Found in the cooler rainforest environments of Eastern Australia from the central coast in NSW up in the far north of Qld. Boyd's Forest Dragon males are so colourful and you will mostly find them climbing around the trees chasing the little bits of dappled sun that peaks through the tall canopy. Another species that is sexually dimorphic, the females are smaller and less colourful. Southern Angle Headed Dragons are perfectly camouflaged to hide in their forest habitat. In captivity, their colour and secretive nature make them perfect for display tanks.

Central Netted Dragons (pictured on the front cover of this article)

Unlike many other dragon species, netted dragons love to live in communal groups. They are a smaller but brightly coloured dragon that has perfectly adapted to living in captivity. Having a large tank in your lounge room, will make you watch the tank more than the TV. They have awesome little personalities and their antics will have you fascinated. In the wild, they can be seen perched atop rocks or piles of dirt watching for the next tasty morsel to run across their path or communicating with other dragons in the area. If something startles them then they will quickly retreat to a nearby burrow that will have several exit holes which they are always excavating.



Boyd's Forest Dragon
(*Lophosaurus boydii*)

@Paynespythonsnizards

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Reptile licences in New South Wales

In New South Wales, native reptiles are protected by law. It's illegal to take a reptile from the wild or release an unwanted one back into the wild. If you want to purchase a reptile, it needs to be bought from a licensed dealer or broker. There are different licences depending on the type of reptile and how many of them you'd like to keep. Learn more [here](#).

Reptile licences in Queensland

In Queensland, a recreation wildlife licence is required, depending on the type of wildlife you're hoping to keep. Strict conditions apply that prohibit the owner from breeding their wildlife or selling or giving away wildlife that is held under the permit. Learn more [here](#).

Reptile licences in Victoria

In Victoria, there are four licence types to suit the variety of wildlife (and reptiles) that can be kept. Plus, there are some types of wildlife that can be kept without a permit (such as the Eastern blue-tongue Skink). For

other reptiles, though, it's important to refer to the Wildlife Regulations of 2013 to determine which licence you need for your reptile. Learn more [here](#).

Reptile licences in South Australia

In South Australia, it's the Department for Environment and Water that regulates the ownership of native animals, including reptiles. You will need a permit if you want to keep dragons (and other reptiles) with the exception of the Central Bearded Dragon which is exempt in South Australia. Learn more [here](#).

Reptile licences in Australian Capital Territory

In the ACT, the majority of reptiles are protected and under the Nature Conservation Act 1980, however, there are some species that are exempt from licensing regulation, including the Eastern Bearded Dragon. Learn more [here](#).

Reptile licences in Western Australia

In Western Australia, the regulation of

wildlife is under the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. Again, whether or not the reptile you're interested in owning is regulated, depends on the species. Learn more [here](#).

Reptile licences in the Northern Territory

In the Northern Territory, the majority of reptiles require a permit in order to be kept as a pet in captivity. However, there are some species that are exempt such as the Central Bearded Dragon and Central-netted Dragon. Learn more [here](#).

Reptile licences in Tasmania

In Tasmania, reptiles and amphibians are protected under the Nature Conservation Act 2002 and the Threatened Species Act 1995. Numbers of each species permitted are restricted. Learn more [here](#).

Codes of Practice

Most states and territories have Codes of Practice that must be followed when keeping reptiles.

There are also many care sheets online for

the keeping of the different dragon species. While these are all a good start, a great number are not produced in Australia and often obtain false or misleading information usually based on the personal opinions of those putting the information together. The best advice will firstly come from the breeder of the dragons that you are looking to obtain from and secondly from your local herpetological/reptile society. The societies will be able to put you in contact with other keepers. Better still join one and get to meet them all in person.

Quick Facts

With the right care dragons can live for up to 10 years

- ♦ UV lighting and heating is necessary
- ♦ A varied diet is required (fruit, vegetables and live prey)
- ♦ Central Bearded Dragons can grow up to 50cm long, whilst Dwarf Bearded Dragons grow to only 35cm.
- ♦ Central Netted Dragons are the smallest at around 25cm long but also live the shortest lives – averaging between 4 – 6 years.
- ♦ Dragons can usually be sexed from around 7 months of age or 15cm in length

Remember: Ask questions, research the species you want to keep, and don't be afraid to seek advice if you feel something isn't right with your dragon.





REPTILE SHOW

ATTRACTIONS

- * RETAIL & REPTILE MARKETPLACE
- * REPTILE SHOW
- * FOOD & DRINKS
- * ATM ONSITE



SPONSORS



Gold Sponsor

7th April 2024

10 AM - 3 PM

ILLAWARRA SPORTS STADIUM
Hooka Creek Rd, Berkeley

ADMISSION

ADULTS	\$15
CHILDREN (Under 16)	\$5
FAMILY (2 Adults, 2 Kids)	\$30



Enquiries to Jo on 0433 064 460
illawarrareptilesociety2015@gmail.com

PHOTO CREDIT: Turtle Image by John Cann | Bearded Dragon Images by pixabay.com

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www.illawarrareptilesociety.com.au

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Submissions & Correspondence Reports



ABS's Updating Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations

December 2023: Animal Care Australia provided feedback on the job descriptions and qualifications required for positions within the animal industry.

Animal Care Australia Committee members have experience in and carry out the training of individuals who occupy the occupations being reviewed.

Our feedback relates to occupations within the Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing category of the review. to create a federal version which all states/territories would be required to abide by.

Animal Care Australia has provided extensive feedback and recommendations in our submission here:



Updated Threat Abatement Plan for predation by feral cats

Animal Care Australia

Committee members have experience in the issues directly relating to the ownership and breeding of domestic cats, and in addition, free-roaming, community-maintained and feral cats.

The challenges of the management of feral cats are vast and has long divided many people and communities in Australia with opposing views on the solutions.

The Threat Abatement Plan (TAP) appears to have no new strategies other than what is currently available by state and territory governments. This paper seeks to create a federal version which all states/territories would be required to abide by.

Animal Care Australia has provided extensive feedback and recommendations , in our submission available here:



ACA concerned over the method of consultation by QLD Govt during updating of Exhibited Animals Act - Codes of Practice.

December 2023: Animal Care Australia writes to Minister and shadow Government to express concerns with the method of consultation carried out by the Department of Agriculture & Fisheries (DAF) in order to adopt changes to the Regulations that are part of the Exhibited Animals Act 2015.

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(Exhibited Animals Act 2015).

Animal Care Australia objects when changes are made without proper consultation with those industry members and/or stakeholders that will be directly affected by any changes to regulations, especially given other states & territories are courteous and consult with stakeholders when updating, and reviewing their regulations.

Animal Care Australia has requested a meeting with Minister Furner, regarding this matter.

You can read our full letter to the Minister here:



QLD: Agriculture and Fisheries and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023

December 2023: ACA has responded to the Amendment Bill.

Responding to the Bill, Animal Care Australia

provided the following feedback:

- Animal Care Australia DOES NOT SUPPORT the inclusion of 'cause fear' as part of ss194 and ss195.
- Animal Care Australia questions the need to ban breeds that are already restricted in the country – in effect already banned.
- Animal Care Australia strongly recommends the inclusion of a legal requirement by those identifying restricted or prohibited breeds to confirm the breed via DNA-matching.

Animal Care Australia STRONGLY urges the Committee to also review our submission to the consultation of Queensland's Stronger Dog Laws. A huge proportion of our concerns and the concerns of other key stakeholders, such as the Professional Dog Trainers of Australia have been ignored in order to appease a small number of protesting activists.

Animal Care Australia welcomes any questions

and the opportunity to provide evidence, as you continue to review the Amendment Bill as part of this Inquiry.



Our full response can be found here:



Supplementary submission to NSW Inquiry into aerial culling of brumbies

January 2024: Animal Care Australia has submitted a Supplementary submission in response to testimony during the Inquiry.

Responding to questions raised by the Committee, Animal Care Australia provided the following recommendations:

- The Committee review and support the recommendations within the 2022 Ngarigo Nation Indigenous Corporation's Community Ngarigo Brumby Survey Report.
- Animal Care Australia supports the recommendations with that report.

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- Animal Care Australia called on the Committee to seek out the authors from Ngarigo Nation Indigenous Community and request they provide testimony at the next hearing date of the Inquiry.
- Animal Care Australia called on the government to retain 3000 brumbies within an enclosed area of the southern section of the Park as required by the Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act 2018 BEFORE any further culling of brumbies continues.
- Animal Care Australia called on the Committee to include all elements of our Brumby Wonderland project — which we believe should be named ‘Ngarigo Brumby and Wildlife Conservation Centre’ - within their Inquiry recommendations.
- Animal Care Australia condemned the RSPCA’s position that 7.5 to 15 bullets to kill an animal meets animal welfare standards in NSW.

Our full submission can be found here:



Supplementary submission to Inquiry into pounds in NSW

January 2024: Animal Care Australia submitted a supplementary submission in response to testimony during the Inquiry.

Responding to questions raised by the Committee and testimony from other witnesses, Animal Care Australia provided the following feedback:

- It is clear that one of the biggest issues within the Pound system and within rescues is the lack of education and qualifications of staff and volunteers.
- Individuals with no qualifications are being relied upon to accurately understand animal behaviours and animal welfare needs and to correctly identify different breeds in order to correctly record the animals present at that facility.

- Animal Care Australia requests this Committee includes a recommendation that those working within Pounds, Shelters, and Rescues MUST hold a level of qualifications from accredited courses in addition to having had some experience.
- Animal Care Australia provided a list of current courses and extended an offer to work alongside one of our registered training organisation (RTO) members, to partner with the NSW Government to develop other specific accredited courses.

Our full submission can be found here:



Submission to the 2023 Inquiry into the operation of the approved charitable organisations

February 2024: ACA provided a detailed submission to the NSW Inquiry. Highlights of the points from our submission include:

* ACA notes significant funding has been provided to the RSPCA for the sole purpose of

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enhancing their enforcement capabilities, HOW-EVER the continued lack of detail provided within the (public) Annual and Financial reports indicates the RSPCA has consciously opted to disregard recommendations from previous Inquiries.

* ACA highlights the operational model followed by AWL is in complete contrast to that followed by RSPCA NSW. ACA supports the AWL model and the organisation.

* ACA questions why the RSPCA does not provide a record of the reasons the animals 'in their care' were euthanised, when the AWL states that 92% of the animals they euthanised were for medical reasons and the remainder for behavioural reasons?

* ACA STRONGLY recommends this Inquiry Committee and the NSW Government develop and recommend a standardised criteria of reporting for the purpose of all future Inquiries into the Approved Charitable Organisations.

ACA outlined a number of additional concerns with the RSPCA no longer accepting

surrenders, their involvement in the brumby cull assessment, no longer assisting local councils, and more.

Read our full submission here:





Containers for Cash

Do you have a recycling bin FULL of bottles and cans! Did you know these can help organisations like Animal Care Australia to continue supporting the rights to keep pets?

You can now support Animal Care Australia by returning your cans and bottles to Containers for Cash stations in Queensland and western Australia.

Just save the image attached into your phone and scan it before you start putting your cans and bottles into the machine. For each returned bottle or can, Animal Care Australia will get a donation!

This is a great way for you, our supporters, to make a donation and recycle! Showing your love for the work our volunteers do and for our planet at the same time!

You can find a list of places you can return your bottles and cans in QLD here:

<https://www.containersforchange.com.au/qld/where-to-return>

or in WA here:

<https://www.containersforchange.com.au/wa/where-to-return>

The code to donate to Animal Care Australia is C11377668

Animal Care Australia

Here's your organisation's member number. Keep it handy - share it with your supporters to raise funds and to track your fundraising efforts.

C11377668



If you live in other the states you can make an online donation to us at:

<https://www.animalcareaustralia.org.au/donate-to-aca/>



ACA testifies at Inquiry into Pounds in NSW



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Pictured on story cover: Karri Nadazdy (left) - ACA Assistant to the President and Kylie Gilbert (right) - ACA Dog Representative).

15th December 2023 - Opening Statement.

Good afternoon,

I am Karri Nadazdy – Assistant to the President of Animal Care Australia and I am also the Horse & Livestock Representative. Today I am joined by Kylie Gilbert – the Animal Care Australia Dog 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.

Animal Care Australia recognises that pounds, shelters, rescues, and rehoming organisations are all different but inextricably linked and with the introduction of the Rehoming Amendment Bill in 2022 the link became more intricate than ever before.

What did not accompany that growing interaction are regulations that ensure the welfare of dogs and cats that find themselves traversing through the system. Equally missing is the same level of insistence that people who run or own rescues must be held accountable for their actions and the welfare of the dogs and cats in their care.

It is astonishing that the government currently holds Councils & Pounds, Boarding Facilities, dog and cat breeders to an expected level of welfare via codes of practice built into the regulations, and yet very few rescues are held equally responsible. Sure POCTAA is there but that requires a complaint and full investigation.

It is also questionable as to why there is an ongoing push for the full traceability of horses and greyhounds and even dogs and cats that leave a breeders care – but there remains a huge gap in the ability to trace dogs or cats that are moved from a pound onto a rescue.

We need to educate society on responsible

buying and ownership of pets. After all a large proportion of dogs and cats are in the pounds because of an irresponsible owner. They didn't research its needs, its behaviour, its potential size when grown up, and some owners have no patience or willingness to recognise their animal needs training for proper social interaction.

Many pounds are inadequately funded. Even less have staff experienced in animal behaviour in order to correctly identify dogs that need re-training and cats that are exhibiting a natural response to being held captive rather than being labelled as feral.

Currently Councils are required to collect a stray animal and take it to their facility – potentially an hour or more away from where it is collected - instead of simply scanning a microchip and returning it immediately to its home – likely in the same neighbourhood. This process adds an extreme level of stress and anxiety on the animals AND is expensive for the Councils.

We are also here to support a review of the NSW Animal Welfare Code of Practice No 5 –

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Dogs and cats in animal boarding establishments (1996) and for it to be expanded to include all rescues – whether they be private, not-for-profit or commercial.

Animal care is animal welfare and just like for homeless people in society, we need to do more to protect and assist our homeless animals. They deserve better.

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

You can read our full submission to the Inquiry here:

You can watch the Inquiry here:



Have you seen these ants?

Red imported fire ants

Fire ants can sting people, pets and livestock, cause allergic reactions, damage electrical and agricultural equipment, destroy ecosystems and kill native plants and animals.

They can stop us from using our backyards, parks, playgrounds and beaches.

Fire ants are dark reddish-brown ants with a darker black-brown abdomen, 2 to 6 mm long. Aggressive, swarming out of the nest if disturbed or poked with a stick.



Look for nests:

Fire ant nests are mounds of loose, crumbly or fluffy looking soil, like honeycomb, up to 40 cm high with no obvious entrance holes.

Look in:

Sunny, open grassy areas, disturbed soil, rotten logs, gardens, backyards, parks, roadsides, paddocks, fence lines and cropped land, under piles of leaves and along pavers and walls.



▲ Fire ant shown on a matchstick



▲ This is what happens 48 hours after fire ant stings

Seen them? Call us **1800 680 244**

Protect people, parks, pets and wildlife

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fire-ants





ACA testifies at Inquiry into aerial culling of wild horses in Kosciuszko National Park



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Pictured on story cover: Karri Nadazdy (left) - ACA Horse & Livestock Representative and Rachel Sydenham (right) - ACA Small Mammal Representative)

18th December 2023: Opening Statement:

Good morning,

I am Karri Nadazdy – Assistant to the President of Animal Care Australia and I am also the Horse & Livestock Representative and I have trained feral horses for rehoming.

Today I am joined by Rachel Sydenham – the Animal Care Australia Small Mammals Representative and for the benefit of today, Rachel is currently in the process of training two rescued brumbies.

The brumbies were originally trapped in Kosciusko National Park and then sent to a rehoming organization and were then rescued. We hope this Committee takes the opportunity to find out more about Rachel's experience throughout that process.

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. When rescued wild horses become someone's horse and responsibility they become a part of our purview.

Animal Care Australia supports the protection of native flora and fauna above that of any introduced species. However, Animal Care Australia believes that good animal welfare must always be prioritised before cost and convenience.

We strongly believe there is a way forward that provides for the continued re-growth and wilding of areas of destruction while still providing for an area (or areas) where the public and heritage value of the brumbies can be maintained.

Animal Care Australia proposes the NSW Government adopts a One Welfare model - recognising that animal welfare, biodiversity and environment are connected to human wellbeing – and assist in the establishment of a

multi-faceted environmental centre, brumby sanctuary and outdoor adventure activities - all open to the public.

This centre, which would be located outside of the protected areas of the Park and would manage nature conservation through rewilding, with a wildlife hospital (and attached veterinary and animal care educational facility), brumby rehoming centre, museum and tourism outdoor adventure activities, as well as accommodation and dining. We are not suggesting it is funded or operated by the Government, but that Government leadership and initiative drive the project forward.

Animal Care Australia also supports the need for greater resourcing and research into more viable and humane alternatives to the current lack of proper management of both the national park, wild horse and other feral animal numbers. For far too long that mismanagement has been resolved by massive culling in great haste, rather than proper policy that not only reduces feral numbers but maintains that reduction.

Animal Care Australia looks forward to sitting

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down with the government to develop sensible, practical and better strategies and regulations around the rehoming of wild horses.

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

You can read our full submission to the Inquiry here:



You can watch the Inquiry here:



Meetings with Governments and Politicians

2023:

4th September: Office of Roy Butler MP — NSW Independent

12th September: Dr Joe McGirr MP — NSW Independent

12th September: John Ruddick MLC — NSW Liberal Democrat Party

13th October: Office of Emma Hurst MLC — NSW Animal Justice Party

16th November: Penny Sharpe MLC — NSW Environment Minister

21st November: Office of Ros Spence MP — VIC Agriculture Minister

2024:

7th February: John Ruddick MLC — NSW Liberal Democrat Party

7th February: Dugald Saunders MP—NSW Nationals Leader and Shadow Agriculture Minister

7th February: Wes Fang MLC— NSW Nationals



ACA testifies at QLD Inquiry into Agriculture and Fisheries and Other Legislation



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16th February 2024

Opening Statement: Agriculture and Fisheries and Other Legislation
Amendment Bill 2023

Good morning Chair, I ask that our statement be tabled?

My name is Michael Donnelly and I am the President of Animal Care Australia. Today I am accompanied by Steve Courtney, President of Professional Dog Trainers Australia, who are a key member of Animal Care Australia.

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

Animal Care Australia has provided submissions throughout the Queensland Review of the Animal Care & Protection Act, including the Strong Dog Laws: Safer communities – Discussion paper, and we welcome this opportunity today to provide further feedback to this Inquiry.

Today our primary focus is on the sections of the Amendment Bill relating to dogs.

Having reviewed other submissions, it is clear to us that the government is reacting to a small number of incidents related to recent dog attacks,

and while these circumstances are not something any of us want to see occurring within the community, we do not support some of the proposals.

Animal Care Australia questions the need to ban breeds that are already restricted in the country – in effect already banned. Our concern extends to the inability of those being entrusted to correctly identify dog breeds. In our experience appointed officers from local councils and the RSPCA do not have the appropriate training and continually misidentify certain breeds. This will and has previously resulted in dogs being euthanised without appropriate justification.

This Bill provides Councils and the RSPCA with little to no legal thresholds that must be met and relies far too heavily on individual judgement. Therefore Animal Care Australia strongly recommends the inclusion of a legal requirement by those identifying restricted or prohibited breeds to confirm the breed via DNA-matching prior to any other action being taken. Orders could be issued to restrict any potential dog of concern to the owners property until testing results can be confirmed. This provides for the safe housing of the animal in an environment that it is accustomed to, preventing any out of character behaviour from being used against the dog, and it being incorrectly labelled as a dangerous dog.

Animal Care Australia also strongly opposes the inclusion of ‘cause fear’ as part of subsections 194 and 195.

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While it is understandable that any person may feel fear when they see a large dog coming towards them it is totally irresponsible of a government to legislate against this. I am sure many of you on the Committee are fearful of one animal or another. Some may even experience high anxiety when in the mere presence of a snake, a rat or a dog. But does that give any government the right to provide for a person to be labelled a criminal if they possess such an animal and are placed in a situation where their animal evokes such a reaction?

While it is without question the responsibility of a dog owner to take steps to prevent an attack, how does one take reasonable steps to ensure the dog does not act in a way that causes fear when their mere presence achieves that? Again, who determines what is 'reasonable'? Those same under-educated, potentially biased authorised officers?

It is apparent that yet again this government has ignored the concerns and recommendation provided by key stakeholders, who have expertise in these areas in order to appease a small number of protesting activists and lobbyists, over science-based and evidence-based consultation.

I understand Mr Courtney has a statement he would also like to make, and on behalf of the Animal Care Australia Committee I again thank you for this opportunity and welcome your questions.

You can read our submission to this Inquiry here:



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Have your say!

Victorian Animal Care & Protection Act and Regulations Survey

For both, you can complete the online survey or make a submission at:

<https://engage.vic.gov.au/new-animal-welfare-act-victoria> before 25th March 2024, or you can send your feedback to us and we will include it in our submission.

Send feedback to us: aca@animalcareaustralia.org.au no later than 11.59pm 20th March so that we have time to include it.



Victorian Cat Management Strategy

Complete the online survey or make a submission at:

<https://engage.vic.gov.au/cat-management-strategy> before 26th April 2024, or you can send your feedback to us and we will include it in our submission.

Send feedback to us: aca@animalcareaustralia.org.au no later than 11.59pm 21st April so that we have time to include it.





How is a mankini more offensive than poor animal welfare?

By Karri Nadazdy, ACA Horse and Livestock Representative

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A strange thing happened in the equestrian world last month, you probably heard about it, but to me it highlighted everything that is wrong with mainstream equestrian sports.

It came down to one question: what about the horses?

In case you missed it, 3 time equestrian event Olympian, Shane Rose, participated in a fancy dress class in the Southern Highlands on 11th February, 2024.

The popular annual event was promoted by the organisers to have elite equestrians

competing throughout the day, and the highlight being the fancy dress classes, where competitors would wear “outlandish costumes”.

Shane Rose lived up to expectations, and for one of his 3 costumes appeared dressed in a Mankini, like the character Borat. His other 2 costumes were a gorilla and Duffman from the Simpsons. The stewards allowed him to compete in the mankini, and the photos and video of his round showed the judges and audience laughing and having a great time, in the spirit the event intended. I should note that Rose made extra efforts to ensure there would be no “mishaps” with the use of tape – adding to his discomfort!

Strangely, the media failed to report where he placed in his fancy dress classes...?

But someone on the day complained to Equestrian Australia as well as Sports Integrity Australia. The complaint was that he was dressed inappropriately for an event where children were present.

I’m not sure what Swimming Australia, and our many swimming Olympians, made of that..!

But this single complaint had immediate ramifications for Rose. The day following the complaint, Equestrian Australia notified Rose that would be stood down from competition while the incident was investigated – a process that usually takes months to complete. While this was not an official sanction or suspension, this was a real possibility and missing any events would likely impact Rose’s chances of competing again in the upcoming Olympics.

No one was laughing any more.

Following a huge amount of media attention, public backlash, and huge support on a Change.org petition that gained over 15,000 signatures within 3 days. Rose’s bare butt cheek were plastered across social media, TV and print media for days. Very few people would ever have known about it, if the complaint was not made!

But as a result, Equestrian Australia’s internal disciplinary process cleared Rose in record time - less than 7 days.

**But this brings me back to my question:
What about the horses?**

Animal welfare is animal care.

The week before a rider was photographed and reported to Equestrian Australia as abusing a horse during competition (using a banned training method called rollkur) and they were not stood down for any period of time. I'm not sure if the complaint has even been addressed by Equestrian Australia as yet.

This is not unusual. Using banned methods as well as excessive whipping, spurring or rough handling of horses, when reported to Equestrian Australia, does not earn a rider anywhere near the same severe official response that Rose incurred for exposing a bit of skin, while he and his horse performed beautifully.

How is the way a rider is dressed treated as a serious incident, when abusing a horse in front of a crowd is not? Do we really care more about how people dress than how they treat their horses?

This not only feeds the negative perception of horse riding being an elitist and upper class sport, but it clearly shows that Equestrian Australia does not take horse welfare seriously.

There's an increasing amount of lip service that sporting organisations are improving welfare, setting higher standards, implementing procedures to deal with mistreatment of animals in sport and responding to Social Licence to Operate.

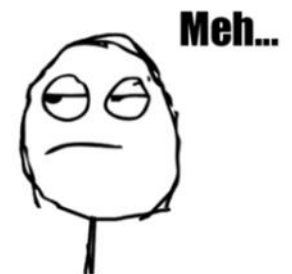
The incidents of poor horse welfare that occur routinely at horse shows and events would never be tolerated at any competition that dogs participate in, nor at a bird, or rabbit show. Why do we treat horses differently?

And yet, when it comes to the crunch, we can see where their priorities really lie. And its not with horse welfare. This problem is not unique to Equestrian Australia, nor is it isolated to sports.

This meme shows an extreme example, but makes a valid point – that, for some reason, we expect horses to be treated differently to other companion animals. Perhaps because they are larger than us, or because they don't whimper like cats or dogs do, we tolerate a sub standard treatment of horses, that we would be outraged by if it were done to any other companion animal.

Social Licence to Operate is coming for the horse industry, and most of the industry has its head in the sand. The horse industry needs to step up to raise welfare standards to be in line with the minimum standards that other companion animals enjoy in our society – not because we are afraid of the public backlash, or the attacks by animal right extremists, or the potential impact it might have on our sporting careers - but because we actually care about the horses, and their experience.

Or do we not?



Meh...

**"WRONG DOES NOT CEASE TO BE WRONG
BECAUSE THE MAJORITY SHARE IT"**

FAIRHORSEMANSHIP
Learn from the horse



ACA Vacant Positions

Social Media Coordinator

Experience

- ⇒ Current social media marketing experience
- ⇒ Communication skills (oral & written)
- ⇒ Time management
- ⇒ Able to work as part of a Team
- ⇒ Proficient in MS Office and a working knowledge in Adobe Photoshop and other editing tools
- ⇒ Solid editing and presentation skills
- ⇒ Creative and innovative

Specific Tasks

- ⇒ Work with the Animal Care Australia Executive to ensure policy issues are coordinated and effectively communicated.
- ⇒ Develop and implement innovative campaigns to actively promote the organisation, its objectives with the aim of increasing membership across

all social media platforms, with a particular focus on Tik Tok, Instagram and X (formerly Twitter).

- ⇒ Liaise with the Animal Care Australia Animal Species Representatives to ensure species relevant information is presented with accurate, science-based facts.
- ⇒ Assist with the development and scheduling of social media posts and other content.
- ⇒ Draft press releases, and develop relationships with media representatives. and monitor relevant news and content.
- ⇒ Maintain awareness with the latest social media platform developments.
- ⇒ Provide up to date reports and articles for Animal Care Australia's social communications – social media, website and newsletter. This includes:
- ⇒ Track key metrics such as audience engagement, impressions, reach, etc
- ⇒ Abide by and support Animal Care Australia's Code of Ethics, Mission Statement, Objects, Constitution, Communication Policy and Anti-discrimination & Harassment Policy.
- ⇒ Other duties as necessary



If you would like to join the Animal Care Australia Team or you know someone who would be ideal for the position please apply via SEEK Volunteer or email us at:
aca@animalcareaustralia.org.au

State & Territory Advisory Team (STAT)

Representatives

Experience:

ACA is seeking a person who has reasonable advocacy experience and an understanding of the differences between animal rights and animal welfare.

Essential:

- ⇒ Communication skills (oral & written)
- ⇒ Time management
- ⇒ Able to work as part of a Team
- ⇒ Specific Tasks
- ⇒ Monitor the increasing activities of government, local councils and animal activism within a designated State/territory or local area.
- ⇒ Undertake work including drafting of advice, research and analyse current legislation and policies and prepare associated reports for consideration by the Animal Care Australia Committee.
- ⇒ Work with the Animal Care Australia Committee/Animal Species Representatives to ensure policy issues are coordinated and effectively communicated.

- ⇒ Provide support to the Animal Care Australia Executive to allow effective coordination of the organisations' response to individual situations.
- ⇒ Abide by and support Animal Care Australia's Code of Ethics, Mission Statement, Objects, Constitution, Communication Policy and Anti-discrimination & Harassment Policy.
- ⇒ Other duties as necessary.

Additional (optional) Tasks

- ⇒ Provide up to date reports and articles for Animal Care Australia's social communications – social media, website and newsletter.
- ⇒ Assist in the promotion of Animal Care Australia and its objectives with the aim of increasing membership.

STAT will be watching out for issues of concern in each state or territory, advising and supporting the ACA Committee in responding.

We are always looking for more members of the Team, especially members who live in WA, SA, TAS, NT & the ACT.

ACA hopes to have multiple representatives in each state or territory.



If you would like to join the Animal Care Australia Team or you know someone who would be ideal for the position please apply via SEEK Volunteer or email us at:
aca@animalcareaustralia.org.au

Animal Species Representative – Insects & Arachnids

Experience:

Animal Care Australia is seeking a person who has reasonable advocacy experience and an understanding of the differences between animal rights and animal welfare.

Animal Care Australia is seeking a person who has reasonable experience in the keeping & breeding of insects, arachnid and other (land-based) invertebrate species.

Essential skills:

- ⇒ Communication skills (oral & written)
- ⇒ Time management
- ⇒ Able to work as part of a Team

Desirable – but not essential:

The potential inclusion of some insects in legislation may result in being reviewed and thereby needing to be examined and in some cases to be drafted. Knowledge of keeping these species will be of great benefit.

Having a membership of an Association for the keeping & breeding of insect, arachnids or other invertebrate species or contacts to groups.

Specific Tasks

- ⇒ Represent all species specific member organisations to communicate current animal-related community and welfare issues.
- ⇒ Undertake work including drafting of policy advice, project work of a specialist nature, research and analyse current legislation and policies and prepare associated reports for consideration by the Animal Care Australia Committee.
- ⇒ Assist Animal Care Australia to work with government, non-government & community stakeholders to ensure policy issues are coordinated and effectively communicated as per community and government expectations.
- ⇒ Provide support to the Animal Care Australia Executive and ensure effective coordination of the business of the association, including up to date reports for Animal Care Australia's social communications – social media, website and newsletter.
- ⇒ Abide by and support Animal Care Australia's Code of Ethics, Mission Statement, Objects, Constitution, Communication Policy and Anti-discrimination & Harassment Policy.
- ⇒ Other duties as necessary.



If you would like to join the Animal Care Australia Team or you know someone who would be ideal for the position please apply via SEEK Volunteer or email us at:
aca@animalcareaustralia.org.au

Animal Species Representative – Fish/aquatic species

Experience:

Animal Care Australia is seeking a person who has reasonable advocacy experience and an understanding of the differences between animal rights and animal welfare.

Animal Care Australia is seeking a person who has reasonable experience in the keeping & breeding of fish – tropical, freshwater and marine.

Essential skills:

- ⇒ Communication skills (oral & written)
- ⇒ Time management
- ⇒ Able to work as part of a Team

Desirable – but not essential:

The inclusion of cephalopods in animal welfare legislation will result in Codes of Practice needing to be examined and in some cases to be drafted. Knowledge of keeping these species will be of great benefit.

Having a membership of an Association for the keeping & breeding of fish species or contacts to groups.

Specific Tasks

- ⇒ Represent all species specific member organisations to communicate current animal-related community and welfare issues.
- ⇒ Undertake work including drafting of policy advice, project work of a specialist nature, research and analyse current legislation and policies and prepare associated reports for consideration by the Animal Care Australia Committee.
- ⇒ Assist Animal Care Australia to work with government, non-government & community stakeholders to ensure policy issues are coordinated and effectively communicated as per community and government expectations.
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- ⇒ Abide by and support Animal Care Australia's Code of Ethics, Mission Statement, Objects, Constitution, Communication Policy and Anti-discrimination & Harassment Policy.
- ⇒ Other duties as necessary.



If you would like to join the Animal Care Australia Team or you know someone who would be ideal for the position please apply via SEEK Volunteer or email us at: aca@animalcareaustralia.org.au

**We are excited to
introduce our newest
Exotic Pet Brand
Ambassador**

Petcover
Exotic Brand Ambassador

**Ben
Dessen**



Ben Dessen — Exotic Pet Brand Ambassador
for Petcover Australia



Animal welfare is animal care.

Petcover Australia — current sponsors of Animal Care Australia — have recently announced their first Exotic Pet Brand Ambassador – Ben Dessen. Ben is a supporter of Animal Care Australia and the work we do.

The below article has been reproduced with permission from Ben:

“The Petcover Partnership team is thrilled to officially announce our first Exotic Pet Brand Ambassador - Ben Dessen - Pets, Wildlife & Conservation. This partnership has been in the making for almost a year, we were thrilled to sign Ben up, as we have been following his career for some time now and feel his values, his passion, and his love of exotic pets, all align so beautifully with our Petcover values and mission.

Ben is a Wildlife Advocate, Conservationist, Pet Expert, Author, TV Presenter, Motivational Speaker & Digital Content Creator.

One of Ben’s pets, a green tree python – named Verdi, is insured with Petcover, under our Exotic Pet Insurance cover. Even snakes can get into mischief and potentially have an accident, injury or come down with an illness needing essential medical attention. Our exotic pet insurance, more specifically reptile, offers cover for veterinary fees, including alternative and complementary treatment.

We are looking forward to working with Ben and building upon the relationship, working on new adventures together, and the exciting possibilities.”

To view more information and our new partnership with Ben, please read the full article here: <https://www.petcovergroup.com/au/news/announcing-our-first-exotic-pet-brand-ambassador-ben-dessen/>

Or checkout the latest ACA Members Petcover offer: [petcovergroup.com/au/](https://www.petcovergroup.com/au/)



Protect your equine in case of accidents, injury, or illness.

Cover benefits:

- ✓ Eligible vet fees up to \$10,000
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* Terms and conditions apply. Cover is subject to terms and conditions, and eligibility criteria, excludes pre-existing conditions, excesses, and waiting periods apply. Please consider the PDS and TMD available on our website, before deciding to purchase the product. Issued by Sovereign Insurance Australia (ABN 85 138 079 286 AFS License Number 342516).



Dog breeders are the latest victims of scammers

Article from online news sources



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Article cover pic: Herald Sun

An Australian dog breeder has been targeted in an international scam operation that has left victims devastated and thousands of dollars out of pocket.

The breeder has been running a popular cavoodle-breeding operation since 2019, and has tens of thousands of social media followers, but was shocked to open her front door one day to see an excited family wondering where their newborn puppy was.

They had sent \$500 to what they thought was her bank account but she had to break the news that she didn't have any puppies available. After chatting with the devastated family she quickly realised scammers had made fake replicas of her social media page and managed to lure in unsuspecting people looking for a puppy.

There wasn't just one replica profile either. One of the biggest replica accounts has attracted close to 10,000 followers, while other much smaller operations have a few hundred. Realising the scam was just the first part of what

is now a growing trend. The Victoria Police were informed of the scam but they told her to contact the Australian Federal Police (AFP), as this was a money muling operation.



What is money muling?

Victims are told to transfer money to a bank account – in this case an Australian bank account - which is then forwarded onto the scammer's overseas account.

The Australian account is owned and operated by a 'mule', who receives a commission in exchange for letting the scammers use their account. These mules can often be students looking to make some quick cash without having

to do too much work, according to the AFP.

Money mule advertisements or offers can take a variety of forms and the criminals may even fake a website to add authenticity [to] the scam. Some of the adverts can direct you to websites, which can infect your computer with viruses.

The scammers don't immediately ask for your bank account details but that could be one of their targets, as well as seeking a money transfer.

How to avoid becoming a victim

The biggest tip to ensure you don't become a victim of money muling is to always double-check who you are sending money to.

Ensure you can call the person and get a few details to verify they are who they say they are. Research them to see if they come up in any articles mentioning scams, and be suspicious if someone starts asking for a lot of information about your private life, especially your bank details. Also be very wary of doing a money transfer because these funds are usually very difficult to be retrieved by your bank.



Meet the members — Historical Equestrian Games Australia



Historical Equestrian Games Australia, (HEGA), is a small organisation comprised of a group of skilled equestrians with a passion for horses, history, training, and a flare for the theatrics.

Andrew Beattie (*pictured right*) the founder of HEGA (2013), and skill at arms instructor, has participated in historical equestrian activities for many years as well as being a stunt performer and rider in film, and is the coordinator of the Sydney Winterfest Medieval Fair.

The HEGA team are all about their horses and ensuring that everything they do in their training is about the horses welfare first! 'There are real weapons involved when performing in a mounted skill at arms event, so it is imperative that our horses are at ease and feel safe in the situations that we put them in. It takes a lot of training, conditioning and forming a trusting relationship and partnership with our horse to be able to perform safely in a public setting,' explains Rachel Sydenham, HEGA team member. "Our team are dedicated to their horses and their welfare.'

The HEGA have a training demonstration area at the Winterfest event, to show the public parts of their process in how they train and condition the horses. 'The audience love the fast pace of what we do in the performances but it is important that they understand that for our horses it is a safe, extended process. It takes time, training and trust building. We show them the 'behind the scenes' "Boring stuff" we do to be able to put on a great show!' Rachel explains.

With a background in animal welfare from an earlier role as a Senior Wildlife Officer with the NPWS, and alongside the other members, Andrew



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brings a wealth of information and practical experience of conservation and animal care from crocodiles and reptiles, marsupials of all shapes and sizes as well as performance animals involved in Historical activities. In film, Andrew works alongside groups like the APA, AHA, and the AWL to ensure the health and wellbeing of animals on set.

Andrew stated, 'It's a fundamental imperative that we look after and do our best for any of the horses and animals in our purview, to give them the best possible methods and mechanisms to have positive and engaging activities and experience'



Want to feature in an upcoming edition of ACE?

Is your organisation a member of Animal Care Australia and you would like us to promote what you do?

Simply send us a brief about your organisation, some history and other information to entice people to join or to share with all of us the achievements that your organisation is making — particularly how you educate members (or the public) about ensuring animal welfare is a priority when keeping animals.

Send the information, a logo and pictures to: aca@animalcareaustralia.org.au

Animal welfare is animal care.



President's Roundup

By Michael Donnelly

2024 will be another big year for animal welfare, and to continue advocating so that we can still keep our pets and companion animals.

Again, the 'to be continued' saga of reviews of animal welfare legislation slogs on in NSW, VIC, SA, QLD and TAS.

NSW should see the announcement of a new Biodiversity Conservation Act which includes sections relating to the keeping of native wildlife as pets.

Ironically the review and potential implementation of the recommendations from the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 is still ongoing with NO measures implemented to date. Yes — its now 2024 and the exact same statement I made in the March 2023 edition remains the same—unchanged. It has now taken the department at least seven years to implement NOTHING, at a cost of millions of dollars to the NSW taxpayer. Still on native wildlife licensing, the Victorian legislation should resume its review.

NSW will see the continuation of attempts to introduce the 'claytons' Puppy Farm Bill—you know—the Bill to stop puppy farms that doesn't define a puppy farm or have real measures to deal with

puppy farms along with a Bill to see the inclusion of sentence into the current Prevention of Cruelty To Animals Act — despite the continued release of the draft Animal Welfare Act which may or may not include sentence.

South Australia will be making some changes to it's Dog & Cat Management Act to tighten up breeding in that State.

Victoria will be commencing a review of it's Domestic Animals Act and a revised Cat Management Strategy.

All of this comes at a price — not only to you as pet owners — but to the ACA volunteers (Committee) who dedicate much of their time in responding to the ongoing calls for submissions and the never-ending attempts by Local Councils to please their newly infiltrated AR extremist members to totally inhibit the keeping of pets while appearing to be pet supportive, and we hope we'll continue to have your support as we do.

If you haven't yet, please tell your friends to [JOIN](#) us or you can [DONATE](#) to assist us in our ongoing costs.

Hope you've enjoyed this edition.



DONATE at: (<https://www.animalcareaustralia.org.au/donate-to-aca/>)

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Vet Help & Resources

Are you currently having difficulty with the cost of living and genuinely cannot afford the vet bills or even get your pet to a vet?

Below is a list of organisations or options that can support people on limited incomes.

Desexing

If you have a unwanted litter a lot of rescues will rehome the kittens or puppies and desex the mum for free.

In South Australia, [Paws & Claws](#) offer free desexing. [CATS](#) – is low-cost desexing for cats only.

In New South Wales & Queensland the Animal Welfare League also run free desexing clinics:

[Animal Welfare League – NSW](#)

[Animal Welfare league – QLD](#)

National Assistance:

[National Desexing Network](#)

[National payment plan option](#) – VetPay

State Assistance:

South Australia

[Safe Pets Safe Families](#) – Vet Crisis program have partner Vet clinics and put people on a Centrepay payment to pay off their vet bill.

[Pay it Paw-Ward](#) program

Victoria

[Pet Medical Crisis](#)

[Pets of the homeless](#)

Tasmania

[Hobart Community Veterinary Hospital](#) – financial assistance

New South Wales

[Great Western Animal Hospital](#) – Pendle Hill – offers treatment assistance via VetPay or Zippay.

Australian Capital Territory

[ACT Pet Crisis Support](#)

Queensland

[Palliative care and end of life for pets](#) – Sunset Vets

Northern Territory

[PAWS Darwin Community Vet](#)

Western Australia

[Perth Vet Bill Assistance Inc.](#)



Cont'd next page...

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Outreach Services & Other

There are also some outreach services for people who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of, some of these services are free and offer other supports.

National – assistance for homeless persons with pets

[Pets In The Park](#)

[Pets of the homeless](#)

South Australia

[Paws & Pals](#) – homeless support

We run free pop-up vet clinics in Adelaide (City), Smithfield, Riverland, DV shelters across SA, and some other locations. We also have other supports we provide. Talk to your support agency for a referral to our clinics.

New South Wales

[Regional Community Vet Assistance](#) – not all services are free.

Vets & Pet Services that accept [Afterpay](#)



Protect your equine in case of accidents, injury, or illness.

Cover benefits:

- ✓ Eligible vet fees up to \$10,000
- ✓ Range of plans to suit all budgets
- ✓ Easy claims process
- ✓ No waiting period for injury

For peace of mind cover for your horse or pony, visit petcovergroup.com/au or call **1300 731 324**.

* Terms and conditions apply. Cover is subject to terms and conditions, and eligibility criteria, excludes pre-existing conditions, excesses, and waiting periods apply. Please consider the PDS and TMD available on our website, before deciding to purchase the product. Issued by Sovereign Insurance Australia (ABN 85 138 079 286 AFS License Number 342516).

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Executive



Michael Donnelly
President



Sam Davis
Vice-President



Michelle Grayson
Secretary



Sue Kowalczyk
Public Officer/Treasurer

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EXHIBITED:
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FISH & AQUATIC:
Vacant position



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SMALL MAMMALS:
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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



ACA GENERAL MEETINGS 2024

7.30 to 8.30pm

MARCH 11th

MAY 13th

JULY 8th

SEPTEMBER 9th

NOVEMBER 11th — AGM

Meetings in 2024 will continue via Zoom to ensure members nation-wide can attend.

Any member wishing to join a meeting will need to RSVP by no later than 5pm on that Monday via email: aca@animalcareaustralia.org.au with your details. A link for the meeting will be emailed to you.

Animal Care Australia Inc.

**PO Box 314 Macarthur Square Post Office
NSW 2560**

Website:

animalcareaustralia.org.au

Email: aca@animalcareaustralia.org.au

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