



**Who is Animal Care Australia**

**“Animal welfare is animal care”**

Animal Care Australia Incorporated – INC1801209

ABN: 36 438 686 995 Tax File No: 508 268 553 CFN:25599

## **Document development:**

Version 1 of this Code was approved by the ACA Committee in May 2024

Version 2 of this Code was updated: 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025

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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.

As a society we have a responsibility to provide 'whole of life' welfare and protection for all animals living within our care.

## Who is Animal Care 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.



**Today, 69% of Australian households own pets. It is estimated almost 29 million pets are kept in the care of our community. 90% of Australian households have had a pet at some time.**

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 commercial pet industry. The association has a strong committee composed of representatives for each major animal group – dogs, cats, birds, horses, reptiles, hobby farm animals, small mammals, native mammals and exhibited animals.

Our expertise is specialised and professional and all of us who keep animals must continue to strive for greater welfare outcomes. We must never become complacent. We must never provide a reason for the animal rights movement to legitimately condemn us.



## Advocacy

Animal Care Australia will continue to advocate for the continued ability of all animal owners 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.

Animal Care Australia achieves this by advocating on behalf of our members, their families and friends.

The Animal Care Australia constitution provides for two categories of financial membership:

**Members** – who are animal keeping associations. These associations have voting rights and appoint representatives to participate in an Animal Advisory Group. Species Representatives are nominated and elected by those representatives.

**Supporters** – who can be individuals or other animal-specific organisations and these have no voting rights.

With a diverse range of species and members representing animal care, Animal Care Australia is proud of our ability to engage and work together to ensure that no one group has more influence or power over committee decisions than any other.





## Membership Representation



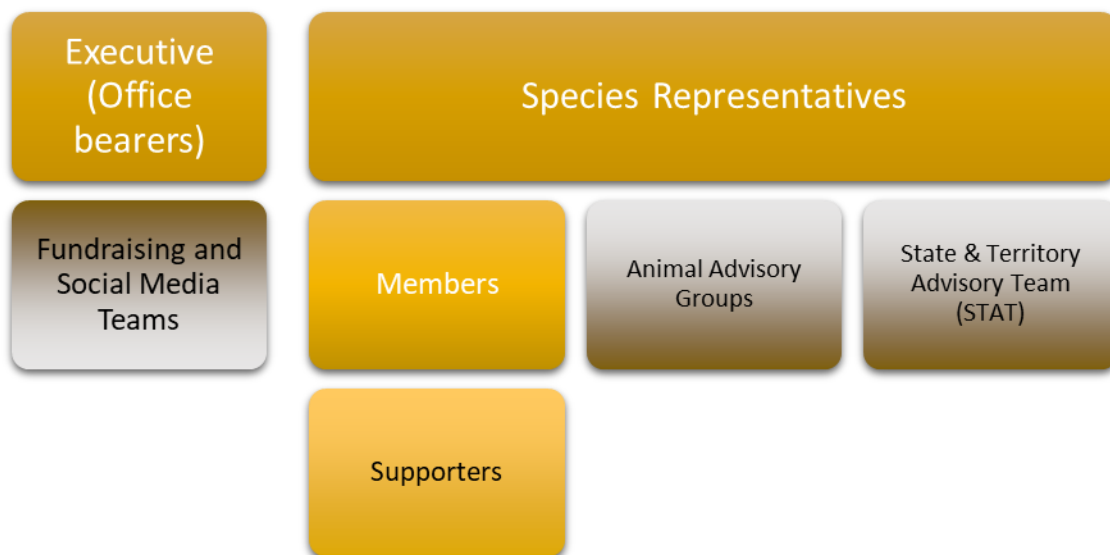
## Structure

Animal Care Australia is governed by a committee comprised of the Executive and Representatives from all pet & companion animal species.

**Executive (Office bearers)** are nominated and voted by the Species Representatives.

**Animal Advisory Groups** are comprised of the Species Representative, at least one other Animal Care Australia Committee member, and our members' representatives. Upon approval of membership members are invited to participate in 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 Animal Care Australia Committee member, and volunteer representatives from within each State or Territory.



## Education

Animal Care Australia implores government to provide more adequate funding for educating the public on their responsibilities as pet owners including supporting & promoting animal keeper associations & clubs.

Educating the public is a key step into changing behaviour. Education needs to be themed with the aim of making pet owners more aware of their responsibilities. In general, most people are unaware that there are Codes of Practice that must be followed. They know that animal cruelty laws exist, but do they know what is written in those laws?

Education needs to start in our schools (primary and high school). Our children are usually the one's seeking to own a pet and they are also the keepers and breeders for the decades that follow. Introducing basic pet care and the responsibility of pet ownership skills to children will enhance the understanding of pet ownership within the community and more specifically will help overcome many barriers within multi-cultural communities, where often pet welfare and ownership has been inherited from different societies with a vastly different understanding of how animals should be kept here in Australia.

Teaching children throughout their primary and higher education levels about responsible buying and the need to ensure you buy from a reputable breeder is crucial in this era of technology where not-so-credible sellers are attracting the new generations that live in the technological space. Today, pictures of puppies are posted, money is transferred and quite often animals are exchanged without having seen where they were born, the parents or the standards they'd been living in. In an increasing trend no animals are exchanged at all — and the buyer is scammed. Education is the key!





## Responsibility

*“It is an honour to have animals and with that honour comes a duty of care and responsibility. When you breach that - you dis-honour the animals in your care.”*

Owning a pet is a lifelong responsibility. Ensuring pet owners, pet breeders and pet buyers are aware of and understand their responsibilities is a vital aspect of Animal Care Australia’s commitment to improved animal welfare outcomes and to the animals.

Animal Care Australia will continue to encourage government at all levels to promote responsible pet ownership, and to ensure every pet owner is aware of their legal responsibilities.

Many people who own pets do not know there are animal welfare laws, local animal management plans, or even what the real consequences are of not complying until it’s too late. Governments across Australia have a responsibility to promote the legislation and equally to properly consult when reviewing or modifying the legislation and regulations.

Encouraging pet buyers to only obtain their animals from responsible breeders is crucial.

Supporting—rather than condemning—responsible breeders will provide stronger guarantees of healthier, socially interactive, and well balanced new pets for their new forever homes.

It’s our responsibility to care for all our animals because that is what they deserve!



## Regulation

Animal Care Australia's primary objective is to encourage education over regulation.

When an animal owner fails in their responsibility to meet the care requirements for an animal there must be consequences.

Animal Care Australia supports responsible and realistic regulations that ensure the provision of the animals' needs can be met and are being met.

The use of codes of practice and other guidelines is the most effective tool we can provide to pet owners.

Excessive fines and penalties does very little to alter behaviours and again we return to the need to educate animal owners in the real needs of their animals.

Legislation including regulations and local government animal management plans must be based on not just maintaining animal welfare but supporting and encouraging improvement.

Enforcement must start with assistance and education. There are many times where an owner simply slips up, or is even unaware that they have not complied with a written rule. Assisting and educating these owners will encourage them to continue to improve.

When an animal owner blatantly ignores the education and defies the rules and enforcement is needed, then the presumption of innocence must be followed. The UN Human Rights Committee has stated that the presumption of innocence imposes on the prosecution the burden of proving the charge and guarantees that no guilt can be presumed until the charge has been proved beyond reasonable doubt. In Australia today, that presumption is not translated into reality because of the current structures of our animal welfare legislation and government's outsourcing of those responsible for its enforcement. This **MUST** change.

## **Animal Care Experts — animal welfare specialists!**

**‘Those that keep, care for and breed animals!’**

➤ ***Expert: a person who is very knowledgeable about or skillful in a particular area.***

What Is an Animal Welfare Specialist?

➤ ***Animal welfare specialists take care of animals, including feeding and exercising them***

Animal Care Australia’s Committee exemplifies animal care and welfare expertise! The Animal Care Australia Committee can also harness the decades of knowledge and understanding of best care practice advice that is available through our membership and supporter bases.

**Animal welfare is animal care!**



*"Pets are humanising. They remind us we have an obligation and responsibility to preserve and nurture and care for all life."*

*•James Cromwell*



Animal Care Australia