



Animal Care Australia

The Animal Care Expert

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

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By Michael Donnelly

Where to begin? When will it end?

There are so many up in the air facets of animal welfare legislation and policies it is difficult to keep an eye on them all!

Victoria currently has their Animal Welfare Act Review that has seen the the release of a report into the submissions received for the last round of consultations.

I have to say from an ACA perspective the general theme throughout is painting a picture that is heavily animal rights (extremist) tainted. Then again ... this is Victoria so did we expect anything different?

Victoria also has a Taskforce looking into animal welfare in shelters—being led by none other than the Animal Justice Party's Andy Meddick! How on earth is an animal rights politician able to be appointed to such a role? (Remember when Daniel Andrews needed to extend Victoria's Covid State of Emergency and the Opposition was trying to stop it? Just saying!)

Victoria is reviewing it's Native Wildlife Act and thus far it seems the animal rights influence is minimal on the first round of consultation panels. I'm sure that will change.

In NSW everything appears to have quietened down on the dog audits. RSPCA have backed-off of their relentless pursuit of all dog breeders while the Ministers and his Office has so far managed to delay the introduction of an adjusted interim Breeding Code of Practice and appears to be willing to delay their Penalties Amendments Bill in order to delay the additional amendments the Upper House is wanting.

Queensland has now commenced their

Animal Welfare Act Review with a large amount of anti-RSPCA QLD hype touted about. Time will tell how much influence that hype has had — and ACA will continue our stance that ALL RSPCA organisations must be held more accountable and there must be an independent appeals process implemented in each State for the public and for greater transparency.

Western Australia sadly saw a landslide return of the McGowan Government. Sadly because that also means the return of the 'claytons' Stop Puppy Farming Bill. You know the Bill to stop puppy farms that will actually create more and will decimate the capacity of responsible dog and cat owners to continue owning and breeding.

But hey — this Bill is copied directly from the Victorian Bill — you know the State where during the pandemic some puppies were setting you back \$10k due to a lack of supply, and the Victorian Vets and shelters were then inundated with sick & poorly bred dogs and cats.

Last but not least — on a Federal level Andrew Wilkie MP has proposed a new National Welfare body with a National Welfare Advisory Council be established.

While ACA would love to see some national consistency, in thi case the devil will be in the fine print!

So much to do So little time!

Stay tuned the fun is just beginning!

Hope you enjoy this issue.





ACA Submissions, Correspondence & Meeting Reports.



ACA submits to NSW South East Wollemi Horse Riding Management Plan

13th March 2021 — Safe, off road horse riding opportunities are declining making it vital that we protect areas that are still accessible. With this in mind, ACA made the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1:

No existing trails are closed or restricted to exclude horse riders. Regular use of trails is the cheapest, easiest and best way to keep trails open and clear for when they may be required for emergency vehicles and fire prevention or protection. This includes creating suitable creek crossings (bridges or weirs) where required.

Recommendation 2:

Existing easements via freehold land are maintained, and kept open, to ensure trails are kept clear and are fire safe, and where this is genuinely not possible, an alternative access route is created nearby from a public road or crown land.

Recommendation 3:

All Wollemi National Park trails that are suitable for vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians be made accessible to horse riders 7 days a week without a booking (unless there's a good reason to temporarily close access – such as for booked events, trail maintenance, or following bad weather).

Recommendation 4:

Casual horse riders (locals and visitors) and their needs are prioritised instead of the occasional event and competition for a

selective membership. This means ensuring public access to all trails in the park 7 days a week without a booking.

To read our submission click on the pdf icon:



Animal Trade Amendment failed.

18th March: ACA is disappointed the current Amendment to re-define an animal trade has not been supported during this process.

ACA would like to thank the Shooters Fishers and Farmers Party for their support and action by moving the amendment.

While ACA (and our members) are disappointed we would like to thank the other Party speakers for acknowledging the intent of the amendment — that is to stop the right of entry ambiguity currently open to use by the RSPCA as well as the impact and distress being experienced by hobby breeders.

ACA will continue to pursue the two primary objectives of this amendment:

- ⇒ Change the definition of an animal trade to clearly define who is an animal business and who is not — thereby closing the gate on random or uninvited audits, occurring without a warrant or invitation.
- ⇒ Change the current ambiguity and poorly structured Standards within the Breeding Code of Practice.

On the second point ACA is pleased that a motion was passed today unopposed that the Minister must before 31st May 2021 “cause a revised version of the Breeding Code of Practice for Dogs and Cats” to be published.

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ACA meets with NSW Minister for Agriculture.

16th March: ACA met with Adam Marshall and senior representatives from his Office.

ACA President & Vice President were encouraged by the positive discussions which included proposals aimed at resolving issues occurring during the current dog breeder compliance audits.

ACA believes progress is being made — albeit slowly.

Re-defining an animal trade will continue to be considered as part of the Animal Welfare Action Plan and ACA looks forward to further consultation with the Minister, his Office and the DPI.



ACA submits complaint to the Victorian Ombudsman's Office

23rd March 2021: ACA has submitted a complaint against the Victorian Planning Minister & his Office.

The complaint is in relation to the conduct of both the Minister and the Department of Planning and their lack of transparency in consultation over changes to planning definitions which are now greatly impacting the breeders and owners of dogs in the state of Victoria.

It appears definitions were changed as part of a review of livestock — in particular relating to the keeping & breeding of pigs — with no consultation of companion animal stakeholders.

ACA attempted several times to contact the Vic Planning Minister and his Office with the last attempt referred incorrectly to the Victorian Animal Welfare Office,

resulting in being advised it was clearly a planning department matter.

The change of definition has resulted in many Victorian Local Councils taking advantage of the limitations on numbers of animals permitted to be kept to not only reduce dog and cat ownership, but animal ownership

Select Councils have advised pet owners to euthanase excess pets — despite laws permitting the keeping of excess animals via a permit system.

To view our correspondence click on the pdf icon:



ACA responds to the QLD Land Transport of Horses – Consultation Paper 2021

29th March 2021: ACA supports the proposed recommendations and recognises the changes as a clear improvement to horse welfare during transport and in particular long distance travel.

In relation to the recommendations for mixing of horses ACA added further points:

- horses unfamiliar with each other (horses that are not in their normal family groups or originally living together on the same property) are more likely to fight, bully weaker horses and injure each other because there is no avenue for escape from more aggressive horses. Therefore,
- unfamiliar horses should NOT be loaded in open compartments together. Equestrian transporters have divided transport with individual bays to prevent horses from injuring each other during transport, and this should be the minimum standard for unfamiliar horses.

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ACA supports the proposal to clarify that dogs must not be used to work horses during transport.

To read our submission click on the pdf icon:



ACA responds to Statutory Review of the NSW Strata Schemes Laws – Animal keeping.

7th April 2021: ACA focused on the following Principles:

Principle 1 -

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

Principle 2 -

Pets greatly enhance the mental health of the community.

Principle 3 -

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

- *By-laws should encourage the keeping of pets on mental health grounds.*
- *A By-law cannot prevent the keeping of animals. A by-law has no force or effect to the extent to which it purports to prohibit or restrict the keeping on a lot of an animal by an owner or occupier of the lot or by a person on a lot or common property.*

To read our submission click on the pdf icon:



ACA responds to national Assistance Animals Survey

26th April 2020: The Australian Government—Department of Social Services is conducting a survey to assist in the development of a nationally consistent approach to assistance animals.

ACA supports and recommends the introduction of a national policy. ACA focused on the following principles:

- ♦ Supports accreditation requirements for assistance animal trainers and/or training
- ♦ Supports minimum assistance animal training standards.
- ♦ Supports a single national Public Access Test for assistance animals
- ♦ Does NOT support the requirement of evidence of disability and need for an assistance animal
- ♦ Supports a Nationally recognised identity card for a handler and an assistance animal
- ♦ Supports a Nationally recognised logo or branding (for example, dog harnesses)

To read our submission click on the pdf icon:



ACA submits to the QLD Review of Animal Care & Protection Act (ACPA) 2001.

21st May 2001: As a key stakeholder, ACA has submitted to the Review highlighting concerns with the ambiguity with aspects of the discussion paper

While supporting many of the proposals

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ACA has opted to provide a submission rather than complete the survey to ensure a clear response that cannot be misinterpreted or misrepresent our position. ACA looks forward to further consultation with the Qld Department of Agriculture & Fisheries. ACA made the following proposals:

- ACA recommends the inclusion of an additional purpose: "To improve animal welfare outcomes"
- ACA encourages a review of resource policy to better target resources to improve animal welfare outcomes strategically and in particular through education initiatives.
- ACA does not support mandatory reporting by veterinary practitioners.
- ACA recommends an enhanced focus on educating rather than compliance and enforcement.
- ACA recommends the ACPA directly prohibits advocacy on any issue by RSPCA Qld.
- ACA recommends the inspectorate functions of RSPCA Queensland must be subject to the same accountability as any state government department.
- ACA does not support the implementation of PINs without the introduction of codes of practice.
- ACA recommends the state accept responsibility for costs to maintain seized animals during proceedings regardless of the outcome.

To read our submission click on the pdf icon:



Animal Care Australia welcomes your input and to assist us we have established Animal Advisory Groups for each species that is

represented on Committee. To join send an email to: aca@animalcare.org.au with:

- The name of the representative of your organisation who will participate, or if you are an individual – your name
- The URL of that person's Facebook profile
- The Species Group/s that you wish to join (bird, cat, dog, small mammal, reptile, farm, horse, exhibited animal, native mammal, etc)

Animal welfare is being out stacked by animal rights ideologies to the animal's detriment.





Is your pet overweight or obese?

Is your pet overweight or obese? If so, you are not alone! It is not just the human population that are suffering from unprecedented rates of obesity. Pets are too, with over 40% of dogs and over 30% of cats in Australia estimated to be clinically overweight or obese. Eek!

Unfortunately, this is not just a cosmetic problem. Extra weight presents a significant danger to a pet's health. Overweight pets face increased risks of serious diseases like diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, painful osteoarthritis and urinary disease.

What's more, people who over-feed their pets may actually be shortening their pet's lifespan. Studies have

shown that dogs who maintain an ideal weight can live two years longer than dogs whose diets and weights are not controlled.

Many of us don't realise that our pets have a weight problem, and even when we do, we may not be aware of how much it can affect their health and well-being.

What are the signs of an overweight pet?

- 🐾 Difficult or unable to feel their ribs
- 🐾 Difficult or unable to see a defined waist
- 🐾 Abdomen is sagging

When people want to lose weight, they usually do so by eating healthy food in the right amounts and exercising regularly. The same is true for our pets. They need specific foods to help them lose weight without missing out on the essential nutrients they require for good health. If you think your pet is overweight, you should consult your Veterinarian regarding which food is best for your pet.





No dog or cat should suffer cruelty or neglect.

That is why the McGowan Labor Governments new laws SHOULD NOT be supported! These WILL NOT put an end to puppy farming in WA — it will increase puppy farms.

We are calling on everyone to read the Bill and support the WA Opposition and Independents in opposing the current Bill.

These laws will massively increase the numbers of dogs and cats suffering and needing re-homing as seen in Victoria where these laws already exist.

In Victoria:

- ◇ there has been a massive increase in unhealthy, irresponsibly bred puppies and kittens.
- ◇ Vets and shelters are inundated with more puppies & kittens — NOT LESS!
- ◇ Responsible breeders disappeared and under-ground unethical breeders increased!

The power to stop Puppy Farming has already been available for years, and only two have actually been shut down in last 10 years.

The Bill as proposed will remove ALL rights of the every day person to decide whether they wish

to sterilise their pet.

The future of healthy, well-bred dogs in WA is at risk.

ACA recommends the following:

Recommendation 1

The WA Government does NOT move forward with the proposed legislation. Focus should be on animal welfare, and not number restrictions, or breeding facilities or animal rights ideologies.

Recommendation 2

The WA Government should invest in the expansion of education initiatives and the promotion of responsible breeding programs.

Recommendation 3

The WA Government provides further resources and support for compliance to be policed under the existing legislation.



Dog Representative: Kylie Gilbert

Animal Welfare vs Animal Rights and how it is influencing our laws.

Animal Welfare, is pro-animal ownership. It recognises the human-animal bond, recognises the value of quality animal care and purposeful breeding, and supports advancing science to ensure the health and wellbeing of animals.

Animal Welfare supports the practical and legal concept of animal ownership. In practice, we all love animals, we share our lives with them, and want to provide the best possible care for them. Legally, as “owners” of animals we are responsible for their care and we have the right to make appropriate care decisions for them.

On the other hand

Animal Rights puts forward the argument that humans should not use or own animals in any way, even as companions, and seeks to ultimately make that grim agenda a reality. For animal rights extremist (ARE's) groups, their goal is not to improve the wellbeing of animals, but to stop breeding of and human interaction with animals. ARE's typically utilise media and legislation to incrementally change perceptions about the human use of animals, and to advance the goal of ending animal use and ownership.

One of the best-known ARE's is PETA and the bleak reality is that they kill cats and dogs by the thousands instead of finding them homes. Why? PETA does not believe in pet ownership. PETA founder Ingrid Newkirk has called pet ownership “an abysmal situation.” She further elaborated on her goal for destroying the human-pet bond: “If people want toys, they should buy inanimate objects. If they want companionship, they should seek it with their own kind.”

“In the end, I think it would be lovely if we stopped this whole notion of pets altogether,” she has said.

For a long time, people saw organisations such as PETA as being a concern internationally where we heard horror stories of their supporters burning down the houses of such people as scientists and of going into houses and stealing animals, but the reality is they have slowly crept their way into Australia and have been joined by the likes of Animals Australia and others.

In recent years we have seen Animal Rights creep into our own legislative framework and the start of such parties as the Animal Justice Party who's main face in NSW being Emma

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Hurst who is in fact a past paid employee of PETA. She was in their Media Officer - that's right we have someone in our own Parliament who is an Animal Rights Activist who believes "Animals should not be owned" and she is not alone. NSW also has Mark Pearson who was elected first and paved the way for Emma. They have gained popularity through their emotive campaigns which coincidentally contain similar graphics and wording to those that we have traditionally seen from PETA. It is not a co-incidence at all in my eyes AJP is just another arm of PETA.

In Victoria we have Andy Meddick as the Victorian representative of the AJP currently heading an Enquiry and Taskforce into animal welfare in shelter animals. How can we have someone who represents and Animal Activist Political Party investigating matters of animal welfare? It in no way makes sense.

If the agenda of such parties as the AJP and the other ARE organisations continue to dictate the writing of and changes to current legislation the future is bleak for the ownership of animals in this country. In Victoria it has been proven that legislation consulted on by Activist organisations does nothing to improve welfare, it simply stops those people who care about their animals from keeping them and allows for those that are only in it for the dollar to continue.



Cat Representative: Michelle Grayson

ACT Cats to lose their freedoms

- ⇒ New cats will not be allowed to roam freely outside by July 2022 under a new 'Cat Containment Plan'.
- ⇒ The measure is part of a wider strategy to reduce the impact of feral, unowned and domestic cats on native wildlife.
- ⇒ Cat owners will be allowed to walk their cats outside — but only on a lead.
- ⇒ Those who don't follow the new rules may be forced to pay a fine of up to \$1600.



Bird Representative: Sam Davis

Bird Species Update

Wollondilly council DA for hobbyist animal breeders' matter

Overzealous council officers were wishing to interpret the term commercial too broadly such that any animal breeder (including birds) must obtain development approval. I spoke on behalf of all animal keepers at the public forum on March 9 2021 along with Hugh Gent, President of ANKC (Australian National Kennel Council) at Wollondilly Council Chambers.

Discussion expanded to encompass the RSPCA compliance audits situation.

Council unanimously moved to support animal keeping and breeding in the shire. Council also support and will advocate for a clearer distinction between hobby and business breeders to resolve the POCTAA animal trade issue.

Isaac Regional Council Queensland Issue

A member of a CCBFA club is experiencing difficulties due to inappropriate local laws and their application to his situation. The matter is a consequence of a complaint from a neighbour. I am acting for the aviculturist and have put two possible legal methods of resolution which will solve the matter amicably - council officers are investigating currently.

The larger issue is the way local laws are created and passed, including the model local laws upon which they are based. This leads to some inexplicable laws restricting keeping to low numbers and then a permit for higher numbers. In some cases, the permit fees are exorbitant. In cases like Isaac Regional Council, there is no permit system, hence no simple way to have more than a few birds, 15 in this case. This applies to all of Queensland and a similar system is in place in Victoria.

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CCBFA will look to have the model local laws at the state level include more reasonable conditions for keeping birds and that when a permit is issued it should be a single application fee with the permit lasting in perpetuity.

Victoria Review of the Wildlife Act 1975 - Native Animal Licensing

It is now Victoria's turn to review native bird licensing.

The government has appointed an Independent expert advisory panel which includes a range of academics led by Dr Deborah Peterson.

CCBFA have been asked to contribute as a key stakeholder via a "possession and trade sector forum" meeting. We will also make a formal submission.

CCBFA looks forward to working on this issue in close consultation with our Victorian clubs including the VAC.

This is the start of what will likely be a long process. We intend our initial submission to

largely parallel recent changes in Qld, and those soon to occur in NSW and ACT.

Victorian Animal Welfare legislation review

An "Engagement report" was recently released which essentially summarises the submissions in response to the "Directions Paper" released last year. CCBFA will continue to engage in this process, as will ACA. There are concerns that stakeholders with extreme animal rights agendas will have unreasonable influence on this process, and perhaps on the Victorian Wildlife Act 1975 (native bird licensing review) described above.

NSW Native Animal Licensing

CCBFA (with ACA assistance) submitted

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the following questions to SFFP MP Mark Banasiak to put to Minister for Energy and Environment, Matt Kean during 2021 budget estimates.

Questions regarding- The Canary and Cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc.

The Canary and Cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc. (CCBFA) represents some 250 bird keeping clubs nationally, with around 100 throughout NSW. CCBFA is a member of Animal Care Australia (ACA) representing hundreds of thousands of animal keepers including bird and reptile keepers.

December 2014 saw the release of the Final Report of the Independent Biodiversity Legislation Review Panel led by Dr Neil Byron. The coalition government accepted all recommendations, including "Adoption of a tiered and risk-based approach to the regulation of wildlife management in NSW"

(Recommendation 27).

CCBFA and other stakeholders (animal keeping associations) have been consulting, meeting, advising, assisting and negotiating with OEH and NPWS for six years; working to successfully develop a reform package to implement their part of the above-mentioned report. Hundreds of hours of work for volunteers, department staff and contractors - millions of dollars of taxpayer's money, yet still no implementation.

13. The final proposal of the consultation process led by contractor Robert Oliver's team remains under lock and key we believe in Executive Director, Atticus Flemings' office. Minister, why hasn't this proposal been released, and will you release it now?

(a) Your office facilitated a meeting with Atticus Fleming in June 2020 with Animal Care Australia and CCBFA representatives. A simplified proposal for bird keepers mirroring recently implemented systems in Queensland was put to the Executive Director. He is yet to respond despite numerous promises. Minister, please explain why your Executive Director is not keeping his promise to ACA, CCBFA and for that

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matter why he has delayed the progress of this proposal and the recommendations made by Mr Oliver's team?

(b) ACA and CCBFA have asked to meet with you on numerous occasions to explain and resolve the matter. This matter affects tens of thousands of NSW animal keepers. Will you commit to meet with ACA and CCBFA?

Answers were as follows...

13. Atticus Fleming is the Deputy Secretary of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). I am advised that Robert Oliver was employed as an NPWS staff member, not as a contractor.

I acknowledge and thank these groups for the time invested during the consultation

for the licensing reforms. The licensing reforms proposal has experienced delays, which is due to several factors. I am advised that NPWS remains committed to delivering these reforms once all outstanding matters have been resolved.

- (a) At the June 2020 meeting, Mr Fleming undertook that NPWS would investigate opportunities to progress less-complex components of the broader wildlife licensing reform package, such as bird licensing. This is currently underway.*
- (b) Members of my staff have previously met with the ACA and CCBFA and continue to correspond on a regular basis. Both my office and NPWS are aware of the ACA and CCBFA position on this matter.*

In summary, the Minister is indicating the reforms will go ahead, the question is when?

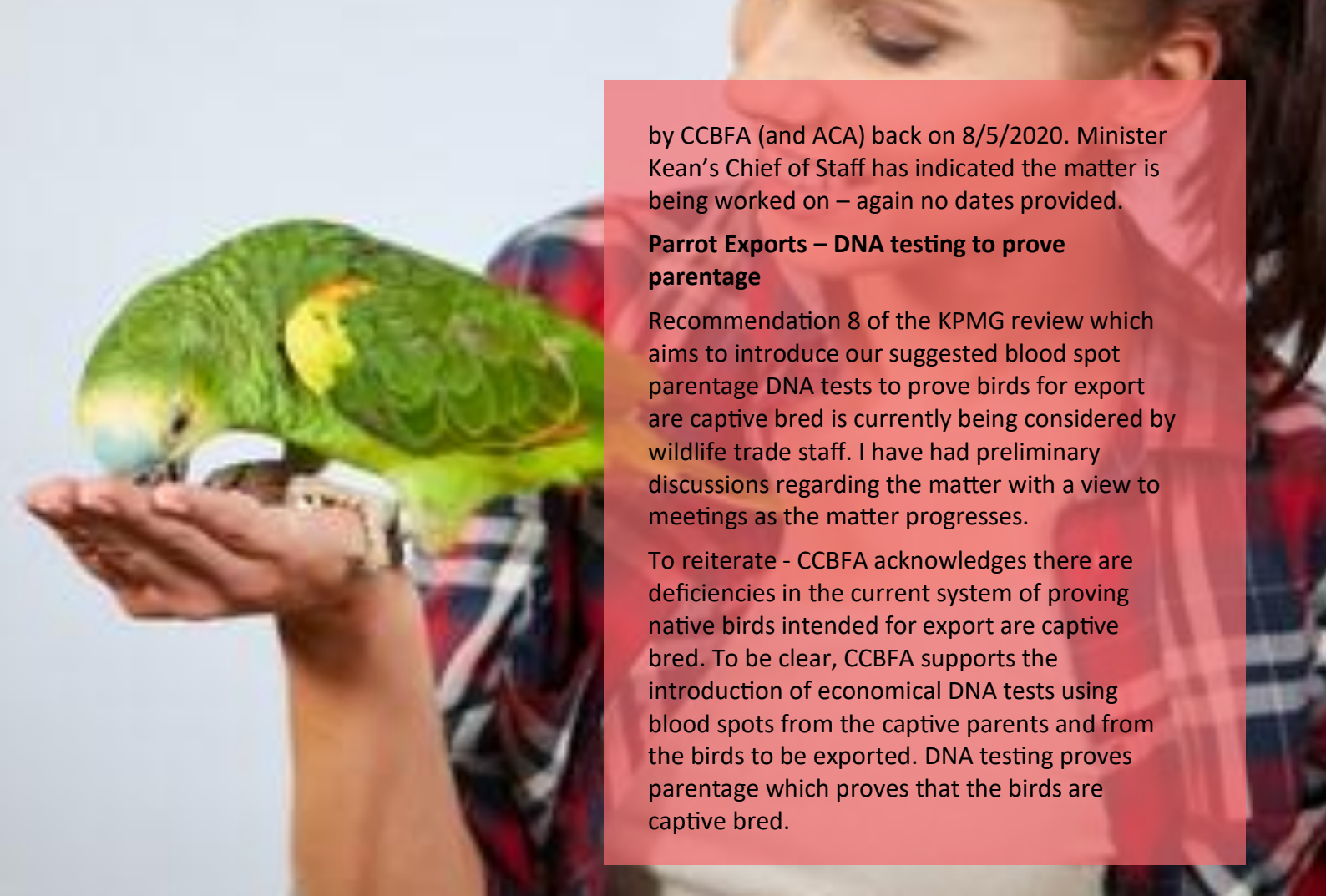
In response to the above answers (which do not provide clear dates) ACA initiated a GIPA request (the equivalent of a federal freedom of information request). In response we now have the final document produced by Robert Oliver's team designed for Ministerial approval. This document confirms the recommendation to

- remove most commonly kept bird species from licensing, and
- recommends the continuation of the Native Animal Keeper's Consultative Committee (amongst other things).

These are the main recommendations made to Deputy Secretary, Atticus Fleming

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by CCBFA (and ACA) back on 8/5/2020. Minister Kean's Chief of Staff has indicated the matter is being worked on – again no dates provided.

Parrot Exports – DNA testing to prove parentage

Recommendation 8 of the KPMG review which aims to introduce our suggested blood spot parentage DNA tests to prove birds for export are captive bred is currently being considered by wildlife trade staff. I have had preliminary discussions regarding the matter with a view to meetings as the matter progresses.


To reiterate - CCBFA acknowledges there are deficiencies in the current system of proving native birds intended for export are captive bred. To be clear, CCBFA supports the introduction of economical DNA tests using blood spots from the captive parents and from the birds to be exported. DNA testing proves parentage which proves that the birds are captive bred.



Native Mammal Representative: Michael Donnelly

It's Echidna Breeding Season

Echidnas are now out and about trying to find a mate. The breeding season is through-out winter and it is the time where males will be trying to find a mate.



This means they'll be crossing roads so keep an eye out, be alert and **SLOW DOWN!**

Did you know? There is such a thing as an echidna train. This is when several boys (sometimes up to 10 animals) will follow a female and the one who ensures the courtship period and stays the closest will be the successful partner.



By Michael Donnelly

NSW's mouse plague having devastating effects on our native wildlife – raising major animal welfare concerns.

No one can deny the impact millions of mice are having on our agricultural industry and the ongoing economic effects the crop and potential livestock losses will continue to have on our society.

Farmers are suffering badly with some areas losing property to fires started by chewed electricals and telecommunication blackouts again to chewed lines and cabling. While some radical groups such as PETA take an extreme view of the rights of the mice to live:

"It's the fault of the government because they really should have taken control of this situation a lot sooner through humane methods, humane trapping, birth control, deterrents. These are all tried and true ways to control the population of mice ... " – PETA media officer Aleesha Naxakis.

"It's the fault of the government because they really should have taken control of this situation a lot sooner through humane methods, humane trapping, birth control, deterrents. These are all tried and true ways to control the population of mice ... " – PETA media officer Aleesha Naxakis. Ms Naxakis was vague about contraception for mice but suggested it would be "oral" and mice should also be "gently trapped" and released in another area.

The latest impact to be revealed is that on our native wildlife.



Residents in NSW's central west are devastated after finding hundreds of dead galahs clumped at the bottom of trees in a local cemetery.

NSW's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has confirmed that that officers had investigated the deaths and found that some of the birds had died from rodent baiting. The EPA said there had been bird deaths around Forbes, Parkes, Dubbo, Narromine, Condobolin and the Riverina as a result of rat baiting.

EPA Executive Director Regulatory Operations Carmen Dwyer said in a statement: "The safe baiting of mice is an

important step in reducing mice numbers and pesticide users must make sure they handle baits safely.

'They were suffering until they have eventually died.'

"Grain-eating birds can be impacted after eating the pesticide coated grain."

"Our advice is to think carefully about where the bait is being placed, only use the recommended amount of bait."

The mass bird deaths prompted the EPA to issue a warning.

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Kookaburra requiring care after becoming stuck to a Mice Sticky Trap. *Photos from Hunter Wildlife Rescue Facebook Group.*

doomed mice. The NSW Farmers' Association is also warning of the possible effect on farm dogs, piggeries and other animals. "There are other, less harmful chemicals available."

NSW Farmers is calling for primary producers to get a 50 per cent rebate on zinc phosphide, an alternative poison, instead.

The group conveyed their displeasure in a Thursday

meeting with NSW Agriculture Minister Adam Marshall.

Mr Marshall said in a statement on Thursday that NSW had secured a local supply of the chemical which means it's "ready to roll".

Last month, the government announced a \$50 million package to fight the mice scourge that included chemically treated (the anti-coagulant bromadiolone) grain to fight against the vermin. Farmers can also get their grain treated for free, as part of the provision.

The NSW government will deploy "one of the world's strongest mice-killing chemicals "to combat the state's plague" but there are concerns it could kill other animals too. The chemical is able to kill mice within 24 hours of its consumption.

But fishers, farmers and environmentalists say there is a question mark over the chemical's safety, fearing the "napalm-like" poison could devastate native species including Murray cod, birds, native mammals, raptors, reptiles and livestock if it is approved for use in NSW. The NSW Farmers' Association is also warning of the possible effect on farm dogs, piggeries and other animals.

Bromadiolone is highly lethal in just one dose but takes a while to kill, meaning rodents are likely to consume a highly toxic amount as they keep coming back.

That could mean the poison kills native birds and other wildlife who eat the

"experts will treat growers' grain with bromadiolone completely free of charge to build a mice-free fortress to protect paddocks"
Adam Marshall—Minister for Agriculture NSW.

His fanciful response ... "experts will treat growers' grain with bromadiolone completely free of charge to build a mice-free fortress to protect paddocks" highlights that Mr Marshall has chosen to ignore even those who he is supposed to represent.

Mr Marshall the Minister responsible for animal welfare in NSW is ignoring the welfare of all other animals to be able to provide a 'quick fix' to the problem.



Horse & Livestock Representative: Karri Nadazdy

National Horse Traceability Register Update

The National Horse Traceability Working Group was formed 18 months ago, and has now met a total of 4 times. They are expected to report back to the Parliamentary Select Committee in another 6 months.

We were assured that sub committees would be created to involve more of the industry in specialist fields that relate to traceability (such as welfare, technology, biosecurity etc) that were excluded from the working group, and to consult more directly with all sectors of the horse industry. This has not happened. So far the working group has agreed on a logo and a website. Wonderful work, I hear you say?

We have had concerns from the start that this register is absurd. It has no way of achieving what the industry wants from it and will provide no benefits to recreational horse owners.

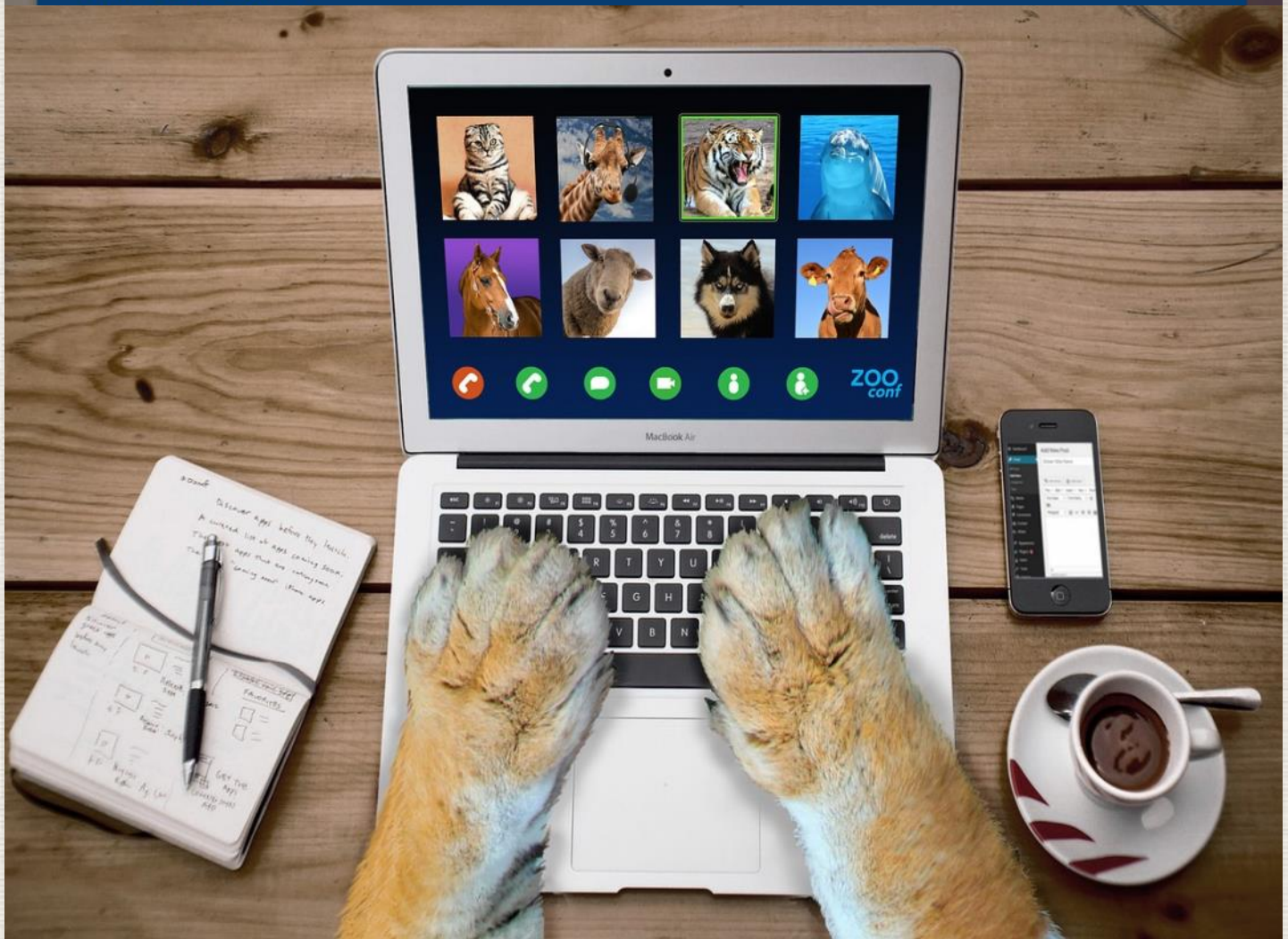
It appears that decisions have already been made behind closed doors and the Working Group is nothing more than a figurehead to give the illusion of industry consultation.

These decisions might be revealed in another 6 months, and we will then have a short window of time to respond to an enormous and irreversible change to our industry.

We need to be ready for a fight - we will have a real battle ahead of us.

ACA will continue to rattle the cages and work to prevent recreational horse owners being disadvantaged by the new Traceability Register. .

Are you our new President's Assistant?



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

www.animalcareaustralia.org.au

To Join ACA: <https://www.animalcareaustralia.org.au/join/>



Are you our new President's Assistant?

Animal Care Australia has an amazing new opportunity available to join our team as an Assistant to our President.

This is an exciting opportunity for someone to genuinely make a difference in animal welfare outcomes and in nationally significant areas of policy review and implementation.

We are seeking a volunteer with experience in producing materials for social media platforms to maintain ACA's social media presence, providing researching assistance, producing submissions and correspondence and other general support as needed

You will need to participate online as part of the ACA Team.

Is this something that interests you? If so, send us a quick introduction along with your CV to: aca@animalcareaustralia.org.au



By Unknown author

Letter to a neighbour

Dear neighbour,

It was good to meet you and your dog once again this morning. I'm sorry the circumstances were such that we couldn't have a proper chat, but I'm afraid that being in a situation where I was restraining my four agitated and angry dogs whilst trying to ward your dog off with my foot as he tried to hump them indiscriminately wasn't conducive to chit-chat.

Unfortunately we have had similar encounters several times since you moved here a few weeks ago, and as my dogs are neutered males and spayed females who don't appreciate your dog's relentless advances things can get a little lively when we meet, so I thought perhaps a letter might help to break the ice as it were.

I appreciate that your dog ran over two fields and nearly a quarter of a mile to get to mine, so it was going to take you a little time to get there to retrieve him. However for next time I'd suggest spending 15 minutes standing two fields away angrily screaming his name possibly wasn't the best use of your time. It hasn't worked on any previous occasion and didn't work this morning, so could I respectfully suggest that next time you cut that part out of the process and come and get your dog straight away?

Anyway, I was sure as hell pleased to see you after 25 minutes of my dogs being humped, barged and jumped on. It was a shame that having finally managed to catch your dog and get hold of his collar you only let us get a few yards down the path before you released him, so he immediately came after us and the whole performance started again, but hey, that's dogs for you – whoever in the world could have predicted he would do that?

We did talk a little last time about how you could stop your dog continuously running off and bothering other dogs, and I'll accept that you have indeed tried 'everything' – except training apparently. Or rewards, as he 'should' do what you tell him without them. Dogs are certainly clever animals, but I'd never before realised that

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they had a sense of ethics and obligation to do the right thing, I certainly learned a few things from our conversation. To think of all that time I've wasted with clickers and treats!

On that subject, I'm still not entirely sure how smacking him when you do finally manage to get hold of him will make him easier to catch next time - perhaps you could talk me through that one next time we meet?

We also briefly discussed that neutering might help curb his desire to streak off into the distance hump anything that moved, but you mentioned that you were considering using him as stud in due course as he a Pedigree Labrador with Papers; and he's Chocolate – that's important apparently.

Now I certainly can't claim to know a lot about Labradors, but if the standard for the breed specifies a potato-shaped body and short, stumpy legs your boy is certainly a fine example and it would obviously be a shame to rob future generations of his genes; and he has Papers. I hate to break it to you, though - so does my newsagent but that doesn't make me want to have his babies.

You told me that you'd thought about an electric shock collar to tackle his tendency to run off, but were concerned about the cost. I'm sure the fact you didn't also mention any concerns about the effect of administering electric shocks on your dog's physical and psychological wellbeing was merely an oversight, but I thought I'd slip it in here just in case it's an aspect of these collars you may not have considered?

Anyway, having come home and pondered our mutual problem, I hope you are as pleased as I am that I have managed to come up with a tried and tested 100% effective solution that requires no time, input or effort from you and costs only a few pounds.

There is a handy little gadget that savvy dog owners have been using for many years to address your sort of problem. It's very simple, a long strip of rope or leather with a loop at one end you can use as a handle, and a clever little clip at the other end that attaches to your dog's collar (you might have seen that metal ring on his collar and wondered what it was for?). This brilliant device is called a lead - L.E.A.D. You attach it to your dog, hold the handle and hey presto, you have control of your dog and he can no longer run away! Most pet shops sell them – in fact I probably have a spare I can loan you to try, just let me know.

You can thank me next time we meet. Or better still, if we don't meet that will be thanks enough.



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ACA GENERAL MEETINGS IN 2021

7.30 to 8.30pm

MARCH 8th

MAY 10th

JULY 12th

SEPTEMBER 13th

NOVEMBER 8th

Due to ongoing Covid restrictions meetings in 2021 will continue via Zoom until further notice.

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.



Watch out for
our next issue in
September 2021.

Click to read our [previous issues](#)



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



Animal Care Australia