

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



Animal Care Australia Inc

December 2024

Animal Welfare is Animal Care

Annual Report 2024

1st November 2023— 31st October 2024



Animal Care Australia

**“Animal welfare by the experts—those who
keep, care for and breed animals”**

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

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Mission Statement

“Animal Care Australia (ACA) is the Peak Animal Welfare Body representing the keepers and breeders of pet and companion animals in Australia”.

ACA encourages continued development of animal welfare standards and Codes of Practice for animal husbandry, breeding, training, sale and sporting exhibitions for a wide range of animal species.

Our goal is to promote and encourage high standards in all interactions with the animals in our care. To encourage responsible pet ownership, and the respectful treatment of all animals in our community ACA continues to promote welfare education over regulation.

Objectives



- To represent Animal Care Groups as the peak animal welfare body
- To engage and advise Government and legislators on welfare issues relating to pets and companion animals.
- To protect the rights of ethical hobbyists & animal keepers to breed and keep pets and companion animals.
- To clarify the difference between animal rights and animal welfare
- To promote higher animal welfare outcomes

President's Report



2024 saw Animal Care Australia expand our reach and our influence across multiple reviews and amendments to animal-based legislation across the country. This included pets in strata and residential tenancies; dog management including so-called 'puppy farm' legislation; cat management including cat containment policies; animal industries including veterinary workforce shortages and the review of Standard Occupation Classifications; the shelter/rescue and pound industries and several attempts by local councils to limit how your pets can be kept, including restricting numbers with unrealistic and uneducated abandon.

So many aspects of our involvement highlighted an overwhelming lack of understanding of basic animal keeping needs, raising questions about the level of training and experience held by Animal Management Officers, Parks & Wildlife Officers, rescue/shelter operators and the most concerning - animal welfare compliance and enforcement officers, particularly RSPCA Inspectorate.

This is really concerning given the levels of responsibilities off-loaded by respective Ministers responsible for the varying portfolios. It continues to remain clear around the country that those Ministers are happy to accept the accolade when a new initiative is announced and yet are still happy to free their conscience and that of their government by shedding the responsibility of the aspects that might tarnish their 'look' in the eyes of voters. It is easier to task charitable organisations to rescue and care for animals including pets and native wildlife – the latter being property of the Crown - and also the unenviable and yet necessary responsibility of dealing with animal welfare compliance and animal cruelty.

The last couple of years has seen a minor shift in some governments taking on more ownership of the approach to dealing with animal cruelty however while they still continue to 'contract' that responsibility to an organisation that has been the subject of many Parliamentary Inquiries, major complaints and reported corruption and despite all of those findings is still allowed to self-govern without any real legislated powers for the government to intervene is gob-smacking astounding. The ability to access freedom of information or complain to an ombudsman does not equal accountability, especially when reporting to a Minister sees you sent back to the organisation you want to report against.

It is time for governments to own their responsibilities. It is time for each state and territory to have an Animal Welfare Commissioner and an Office of Animal Welfare overseen by that Commissioner.

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In November 2024 I was re-elected as President for another three-year term, and responding to all of the above will be my priority.

In addition to all of the usual Reviews, proposed new Bills, Council Animal Management Plans and more, Animal Care Australia will continue to advocate for you and your pets and animals. Our priorities will include but are not limited to:



- ◆ Seeking the implementation of an Animal Welfare Commissioner – responsible for overseeing animal welfare improvements, outcomes, compliance, and enforcement. This means government funded compliance and enforcement officers who are held fully accountable by the government and the Parliament and therefore to society.
- ◆ Ensuring the needs of companion animals and pets are adequately and responsibly included in animal welfare legislation at all levels of government including the federal government's Animal Welfare Strategy and National Standards.
- ◆ Regulating the rescue and shelter industries. Some of this industry are partly funded by government while all receive charitable funding with limited reporting requirements, and next to no accountability of their actions - that must change.
- ◆ Identifying, and clarifying the increasing influences of animal protection (nee: animal rights) ideologies to ensure only animal welfare and animal welfare science are maintained by government.

As President one of the more important roles is to be the government liaison person with Members of Parliament, their staff, and the respective departments. This is ongoing and I have to say was quite the learning curve (still learning) as each state has its own structures and equally so does each Party. This is so necessary in order to ensure that we have the ability to call out proposed amendments or matters that need to be addressed.

It does not always pay off as politics is a complicated beast that one can never truly know how it will play out. It is frustrating when a Shadow Government acknowledges the issues with a department need to be addressed and then relies on the direction of that same department when they become Government.

On the flip side it is great when I see our input built into legislation or a Member of Parliament seeks out our perspective or had no understanding of a topic but now has information they can utilise to hold an educated position.

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The sad reality of this work is that it mostly goes unnoticed. It happens behind closed doors. Many of the conversations simply cannot be publicly announced in order to retain the trust and respect of the members and staff. We can announce much later that we contributed but the true extent of the workload, the debates, to and froing and time committed to each subject is only known by a select few.

I am honoured to be respected by the Animal Care Australia Committee to continue as President and for that I am deeply thankful to each and every member: Sam, Michelle, Sue, Joanne, Karri, Kylie, Michaela, Rachel, and Tracey. I want to thank our other volunteers within the STAT, Social Media and Fundraising & Sponsorship Teams who assisted throughout the year.

My last three-year term held so many surprises and frustrations and included state elections across the country. I am sure 2025 and beyond will bring many more.

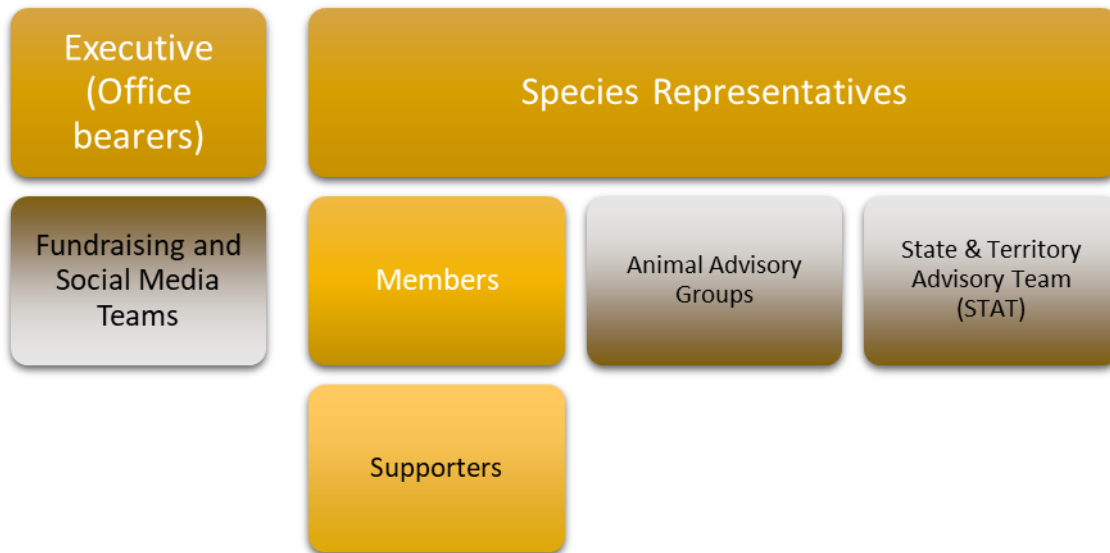
Regardless we look forward to advocating for you and protecting the ability of everyone to own a pet. Whether that be one pet or multiple. Animals and particularly pets bring so much into our lives and in return we have the responsibility to ensure their time with us is with a loving and caring home.

Michael Donnelly — ACA President.



Structure

Animal Care Australia is governed by a committee comprised of the Executive and Species Representatives from all pet & companion animal species. Representatives are appointed by Member Species Organisations. Executive (Office bearers) are nominated and voted by the Delegates.



Executive 2023-2024

- **President:** Michael Donnelly -> **Assistant to the President:** Karri Nadazdy
- **Vice President:** Sam Davis
- **Secretary:** Michelle Grayson
- **Treasurer/Public Officer:** Sue Kowalczyk

Species Representatives 2023-2024

- **Birds:** Sam Davis
 - **Cats:** Michelle Grayson
 - **Dogs:** Kylie Gilbert
 - **Exhibited Animals:** Tracey Dierikx
 - **Horses:** Karri Nadazdy
 - **Insects & Arachnids:** Michaela Storen
 - **Native Mammals:** Michael Donnelly
 - **Reptiles:** Joanne Payne
 - **Small Mammals:** Rachel Sydenham
- Vacant positions: **Fish**

Membership involvement

Animal Advisory Groups are comprised of the Species Representative, at least one other ACA Committee member, members of Animal Species Organisations (members) and individual supporters. Upon approval of membership members and supporters are invited to participate on an Animal Advisory Group, providing our members with a voice.

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

Membership Representation:



505
member organisations and supporters.

Members:

Each member organisation in itself represents it's own membership base.

With several of the organisations being nationally represented the last estimate of overall representation was in excess of **220,000 individuals.**

Members & Supporters Discussion Group:

Members and Supporters are invited to join our closed Facebook Discussion Group where they can share with us their stories and issues that directly affect them.

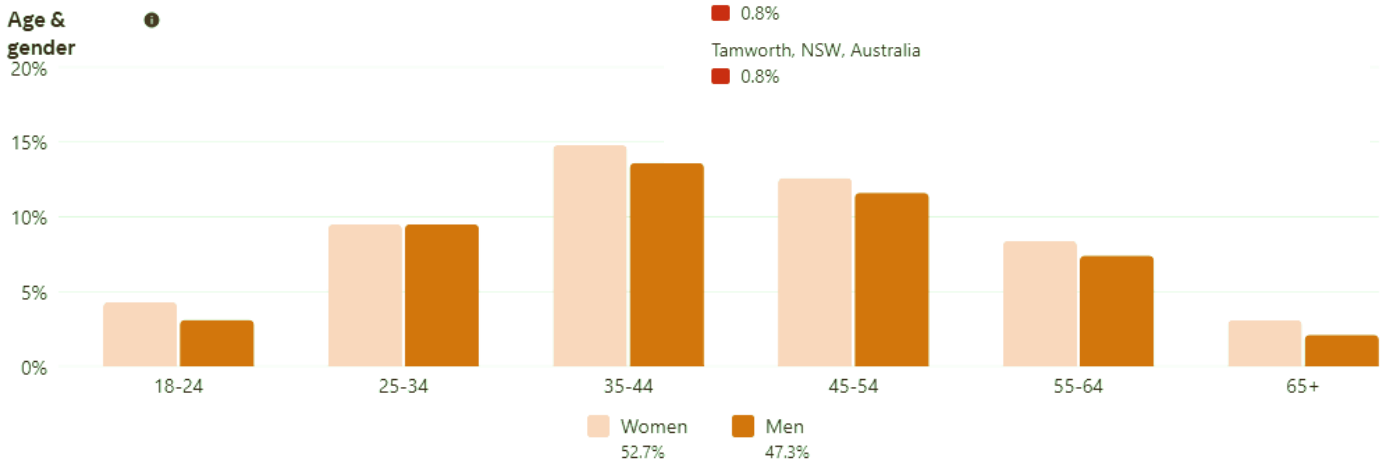
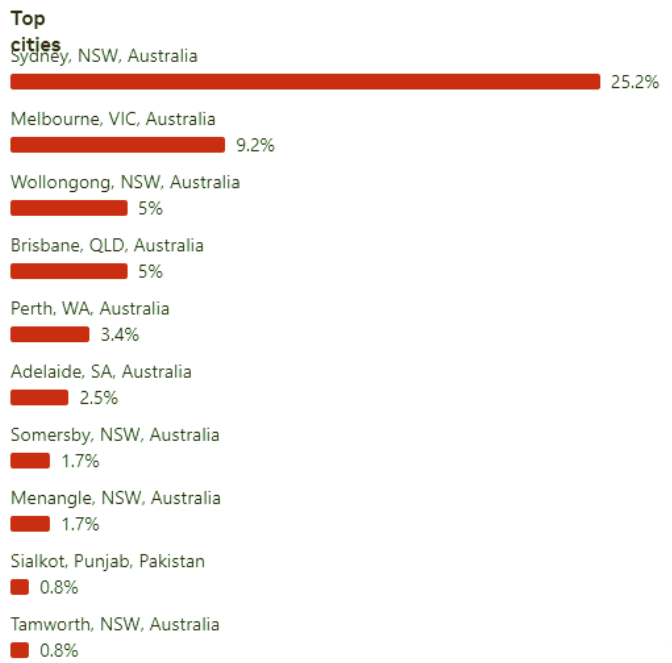
This provides a safe space away from the public page and potential ridicule, especially following past occurrences of animal rights advocates harassing and bullying breeders and those who defend their rights to breed animals.



Social Media

Our social media reach has been far greater with posts relating to changes to animal welfare legislation. This past year our Facebook and Instagram posts had 201.9k reaches, with 89.5k real time views and 4.6k content interactions.

3212
regular social
media followers



Financial Statements 2023-2024

Financial Statement 2023 - 2024

Animal Care Australia

Incorporation: INC 1801209

ABN 36 438 686 995

PO Box 314 Macarthur Square Post Office NSW 2570

Summary	Total Current Period
Total Income	\$ 3,006.75
Total Expenses	\$ - 3,394.43
Yearly Loss	\$ - 387.68
Brought Forward	\$ 9,509.09
Total	\$ 9,121.41
Total Assets:	\$ 9,121.41

Prepared by Michael Donnelly – President

Approved as an accurate record for financial year 2023-2024

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Income		\$ 3,006.75	
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Income Type	Statement Period	Current Period	Total
Membership (Direct Deposit)	01 July - 30 Sep	\$ 695.30	
	01 Oct - 31 Dec	\$ 485.00	
	01 Jan -31 Mar	\$ 100.00	
			\$1,280.30
Membershp (Stripe)	01 July - 30 Sep	\$ 295.60	
	01 Oct - 31 Dec	\$ 33.79	
	01 Jan - 31 Mar	\$ 160.33	
	01 Apr - 30 Jun	\$ 219.18	
			\$708.90
Membership (Paypal)	01 Jul - 30 Sep	\$ 200.00	
	01 Oct - 31 Dec	\$ 102.95	
			\$302.95
Donations - Cash	01 Oct - 31 Dec	\$ 10.00	
Donations - Cash for Recycling	01 Apr - 30 Jun	\$ 104.60	
			\$114.60
Sponsorship - Petcover	Year	\$ 600.00	
			\$600.00
Total Income		\$ 3,006.75	
Note: Membership (Stripe & Paypal) - bank charges deducted prior to transfer.			

Operating Expenses

\$

3,394.43

Expense Type	Description	Current Period
Bank Fees - Commbiz	01 Jul - 30 Sep	\$ 0.60
	01 Jan - 31 Mar	\$ 0.30
	01 Apr - 30 Jun	\$ 0.85
Website	Domain Renewal	\$ 66.00
	Hosting	\$ 316.56
	Shutterstock Annual	\$ 190.00
	Support & Development	\$ 360.00
Email Hosting		\$ 645.34
General and Administrative		\$ 11.32
News Subscription		\$ 52.00
Proimotion - Banners	01 Jan - 31 Mar	\$ 505.17
Honorarium Payment	July23-December23	\$ 1,000.00
		\$ -
Zoom Subscription	Yearly	\$ 246.29
Total Operating Expenses		\$ 3,394.43

What did we do?

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

Local Councils:

VIC_Nillumbik Council_Draft Animal Management Plan

VIC_Banyule Council_Public Order Review- follow up

VIC_Banyule Council_Public Order Review

SA_Mitcham City Council_Draft Animal Management Plan 2023-2028

SA_Mount Barker_Draft Animal Management Plan 2023-2028



Submissions to Reviews and Legislative Amendments:

Responded to Legislative Amendments in:

TAS — Dog Welfare Review

NSW — POCTAA — Draft Regulations

NSW — POCTAA — Puppy Farm Bill

NSW — Strata Schemes Legislation Amendment Bill

ACT — Poultry Code (Non-commercial)

NSW — Protected birds dealing draft code of practice

NT— Animal Protection Act Review

SA — Dog Cat Management Act

SA — Draft Animal Welfare Bill

NSW — POCTAA_ Fit and proper persons Bill

NSW — Companion Animals Amendment (Puppy Farm Bill)

NSW — Residential Tenancies Amendment (Animals in Residential Premises) Bill

VIC — Draft Animal Care & Protection Bill

QLD — Exhibited Animals – Adoption of National Standards

Cont'd over page ...

NSW — Proposed Independent Office of Animal Welfare Bill

WA — Stop Puppy Farming Consultation 2023

Responded to:

NSW — Wildlife Rehabilitation Sector Review 2024

NSW — Dog Breeding Staffing ratios

AUS — Renewing the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy

AUST — FEI Equine Welfare Strategy

AUS — Draft Core Skills Occupations List (CSOL) consultation

VIC — Central Highlands state forests

VIC — Cat Management Strategy

AUS — Draft Updated Threat Abatement Plan for predation by feral cats

AUS — Updating ANZSCO

NSW — Invasive Species Management Review

- ⇒ Consulted with and attended workshops for the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy
- ⇒ Wrote to Aust Capital Territory Secretariat to obtain inclusion as a core Stakeholder to the ACT Animal Welfare Advisory Committee
- ⇒ Consulted with NSW NPWS to protect license holders rights to privacy following introduction of an interim Wildlife Licensing Keepers Record Book.

Parliamentary Inquiries:

NSW_Inquiry into the management of cat populations

VIC_Inquiry into Local Government funding and services

NSW_Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Amendment (Virtual Stock Fencing) Bill 2024

NSW_2023 Inquiry into approved charitable organisations

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

NSW_Pound Inquiry

QLD_Agriculture and Fisheries and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023

Parliamentary Inquiries

15th December 2023

Inquiry into Pounds in NSW - Opening Statement

Good afternoon,

Chair – I ask that this statement be tabled.

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 – 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.

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

18th December 2023

Inquiry into aerial culling of wild horses in Kosciusko National Park - Opening Statement

Good morning,

Chair – I ask that this statement be tabled.

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.

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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 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.

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

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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.

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

26th April 2024

Opening statement: 2023 Inquiry into the operation of the approved charitable organisations under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979

Good morning Chair and Committee,

I request this statement be tabled.

In 2019 Animal Care Australia supported a recommendation that resulted in the creation of this annual Inquiry in order to address concerns that the charitable organisations were not accountable for their actions or the services they provide on behalf of the state.

Some five years later Animal Care Australia is not in a position to confidently state that much has changed. Having said that, it is pleasing for us to continue to support the ethos of the Animal Welfare League and while we would like to see some additional breakdown of financial reporting, we wish to make it clear that today the AWL will not be the focus of our testimony.

This morning, I was originally intending to outline the major points from our submission. Instead though I will simply make the following points:

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- Early 2023 the NSW Govt gave the RSPCA an additional \$20m for enforcement and in the same financial year an additional \$10.5m for various upgrades. This year the RSPCA testified that \$20m must continue for them to be able to continue to provide that enforcement.
- RSPCA has their shiny new shelter while other shelters have either closed or are providing a reduced service.
- Local Councils across the State have been told they are now solely responsible for the intake of surrenders. Makes one wonder what will be filling that new shelter?
- The CEO and Chief Inspector have publicly stated the RSPCA has a new focus of being enforcers – perhaps that’s due to a potential annual \$20m incentive?

Touted as animal welfare experts by the current and previous Governments and yet:

- Supported and were complicit in the removal of a prohibition of aerial culling during foaling season. In fact to then defend their position claimed there is no such thing as a foaling season.
- Declared taking an average of 7 to 15 shots to kill a horse meets animal welfare standards.
- Euthanised 50 birds seized from an animal hoarder – all who had been diagnosed with an affordably treatable disease. Something any bird owner could have completed within a few weeks. (<https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/conditionsandtreatments/psittacosis-parrot-fever>)
- Crammed a Great Dane into a small animal carrier causing injuries to the Dane – called out by a magistrate on those injuries - all after NSW Police had declared there was no concern with the dog AND rather than seize the dog the owner offered to drive the inspectors, and the dog to their treating vet – a few minutes down the road. The RSPCA could have clarified the treatment history and even more importantly if the vet determined it was time for the dog to be euthanised it could have been done with the family able to say goodbye. This was offered by the owner and rejected by the RSPCA.
- While not isolated cases these two examples illustrates the lack of concern about the welfare of the animals and a determination to prosecute the owners at all cost.

Since previously appearing at this Inquiry the Queensland government has altered the procedures the RSPCA QLD must follow before any prosecution can proceed. They are now being held somewhat more accountable. This falls in line with Western Australia. In the ACT the DPP prosecute cruelty cases.

There is a growing catch-cry of what meets the social-license for actions being taken by organisations and the social appetite for the RSPCA is diminishing. Almost every state has been forced to look at the actions of their RSPCA and each of them found the need for greater accountability.

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Importantly when asked during the Brumby Inquiry to explain the RSPCA's position on the welfare impacts of aerial culling Mr Coleman stated:

“Any submission that's provided, be it by RSPCA NSW or RSPCA Australia, is theoretical in nature, based on references. It's potentially dangerous to restrict certain activities where processes can be improved.”

I leave the Committee with those words directly relating to the RSPCA's ability to understand animal welfare: the RSPCA's position is “theoretical based on references.”

Animal Care Australia's position is clear. Any enforcement agency must be employed directly by the government, answerable to a Minister, to the Parliament and therefore to the public.

Mr Davis and myself thank you for allowing us to testify today and we welcome your questions.

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

Note: Animal Care Australia also provided an additional confidential submission following the hearing in response to some accusations made by the RSPCA relating to our testimony. The accusations were false and in order for ACA and some members to be protected by parliamentary privilege we chose to request it not be made public.

Friday, 5th July 2024

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Amendment (Virtual Stock Fencing) Bill 2024 Opening Statement Good morning,

Chair – I ask that this statement be tabled.

Today we are here to discuss the advantages of virtual fencing as they relate to horses and livestock kept on hobby farms, recreationally and as pets, but also for wildlife. We support responsible animal ownership, and keeping animals contained to our own property is one way animal owners can act responsibly.

Claims that electric or virtual fencing is cruel solely because it is aversive come exclusively from Animal Rights groups, who lack experience or knowledge of the products, learning theory, or animal training. This is anthropomorphizing at its best.

Electric fencing has been in use since the 1930's and virtual fencing is the exact same experience for the animal but with huge technological advances that benefit animal welfare, safety for the animals as well as the community and added convenience for owners.

We should never make it harder or more expensive to be responsible animal owners and carers.



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Electric and virtual fencing is a very effective deterrent and Animal Care Australia has no animal welfare concerns with the use of these devices, as long as they are sized correctly for the species, or to the need. Why would we force owners to buy duplicate systems for each species, when the virtual fence could simply have different collars for different species? This technology is inevitable and not far away but will remain illegal in NSW under this amendment.

Animal Care Australia believes that limiting the permitted use of virtual fencing to only livestock will create unintended consequences. We need these options available to us as soon as the manufacturers release them.

We must stay focused on improving animal welfare and avoid distractions from the animal rights lobby's ongoing efforts to complicate and increase the cost of animal ownership.

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

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



Animal Care Australia

Animal Care Australia (ACA) is a national incorporated association advocating for higher welfare outcomes for animals by educating hobbyists and keepers and consulting with governments.

Animal Care Australia was founded in early 2018 to establish an organisation run solely by volunteers to advocate for real animal welfare based on centuries of expertise keeping and breeding animals. Extreme animal rights and animal liberationist ideologies currently influencing government legislation, regulation and policy are at expense of real animal welfare and hence to the detriment of our animals and pets. Animal Care Australia provides government with a balancing voice.

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

Animal Care Australia is in the unique position of representing all animals within our care, including the following major animal groups – dogs, cats, birds, horses, insects, reptiles, farm animals (hobby-farming), small mammals, native mammals and mobile and wildlife educators.

When consulting with government, Animal Care Australia prioritises the following:

- ◇ Animal Care Australia strives for implementation of stronger achievable animal welfare outcomes using and based upon the extensive expertise of our members.
- ◇ Animal Care Australia prioritises education over regulation as the most effective and economical means of improving animal welfare outcomes nationally.
- ◇ Animal Care Australia opposes animal rights, an area of much confusion for the general public. We strive to highlight and educate the public on the differences between animal welfare and animal rights and animal protection.

To this end, Animal Care Australia has engaged with government on a range of issues throughout Australia. 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.

Sadly many legislative changes are proposed and implemented due to the pressures of the animal rights extremist (ARE) movement and their subsidiaries.

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When this happens the welfare of animals is jeopardised by the introduction of restrictions and over-zealous regulations. Their picture is painted with rainbows and promises of improving animals lives, while the true-colours are hidden until it is too late.



Animal Care Australia will continue to:

- ◆ Advocate for higher animal welfare outcomes in welfare Acts
- ◆ Change the narrative of animal welfare from punishment to education
- ◆ Make higher animal welfare the 'norm' among pet owners
- ◆ Oppose restricted breeding legislations
- ◆ Oppose restrictions on pet numbers that can be kept (now only 5 animals in some Local Councils)
- ◆ Oppose the creation of a Commercialised Shelter Industry
- ◆ Advocate for the regulation of all rescues and shelters
- ◆ Introduce education about pet ownership into primary & higher school education curriculums
- ◆ Encourage education on responsible pet ownership, responsible breeding and responsible buying of pets
- ◆ Advocate for greater funding of education on responsible pet ownership, responsible breeding and responsible buying of pets.
- ◆ Support pets in strata and tenancies
- ◆ Continue to call for greater accountability of animal welfare compliance organisations
- ◆ Oppose Animal Rights Extremist propaganda
- ◆ Oppose Animal Rights Extremist influences on government
- ◆ Oppose 'personhood' rights being provided to animals
- ◆ Encourage research into more alternatives for 1080
- ◆ Encourage expansion of and education about existing alternatives for 1080
- ◆ Support continuation of animals in the education arena (zoos, mobile exhibitors etc)
- ◆ Support and legislate for the protection of animal victims of domestic violence
- ◆ Oppose the release or continuance of feral animals in the natural environment

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- ◆ Support initiatives for the subsidising of de-sexing programs
- ◆ Outlaw the possession of crush and bestiality videos
- ◆ Strengthen animal welfare Acts by removing ambiguity and clearly defining animal cruelty
- ◆ Clearly define the role of sentience within animal welfare and rebuke its misuse within legislation
- ◆ Ensuring species specific Standards (Codes Of Practice) for keeping and breeding are introduced
- ◆ Support and call for legislation against leaving animals in hot vehicles
- ◆ Support the expansion and continuation of native animal keeping with appropriate licensing and welfare standards
- ◆ Oppose trail closures to horse riders, carriage drivers and dog walkers
- ◆ Ensure traceability registers provide welfare benefits to the animals being registered



Animal Care Australia Inc.
PO Box 314 Macarthur Square Post Office NSW 2560

Website: animalcareaustralia.org.au

Email: aca@animalcareaustralia.org.au

ABN 36 438 686 995

Tax File No 508 268 553

CFN: 25599



Animal Care Australia