



Animal Care Australia

NEWSLETTER

The Animal Care Expert

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



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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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By: Michelle Grayson
Cat Representative

HEADLINE ARTICLE:

Coordinating Cat Council of Australia National Show.

It was Sydney's turn to host the Coordinating Cat Council of Australia national show. Founding Animal Care Australia member, NSW Cat Fanciers Association Inc, had the honour in 2025.



2025 CCCA National Show

It was Sydney's turn to host the Coordinating Cat Council of Australia national show. Founding ACA member, NSW Cat Fanciers Association Inc, had the honour in 2025.



From pedigree purebred Burmese to Persians, Bengals to Ragdolls, British Shorthair to Siberians, Oriental to Abyssinian, Birmans to Sphynx & everything in between.

400 of the best groomed cats purred their way into Wentworth Park in July for the 2025 National Cat Show to vie for the title of Supreme Pedigree Exhibit in Show and Supreme Companion Exhibit on Show.

Accompanied by their owners, these cats are all well versed in the world of cat shows & compete in their own local cat club competitions in the home states.

Judges from around the world were invited to officiate & judge - from South Africa, America, Hong Kong, Poland and New Zealand accompanied Australian judges from NSW, Queensland & Victoria.

Whilst cat shows are primarily for pedigree, purebred cats, there is a class called Companions which is for cats that do not have a pedigree or not born from purebred parents in a specialised breeding program. Cats that compete in the Companion class have 2 main criteria for judging - presentation & temperament.

CCCA 2025 National Show Sydney Judges



Cat shows are a great opportunity to promote responsible pet ownership and to allow breeders build relationships with each other to work together to ensure genetic diversity in their breeding programs.

Photos: Michelle Grayson

Check out some of the winning cats in our middle page spread

Important Pet News

South Australia:

Laws controlling dog breeding, feral cats and increased penalties for dog attacks pass State Parliament.

Puppy farms have been outlawed across the state, with the introduction of a new breeder licensing system that requires criminal background checks. Breeding animals without a licence could result in fines of up to \$10,000.

The number of female animals used in breeding and the number of litters they can produce will be limited, following further consultation. Mandatory reporting of each litter has also been introduced.

Property owners in regional areas now have expanded rights to humanely control feral cats on their land, provided the property is more than one kilometre from a neighbouring residence.

Under the new laws, dog owners face fines of up to \$25,000 if their pet seriously injures or kills a person or animal. If the dog is already under a dangerous dog order, the maximum fine doubles to \$50,000. Owners who deliberately encourage their dogs to attack could face a \$100,000 fine or up to four years in prison.

You can read more here:



“ It is important to note that there is no scientific evidence that confirms a Bengal cat is more harmful to native species or the environment than any other introduced species or breed.

”



Bengal Cats Importation Ban

By: Michelle Grayson
Cat Representative



In December 2024, the Australia Government's Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) imposed a ban on the importation of Bengal cats into Australia.

As of 1 March 2025, there is no avenue to import a Bengal cat into Australia (outside of the now closed approval process noted below).

DCCEEW Reason:

Following a detailed policy review, Bengal cats will be treated in the same way as all other animals imported under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act). This means they will no longer be permitted to enter Australia.

Bengal cats are a hybrid of a domestic cat (*Felis catus*) and an Asian leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*). Since 2013, exemptions have been provided to importers who could prove their Bengal cat was 5 generations away from the Asian leopard cat. It has been found that imported cross breeds under this exemption have often had a high percentage of Asian leopard cat genes. This is not consistent with the EPBC Act.

Impacts for the breed

The impact of this blanket ban was that anyone intending on importing a Bengal cat into Australia had to submit an application by 5pm on 28 February 2025. If approved, the owner had 12 months to import the cat and there was no method to extend the importation period.

There is a limited number of bloodlines with Australia due to the costs associated importation and quarantine. Lack of genetic diversity means closer line breeding which can lead to health problems such as genetic abnormalities and increasing the risk of hereditary conditions.

Many ethical and responsible breeders advocate for keeping cats contained for their health and safety, as well as native wildlife.

It is important to note that there is no scientific evidence that confirms a Bengal cat is more harmful to native species or the environment than any other introduced species or breed.

This doesn't just impact breeders - Australia residents & citizens who have relocated their lives & their pet Bengal cat overseas are now unable to obtain approval to bring their beloved pet (who was most likely born in Australia) home with them when their return to Australia.

New development

DCCEEW have now invited the public to comment on an application to include the Bengal cat on the Live Import List under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act).

The consultation opened on 27 August 2025 and closes on 10 October 2025, and can be found here: <https://consult.dcceew.gov.au/import-bengal-cat-and-asian-leopard-cat>

Animal Care Australia will be reviewing the consultation paper and submitting a response.



Getting It Right From The Start:

The Importance of Proper Reptile Care

By: Joanne Payne - Reptile Representative



Image: wallpaperflare.com

Reptiles are becoming increasingly popular as pets — and for good reason..



Reptiles are becoming increasingly popular as pets — and for good reason! With their fascinating behaviors, striking appearances, and low-maintenance routines (once properly set up), reptiles can offer years of enjoyment. But let's be clear: "low maintenance" doesn't mean "no maintenance."

Gone are the days when people would pick up a "penny turtle," drop it into a tiny tank, and hope for the best. Many of those early pets didn't survive because their basic needs weren't met — not out of cruelty, but often due to a lack of knowledge. These animals have specialised requirements, and getting their care right from the beginning is critical to ensuring a long, healthy, and enriching life for them.

One Size Does Not Fit All

One of the most common misconceptions about reptile care is that all reptiles can be kept the same way. In reality, the needs of

each species can vary significantly:

- **Desert species**, like bearded dragons, typically require higher temperatures and stronger UV lighting.
- **Forest-dwelling species** often need more moderate, stable temperatures and lower UV exposure.
- **Snakes** may seem content in small spaces, but still need room to stretch and move to stay healthy.
- **Geckos** are compact and suited to smaller enclosures, while **monitors** or larger lizards need substantial space and more complex setups.

Some reptiles thrive in solitude, while others — a much smaller number — may tolerate or even benefit from group living. Knowing which is which is vital.

Knowledge Is Key

So how do you find out what your new pet really needs? The best place to start is by **joining a reptile society**.

These organisations exist in every Australian state and are filled with experienced keepers, breeders, and enthusiasts who are more than happy to share their knowledge.

Many also maintain active **social media communities**, making it easier than ever to connect and ask questions. And remember — no question is a silly question when it comes to animal welfare.

Don't Forget the Legal Side

Every Australian state has a **code of practice** for reptile keeping — and some of these have **mandatory requirements**. Make sure you're up to date with your local laws to avoid fines, confiscation of your pet, or inadvertently harming your animal through improper care.

While official codes provide the legal baseline, the best and most current welfare practices are often found through discussion with experienced keepers and breeders. They've been through the trials and errors and can offer guidance you won't find in a generic care sheet or pet shop brochure.

Your Home, Their Habitat

Before bringing a reptile home, ask yourself:

- How much **space** do I have to dedicate to this animal?
- Can I maintain **temperature** and **lighting** gradients suited to their natural habitat?
- Am I prepared for the **lifetime** of care this species requires?

Reptiles may be “easy-care” compared to some traditional pets, but their needs are specific, and their setups must be spot-on from the start.

Ready to Reptile?

If you're considering bringing one of these incredible creatures into your life, take the time to **do the research, join a society, and ask questions**. Once you have the correct setup, reptiles can thrive with relatively little ongoing effort — giving you a fascinating, beautiful, and rewarding companion for years to come.

So what are you waiting for? Find your local reptile society, start learning, and begin your journey into the wild and wonderful world of reptiles.

Reptile Societies that are members of Animal Care Australia:

- Illawarra Reptile Society
- Central Coast Herpetological Society
- Macarthur Herpetological Society
- North Coast Herpetological Society and,
- Australian Herpetological Society
- Victorian Herpetological Society



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Response to Domestic Animals Regulations 2025 Review

Animal Care Australia raised the following:

In regard to proposed Regulation changes, Animal Care Australia recommends:

the existing arrangement for bird sales held by bird keeping clubs and associations

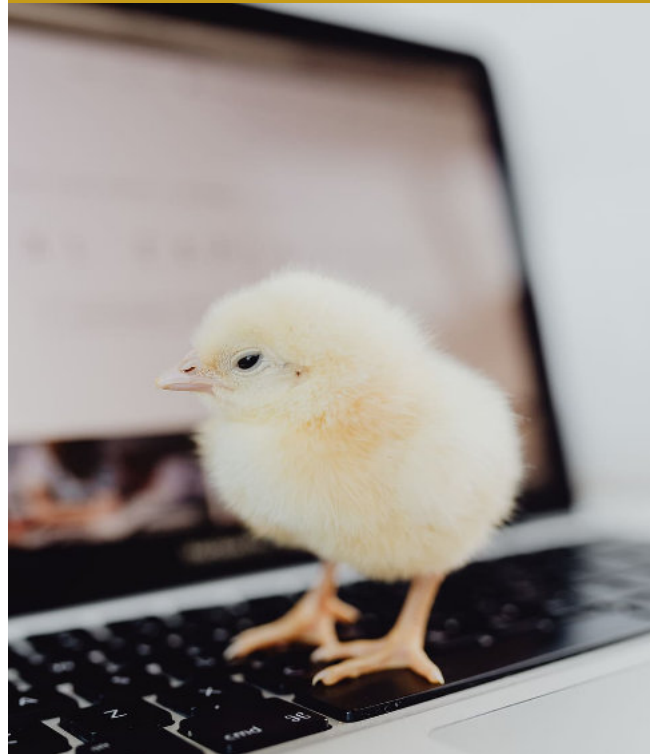
- continues unchanged
- consideration is given for a single state-wide animal registry is established

In regard to the Regulatory Impact Statement Animal Care Australia hold serious concerns with the use of the statistics from the 2023 Victorian Pet Census to justify an increase of fees, and in particular fees and responsibilities targeting Approved Organisations (dog and cat breeding associations).

Read more in our submission on our website: [here](#)



Advocacy News



Important Pet News

City of Melbourne:

City of Melbourne changes to rules for the desexing of cats

From 1 October 2025, all cats in the City of Melbourne must be desexed.

Exemptions to mandatory desexing apply in some circumstances, such as if you are a registered breeder, member of an applicable organisation, or if your cat's vet provides a valid medical reason they cannot be desexed.

The City wants to support cat owners during this period – that's why they're offering a low-cost desexing program, where registered owners will pay only \$50 for the procedure. They're also offering \$50 vet appointments for registered owners who are unsure if their cat has been desexed or can't find proof (e.g. a desexing certificate).

To book your cat in for an appointment or procedure, please contact The Lost Dogs' Home Vet Hospital on 03 8379 4498 or via email vet@dogshome.com

You can read more here:



By: Michaela Storen -
Insect & Arachnid
Representative



Spring has arrived!

With the arrival of spring, warmer temperatures and longer daylight hours trigger increased insect activity in the native environment. Pollinators like bees, butterflies, and beetles become more active, playing essential roles in plant reproduction and ecosystem balance.

In Australia, spring is the perfect time to plant native, bee-friendly plants that support local pollinators. Gardeners can start by choosing flowering natives like Grevilleas, Callistemons (bottlebrushes), and native daisies, which provide essential nectar and pollen for native bees. It's best to select a mix of species that flower at different times to offer year-round food sources. Preparing the garden bed with well-drained soil and placing plants in sunny spots can help them thrive. Avoiding pesticides and chemical sprays is crucial, as these can harm bees. Even small backyard spaces or pots on balconies can become valuable bee habitats with the right native plants and a bit of care.

This little bee (pictured) was happily pollinating a plum tree in my backyard this week, so I rushed to capture the sacks of pollen stuck to his back legs and fluff. So, if you see insects this spring, take a moment and admire the detail and resilience of such hard-working little creatures.



- Animal Cruelty on Social Media -

What we click on matters

By: Karri Nadazdy - Horse & Livestock Representative

Have you ever seen a video on social media showing a drowning puppy or a kitten trapped on a highway and wondered why the person filming wasn't helping the animal?

Or perhaps you have seen a rescue of a pitiful, injured or diseased animal and noticed that the 'after' video is clearly an animal of a different size, pattern or colour?

Many of these videos are faked to generate income from social media clicks. Not fake animals or AI videos, but the rescue itself is staged to create social media content.

They are often in the shorts or reels that pop up in your feed from creators that you do not follow. These layouts are designed to catch your attention with short grabs of the full video, to make you curious about what

happens next, and shares the most popular videos that relates to things you look at.

Those of us that engage with posts about animals and pets are targets for these kinds of videos.

A report by World Animal Protection Society and Social Media Animal Cruelty Coalition in January this year reviewed more than 1,000 videos on Facebook, YouTube, TikTok, Instagram and X, showing supposedly abandoned animals that were buried or trapped or whose limbs were chained up or were about to drown. More than 600 of those videos had been viewed more than 500 million times.

This is not a small problem.

Just this week, I saw videos of a puppy tangled

in a net with painful injuries, a kitten swimming underneath ice in a canal trying to find a way out, a monkey being bitten by a snake, and a kitten in the middle of a highway with cars dodging it. In all of the videos – after you have watched an animal suffer without intervention for way too long, a “rescuer” runs in to save the animal. Then you see edited footage of the animal being cared for and/or fully recovered, usually at home, and not at a vet.

Often the “after” scenes are really the “before” footage of the animal, and the sad scenes you see at the beginning are, in reality, the animal's last moments. Most are unlikely to have survived their ordeals. These animals are put into dangerous situations on purpose to film their “rescue”. The creators are

literally causing the animal harm and suffering to get you to click on their video. And hundreds of millions of people **are** clicking on these videos and reacting with positive comments. Sometimes the video is meant to be funny, but shows an animal being injured, or attacked by another animal. I see this often with horse videos.

Even people commenting to notify others that the rescue is fake are helping to increase the popularity of the video. “Rage Bait” is the name given to videos intended to get a reaction (any reaction!) from people. Social media shares popular videos regardless of whether people are happy or angry about them. Not engaging with them (not clicking on them) is the best way to beat the algorithm.

Much of this content is created outside of Australia, and not subject to our animal cruelty laws. You might have noticed a large number of videos are of monkeys, cats and dogs (strays are abundant and easy to find in many countries), but can also be of rabbits, reptiles, and ducks. Often times the same animal is abused over and over for different videos and you may start to recognise them.

Veterinarian Michaela Fels, a university research assistant at the University of Veterinary Medicine, Hannover, surveyed more than 3,200 people online and found 98.5% had already seen such content. Yet only 46% of respondents recognised animal suffering.

They are horrific videos, especially when you know they were staged and filmed deliberately to get clicks.

It’s one of the main reasons I don’t use social media very often – there’s just so many of these videos and there is no way to opt out of seeing them.

So, what is the purpose of all of these fake rescue videos? It’s about money, of course. The videos are usually asking for donations, or are attached to adverts. On some platforms such as YouTube, just having large numbers of clicks will generate income. One report by Four Paws in 2020 said some 2,000 fake rescue videos on YouTube potentially earned up to \$US15 million.

I’ve read many tips online on how to spot these fake rescue videos, but really there is one very easy way to tell: notice how long the animal is filmed suffering without anyone taking action to help. Notice when they are filming something abnormally mundane before an animal appears in shot and needs rescuing. (Who films garbage bags in an alley, if they didn’t know there were kittens tied up inside the bag beforehand?) When a normal person sees an animal in danger or suffering, they don’t pull out their phone and film for while – they jump into action, and maybe film something about it later!

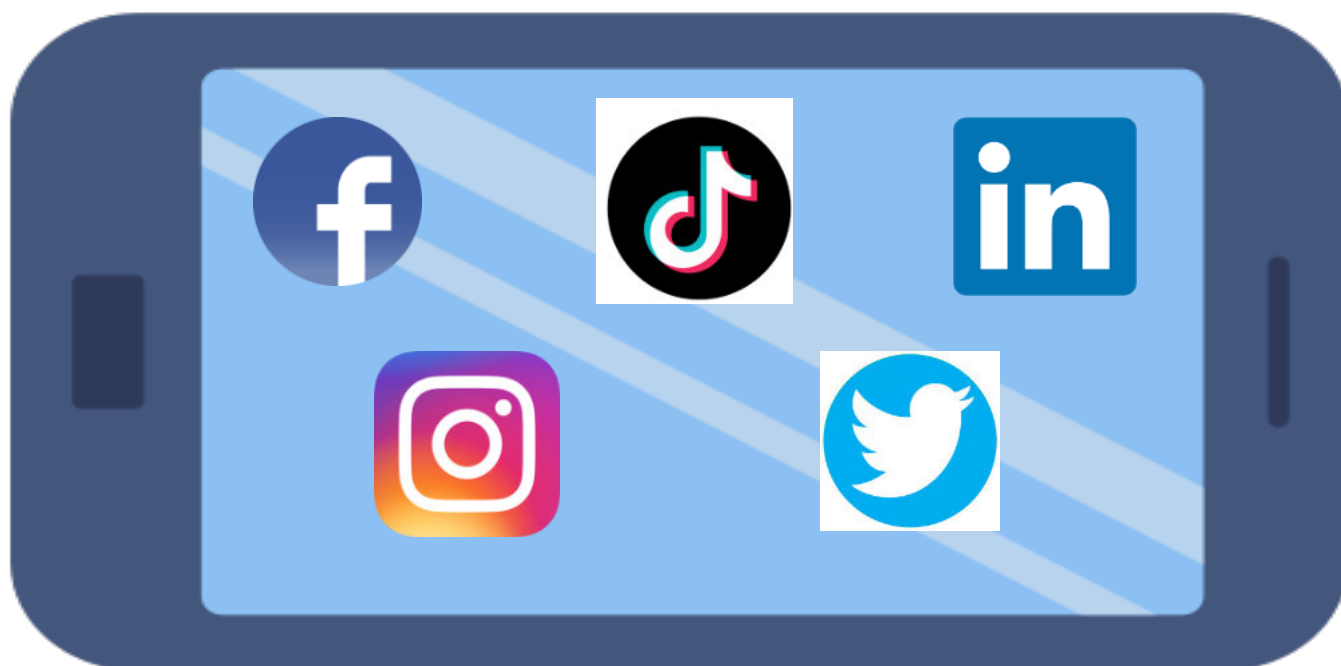
So, what can you do to help?

1. Tell your friends! Especially older users of social media who don’t realise the videos are fake and may be donating money to help! These videos depend on good hearted people to scam.
2. Not clicking on the videos is the best thing, as it reduces the numbers of views the video receives.

“ ... some 2,000 fake rescue videos on YouTube potentially earned up to \$US15 million ”

Clicks = money in many instances. Educating your friends helps reduce the number of clicks. Never react or comment on the videos, as any like or comment, even if its negative, feeds the social media algorithm to share the video to more people.

3. Reporting the video as animal cruelty is also good, especially if you've already clicked on it – when the video receives enough complaints the social media platform will take the video down, and if the same accounts are reported often, their profile or channel will be closed or banned.
4. If you see a video made in Australia (you may recognise the background or see road signs or uniquely Australian features), report the video to police in your state. Police have access to social media companies that other agencies do not. Take a screenshot or screen record the video, if you can, to help identify the video and creator after the social media platform removes it. There is a small chance of prosecution, if the creator is causing the animal harm. Again, the more complaints police receive the more likely action will be taken.
5. Holding social media companies accountable for allowing this content to be published long enough to have millions of views is another step we can take. If the content was not profitable, people wouldn't create it and put animals in harms way to do so. Mention this when you are asked to do surveys or comment on your social media experience. Complain to the Social media platform (they are notorious for having no contact information themselves, so use what opportunities you can!) and respond to government inquiries, questionnaires or surveys about social media and when it causes harm.



Advocacy News



Response to Macedon Ranges City Council Dog off-leash and prohibited areas for dogs and cats

Animal Care Australia raised the following comments:

- * Notes a number of the changes relate to not allowing dogs to enter waterways or more crucially to be within 3 metres of any embankment.

- * A good number of off leash areas have reduced in size or have been removed entirely.

- * Council is not creating more fenced areas unless State government funded.

These changes result in an alarming outcome and impact on dog owners. If all registered dog owners in the shire wanted to exercise their dogs off leash daily, that would equate to around 225 dogs for each designated area each day.

Surely this is something that would not be acceptable or manageable for Council.

Animal Care Australia requested to meet with Council to discuss these matters further.

You can read those in our full response on our website here:





Working in the Animal Industry: Perception vs. Reality

By: Tracey Dierikx - Exhibited
Animals Representative

Perception 1: It's all cuddling animals all day

- **Reality:** Most roles involve cleaning, feeding, health checks, record-keeping, and maintaining environments. Direct “cuddles” are rare and, in many cases, not safe or appropriate. The focus is on animal welfare, not human enjoyment.

Perception 2: The work is glamorous and exciting

- **Reality:** It can be physically demanding, dirty, and emotionally tough. Staff often deal with waste, unpredictable behaviour, and sometimes euthanasia or loss. The rewarding moments come from long-term care and seeing animals thrive.

Perception 3: It's an easy career to get into

- **Reality:** Entry is competitive. Most jobs require qualifications (like Cert III in Animal Studies or Veterinary Nursing), practical experience, and ongoing professional development. Volunteer work and internships are often essential stepping stones.

Perception 4: Pay is high because the work is specialised

- **Reality:** Many animal care roles are modestly paid (read minimum wage) compared to the skill and effort required. The animal industry is also primarily casualised, so getting a full-time position anywhere is generally not going to happen unless you are highly experienced and qualified – senior positions mostly. People often do it out of passion, not for financial gain.

Perception 5: Every day is different and exciting

- **Reality:** While no two days are exactly alike, much of the work is routine—feeding, cleaning, monitoring health. The excitement comes in moments, such as an animal recovering from illness, a successful breeding program, or a breakthrough in training.

Perception 6: It's all about working with animals

- **Reality:** A large part of the job involves working with people—owners, visitors, volunteers, students, and colleagues. Communication, education, and teamwork are just as important as animal handling skills.

Takeaway:

The animal industry is incredibly rewarding but requires resilience, patience, and a strong commitment to animal welfare. The joy isn't in constant cuddles or glamour — it's in the ***quiet victories, lifelong learning, and the difference made to animals' lives.***

All that said... I wouldn't want to work in any other industry...

A Spotlight on ... Tracey Dierikx

Exhibited Animals Representative

By: Amanda Webb - Media & Sponsorship Coordinator

Tracey, in addition to representing exhibited animals at Animal Care Australia, you have held roles in animal husbandry and care. What does working with animals bring to your life?

Caring for animals in every regard is the hardest, most physical job I have ever done, but it is just so rewarding. You go home dirty and stinking, but your heart is full. I believe that being among animals makes us better people; and it fills your soul.

You've had a lifelong interest in caring for all manner of animals – what was it about exhibited animals that captured your interest?

Although I have rescued, rehabilitated, rehomed and cared for all types of pets and animals, I've always had a particular passion for exotic animals. That passion enticed me to pursue a career as a zookeeper, following years in the IT industry. I completed courses in Veterinary Nursing, Animal Studies and Captive Animals and subsequently felt that captive/exhibited animals was one area where I could still learn. I had also spent time learning about and taking photos of animals at Sydney zoos. Observing the looks and different mannerisms of each individual animal, while studying their family structures and group dynamics fascinated me. I was hooked!

What does your role on the Animal Care Australia committee involve?

I work closely with the Committee to ensure that Animal Care Australia is included in all consultation processes of reviews that relate to zoos and wildlife parks, marine parks, mobile education displays and circuses.

Given I also have a strong background in dogs and have worked as an Animal Welfare Manager at a large animal mobile exhibitor (Kindifarm), I also contribute on our general submissions to government inquiries relating to animal welfare and changes to animal welfare legislation.



What do you like most about being part of the Committee?

Our Committee comprises some of the most intelligent, passionate and welfare-focused people I've ever met. In each of our own ways, we inspire others to keep moving forward, with the understanding that animal welfare should always keep evolving.

What is your viewpoint on exhibited animals?

I want to see zoos, animal and marine parks, mobile displays and circuses continue. When we hear about the plight of exotic animals in the wild, it is hard for us to imagine their situation. However, when we actually see them in the flesh in a captive situation, we start to emotionally care, bond and think about them. This in turn prompts us to care more about their wild counterparts who may not be doing as well. Conservation is all about getting people to care - and captive animals can help make that change. We don't need to ban human contact with exotic animals, we need to increase it, because it makes us better people.

What sort of outcomes would you like to see for exhibited animals?

I would like to see zoos held up as pillars for education about exotic animal health and well-being, rather than being demonised for having their animals confined in enclosures. Ideally, within the zoo environment, community education would be led by volunteer staff, rather than just written signage. These personnel would tell the stories of the animals' different personalities, their likes and dislikes and their social hierarchy to help members of the public understand them better.

Fostering a stronger connection strengthens the care factor, which can assist with people becoming more involved in making changes that benefit global wildlife – as well as fundraising for conservation efforts.



Red deer love at Central Coast Zoo

Tracey and her pet fox, Ghost

Pigeon rescue, aged 7

What is one of the more tricky animal encounters you've had to deal with during your lifetime?

When I was a child, we lived near the beach and I used to bring home all manner of lost, abandoned and injured animals - from dogs, kittens and pigeons to fish, octopi, crabs and snakes. On one occasion, I was out riding my horse bareback and found a baby fruit bat, clinging to its dead mother. I had to rescue it, but getting back on my horse without any tack, while keeping hold of a tiny screeching bat was a major challenge! Once I did get back on, I pointed the horse toward home and it bolted on me. Trying to stay on, while securing the bat safely under my jumper was not an easy task.

What is one achievement of which you're particularly proud?

I personally wrote and produced a Husbandry manual for the red fox – the only one of its kind in Australia. It is available to download from the Australasian Society of Zoo Keeping [here](#)

**Animal Care Australia's
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING for 2025**

7.30 to 8.30pm

NOVEMBER 10th

Meetings in 2025 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.

**Contact Amanda our Media &
Sponsorship Coordinator:
media@animalcareaustralia.org.au**



***Become a
sponsor!***

Congratulations

Supreme Companion Exhibit In Show

**Emerald DGC
Mirabella**



Owners
Michael Auld
And
Lynda Du Vallier



MAINE COON



**Coordinating Cat
Council of Australia
National Show 2025.**





BURMESE



NORWEGIAN FOREST CAT



BRITISH SHORTHAIR



RUSSIAN



RAGDOLL

ABYSSINIAN



Congratulations
Supreme
Pedigree
Exhibit
In Show

Osiris(v) Bombshell
Abyssinian
Bred by Michael
And
Sue Shawn



SIBERIAN



SIAMESE



PERSIAN

Advocacy News



Melbourne City Council – Domestic Animal Management Plan

Animal Care Australia responded to the Council's draft Domestic Animal Management Plan.

Animal Care Australia commends and fully supports Council's position in relation to NO CAPS currently placed on numbers for pets (other than state-legislated caps on dogs and cats).

Animal Care Australia wishes other Councils within Victoria would follow this position and recognise good animal welfare is not about numbers.

Animal Care Australia does not support the Animal Management Officers being upskilled by RSPCA Victoria as we do not support the methods, or the overall ethos of the RSPCA.

Animal Care Australia did raise other minor concerns with the draft.

You can read those in our full response on our website here:



Response to Monash City Council – Domestic Animal Management Plan

Animal Care Australia DOES NOT SUPPORT the sole use of surveys as a means of consultation.

Animal Care Australia questioned the effectiveness of the animal management training when Council does not have a designated Animal Management Officers, instead employing 11 Community Law Officers ('enforcement officers') who are responsible for overseeing ALL aspects of Council laws and compliance.

Animal Care Australia also questioned Council's website stating: "In order to register your cat with the City of Monash, your cat must be desexed." . . This clearly leads to their high unregistered statistics quoted.

Animal Care Australia commended Council on its education strategies and did raise some other minor concerns with the draft.

You can read those in our full response on our website here:



- Proud Sponsors -

Archie's Cruciate Ligament Recovery with Petcover



Archie, a Yellow Labrador Retriever, entered Caroline's life in late 2020.

Who could ever guess they would go through such an emotional journey? Archie's beautiful energy was radiant, making it challenging to not smile at such a shmuck. But unfortunate events took place, turning joy into pain. One sunny spring afternoon, while chasing after his ball, Archie took a wrong step and, in an instant, **tore his cruciate ligament**.

Caroline rushed him to Singleton Veterinary Hospital, where diagnostic tests, scans, pain relief, and anaesthesia quickly added up to **\$892.45**. Thankfully, with her Petcover policy, she received **\$633.95** back, easing the immediate financial stress.

When it was confirmed Archie needed urgent cruciate ligament surgery at Bruncker Rd Veterinary Centre, costing **\$4,563.55**, Caroline feared the worst. But with her **Superior Entry Level 100% Back Policy**, Petcover covered **\$4,413.55** after her \$150 excess, including surgery, anaesthesia, and aftercare. In one of the most stressful times a pet owner can face, Caroline had more than financial support! She had peace of mind.

How did having Petcover insurance help you and your pet?

There were no worries regarding funding and being reimbursed, and that took the pressure off everything.

Would you recommend Petcover to others, and why?

Already have! Her brother moved to Petcover after I recommended it to the owner.

Act today. Call Petcover on **1300 731 324**, visit **petcovergroup.com/au** and make sure your pet is protected.

Get A Quote Today

We spoke to Caroline about her experience:

How was your experience with Petcover's claims process?

It's been fantastic so far. I had a lovely conversation with the claims consultants and can see that they really care and are animal lovers.

What stood out about Petcover's service?

Really easy to do the claiming part; just emailed the claim through, and Petcover contacted the vets when I needed further information. I have only had a couple of claims with Archie, but with ACL surgery, it was totally covered, and Petcover being able to follow through really helped take the pressure off.

Why did you choose Petcover?

He came with six weeks of introductory cover from the breeder and to be honest we did look around before converting. But we chose to convert because if the breeder is giving it with the puppies, it's for a reason, and I haven't looked back since.





Article from: [petMD.com](https://www.petMD.com)



— Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (HCM) — **IN CATS**

Like the human heart, the feline heart has four chambers—two smaller chambers on the top, the left and right atrium, and two larger chambers on the bottom, the left and right ventricle.

Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (HCM) is the most common heart disease where the left ventricle's heart muscle thickens, reducing its ability to pump blood effectively.

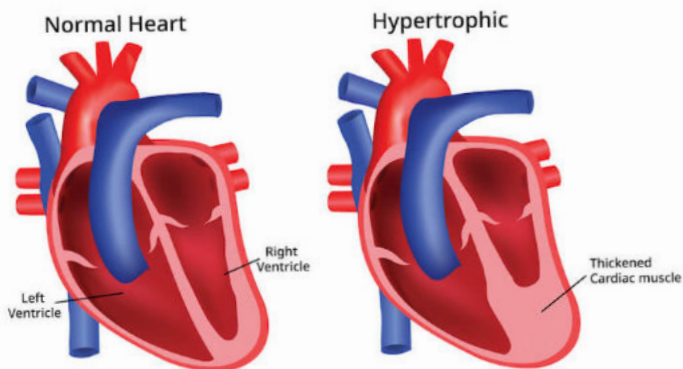
This can lead to symptoms like difficulty breathing, weakness, paralysis, and sudden death due to congestive heart failure or blood clots.

It is estimated that 1 in 7 cats will develop HCM at some point in their life. HCM is more common in certain breeds, and specific gene mutations have been identified in some breeds including the Maine Coon, Ragdoll, Persian, British & American Shorthair, Sphynx, Norwegian Forest Cat & Bengal.

While often genetic, it has no cure; treatment focuses on managing symptoms with medication and improving quality of life.

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Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM)



Symptoms:

Many cats with HCM show no symptoms, but some can develop:

- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Lethargy and exercise intolerance
- Loss of appetite
- A heart murmur or irregular heartbeat
- A sudden inability to use one or more legs, often caused by a blood clot
- Collapse
- Sudden death

Diagnosis:

Not all vets are experienced at ECG testing so you may need to have this done by a specialist.

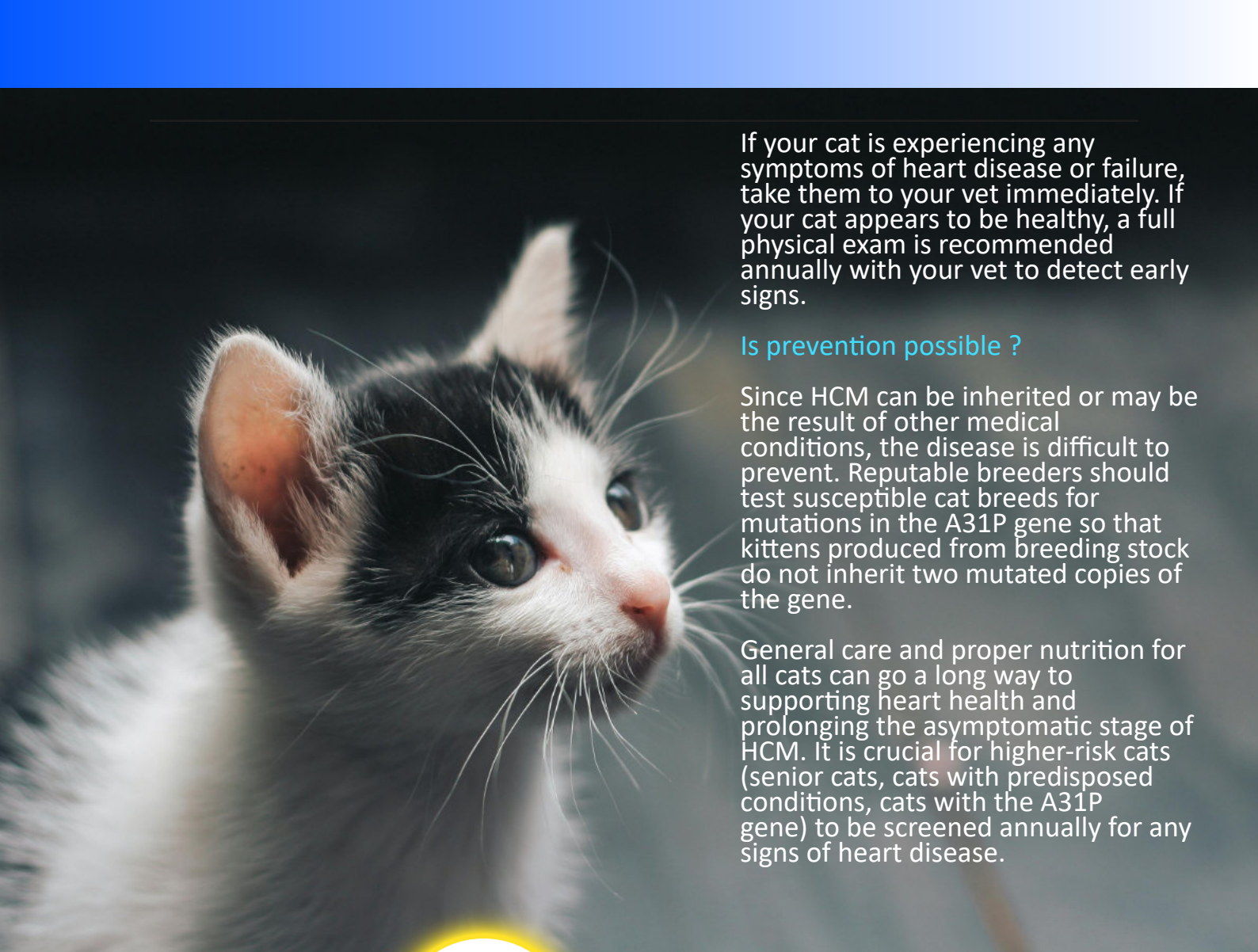
- Echocardiography or ECG (Heart Ultrasound):
The primary tool to measure the thickness of the heart walls and assess chamber size.
- Eliminating other causes:
Blood tests to check thyroid hormone levels and blood pressure measurements are crucial to rule out other conditions causing heart thickening.
- Other tests:
Chest X-rays can reveal fluid in the chest cavity (congestive heart failure), and an electrocardiogram (ECG) can detect abnormal heart rhythms.

Treatment:

There is no cure, but treatments can help manage the condition and improve quality of life:

- Medications:
May include drugs to slow the heart rate, help the heart relax, prevent blood clots, or reduce fluid buildup.
- Monitoring:
Cats without symptoms require regular check-ups and heart scans to monitor their condition.

Cats with no symptoms may live a normal lifespan, but the disease usually worsens. If symptoms develop, cats will generally survive for about two more years.



If your cat is experiencing any symptoms of heart disease or failure, take them to your vet immediately. If your cat appears to be healthy, a full physical exam is recommended annually with your vet to detect early signs.

Is prevention possible ?

Since HCM can be inherited or may be the result of other medical conditions, the disease is difficult to prevent. Reputable breeders should test susceptible cat breeds for mutations in the A31P gene so that kittens produced from breeding stock do not inherit two mutated copies of the gene.

General care and proper nutrition for all cats can go a long way to supporting heart health and prolonging the asymptomatic stage of HCM. It is crucial for higher-risk cats (senior cats, cats with predisposed conditions, cats with the A31P gene) to be screened annually for any signs of heart disease.



Pets In Spring

In Australia, pet safety and health in Spring for dogs and cats, involve regular vet visits and parasite prevention for increased outdoor activity, grooming to remove winter coat and check for skin issues, and vigilance against garden hazards like toxic plants, pesticides, bees, and wasps.

Monitor for signs of allergies, such as excessive scratching, and watch for dangers like lawn seeds in ears and eyes, or potential rat poison exposure.

Health & Prevention

Vaccinations & Vet Checks:

Ensure vaccinations are up-to-date, as increased outdoor contact raises the risk of diseases like leptospirosis. Schedule a check-up to discuss heartworm prevention and other health needs for the season.

Parasite Control:

Keep pets on their regular flea, tick, and worming treatments, and treat your

home and garden if an infestation is present.

Allergy Monitoring:

Be alert for symptoms of seasonal allergies, such as itchy skin, runny eyes, or excessive licking, which can be caused by pollen, grass, or mould.

Diet & Fitness:

Adjust your pet's diet and exercise routine to match their increased activity levels, and avoid overfeeding to prevent health issues.

Garden & Environmental Hazards

Toxic Plants:

Many spring flowers, such as lilies, daffodils, tulips, and hyacinths, are toxic to pets. Check your garden and remove any harmful bulbs or plants.

Pesticides & Snail Bait:

Avoid using snail bait and other pesticides, as these are poisonous to pets.

Bees and Wasps:

Watch out for these pollinators, as stings can lead to painful swelling or life-threatening anaphylaxis.

Lawn Seeds:

Keep your lawn mowed to prevent grass seeds from lodging in your pet's ears, eyes, or between their toes, which can cause infections.

Rat Poison:

If you've seen rats, check for any rat poison that may have been laid and keep your pets away from the area.

Grooming & General Care

Regular Grooming:

A good brush-out removes excess winter coat, reduces matting, and helps you spot any lumps, bumps, or skin irritation.

Keep an Eye on Tools:

Store sharp gardening tools safely to prevent your pet from them as toys.

For other animals

Spring will bring warmer temperatures so ensure that you maintain an ideal temperature for them by monitoring their environment. For reptiles and fish, use thermometers, aquarium heating and reptile heat lamps. Species of reptile will be coming out of brumation. During this time, slowly increase the heat to match normal Spring temperatures and start to increase their feed.

Birds will be breeding so ensure they have sufficient brush, nesting materials and increased feed, etc as young begin to hatch.

Monitor your small mammals as they too will be looking to breed.

(Brumation is a natural process that allows healthy reptiles to handle stressful environmental conditions such as cold temperatures, drought, and/or extended periods of extreme heat.)

Advocacy News



Correspondence to **Municipal Association of Victoria seeking stakeholder consultation to Hume City Council's request for greater powers of entry**

Animal Care Australia raised the following concerns after Hume City Council requested greater powers to enter residents' homes without being accompanied by police:

1. Current Capability Gaps within Hume Council:

To our knowledge, Hume City Council does not currently have a fully operational Animal Management Team.

2. Concerns Regarding Training and Safety:

The handling of aggressive or dangerous animals requires advanced animal behaviour training, safety protocols, and a clear understanding of appropriate evidence-gathering procedures.

3. Legal and Civil Rights Implications:

Entry onto private property and in particular residences/ homes without police assistance or a warrant undermines longstanding principles of property rights and due process. Animal Care Australia requested to meet with Council to discuss these matters further.

4. Precedent for Other Councils:

A unilateral decision by one council to expand its enforcement reach should not set a concerning precedent for others.

Animal Care Australia called for a state-wide review and consultation relating to the appropriate role and scope of animal management officers across Victoria.

You can read our full correspondence on our website here:



Insect Expo in October



The 2025 National Entomology Insect Expo, Australia's premier showcase of the science of entomology, will be held from 3 to 5 October 2025, daily from 10 AM to 5 PM, at the Woodend Buffalo Sports Stadium, located at 1 (29) Forest Street, Woodend, Victoria [National Institute of Entomology](https://www.insectexpo.com.au).

The expo features over 100 exhibitors from across Australia and New Zealand, including entomologists, insect researchers, breeders, spider and scorpion keepers, insect educators, and specialist retailers. Visitors can explore static entomological collections, captivating 'live' insect displays, and enjoy children's workshops, insect-themed merchandise, a whimsical insect pantomime, and on-site food catering!

Advocacy News



Response to Draft Code of Practice for the Welfare of Dogs

It is apparent that a multitude of Guidelines and some Standards within this Code are based on animal rights ideological and/or personal bias-based opinion and not scientific or evidence-based fact.

Animal Care Australia made the following points:

- Questioned the individual representation of the ACT Animal Welfare Advisory Committee
- Questioned the ambiguous use of and lack of definition of 'aversive collar'
- Called out the ambiguous and ideological statements relating to dog training and socialisation
- The discriminatory guidelines opposing the interaction of dogs with people with disabilities
- Called-out the mandatory 3 hours of human contact for all dogs, which ignores scientific fact that not all dogs require this level of interaction, and the science recommends human contact must be based on the needs of the individual dog's breed, age and other factors.
- Questioned how enforcement of the 3 hours would be possible and what evidence an owner would need to maintain to protect themselves from being fined for breaching

and there was SO much more.

You can read our full response here:



The Animal Care Expert

Watch out for our next issue in
December 2025.

Click to read our [previous issues](#)

Parliament Inquiries

NSW: Parliamentary Inquiry into access restrictions to public lands and waterways

The NSW Parliament called for submissions on access restrictions to public lands and waterways including restrictions on activities within those lands & waterways. The extent of the public lands and activities is extensive, so please see the Terms of Reference for this Inquiry.

Primary recommendations:

- Review all state-wide existing and proposed access restrictions with clear, evidence-based community and stakeholder input
- Legislate consultation processes, ensuring outcome transparency and requiring engagement with recreational users, local and Indigenous communities, and other stakeholders.
- Increase investment in infrastructure and education to promote responsible behaviour and to reduce environmental impacts rather than adopting 'cancel culture' restrictions.



NT: Parliamentary Inquiry into Animal Protection and Related Legislation Amendment Bill 2025

The NT Government held an Inquiry into their Animal Protection and Related Legislation Amendment Bill 2025

Recommendations:

- Allow the use of restricted collars under strict regulated conditions, including by qualified professionals or under veterinary supervision, to prevent unnecessary euthanasia and promote behaviour rehabilitation.
- Define "reasonable grounds" for use with the power of entry.

... and more.

To protect Animal Care Australia under Parliamentary Privilege, our submission cannot be published publicly.

You can view our submissions on the Parliament websites from here:

<https://www.animalcareaustralia.org.au/inquiries/>

Wanto To Join Our Team?



Fish & Aquatic Species Representative

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.

Responsibilities include:

- 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 our Committee.
- Assist us to work with government, non-government & community stakeholders to ensure policy issues are coordinated and effectively communicated as per community and government expectations.

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



Research Assistant:

Experience:

Animal Care Australia is seeking a person who has reasonable experience in conducting research, analysing data, and preparing materials to inform the organisation and its media strategies and campaigns. You must have an understanding of identifying target audiences, effective media channels, and tracking campaign performances. It is desirable (but not essential) to have an understanding of the different levels of Australian government.

Essential skills:

- Strong research and analytical skills: The ability to gather, analyse, and interpret data is essential.
 - Excellent communication skills: Both written and verbal communication skills are important for preparing reports, presenting findings, and collaborating with Animal Care Australia's Executive, Committee and Social Media Team members.
 - Proficiency in media research tools and platforms: Familiarity with media databases, social media analytics tools, and other relevant software is required.
 - Organisational and time management skills: You will often need to work on multiple projects simultaneously and be able to manage your time effectively in order to meet deadlines.
 - Attention to detail: Accuracy is crucial in researching, compiling data, analysing results, and preparing reports.
- including government announcements and preparing materials to inform Animal Care Australia's media strategies and campaigns.
 - Monitor the increasing activities of government, local councils and animal activism across the country.
 - Liaise with the Animal Care Australia Animal Species Representatives to ensure species relevant information is presented with accurate, science-based facts.
 - Provide up to date reports and articles for Animal Care Australia's digital communications – social media, website and newsletter.
 - Assist with the development and scheduling of social media posts and other content across all platforms.
 - Provide general administrative support to the Animal Care Australia Committee and Social Media team and assisting with other tasks as needed.
 - 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.

Desirable – but not essential:

Have experience in and an understanding of the different levels of Australian Government ie: Federal, State (& Territory) and Local, and how they function.

Responsibilities include:

- Support the Social Media Team by conducting research, analysing data,

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





Response to Macedon Ranges City Council Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029

Animal Care Australia raised the following:

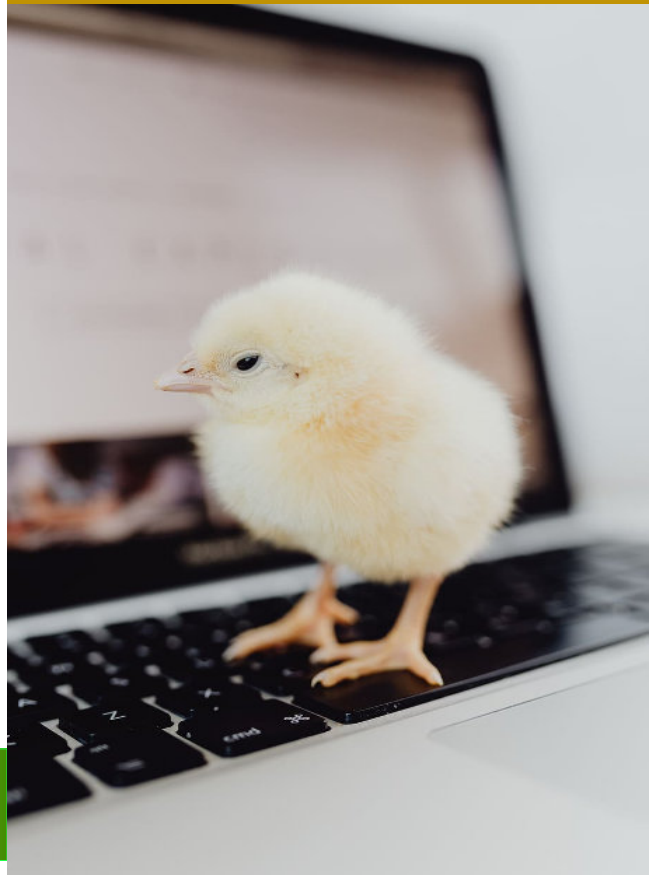
- Commended Council for their intention to review and implement a 24-hour cat containment to the owner's property but with further consultation.
- Notes the mandatory desexing of cats and dogs does not include exemptions for registered breeders.
- Does not support charging DAB's a fee for a random audit/inspections.
- Strongly questions the ability of Council to carryout compliance enforcement with just 4-6 Local Laws Officers, when they are responsible for ALL Local Law issues. Council should consider appointing full-time Animal Management Officers to focus on the task at hand.

Animal Care Australia requested to meet with Council to discuss these matters further.

Read more in our submission on our website here:



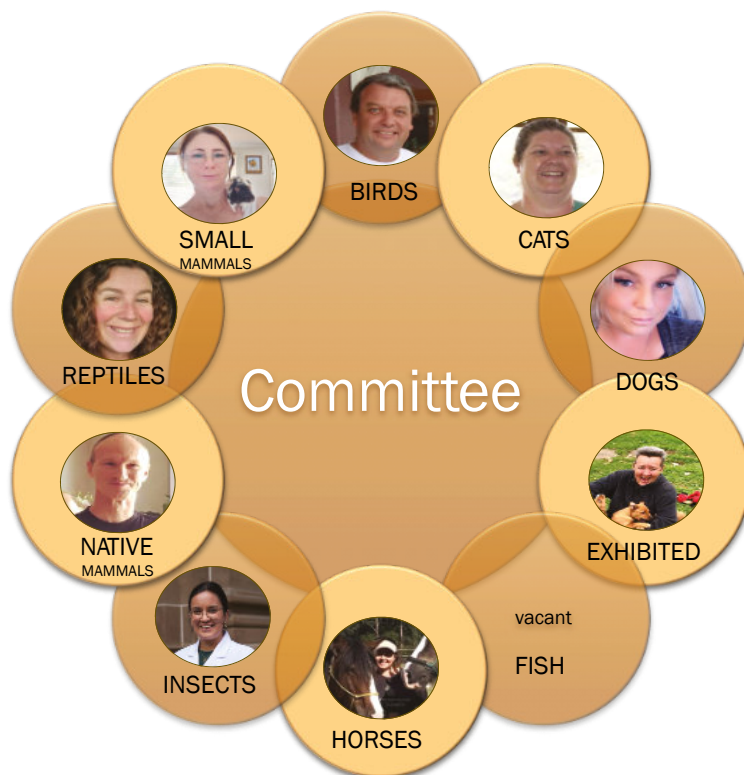
Advocacy News





Animal Care Australia

About Us



Species Representatives:

BIRDS: **Sam Davis**

CATS: **Michelle Grayson**

DOGS: **Kylie Gilbert**

EXHIBITED: **Tracey Dierikx**

FISH: vacant

HORSES: **Karri Nadazdy**

INSECTS: **Michaela Storen**

NATIVES: **Michael Donnelly**

REPTILES: **Joanne Payne**

SMALL MAMMALS: **Rachel Sydenham**

Executive:

PRESIDENT & TREASURER: **Michael Donnelly**

VICE PRESIDENT: **Sam Davis**

SECRETARY & PUBLIC OFFICER: **Michelle Grayson**

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

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