

12th December 2025
Department of Tourism and Hospitality
Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory
Wildlife Operations Unit

Draft Dangerous Animal Guideline – Crocodiles as Pets

Animal Care Australia is a national incorporated association established to consult with government in advocating 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 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, including pets, companion animals, animals used for educational or entertainment purposes or kept for conservation.

Animal Care Australia supports this Government’s decision to renew the ability for licensed native wildlife keepers to keep crocodiles as pets under special permit.

Animal Care Australia represents professional and hobby reptile keepers who reside nationally, including Victoria where crocodiles have been kept as licensed native wildlife. While Animal Care Australia supports the majority of the draft Guideline for Crocodiles as pets, it does contain a few concerns.

- 1) **We do not support the inclusion of ‘dangerous’** in the licensing type or as a title for this Guideline. The statement:

“Crocodiles are dangerous animals that can cause serious injury or death and live for a very long time. The keeping of crocodiles may therefore expose someone to significant risk from the crocodile through inadequate housing or handling, or in the event of escape from an enclosure through negligence, equipment failure, or vandalism.”

This statement equally applies to the keeping of dogs and while it is true certain breeds are designated as ‘dangerous’ governments including the Northern Territory do not declare all dogs as dangerous nor create ‘Keeping Guides’ that label them as such. The inclusion here is simply fodder for scaremongers and as such is not necessary.

Further to this point, statements from department officials across the country and within this Guideline continually referring to the ‘supposed public safety risk.’ Where is the data to prove these animals pose a risk to the community whilst being kept as pets? Obviously if a saltwater crocodile was to escape in the NT they are more likely to survive than they would in Victoria, but – the Northern Territory are already acutely aware of saltwater crocodiles, and how to keep themselves from danger – which implies the statement is referring to those kept as pets and as such Animal Care Australia is not aware of and requests any data/proof of “escaped” pet crocodiles having caused a public safety risk.

Again, we could cite real data where this does apply to the keeping of pet dogs.

- 2) **Enclosure size requirements**

These are excessive and do not match the requirements set out for other animals of the same or similar sizing as crocodiles.

“A permit to keep a crocodile over 60cm in length will only be considered if the permit holder has a property 5 acres (2 hectares) or larger”

A 2ft crocodile does not require enclosures that would occupy 5 acres. The enclosure sizes required do not require that extent of land – that is stupendously out of touch with reality.

Animal Care Australia also questions this statement: “

“Enclosure must include a heated water pool if in cold climates and temperature regulation:

- *Water 26–29°C*
- *Air 29-33°C”*

You do realise these are requirements for the keeping of crocodiles in climates that are continuously cold and not the Northern Territory? Crocodiles are naturally capable of coping with overnight drops of temperature resulting in water and air temperature well below those stated above. Perhaps this is referring to the standards needed for hatchlings and not adult crocodiles.

Again, with the notable exceptions above Animal Care Australia is fully supportive of this government re-instating the ability for people to keep crocodiles as pets.

Should you require further details please do not hesitate to reach out as we would be happy to meet with you and further discuss this matter.

Kind regards,



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About Animal Care Australia

As a nationally recognised animal welfare organisation, Animal Care Australia 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, including pets, animals used for educational or entertainment purposes or kept for conservation, and in particular native birds, reptiles, and mammals.

Animal Care Australia was founded in early 2018 to establish an organisation run solely by volunteers to lobby for real animal welfare. With extreme animal rights and animal liberationist ideologies influencing government legislation, regulation, and policy at our expense and to the detriment of our animals and pets, it has become necessary to provide government with a balancing voice.

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

By educating our members and the public about the importance of treating animals with kindness and respect for their needs and promoting the humane treatment of animals to improve animal welfare outcomes, Animal Care Australia is in the unique position of lobbying and advocating for all animals within our care.

Animal Care Australia provides priority to the following:

- advocating for stronger welfare outcomes
- advocating to increase education of the public in animal welfare and best care techniques
- educate the public on handling their animals with kindness & respect and the importance of their needs
- educate the public in the differences between animal welfare and animal rights