



Australian Animal Welfare Strategy


Review of Existing Animal Welfare Arrangements for the Companion Animals Working Group

Prepared for the Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

July 2006

Executive Summary

The Australian Animal Welfare Strategy is an agreed blueprint for animal welfare in Australia. It identifies the best ways of continuing to enhance animal welfare outcomes in Australia.

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Six broad working groups have been established to oversee the implementation of the Strategy, covering all animal use sectors. This report has been prepared for the Companion Animals Working Group (CAWG). It provides an overview of the current state of play with regard to companion animals' welfare, including applicable legislation and regulations, codes of practice, position statements, education and information programs and identification of key stakeholders in the field.

A very broad definition of companion animals has been adopted which is included in Section 2. The description identifies overlaps with other working groups.

There are 2 broad areas of legislation: that concerned with the welfare of companion animals and that concerned with the management of companion animals. Each state/territory has legislation relating specifically to welfare/cruelty to animals. Each state with the exception of Queensland and the Northern Territory has a dog and in some cases cat management act. The inclusion of cats within the management legislation has been a relatively recent development. There is also extensive legislation in relation to the management of wildlife however it was not possible to address this legislation within the scope of this brief.

There are many state-based codes of practice relevant to the welfare of companion animals. Some states are comprehensively covered whilst other states have fewer or no codes of practice relating to companion animals.

Some industry and user groups have codes of practice. Whilst these generally have no legal standing they provide a set of industry based standards, which are often a requirement for membership. The Australian Veterinary Association has numerous codes of practice that provide veterinarians with guidance on welfare related issues. However many could also be considered as position statements in that they establish the profession's position in relation to a range of welfare related issues. Other groups with Codes of Practice include the RSPCA, the Australian National Kennel Council, the Australian Horse Industry Council, the Avicultural Society of Australia, some pigeon racing associations throughout Australia, the Australia New Guinea Fishes Association, the Australian Veterinary Poultry Association, the Pet Industry Association of Australia, the Pet Food Industry Association of Australia and the Aquaculture Council of Australia.

The National Consultative Committee of Animal Welfare has a series of position statements relating to the welfare of companion animals and these are outlined in Section 5. The RSPCA, the Australian Equine Veterinary Association and the Australian National Kennel Council also have various policy statements, position papers and guidelines on a range of relevant issues.

There is some overlap between the codes of practice and position statements, policies etc. It is recommended that these codes and position statements be

reviewed for consistency, gaps and overlaps and for the appropriateness of their content.

There is a plethora of education programs in existence throughout Australia originating from and/or operated by a wide range of stakeholders. It would be impossible to list them all. These relate mostly to dogs and cats and are geared towards improving safety, nuisance and environmental impacts. There is scope to augment the welfare message in these programs.

In Section 7 we have sought to identify the stakeholders involved in the welfare of companion animals. However the list is not necessarily exhaustive. To a greater or lesser degree these groups are all involved and interested in the welfare of companion animals.

The recommendations of this Stage are as follows:

1. Focus on a combination of legislation and community education as the best means for enhancing a welfare orientation amongst pet owners.
2. Consider strengthening the welfare orientation of existing management legislation.
3. Consider whether the management based legislation should be extended to cover all companion animals.
4. Review existing Codes of Practice and Policy Statements for overlaps, gaps, consistency and identification of best practice.
5. Strengthen the welfare orientation contained in education programs in responsible pet ownership.
6. Encourage local Companion Animal Management Plans to include a greater welfare component.
7. Advocate continued strategic support from whole of government to address indigenous social disadvantage.
8. Identify future research priorities relevant to the welfare of companion animals.

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1 Introduction

The Australian Welfare Strategy was developed to provide the national and international communities with an appreciation of animal welfare arrangements in Australia. It is an agreed blueprint for animal welfare in Australia. It was developed with extensive stakeholder consultation and has been endorsed by the Primary Industries Ministerial Council (PIMC).

Implementation of the Strategy will help improve the provision of more effective communication, education and training across the whole community as well as improve the general level of understanding of animal welfare and will identify the best ways of continuing to enhance animal welfare outcomes in Australia.

The Strategy covers the care, uses and direct and indirect impacts of human activity on all sentient species of animals in Australia.

The Strategy embraces a broad national vision for the humane treatment of all animals and provides a framework for sustainable improvements in animal welfare outcomes, based on scientific evidence and social, economic and ethical considerations. It reflects the high regard Australians place on the value, care and the well being of animals.

The Strategy outlines its approach to animal welfare where it says:

The Australian approach to animal welfare requires that animals under human care or influence are healthy, properly fed and comfortable and that efforts are made to improve their well-being and living conditions. In addition, there is a responsibility to ensure that animals which require veterinary treatment receive it and that if animals are to be destroyed, it is done humanely.

Animal welfare, animal liberation and animal rights are not synonymous terms. Animal liberation and animal rights represent a wide diversity of philosophical views and personal values. The Strategy omits value statements that are incompatible with the responsible use of animals for human purposes, such as companionship, food, fibre, research and teaching conducted for the benefit of humans and animals in Australian society.

Six broad working groups have been established covering all animal use sectors. These include:

- Animals used for work, sport, recreation or on display.
- Animals in the wild.
- Companion animals.

- Livestock/production animals.
- Aquatic animals
- Animals in research and teaching.

The first step towards sustainable improvements in animal welfare policies and programs in Australia is to review the current *state of play* and to detail the systems currently in place. This information will enable improvements to be made by building on the strengths of the current system and will importantly identify areas where further improvements can be made.

This report has been prepared for the Companion Animals Working Group. It contains the first step towards development of a comprehensive inventory of the welfare related programs, policies, legislation and codes of practice existing within the sector.

Section 2 of this report contains an overview of the sector. It discusses the importance of companion animals in Australia and defines companion animals, drawing links with other working groups where relevant. It also introduces the main players in the field.

Section 3 contains the legislative framework. It address 1) welfare legislation that exists in each state and 2) management based legislation in each state relating to dogs and in some cases cats. There is no federal legislation relevant to the welfare or management of companion animals.

Section 4 lists relevant Codes of Practice. These include those of the federal and state/territory governments and those of key stakeholders. Many of the Codes of Practice could be described as position statements so it is important to recognise the overlaps with Section 5.

Section 5 lists position statements of various key stakeholders.

Section 6 contains some information/education programs. Clearly however all stakeholders are involved in some level of education which is why they have been listed in the following section. There is a plethora of education programs in existence and it is impossible to capture them all. Most of the education programs are focused on the keeping of dogs and cats and are geared towards improving safety, nuisance and environmental impacts.

Section 7 lists the stakeholders involved in the sector. Clearly not all can be captured however each is involved to a greater or lesser degree in the welfare of companion animals.

2 The Companion Animals Sector

2.1 Importance of Companion Animals

Companion animals are an integral part of the Australian way of life. Over 60% of Australians currently own pets whilst 80% of the population have a pet now or have had a pet in the past.

It is also worthwhile noting that companion animals are worth \$4.62 billion annually to the Australian economy.

2.2 Definition of Companion Animals

Companion animals are animals kept by humans as pets. In this inventory, a wide definition of companion animals is adopted as described in Table 1. It should be noted that there are numerous overlaps with other Working Groups as identified in the table.

Table 1: Animals to be covered by the AAWS Companion Animals Sectoral Working Group

Species	Type	Lead Sector	Overlapping Group
Dogs	Pet	CA.	CA.
	Guide dogs	CA.	Animals for work, sport, recreation or on display.
	Assistance dogs	CA.	Animals for work, sport, recreation or on display.
	Pets for Therapy	CA.	Animals for work, sport, recreation or on display.
	Working dogs (farm)	CA.	Animals for work, sport, recreation or on display.
	Service dogs eg. AQIS, police	CA.	Animals for work, sport, recreation

Species	Type	Lead Sector	Overlapping Group
	customs, corrective services, defence,		or on display.
	Community (indigenous collective ownership)	CA.	Animals in the Wild.
	Showing.	CA.	Animals for work, sport, recreation or on display.
Cats	Pet.	CA.	CA.
	Breeding.	CA.	CA.
	Community.	CA.	Animals in the Wild.
	Cat show.	CA.	Animals for work, sport, recreation or on display.
	Research & Teaching.	Animals in Research & Teaching.	Animals in Research & Teaching.
	Farm cats (working).	CA.	Animals for work, sport, recreation or on display.
	Assistance/therapy (including untrained therapy cats).	CA.	Animals for work, sport, recreation or on display.
Birds	Caged /pet.	CA.	CA.
	Livestock (pets).	CA.	Livestock – Production.
	Aviary (including show and	CA.	Animals for work, sport, recreation

Species	Type	Lead Sector	Overlapping Group
	breeding).		or on display.
	Birds for therapy.	CA.	Animals for work, sport, recreation or on display.
Horses, donkeys and mules	Pets.	CA.	CA.
	Show.	CA. or Animals for work, sport, recreation or on display.	Animals for work, sport, recreation or on display.
	Riding and trail.	Animals for work, sport, recreation or on display.	Animals for work, sport, recreation or on display.
	Entertainment.	Animals for work, sport, recreation or on display.	Animals for work, sport, recreation or on display.
	Breeding.	Livestock - Production	Animals for work, sport, recreation or on display/ Livestock – Production.
	Working.	Livestock – Production.	Animals for work, sport, recreation or on display/ Livestock – Production.
	Therapy eg riding the disabled.	Animals for work, sport, recreation or on display.	Animals for work, sport, recreation or on display.
	Production of biological products (harvesting for urine or blood).	Animals in Research and Training.	Animals for work, sport, recreation or on display.

Species	Type	Lead Sector	Overlapping Group
	Sport and recreation.	Animals for work, sport, recreation or on display.	Animals for work, sport, recreation or on display.
	Feral.	Animals in the Wild.	Animals in the Wild.
Reptiles/ amphibians	Pets/ breeding.	CA.	CA.
Native terrestrial mammals	Pet.	CA.	CA.
	Community.	CA.	Animals in the Wild.
Fish/ cephalopods/ crustacean etc		NB Aquatic Animals Working Group is not including crustaceans or molluscs (including cephalopods).	
	Pet.	CA.	Animals in the Wild / Aquatic Animals.
	Show/ display.	CA.	Animals for work, sport, recreation or on display.
	Commercial for domestic pet sale eg sea horses.	CA.	CA/ Aquatic Animals.
Rabbits/ hares	Pets.	CA.	Animals in the Wild.
	Showing.	CA.	Animals for work, sport, recreation or on display.
Rodents (mice, rats, guinea pig)	Pets.	CA.	Animals in the Wild.

Species	Type	Lead Sector	Overlapping Group
	Show/ display.	CA.	Animals for work, sport, recreation or on display.
Ferrets	Pet.	CA.	CA.
	Show/ display.	CA.	Animals for work, sport, recreation or on display.
	Hunting.	CA	Animals for work, sport, recreation or on display.
Livestock	Pet.	CA.	Livestock – Production.
	Community.	CA	Animals in the Wild/ Livestock – Production.

2.3 Overview of the sector

The term **responsible pet ownership** has widespread application in the companion animals sector although it relates mostly to dogs and cats. It addresses the welfare of animals and their impacts on the community and the environment.

Individual owners and **commercial operators** need to attend to their pet’s care and welfare and comply with welfare and management legislation. Owners are a disparate group as they are generally not members of an organization associated with companion animals. Their behaviour is affected by societal norms that change over time. These norms change with new legislation, community education of pet owners, new information and peer group pressure. Commercial operators are bound by industry and government codes of practice.

State Governments provide the legislative frameworks in each state and are increasingly involved in developing and running state-wide education programs, codes of practice and conducting research to achieve improved management and welfare outcomes. The legislation and regulations relate to 1) the welfare of animals and 2) the management of dogs and in some cases cats. Only Victoria and New South Wales have compulsory cat legislation. South Australia has a Dog and

Cat Management Act but the management of cats is left to the discretion of individual Councils. It should be noted that Queensland and the Northern Territory do not have a state-wide act to manage dogs or cats.

There are many **Codes of Practice** relating to companion animals. Being mostly state based they vary widely from state to state.

Councils have responsibility for managing companion animals through **by-laws or local laws** that can be applied to any species of companion animal. These tend to relate to the potential for safety, nuisance and environmental. Most common are restrictions on the number of animals that can be kept. There is no requirement for Councils to prepare a by-law or local law in relation to any animal or issue. The authority for preparing by-laws/local laws is the Local Government Act applying in each state.

Councils implement the management **legislation** applying in each state. Included in these Acts are requirements for registering and identifying dogs and in some cases cats and for dealing with wandering, stray and lost animals. Councils operate animal pounds or **shelters** or enter into arrangements with service providers.

Many Councils are involved in **education** activities to promote responsible pet ownership (mostly dogs and cats). These activities vary widely and might include school visits, brochures, pamphlets and advertisements or public relations in the local media. The main limitations on Councils pursuing education programs are lack of resources (funds and staff), unproven outcomes to justify expenditure and lack of experience and skills in running education programs. Education activities mostly relate to safety, nuisance and environmental impacts. State governments are involved in a range of education activities.

Councils are increasingly preparing **Animal Management Plans** with the aim of achieving better outcomes. They are usually concerned with dogs and cats. In Victoria and South Australia, all Councils will be required to have an Animal Management Plan in place in the next 2 years. New South Wales encourages the preparation of Plans, but has not introduced a mandatory requirement. Whilst most Animal Management Plans contain a welfare element, there is no requirement for them to do so and most are focussed on reducing community and environmental impacts. There is scope to increase the welfare focus in Animal Management Plans.

Animal Management Officers are increasingly being trained in animal handling and management with Certificate Courses being developed throughout Australia. There is scope to foster an increased ethic of care for companion animals in the content of these courses.

There are many **stakeholder groups** associated with companion animals: professional groups, welfare organisations, commercial operators and their

associations and interest and lobby groups. The Inventory has sought to include consideration of as many of these groups as possible.

3 Legislation

This section lists the legislation specifically affecting the welfare of companion animals. A separate consultancy to this project is currently reviewing this legislation. The discussion below does not include wildlife legislation or the nuisance provisions of various public health acts.

3.1 Federal Legislation

In 1992, the Federal Government introduced an import ban on 4 breeds of dog through customs regulation.

There is no other federal legislation applicable to the keeping of companion animals.

3.2 State and Territory Legislation

Each state and territory has legislation relating to:

- The protection and welfare of animals; and
- The management of dogs and in some circumstances cats. Queensland and Northern Territory don't have separate management acts.

In addition, the Local Government Act in each state provides Councils with the ability to make local laws or by-laws affecting all types of companion animals.

3.2.1 New South Wales

- Companion Animals Act.
- Companion Animals Regulations 1999.
- Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979.
- POCTA (General) Regulation 1996
- POCTA (Animal Trades) Regulation 1996.
- Exhibited Animals Protection Act 1986
- Exhibited Animals Protection Regulation 2005.
- Exotic Diseases of Animals Act 1991
- Exotic Diseases of Animal Regulations 2003.
- Non Indigenous Animals Act 1987 (to control and regulate the introduction into the State of certain species of animals and the movement and keeping of those animals within the state).
- Non-Indigenous Animals Regulation 1987.

3.2.2 Victoria

- Domestic Animals Act 1994
- Domestic Animals Regulations 2005.
- Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986.
- Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulations 1997.

3.2.3 Queensland

- Local laws eg City of Brisbane *Animals Local Law 2003*.
- Chapter 17A of the Local Government Act 1993 regulates the keeping of dogs already banned from importation in Australia. Requires all Councils to put in place a permit system for keeping these dogs or to have a higher level of control. eg amended local laws to ban these breeds.
- Animal Care and Protection Act 2001. Includes a legal Duty of Care obligation to animals within a person's charge.

3.2.4 South Australia

- Dog and Cat Management Act 1995.
- Dog and Cat Management Regulations 1995.
- Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1985

3.2.5 Western Australia

- Dog Act 1976.
- Animal Welfare Act 2002.

3.2.6 Tasmania

- Dog Act 2000.
- Dog Control Regulations 2001.
- Animal Welfare Act 2000.
- Guide Dogs and Hearing Dogs Act 1967.

3.2.7 ACT

- Animal Welfare Act 1992.
- Animal Welfare Regulation 2001.
- Domestic Animals Act 2000
- Domestic Animals Regulation 2001.
- Animal Disease Act 2005.

3.2.8 Northern Territory

- Animal Welfare Act 2004.

4 Codes of Practice

This section contains the Codes of Practice of:

- The Australian Government.
- Each State and Territory.
- Other Stakeholders ie industry, welfare, interest and community groups.

The Codes of Practice vary from mandatory requirements to codes that are better described as policy statements. There is therefore some overlaps with Position Statements contained in the following section.

4.1 Federal Government

There is a series of model Codes of Practice however none relate to companion animals.

There are two codes of practice developed at a national level that are potentially relevant to the care and management of companion animals.

Australian Code of Practice for production and inspection of chilled and frozen pet food

Weblink: www.publish.csiro.au/pid/1006.htm

The code is based on agreements reached in 1981 and manufacturing practices and technologies which have been generally adopted since then. The general purpose of the Code is to construct an acceptable framework upon which uniform State legislation can be constructed.

Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – Husbandry of Captive-Bred Emus

Weblink: www.dpi.vic.gov.au/dpi/nreninf.nsf/LinkView/791A977B012CCEE3CA256C19000EFD897C8492CFB3A035AE4A256DEA0027A4E0

The purpose of the code is to set a guideline for the responsible care and husbandry of emus that have been bred and/or reared in captivity.

4.2 State & Territory Governments

4.2.1 New South Wales

Weblink: <http://www.agric.nsw.gov.au/reader/welfare>

The Codes and Guidelines below are compulsory.

No 1: Companion animal transport agencies

Mandatory code for everyone involved in the business of companion animal transport or pet transport services.

No 2: Animals in Pet Shops

Mandatory code for everyone involved in keeping and selling companion animals through the retail trade.

No 3: Horses in riding centres and boarding stables

Mandatory code for everyone involved in the holding and care of horses in boarding stables, agistment or riding centres, including trail riding and trekking.

No 4: Keeping and trading of birds

Mandatory code for everyone involved in keeping, breeding, showing and trading birds (other than domestic poultry).

No 5: Dogs and cats in animal boarding establishments

Mandatory code for everyone involved in the holding and care of dogs and cats for boarding.

No 6: Breeding dogs

Mandatory code for everyone involved in the business of breeding puppies for sale.

No 7: Breeding cats

Mandatory code for everyone involved in the business of breeding kittens for sale.

No 8: Animals in pet grooming establishments

Mandatory code for everyone involved in the business of grooming and bathing dogs and cats.

No 9: Security dogs

Mandatory code for everyone involved in the business of providing and managing security dogs used to protect premises, goods or persons. .

Code of Practice for welfare of animals in films or theatrical performances

Mandatory code for animals used in the film and theatrical industry.

Guidelines for the pinioning of birds in NSW

Mandatory code for the pinioning of birds in the animal exhibition industry.

Fact Sheet 16: Guidelines for minimum standards for keeping horses in urban areas.

Guidelines for yards, stables, paddocks, tethering, feed storage, waste disposal, and pest control.

Weblink: www.agric.nsw.gov.au/reader/aw-factsheets/awfact16.htm

Horse yards and handling facilities

Provides principles for their handling and the facilities used including planning a yard systems, loading ramps and stables.

Weblink: www.agric.nsw.gov.au/reader/horse-management/a671.htm

4.2.2 Victoria

Weblink: www.dpi.vic.gov.au/dpi/nrenfa.nsf/FID/1AF1D71AF607629CA256D780013EFCE?OpenDocument

Most of these Codes are made under Section 59 of the Domestic (Feral and Nuisance) Animals Act.

Code of Practice for the management of dog and cats in shelters and pounds

Purpose: to specify the minimum standards of accommodation, management and care which are appropriate to the physical and behavioural needs of dogs and cats housed in shelters and pounds.

Code of Practice for the operation of boarding establishments

Purpose: to specify the minimum standards of accommodation, management and care which are appropriate to the physical and behavioural needs of dogs and cats housed in boarding establishments.

Code of Practice for the operation of pet shops

Purpose: to define the minimum standards of accommodation, management and care which are appropriate to the welfare, physical and behavioural needs of pet animals held for sale in pet shops registered under the DAA.

Code of Practice for breeding and rearing establishments

Purpose: to specify the minimum standards of accommodation, management and care which are appropriate to the physical and behavioural needs of dogs and cats housed in breeding and rearing establishments.

Code of Practice for debarking of dogs

Purpose: to protect the welfare of dogs from indiscriminate debarking and to encourage considerate management of debarked dogs.

Code of Practice for the operation of dog training establishments

Purpose: to specify the minimum standards of accommodation, management and care which are appropriate to the physical and behavioural needs of dogs being trained in dog training establishments.

Code of Practice for the intensive husbandry of rabbits

Purpose: a guide for all persons responsible for the intensive husbandry of domestic type rabbits for commercial production.

Code of Practice for tethering of animals (revision no. 1)

Purpose: specifies the requirements for tethering dogs, sheep, goats, cattle, donkeys and horses. Birds and cats must not be tethered under any circumstances.

Code of accepted Practice for the welfare of horses

Purpose: to provide an outline of the principles of husbandry and management that most affect the welfare of horses.

Code of accepted farming Practice for the welfare of horses

Purpose: to outline principles of husbandry and management that most affect the welfare of horses.

Code of Practice for the land transport of horses

Purpose: to provide guidance to persons concerned with the transport of horses. Emphasis is on the owner of the animals and drivers. Its aim is that transport stress and injury are minimised at all stages of the transport operation.

Code of Practice for the welfare of horses competing at bush race meetings

Purpose: provides a minimum standard for horses competing at bush race meetings in Victoria.

Code of Practice for horse hire and riding establishments

Purpose: specifies the minimum standard for horse care and management in horse hire establishments. Emphasis is placed on good horsemanship.

Code of Practice for the housing of caged birds

Purpose: to define the minimum standards of accommodation, management and care that are appropriate to the various species of cage birds.

Does not apply to the keeping of waterfowl, pigeons used for racing, poultry, pheasants or quail used for the commercial production of meat or eggs.

Housing of laboratory mice, rats, guinea pigs and rabbits

Purpose: to establish minimum standards for the housing and care of these animals under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986. It is intended to be read in conjunction with the current Australian Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes.

Code of Practice for the welfare of animals – private keeping of reptiles

Purpose: to establish standards to ensure that people keeping reptiles do so in a manner that meets minimum standards of animal welfare appropriate for the species concerned.

Code of Practice for the use of animals from municipal pounds in scientific procedures.

Purpose: to provide information relating to the use of animals from municipal pounds in scientific procedures.

Code of Practice for the use of small steel jawed traps

Purpose: to assist in capturing the maximum number of pest animals in the minimum time using the minimum number of traps necessary to undertake the task properly and consequently reducing the exposure of non target animals to traps.

Code of Practice for the welfare of animals in hunting (revision 1)

Purpose: to prevent cruelty and encourage the considerate treatment of animals that are hunted or used for hunting.

Code of Practice for the welfare of film animals

Purpose: to prevent cruelty and encourage the considerate treatment of animals on film sets.

Code of Practice for the public display or exhibition of animals

Purpose: to ensure the welfare of wildlife and exotic animals held in wildlife parks, circuses and travelling exhibitions.

4.2.3 Queensland

There are no codes of practice relevant to companion animals in Queensland.

4.2.4 South Australia

Code of Practice for the care and management of animals in the pet trade

Sets standards for the care and management of animals by those persons who operate or work in premises established or designated for the purpose of selling companion animals as a business for profit and reward.

Prepared and regulated by the Government of South Australia.

Code of Practice for the husbandry of captive birds

Weblink: www.unitedbirds.asn.au/sacodepracticeforcaptivebirds.htm

Contains minimum standards of management, accommodation and care for the physical and behavioural needs of captive birds. Does not apply to the keeping of waterfowl, pigeons used for racing, pheasants or poultry used for the commercial production of meat or eggs.

Code of Practice for the Management of Companion Animals in Shelters and Pounds

Contains minimum standards of management, accommodation and care for the physical and behavioural needs of animals housed in shelters and pounds.

Adopted as policy by the DCMB October 2003.

Pet Grooming Care and Management Code of Practice

Prepared by the Government of South Australia. It has been distributed to all businesses in South Australia but is not regulated.

4.2.5 Western Australia

Weblink: www.dlgrd.wa.gov.au/localGovt/animalWelfare/codesPractice.asp

Code of Practice for pigeon keeping and racing in Western Australia

Aims to assist all persons handling or using racing pigeons in Western Australia. Reference to the Code is made in the regulations provided under Section 25 of the Animal Welfare Act 2002.

Code of Practice for keeping emus in Western Australia

Aims to assist all persons handling or using racing emus in Western Australia. Reference to the Code is made in the regulations provided under Section 25 of the Animal Welfare Act 2002.

Code of Practice for the transportation of horses in Western Australia

Aims to assist all persons handling or using horses in Western Australia. Reference to the Code is made in the regulations provided under Section 25 of the Animal Welfare Act 2002.

Code of Practice for goats in Western Australia

Aims to assist all persons handling or using goats in Western Australia. Reference to the Code is made in the regulations provided under Section 25 of the Animal Welfare Act 2002.

Code of Practice for pigs in Western Australia

Prepared to assist all persons handling or using pigs in WA.

Code of Practice for poultry in Western Australia

Prepared to assist all persons handling or using domestic poultry in Western Australia.

Code of Practice for the transportation of poultry in Western Australia

Aims to assist all persons handling or using poultry in Western Australia. Reference to the Code is made in the regulations provided under Section 25 of the Animal Welfare Act 2002.

Code of Practice for keeping rabbits in Western Australia

Prepared to assist all persons handling or using rabbits in WA.

Code of Practice for exhibited animals in Western Australia

Prepared to assist all persons handling or using exhibited animals in WA.

4.2.6 Tasmania

Codes of Practice in Tasmania are called Animal Welfare Standards.

There are no Animal Welfare Standards relating to companion animals in Tasmania.

4.2.7 Australian Capital Territory

Weblink:

www.environment.act.gov.au/petsandlocalwildlife/animalwelfare/animalwelfarestandards-codesofpractice

Code of Practice for the welfare of dogs in the ACT

Provides general guidelines on the minimum standards of accommodation, management and care that are appropriate to the dog.

Code of Practice for the welfare of cats in the ACT

Provides general guidelines on the minimum standards of accommodation, management and care that are appropriate to the cat.

Code of Practice for pet shops

Provides standards for the care and management of all animals for sale.

Code of Practice for animal boarding establishments

Sets the minimum standards for the care and management of dogs and cats held at animal boarding establishments in the ACT.

Code of Practice for pet grooming establishments in the ACT

Provides minimum standards for the care and management of dogs and cats held in premises for grooming or bathing of pets for fee or reward.

Code of Practice for the short term display of animals

Provides minimum standards for the care and management of animals involved in short-term displays for the purpose of entertainment, education and/competition, such as animal displays, pet shows and agricultural shows not covered by other codes of practice.

Code of Practice for the handling of companion animals in pounds and shelters in the ACT

Objective is to ensure all animals entering pounds and shelters receive proper treatment consistent with the need to maintain their comfort, security and well being at all times.

Code of Practice for the trapping of animals on private premises

Provides the minimum standards of care for a trapped domestic animals that a trapper should undertaken when setting an allowable trap for the purpose of catching a domestic animal.

Code of Practice for the welfare of captive birds in the ACT

Provides general guidelines on the minimum standards of accommodation, management and care that are appropriate to different species of caged birds.

Code of Practice for the welfare of rats and mice

Provides general guidelines on the minimum standards for the accommodation, management and care appropriate to owned mice and rats.

Code of Practice for the welfare of horses in the ACT

Provides an outline of the principles of husbandry, management and handling throughout the lifetime of the horse.

Variation to the Code of Practice for the welfare of horses in the ACT

Provides additional requirements for the care and management of horses kept in commercial horse riding establishments.

Code of Practice for the welfare of greyhounds in the ACT

Provides general guidelines on the minimum standards of accommodation, management and care that are appropriate to the greyhound.

Code of Practice for animals used in films

Outlines the welfare needs of animals used in film production within the ACT. It provides general guidelines on the minimum standards of management and care appropriate to their use.

Code of Practice for the keeping of ferrets

Provides general guidelines on the minimum standards of accommodation, management and care appropriate to ferrets.

Code of Practice for the welfare of domestic poultry

Provides minimum standards intended to help people involved in the care and management of poultry to adopt standards of husbandry that are acceptable.

Code of Practice for the welfare of amphibians in captivity

Provides minimum standards of care for keeping of amphibians in captivity (including as pets) and encourages the protection of wild populations of amphibians from illegal harvesting and introduction of disease and genetic contamination.

Code of Practice for the keeping of rabbits

Provides general guidelines on the minimum standards of accommodation, management and care appropriate to owned rabbits.

Code of Practice for the welfare of the goat

Intended as a guide for persons responsible for the welfare and husbandry of goats.

The following **Charters for Responsible Pet Ownership** have their own weblinks:

Charter for Responsible Dog Ownership

Weblink:

www.environment.act.gov/petsandlocalwildlife/petowner/responsibledogownership

Whilst this is not actually a Code of Practice, it clearly codifies responsible behaviour with regard to the keeping of dogs in the ACT.

Charter for Responsible Cat Ownership

Weblink:

www.environment.act.gov/petsandlocalwildlife/petowner/responsiblecatownership

Whilst this is not actually a Code of Practice, it clearly codifies responsible behaviour with regard to the keeping of cats in the ACT.

4.2.8 Northern Territory

There are no Codes of Practice relating to companion animals but the Animal Welfare Act provides for Codes of Practice to be prepared.

4.3 Other Stakeholders

4.3.1 Australian Veterinary Association

Weblink: www.ava.com.au

The AVA has many Codes of Practice/Policies that relate to the welfare of companion animals. With the exception of *Welfare of the Domestic Pig*, policies relating to cattle, sheep and goats and pigs have not been included below.

AVA Code of Professional Conduct

States that veterinarians should:

Always consider the health, welfare and respectful treatment of the animal.

Strive to provide the best possible veterinary services and improve the quality of animal health and welfare at every opportunity.

Provides explanatory discussion.

AVA Constitution

One of its objects is to promote the advancement of the welfare of animals.

AVA Values

The AVA adopts the following values: professional excellence, integrity and compassion, unity in diversity, leadership, world best practice, strategic alliances.

Use of the AVA logo in relation to commercial and other endorsements

The AVA can provide expert advice to the public on quality standards of products and services in relation to animal health and welfare. This may include endorsement of products or services that meet an appropriate standards as determined by the Board of the AVA.

Website links

The AVA Board will consider approval of links to and from websites of organizations that it consider will be in the interests of AVA members. Provides guidelines.

Claw removal in dogs, cats and ferrets

Only acceptable when deemed by a veterinary doctor as being in the best interest of the animal

Commercial use of dog and cat pelts

The AVA opposes the commercial use of dog and cat pelts.

Companion animal businesses

Animals sold through pet shops, pounds or animal shelters should be desexed dogs and cats or puppies and kittens for which desexing vouchers are paid at the time of purchase. No animals should be sold from market stalls.

Companion animal welfare and responsible pet ownership

The AVA policies aim to foster the human/animal bond so that people can obtain the maximum enjoyment and amenity from their animals with full consideration of the animal's welfare and the needs of the wider community.

Dangerous dogs

This policy is under review.

Debarking of dogs (ventriculocordectomy)

The AVA believes that debarking of dogs should be performed only for veterinary reasons or as an alternative to euthanasia.

Demusking of ferrets

Demusking of ferrets, where there is no clear medical indication, is optional. Demusking has partial effect on controlling the odour of ferrets.

Desexing (surgical sterilisation)

The AVA considers early de-sexing of dogs and cats from 8 weeks of age for institutions involved in housing animals, in the interests of population control.

Dog and cat vaccination

The AVA supports the vaccination by veterinarians of cats and dogs for disease prevention.

Dogs and cats in pet shops

The AVA recognises the important role that pet shops play in companion animal supply. The AVA strongly supports guidelines which will ensure optimal care and welfare of pets.

Guidelines for the design and operation of animal shelters and municipal pounds

To assist in maintaining the health and welfare of animals confined in shelters or pounds.

Health insurance for Animals

Outlines positions for animal Insurance.

Importing dogs

The AVA supports the establishment and enforcement of behavioural standards in all dogs whose owners apply for their importation into this country.

Obedience training

The AVA encourages the training of dogs.

Pounds and shelters

To assist in maintaining the health and welfare of animals confined in shelters or pounds.

Protocol for assessing aggression in dogs by veterinarians

Protocol provides guidelines for the assessment of temperament in dogs (ie for those being assessed for sale or adoption). The protocol was developed by the RSPCA with assistance from the AVA and NCCAW.

Provision of blood supplies for use in dogs and cats

The AVA believes that the humane collection of blood from donor animals can benefit the recipients, without compromising the welfare of the donors.

Sale of companion animals at markets

The AVA opposes the sale of companion animals at markets.

Socialisation of young pups, including in breeding establishments

The AVA believes in the proper socialisation of pups from a young age to develop well trained and social dogs.

Tail docking and ear cropping of dogs

The AVA believes cosmetic tail docking and ear cropping of dogs are unnecessary, unjustifiable surgical alterations and are detrimental to the animal's welfare. The AVA recommends that it be phased out.

The benefits of pet and the human/animal bond

The AVA recognises the human/animal bond and seeks to promote the benefits of pets to the community.

Use of behaviour modifying collars on dogs

The AVA opposes the use of behaviour modifying collars utilising aversive electric stimuli. The ACA accepts the use of behaviour modifying collars utilising citronella.

Use of dogs for teaching in veterinary schools

Establishes the AVA position and provides conditions for the use of dogs in teaching.

Pain and analgesia

Every attempt should be made to prevent or alleviate pain in animals unless there are compelling reasons to withhold treatment.

Prescribing and dispensing guidelines

Guidelines for the prescribing and dispensing of drugs.

Responsible use of veterinary immunobiologicals in dogs and cats

Outlines the issues that should be taken into account to ensure the optimal use of veterinary immunobiologicals.

Use of antimicrobial drugs in veterinary practice

Guidelines for selecting an antimicrobial drug.

Use of complementary and alternative veterinary medicine

Provides conditions in which holistic veterinary medicine should be practised.

Use of euthanasia drugs by lay operators

Euthanasia drugs should be administered by or under the direct supervision of registered veterinarians only.

Responsible use of veterinary immunobiologicals in cats and dogs

Optimal use of veterinary immunobiologicals must take into account a number of issues with the following intended as a guideline for vaccination practice.

Use of euthanasia drugs by lay operators

Euthanasia drugs should be administered by or under the direct supervision of registered veterinarians only.

Code for infection control

Set a minimum standard for infection control in animal hospitals and in the field.

Electroimmobilisation

Should not be recommended for use on any animals for any purpose until studies can demonstrate that it neither produces nor permits pain and suffering.

Embryo transfer

These procedures should be acknowledged as acts of veterinary science.

Genetic manipulation

The AVA believes modern techniques of genetic manipulation represent valid extension of traditional methods of genetic manipulation of micro-organisms, plants and animals.

Surgical alteration to the natural state of animals

Are acceptable only if they are demonstrably necessary for the welfare of the animals concerned. Performance for cosmetic reasons is unacceptable.

Use of projectile syringe equipment

The AVA believes the selection and use of any such system requires a good knowledge of a number of factors which are described in the policy.

Control of feral cats

The AVA regards individual animals that are neither identifiable nor restrained as feral animals. The AVA believes eradication of feral cats from Australia is a desirable goal. Methods used to control feral cats should minimise risk to non target species.

Control of feral horses

The AVA accepts that the populations of feral horses in Australia require continuous management and that in some situations, culling of feral horses may be necessary. Where culling is necessary, the most humane method/s must be employed.

Control of native and introduced animals causing damage to agriculture or habitat

The AVA supports harvesting and culling of pest and native and introduced animals causing damage to agriculture or habitat provided that this is done humanely and after appropriate public consultation.

Native animals as pets

The AVA only supports the keeping of native animals as pet where it is legally permitted. The AVA recommends that the welfare of animals must not be compromised. The AVA would only support an increase in the number of species currently in the pet trade when it can be demonstrated that there is a positive long term benefit to that species or the environment.

Zoological Gardens

The AVA supports the role that zoological gardens play in today's society and that their fundamental role should be conservation of threatened species and education of the general public. Seeks natural stimulating environments for animals.

Animal abuse

The AVA recommends that veterinarians report suspected abuse to the relevant authorities.

Animal experimentation

The AVA urges the application of uniform standards across the nation.

Animal welfare societies

Liaison with the local animal welfare societies and the involvement of AVA members with these societies is in the best interests of the veterinary profession, the societies involved and the animals the welfare societies have been established to assist.

Circus Animals: Codes of Practice

The AVA encourages the establishment of codes of practice for the care of circus animals. The AVA does not support the keeping and training of animals for which suitable codes cannot be established. The AVA supports the retention by circuses of veterinary advisers who are experienced with the species involved.

Exhibition of animals

The AVA supports the exhibition of animals providing that the health, welfare and wellbeing of the animals are safeguarded by the direct involvement of a veterinarian in the planning and conduct of the event. The event should ensure the optimal health and welfare of the animals.

Genetic defects in domestic animals

The AVA seeks to increase awareness of the potential for the spread of genetic disease and to encourage research to minimise its effects on populations of animals.

Genetically modified organisms

The AVA cautiously accepts the development and use of GMOs provided they are intended for community benefit and the process is subject to assessment, consultation and regulation. The development and use of GMOs must demonstrate full consideration of animal welfare, ethical and environmental concerns at every stage.

Guidelines for humane slaughter and euthanasia

The prime consideration must be for a rapid and painless death for the animal reflecting the choice of method and the skill of the person/s involved.

Hunting

The AVA believes that statutory codes of practice need to be developed to ensure that those engaged in hunting use methods to seek and kill prey animals that will minimise stress and suffering to both prey and other animals used in the hunting process.

Humane destruction of animals – diagram

Document is not currently accessible.

Marine mammal euthanasia

The method chosen for euthanasia must be rapid and humane.

Model codes of practice for the welfare of animals

Deals with 14 model codes endorsed by the Agricultural and Resource Management Council of Australia and New Zealand including the Pig, the Domestic Fowl, the Goat, the Sheep, Livestock and Poultry at Slaughtering Establishments, Cattle.

Philosophy on animal welfare and the veterinarian

Veterinarians have particular skills and a professional responsibility to see that animals owned by and/or controlled by humans receive adequate care.

Religious slaughter

The AVA consider that when exsanguination is part of a slaughter process, the animal should be unconscious at the time that exsanguination is begun and should not regain consciousness.

Rodeos

This policy is currently under review.

Welfare of cetaceans in captivity

The AVA believes that cetaceans can be kept in captivity as long as animal husbandry and health requirements are met.

Definitions used in relation to supervision and direction of third parties and "under the care of"

Provides definitions in relation to third parties performing treatments or procedures on animals.

Fee recovery, retention of animals for non-payment

The AVA recognises that veterinarians may have a legal right to retain animals until their fees for treatment of the animal are paid. Where an animal requires emergency treatment to relieve pain (sic) and suffering and when the owner of such an animal cannot afford to pay or is unwilling to pay for the treatment given (sic), the veterinarians obligation to provide pro bono treatment should be limited to emergency therapy to relieve pain and suffering, including euthanasia for humane reasons if necessary. Where necessary the veterinarian should assist the client find welfare based veterinary charities capable of treating the animal at reduced fees.

Guidelines on house calls

Provides minimum standards for house call practices including access to a clinic base, vehicles used to provide house calls.

In-house Diagnostic Pathology and Pathology Referrals

There is potential for errors to be incorporated into the testing systems due to the number of lay and professional staff using the equipment. The nature of test systems creates a need for precise, thorough and uniform training of staff on the correct use of diagnostic equipment. Qualified personnel must regularly maintain the equipment used for in-house clinical pathology testing.

Quarantine and risk assessment

The AVA asserts that it is essential to maintain and improve Australia's favourable position with respect to animal diseases and pests. The AVA supports the need for Australia to adopt quarantine policies and strategies that benefit animal welfare, efficient livestock production, public health and the environment and that facilitate trades while being consistent with community interests and other government policies.

Retention of medical records and diagnostic images

The veterinarian is legally obliged to retain all records and images as part of his/her original medical records.

Statement of professional dedication for veterinarians

Provides a statement of professional dedication that seeks the enhancement of animal health and welfare, the relief of animal suffering and the advancement of veterinary knowledge.

Use of communication technologies in delivering veterinary services

The use of communication technologies such as telephone, fax, video conferencing and the internet to transmit and receive clinical material is becoming more advanced and widespread. These technologies are very helpful but there is greater potential for mistakes in diagnosis and treatment when there is lack of direct contact with the patient or client. Provides discussion on the issues.

Veterinarians on animal ethics committees

Provides guidelines for categories of veterinarians serving on animal ethics committees.

Veterinary referrals

Whether in general or specialist practice, a veterinarian's primary responsibility is to provide quality care for their clients and patients. Attending and receiving veterinarians need to communicate and cooperate closely to achieve this goal.

AVA policy on electronic identification of animals

Seeks to facilitate the establishment of efficient, practical and functional RFID systems that identify animals and owners for the purposes of animal recovery, control and management.

AVA Protocols for Electronic Identification of Animals

The protocols contain technical and operational considerations required for the realisation of the AVA policy in relation to companion animals. For the purposes of the protocols companion animals are taken to be any animals other than horses that are normally kept as pets. It is not intended to include reptiles, zoo animals or wildlife that are not normally kept as pets.

Domestic animals registry management and operation protocols

Registry Service Providers agree to enter into a legally binding contract with DAR to abide by the DAR protocols. DAR monitors and enforces the protocols via regular auditing of all operations.

Artificial breeding of horses

Conditions under which this should occur.

Branding of horses

The AVA supports the use of freeze branding. The AVA recognises there are circumstances where fire branding is the only practical choice.

Castration of horses and donkeys

Should only be performed by a registered veterinarian.

Distal limb neurectomy

The AVA does not support the indiscriminate use of distal limb neurectomies.

Equine dentistry

All dental procedures performed must have a sound foundation in science.

Equine jumping races

Currently under review.

Keeping of horses in peri-urban areas

The AVA believes horses may be kept in urban areas provided basic exercise, nutrition, health and shelter requirements are met.

Microchipping guidelines for horses

Chips should be implanted by registered veterinarians using aseptic technique.

Racing of two year old horses

Code in relation to the racing of two year old horses.

Tethering of horses and donkeys

Should only be temporary and under close supervision.

Thermocautery of horses

The AVA opposes the use of thermocautery (firing) in the treatment of horses.

Transport of horses

The AVA believes the aim is to have the horse arrive safely in the best condition possible and comfort as is reasonably affordable.

Urine harvesting in mares

The AVA supports the harvesting of equine urine under strictly controlled conditions of husbandry and welfare.

Use of horses in entertainment

Outlines minimum standards of management that the AVA believes are necessary for the care and welfare of performance horses used in entertainment.

Use of whips in horse racing

The AVA believes excessive or incorrect use of a whip on any horse, including the whipping of horses unable to improve their performance in a field should not be condoned.

Welfare of the domestic pig

Contains the AVA's policy on domestically kept pigs.

4.3.2 RSPCA

Weblink: www.rspca.org.au

Code of Practice for the operation of boarding establishments for cats and dogs

Prepared to ensure the welfare of companion animals housed in boarding establishments.

4.3.3 Australian National Kennel Council

Weblink: www.ankc.aust.com/

Code of Practice for Hereditary Diseases

Members will take responsible action to reduce the incidence of hereditary diseases.

National Code of Ethics of responsible dog ownership

Relates to the keeping, welfare, breeding, selling and disposing of dogs by members.

Judges' Code of Practice for field and retrieving trials

Removal of dogs' from a trial if it is considered detrimental to their health.

4.3.4 Australian Horse Industry Council

Weblink: www.horsecouncil.org.au

HorseSafe Code of Practice

The Australian Horse Industry Council's HorseSafe Code of Practice includes a number of provisions relating to the health, hygiene, amenity and safety of horses but is not a complete horse welfare code.

4.3.5 Avicultural Society of Australia

Weblink; www.birds.org.au

Code of Practice for keeping of caged birds

The Society requires members to adhere to this Code of Practice.

4.3.6 Pigeon Racing Associations

Victorian Code of Practice for the keeping and racing of pigeons

Produced by the Victorian Racing Pigeon Association. All members and affiliates are bound by its requirements. The principal effect of the Code is to ensure the welfare of pigeons remains the prime consideration in all activities associated with the sport of racing pigeons.

South Australian Racing Pigeon Association draft Code of Practice.

Currently being prepared.

4.3.7 Australia New Guinea Fishes Association

Weblink: www.angfa.org.au

ANGFA Code of Practice

The aim of the Code is to assist ANGFA members to make informed decisions regarding fish related activities including those kept in aquaria. It is not intended as a rule book, but a guide to behaviour considered ethical by the membership.

4.3.8 Australian Veterinary Poultry Association

No weblink.

AVPA Code of Practice for the use of antibiotics in the poultry industry

The Code is endorsed by the Australian Chicken Meat Federation and the Australian Egg Industry Association. The AVPA is a special interest group of the AVA.

4.3.9 Pet Industry Association of Australia

Weblink; www.piaa.net.au/

Promoting responsible pet ownership for the care and management of companion animals in a commercial trading environment

Code of Practice includes policy statements relating to duty of care to animals, sales of animals at itinerant market stalls, sale of animals to minors, displayed animals etc.

PIAA Code of Practice for aquarium operations

Aim is to ensure all aquatic animals shall be provided with humane treatment and correct and proper housing suitable to the well-being of the species concerned.

4.3.10 Pet Food Industry Association of Australia

Weblink: www.pfiaa.com.au

PFIAA Code of Practice

Designed to promote those objectives within the industry with the aim of protecting the interests of consumers and the public and to enhance good will towards the industry.

4.3.11 The Aquaculture Council of Western Australia

Weblink:www.aquaculturecouncilwa.com

Guidelines on Aquatic Animal Welfare for the Aquaculture Industry
in Western Australia

By preparing these guidelines, the industry hopes to develop recognised, acceptable and uniform practices for aquatic animal welfare with the due diligence of aquaculturists, fisherman, wholesalers, retailers and consumers.

5 POSITION STATEMENTS

5.1 National Consultative Committee of Animal Welfare (NCCAW)

Weblink: www.affa.gov.au

Air transport of animals

Minimum standards for air transport of animals.

Dog health in indigenous communities.

NCCAW believes that a regular animal health program is very beneficial to the health and welfare of dogs in indigenous communities.

Electro-immobilisation of animals.

NCCAW considers electro-immobilisation is not a means of analgesia or an acceptable restraint of animals on animal welfare grounds.

Electronic dog collars.

- NCCAW is opposed to the general use of electronic collars which are manually operated by a remote controlled transmitter.
- NCCAW is opposed to the use of anti-barking electronic shock collars and believes their sale and use should be banned.
- NCCAW is opposed to the use of electronic collar system as the sole means of confinement of a dog within a defined boundary.

Essential provisions of legislation to prevent cruelty to animals

- To promote responsible care and management of animal/prevent cruelty.
- To define acceptable standards of animal care and enforcement of those standards.

National guidelines for housing of caged animals.

Provides general guidelines on the minimum standards of accommodation, management and care that are appropriate to the various species of cage birds.

Non human primates as pets.

Minimum standards for keeping of primates as pets appropriate to the species being held.

Pound sourced animals.

Provides the views of the animal welfare groups and the scientific community on the use of pound sourced animals in scientific research.

Puppy export trade.

Conditions on which NCCAW accepts the validity of the puppy export trade.

Tail docking of dogs.

NCCAW believes tail docking should be banned. Provides conditions under which should occur in jurisdictions where it is still legal.

The welfare of cats.

Provides position in relation to control measures to address owned and unowned cat populations.

Essential provisions of legislation to prevent cruelty to animals

Provides position in enactment of state legislation to prevent cruelty to animals and to further the welfare of animals.

Genetic manipulation of animals

NCCAW is concerned about the potential animal welfare implications of such research and considers it essential for appropriate controls to be implemented.

Wildlife as pets.

Includes recommendations for the keeping and management of wildlife as pets.

Government regulation of animal experimentation

Position on the regulation of animal experimentation.

Guidelines for the control and responsible ownership of dogs

Includes guidelines on this issue.

Humane road transport of animals

Minimum standards for road transport of animals.

Humane sea transport of animals

Minimum standards for sea transport of animals.

Protocol for assessing aggression in dogs by veterinarians on behalf of animal welfare groups

Specific guidelines for the assessment of acceptable temperament in dogs.

Provision of blood supplies

Seeks to ensure that a reliable supply of fresh blood and blood products is available for emergency veterinary treatments in Australia.

Rail transport of animals

Minimum standards for rail transport of animals.

Humane sea transport of animals

Minimum standards for sea transport of animals.

5.2 Other Stakeholders

5.2.1 RSPCA

Policies and Position Papers 2006 edition

RSPCA Australia Policies are a collection of philosophical statements issued by RSPCA Australia on the treatment of animals by humans.

RSPCA Australia Position Papers, Guidelines and Codes of Practice are issued by the RSPCA National Council as explanatory documents.

The document contains a section on companion animals. It includes **policy statements** on:

- Responsible pet ownership.
- Population control.
- Breeding.
- Surgical mutilations.
- Boarding kennels and catteries.
- Pet shops.
- Street markets.
- Pet shows.
- Impounding of animals.
- Animal rehousing.
- Cages for companion animals.

- Spiked collars used to control wind sucking or crib biting in horses.
- Identification of companion animals.
- Dog training.
- Dog management.
- Use of dog muzzles.
- Use of cats and dogs as food.
- Captive fish.

This document contains the following **position paper** on companion animals.

- Pet shops.

The document contains **guidelines** for the following:

- Housing pet birds.
- Control of cats.
- Assessing aggression in dogs by veterinarians on behalf of animal welfare groups and municipalities.
- Control of dangerous dogs.
- Conduct of boarding kennels and catteries.

The document contains Policies, Position Statement and Guidelines on a range of other welfare related matters some of which have application to companion animals eg animals used for sport and entertainment, wildlife, transportation of animals and humane killing.

5.2.2 Australian National Kennel Council

Weblink: www.ankc.aust.com

Policy statements on:

- Advantages of pure bred dogs.
- Attack training.
- Breeding restrictions.
- Cruelty to animals.
- Dangerous dogs control legislation.
- Dog legislation and canine ownership.
- Ear cropping.
- Exporting of dogs.
- Proper care and humane treatment of dogs.
- Protection for puppy purchasers.
- Pure bred dog rescue.
- Responsible breeding.

- Spaying and neutering.
- Tail docking.
- The right to keep and enjoy dogs.
- Use of dogs for assistance and service.
- Use of dogs in sporting and competition activities.

5.2.3 Australian Equine Veterinary Association

Weblink: <http://www.aeva.ava.com.au/>

The AEVA has the following policies which relate to animal welfare.

- Equine Dentistry.
- Tethering Horses and Donkeys.
- Keeping of horses in peri-urban areas.
- Artificial breeding of horses.
- Drugs in equine sport and racing greyhounds.
- Castration of horses and donkeys.
- Code of Practice for the use of horses in entertainment.
- AEVA policy on jumping races.
- AEVA policy on neurectomies.
- Guidelines on prescribing and dispensing in equine practice.
- Racing of two year old horses.
- Transport of horses.
- Use of whips in horse racing.
- AEVA guide to management of EHV1 Abortion.
- Rodeos.
- Draft Position Statement – Grooms on Aeroplanes.

6 Education Programs

There is a multitude of information available on responsible pet ownership. Each of the stakeholders listed in Section 7 are to a greater or lesser degree involved in companion animals welfare.

This section provides an overview of some of the specific education programs available.

6.1 State and Territory Governments

Each State and Territory Government is involved in some education activities although this varies from state to state. The activities relate particularly to dogs and cats. The Dog and Cat Management Board in South Australia and the Bureau of Animal Welfare in Victoria are involved in specific education activities. Other states provide information to Councils and the general public. It is understood that NSW is examining a wider public relations campaign. The Victorian program is described below.

Responsible Pet Ownership Program (Victoria)

Weblink: www.pets.info.vic.gov.au

- All about dogs.
- All about cats.
- How to be a responsible pet owner.
- Registration and your pet.
- How to build cat proof fencing and cat enclosures.
- Responsible pet ownership program for schools.

6.2 Training Programs

Animal Care and Management Training Package

The Animal Care and Management Training Package is the framework for vocational education and training for those engaged in animal care and management industry. The Training Package supports a wide range of learning pathways that include institution based programs, workplace and school based training as well as other combinations of work place and off the job training and assessment.

The Package is made up of five industry sectors:

- Animal Control and Regulation;
- Animal Technology;
- Captive Animals;
- Companion Animal Services; and
- Veterinary Nursing.

The Strategy could review the welfare orientation contained in the Package.

6.3 Other Programs

Australian Canine Good Citizen

Weblink: www.deltasocietyaustralia.com.au

Run by the Delta Society of Australia. An education program designed to produce well-behaved dogs and responsible owners.

Pet Pep

Weblink: www.ava.com.au/petpep/

An education program developed by the Australian Veterinary Association (AVA). It aims to educate primary school students on the importance of animal welfare and responsible pet ownership.

Puppy Preschool

Helps puppies to be sociable and well behaved. Encourages responsible ownership and welfare, whilst ensuring the proper development of the dog.

Selectapet

Weblink: www.petnet.com.au/selectapet/selectapet.html

A computer based program to help match breed choice with personal lifestyle characteristics.

The Association for Horsemanship Safety and Education

Weblink: <http://www.ahse.info/>

AHSE clinics are run throughout Australia to accredit and qualify those involved with running trail rides for groups (including tourists and school students). Their main areas of interest include communication, group and horse management, risk assessment and safety.

Australian School of Petcare Studies

Weblink: www.petcarecourses.com

Offers courses in animal welfare, management and development studies

7 The Stakeholders

This section provides an overview of the non government organizations involved in the welfare of companion animals. The list is not necessarily exhaustive however to a greater or lesser extent they are all interested and involved in companion animal welfare.

7.1 National based organisations

RSPCA

Weblink: www.rspca.org.au

The RSPCA has state based organisations in each state. It aims to prevent cruelty to animals by actively promoting their care and protection. It is heavily involved in education on responsible pet ownership.

Delta Society Australia

Weblink: www.deltasocietyaustralia.com.au

Delta's mission is to promote and facilitate positive interaction between people and animals. It operates a range of programs including Pet Partners Visiting Program, the National Dog Safe Strategy, a Dog Safe Kit, Delta's Canine Good Citizens Program and professional development seminars for veterinary nurses and behavioural dog trainers in all mainland states.

Australian National Kennel Council

Weblink: www.ankc.aust.com

Its aims are to promote excellence in breeding, showing, training, obedience and other canine related activities, to promote responsible dog ownership and encourage State Member Bodies to put in place programs to that effect and to act as a spokesperson on all canine related activities on a National basis on behalf of State Member Bodies.

Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities

Website: www.amrric.org/

Aims to provide guidance and support with veterinary services in partnership with private practitioners institutional stakeholders such as the Australian Veterinary Association, indigenous stakeholders such as Community Government Councils and Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments. It promotes dog health

programs, research, education to promote the welfare of animals in rural and remote indigenous communities.

The Australian Veterinary Association

Weblink: www.ava.com.au/

The professional organization representing veterinarians across Australia. Promotes enhanced standards of welfare of all animals.

Urban Animal Management Advisory Group

The UAM Advisory Group has an annual conference and newsletter. It has been instrumental in promoting the sharing of knowledge and the use of more sophisticated approaches to responsible pet ownership. Geared to state and local government.

The Australian Equine Veterinary Association

Weblink: www.aeva.ava.com.au

The representative body for equine veterinarians in Australia. Its aims are to elevate the standards of equine practice, to further research and knowledge of equine diseases and to promote the co-operation of equine practitioners researchers and others in the horse industry.

The Veterinary Nurses Council of Australia Inc

Weblink: www.vnca.asn.au

The VNCA offers support and direction for Veterinary Nurses and sets and maintains standards for excellence in animal care through quality education.

Australian Horse Industry Council

Weblink; www.horsecouncil.org.au

Represents the interests of all persons involved with horses and issues pertaining to the health and welfare of all horses in Australia. .

Petcare Information and Advisory Service

Weblink: www.petnet.com.au

An autonomous non commercial organization committed to promoting socially responsible pet ownership.

Australian Companion Animal Health Foundation

Weblink: www.ava.com.au/dpage.php/c=1&pagealias

The ACAHF was established in 1989 as a non profit trust of the Australian Veterinary Association. Its major aim is to help fund investigative projects to further our knowledge of the cause, treatment and prevention of the clinical diseases of companion animals, mainly dogs and cats. The foundation raises money through donations from veterinarians and companies associated with the pet industry, pet owners and other concerned members of the public. .

Australian Companion Animal Council

Weblink: www.petnet.com.au

Overall objective is to provide a forum for the pet care industry to promote the benefits of socially responsible companion animal ownership to individuals, the wider community and all levels of government through education, research and international affiliations.

Animal Health Alliance

Weblink: www.animalhealthalliance.org.au

Animal Health Alliance (Australia) Ltd is the voice of the animal health industry in Australia. It represents registrants, manufacturers and formulators of animal health products. The association's members represent 75% of all animal health product sales in Australia.

The Australian Cat Federation Inc

Weblink: www.acf.asn.au/

To promote the welfare of all cats, the responsible breeding and showing of the recognised breeds of cats, and the showing of desexed domestic cats.

Avicultural Society of Australia

Weblink: www.birds.org.au/

Supports its members in the breeding and conservation of aviary held birds.

Birds Australia

Weblink: www.birdsaustralia.org.au

Birds Australia is dedicated to the conservation, study and enjoyment of Australia's native birds and their habitats.

Australia New Guinea Fishes Association

Weblink: www.angfa.org.au

Promotes the conservation, study, keeping and propagation of the native fish species of Australia and New Guinea.

Pet Industry Association of Australia

Weblink: www.piaa.net.au/

Represents a wide range of trading interests within the pet industry.

Pet Food Industry Association of Australia

Weblink: www.pfiaa.com.au/

Promotes standards of excellence in the pet food industry through consideration of the needs of pets and the community, promoting responsible pet ownership and self regulation through industry standards.

Australian School of Petcare Studies

Weblink: www.petcarecourses.com.au/

Offers courses in grooming, behaviour, natural therapies, animal welfare and development.

Association for Horsemanship, Safety and Education

Weblink: www.ahse.info/

Sets and promotes standards of excellence in safety and education, for those involve in all sectors of the recreational horse industry.

Equestrian Federation of Australia

Weblink: www.efanational.com

Educates and certifies riding instructors. Horse care is one component of the training.

Australian Horse Riding Centres

Weblink: www.horseriding.org.au

The objective of the Australian Horse Riding Centres is to raise the standard of horse riding centres in Australia by setting high standards for facilities, instruction, horse welfare, supervision and safety.

Animals Australia

Website: www.animalsaustralia.org

An educational site Animals Australia is organisation dedicated to the rights and welfare of animals through the prevention of cruelty.

Ozdoggy / Ozkitty

Website: www.ozdoggy.com.au / www.ozkitty.com.au

Concerned with the care of dogs and cats Ozdoggy/Ozkitty support animal rescue in Australia. Both sites promote animal welfare practices.

K9 Current Events

Weblink: www.k9events.com

Promotes itself as a positive dog trainer's homepage. The site provides information and links for carers and trainers. Emphasis is on welfare.

Natural Animal Care

Weblink: www.naturalanimalcare.com

Promotes animal welfare via natural methods.

Canine Foster Care

Weblink: www.caninefostercare.org.au

This website is a national information resource for foster care volunteers. It provides information on basic foster care duties. Site provides weblinks with animal rescue services throughout Australia.

Pet Rescue

Weblink: www.petrescue.com.au

A not-for-profit website dedicated to rehoming shelter animals across Australia. Contains articles on proper pet care and management.

Senior Dogs Rescue

Weblink: www.freewebs.com/seniordogs/

National resource that helps to promote the cause of the senior dog (8 years and over). Provides adoption service.

Say No to Animals in Pet Shops

Weblink: www.saynoanimalsinpetshops.com

Site argues that the practice of selling animals from pet shops promotes impulse buying and irresponsible breeding for profit.

World Society for the Protection of Animals Australia and New Zealand

Weblink: www.wspa.org.au

WSPA works with hundreds of member societies worldwide to raise the standard of international animal welfare.

Animals with Disabilities

Weblink: www.animaldisabilities.com

A site committed to the welfare of animals that have a disability.

K9 Force Training

Weblink: www.k9force.net

Dedicated to the proper and humane training of canines.

Friends of the Hound

Weblink: www.friendsofthepound.com/greyhounds.htm

Rehomes greyhounds throughout Australia (mainly eastern states).

Australian Companion Rabbit Society

Weblink: www.rabbit.org.au

Aims to provide information for pet rabbit caretakers, and anyone considering sharing life with a rabbit.

National Desexing Network

Weblink: www.ndn.org.au

Aims to eradicate the problem of pet over population in Australia by means of better education and accessibility to pet desexing.

Choose Cruelty Free

Weblink: www.choosecrueltyfree.org.au

Independent non profit organization which seeks to promote a cruelty free lifestyle.

Dogs4sale.com

Weblink: www.dogs4Sale.com.au

Assists people to choose a breed that will suit their lifestyle with links to breeders and animal rescue shelters for pet adoption.

Endangered Dog Breed Association

Weblink: www.edba.org.au

Effectively established to oppose breed specific legislation and the banning of specific dogs in Australia, the EDDBA also aims to promote the responsible ownership and owner responsibility to all dog owners.

Canine Foster Care

Weblink: www.caninefostercare.org.au

Provides information for people interested in foster caring, and directing them to a local rescue group or animal welfare organization.

Happy Paws Haven

Weblink: www.happypaws.com.au/

A website dedicated to helping rescue groups around Australia find homes for the countless animals in their care.

7.2 State and Territory based organisations

7.2.1 New South Wales

RSPCA

Weblink: www.rspcansw.org.au

RSPCA NSW is the state based branch. Includes smaller groups such as the Last Chance Club and Save our Seniors.

Cat Protection Society of New South Wales

Weblink: www.catprotection.org.au

- Discounted desexing.
- Discounted microchipping and vaccination.
- Cat and kitten adoptions.
- Community education.
- *Responsible Feline Citizens* charter for responsible cat ownership.

Animal Welfare League of New South Wales

Weblink: www.animalwelfareleague.com.au

- Pet adoption.

- Subsidised desexing program.
- Microchipping, identification and registration service,
- Microchip Implanters Course.
- Crematorium for deceased pets.
- Legacy House: owners can direct AWL NSW to take guardianship of their cats life or find it another home.
- Law enforcement agency under POCTA Act.

Royal NSW Canine Council (Dogs NSW)

Weblink: www.rnswcc.org.au

Controlling body of pure bred dog breeding and exhibiting on NSW. The site contains a breeders directory, events calendar, breed gallery and code of ethics.

RSPCA last chance club (NSW)

Weblink: www.rspcansw.org.au

An organisation dedicated to the rehabilitation and rehoming of neglected and often mistreated animals.

Feline Association of NSW Inc

Weblink: www.feline.com.au/

Provides registration services, promotes the breeding and showing of all breeds of cats, promotes responsible pet ownership and breeding of all cats.

Animal Liberation NSW

Weblink: www.animal-lib.org.au

Domestic Animal Birth Control Co-operative Society Ltd

Weblink: www.dabs.org.au

Dedicated to promoting the welfare of domestic animals, particularly in regard to de-sexing of dogs and cats. Based in Sydney. Helps pensioners, low income families to have their pets desexed.

Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club of NSW

Weblink: www.dogzonline.com.au/breeds/community/cavalier.asp

- Also runs a rescue scheme for Cavaliers.

Sydney Dogs Home

Weblink: www.sydneydogshome.org

The goal of the shelter is to prevent unnecessary euthanasia of healthy, loving domestic pets. Shelter is used by 10 Sydney Councils.

DoggieRescue.com

Weblink: www.doggierescue.com

A registered No-Kill animal rescue charity committed to rescuing neglected, abused and abandoned dogs from the death rows of Sydney's pounds and finding them loving homes.

Pet Search

Weblink: www.petsearch.com.au

Aims to provide an effective co-ordinated system to reunite lost animals with their owners.

Cordelia's Canine Rescue

Weblink: www.cordysrescue.com

A Sydney based facility Cordelia's re-homes and provides care for dogs and puppies that would otherwise be put to sleep. This site offers some limited information about animal welfare.

PAWS

Weblink: www.paws.com.au

Shelters and relocates abandoned animals as well as the promotion of their welfare.

Paws 'n' Hooves

Weblink: www.pawshooves.net

Based in Sydney Paws 'n' Hooves aims to save animals from death in various pounds and shelters within the greater region.

DCH Animal Adoptions

Website: <http://home.iprimus.com.au/meganmm/index.htm>

Dogs, Cats and Horses Animal Adoption is a not-for-profit organization committed to the rescue and re-homing of unwanted and neglected domestic animals.

Monika's Doggie Rescue

Weblink: www.doggierescue.com

A non-kill animal rescue charity based in Sydney

Friends of the Pound (Tweed) Inc

Weblink: www.friendsofthepound.com

A rehoming centre, the site aims to also encourage the importance of responsible pet ownership such as de-sexing and micro-chipping.

Animal Rights and Rescue Group Inc

Weblink: www.animalrights.org.au

Rescues homeless or unwanted animals, provides them with care and shelter until suitable homes can be found for them. Operates in the Coffs Harbour Tweed Heads area.

DCH Animal Adoptions

Weblink: www.dchanimaladoptions.com

Rescues and rehomes dogs, cats and horses.

Other

- Northern Rivers Animal Services Inc. Tel: 02 6681 1860.
- NSW Animal Rescue Weblink: www.nar.org.au
- Pet Talk Radio Weblink: www.pettalkradio.com
- Snowy Mountains Animal Rescue Team Weblink: www.snowymtnsanimalrescue.org
- Hunter Animal Watch Weblink: www.hunteranimalwatch.networksmm.com.au
- Canine Foster Care Weblink: www.caninefostercare.org.au.
- Greyhound Adoption Program (NSW) Inc Weblink: www.gapnsw.org.au

7.2.2 Victoria

RSPCA

Weblink: www.rspcavic.org/

RSPCA Victoria is the state based branch.

Cat Protection Society

Weblink: www.catprotectionsociety.org.au

Provides:

- Discount desexing.
- Microchipping and feline veterinary services.
- Receives and rehuses unwanted cats.
- Feline education programs.
- Cat management services to some Victorian Councils.

Lost Dogs Home

Weblink: www.dogshome.com

- Pet adoption.
- Boarding kennels.
- Council registrations.
- Free pet ID tags.
- Give a Dog a Home.
- Lost and Found Pets (free message board for lost pets).
- Pet care centre (articles available online on pet care issues)
- Pet memorials.
- Planet K9 classes for dogs in manners, obedience and agility.
- Puppy pre-school.
- Vet clinic.

Victorian Canine Association

Weblink: www.vca.org.au

The controlling body for pure bred dog breeding and exhibiting in Victoria.
Promoting responsible pet ownership.

Feline Control Council of Victoria

Weblink: www.hotkey.net.au/~fccvic/

Largest governing body supporting Victorian cat breeders. The organisation is committed to promoting the welfare of cats and improving breeding standards.

The Governing Council of the Cat Fancy Australia and Victoria (Vic)

Weblink: www.cats.org.au/index.html

Promoting the welfare of cats.

Cat Authority of Victoria Inc

Weblink: <http://home.alphalink.com.au/~cavinc/cavindex.htm>

Provides registration and associated services for pedigreed and domestic cats.

Animal Active

Weblink: www.animalactive.org

Mission is defending the right of all animals to lives free from neglect, exploitation and abuse. Offers pet adoption.

Save a Dog Scheme

Weblink: www.saveadog.org.au

Registered animal shelter that rescues dogs that would otherwise be destroyed at pounds and shelters.

Pug Rescue Victoria

Weblink: www.pugrescue.com.au/

Rescue service for unwanted and abandoned pugs.

Australian Animal Protection Society

Website: www.aaps.org.au

Based in Melbourne the AAPS is dedicated to the care and re-homing of lost dogs and cats. Site offers further information on relevant pet care including the care of rabbits. Provides a variety of links.

Lort Smith Animal Hospital

Weblink: www.lortsmith.com

Animal Shelter based in North Melbourne, Victoria dedicated to the welfare and care of abandoned dogs and cats.

Animal Aid

Weblink: www.vaat.org.au

The Victorian Animal Aid Trust is an animal welfare organization dedicated to the care of all lost, unwanted and abused animals. Operates the Coldstream Boarding Facility and Animal Welfare Centre (including vet clinic).

Blue Cross Animals Society of Victoria

Weblink: www.wwwins.net.au/bluecross.html

Based in Melbourne. Provides relief to animals which have been abandoned, injured or neglected by their owners.

Pet Alert

Weblink: www.petalert.com.au

Operates a pet adoption and lost and found pets online service.

Greyhound Safety Net

Weblink: www.greyhoundsafetynet.org/

Mission is to find homes for as many greyhounds as possible.

Geelong Animal Welfare Society

Weblink: www.gaws.org.au/

Operates a pet adoption and handles lost and unwanted animals for the City of Greater Geelong. Also operates commercial boarding for dogs and cats.

Other:

- Victorian Animal Welfare Association.
- Ballarat Organisation for Animal Rights www.goldlinksweb.com/boar
- Project Jonah Australia.
- Animal Aid www.vaat.org.au.
- Bendigo Animal Shelter www.bwc.com.au/bas
- Alpine Guinea Pig Shelter.
- Greyhound Adoption Program www.grv.org.au/adoption/

7.2.3 Queensland

RSPCA

Weblink: www.rspcaqld.org.au

RSPCA Queensland is the state based branch.

Cat Protection Society of Queensland

No weblink.

Does not appear to be still operating.

Animal Protection and Welfare League of Queensland

Weblinks: www.awlqld.com.au

- Pet adoption and fostering.
- Subsidised desexing through the National Desexing Network (NDN).

- Responsible pet ownership DVD and booklets.
- Cremation.
- Golden Oldies Program (home for dogs and cats over 8years).
- TV commercial on responsible pet ownership.
- Veterinary clinic.

Canine Control Council of Queensland

Weblink: www.cccq.org.au

Constitution seeks to promote in every way the general improvement of the standard, breeding and exhibition of purebred registered dogs.

Feline Control Council of Queensland

Weblink: www.fccq-inc.com/

Provides registration and associated services for both pedigreed and companion cats including the promotion of responsible pet ownership.

Queensland Independent Cat Council Inc

Weblink: www.qicc.org.au

Provides for registration and associated services for both pedigreed and companion kittens and cats. Aim is to promote responsible breeding and ownership.

Queensland Feline Association Inc

Weblink: <http://homepage.powerup.com.au/~qfeline/index.html>

The largest registering cat control council in Queensland. Offers its clubs and breeders advice and guidance.

Queensland Group for Animal Rights

Weblink: www.qgar.oceandrop.org

Aims to promote the humane treatment and welfare of all animals including companion pets.

Animal Liberation Qld

Website: www.animalliberationqld.org.au

Animal Activism Queensland

Website: www.animalactivism.org

Best Friends Rescue

Weblink: www.bestfriendsrescue.com

Foster and rehomes abandoned, abused and unwanted dogs and cats on the Gold Coast and Brisbane areas. Most of the animals are saved from death row or the pounds.

Young Animal Protection Society (Cairns Qld and district)

Weblinks: www.yaps.org.au

- Pet adoption and fostering.
- Boarding.
- Pet funerals.
- Information.

Paws and Claws

Website: www.pawsandclaws.org.au

A not-for-profit organization dedicated to the re-homing of cats and dogs in the Port Douglas area. Site has information on how to select the right pet for you.

Queensland Group for Animal Rights

Weblink: www.qgar.oceandrop.org/disclaimer.htm

A non profit animal rights group.

Others

- Cavalier King Charles Rescue Qld.
- Anima Welfare Cairns Inc Tel: 07 4051 4862.
- Atherton and District Animal Welfare Society Inc Tel: 07 4095 4456.
- Cat Care Society Tel: 07 3855 2878.
- Cat Rescue Qld Weblink: www.catrescue-qld.com
- Hervey Bay Animal Refuge Tel: 07 4128 2722.
- Little Paws Kitten Rescue Association Tel: 07 3805 2013.
- Maryborough and District Animal Refuge Society Weblink: www.maryboroughanimalrefuge.com.
- Natural Animal Care Weblink: www.naturalanimalcare.com.
- Tableland Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Inc Tel: 07 4092 3060.
- Unweaned Kitten Rescue Network Tel: 07 3351 4335.

7.3 South Australia

RSPCA

Weblink: www.rspcasa.asn.au/

RSPCA SA is the state based branch.

Animal Welfare League of South Australia

Weblink: www.animalwelfare.com.au

- Pet adoption.
- Animal shelter and pound service for local government.
- Crematorium and memorial wall.
- Retirement care for cats (Peppertree Cottage).
- Help Sheet for Lost Pets.
- Boarding.
- “Mutts with Manners” and Puppy Pre-school programs.

Animal Liberation

Weblink: www.animalliberation.com

A large source of information promoting the benefits of responsible pet ownership and animal welfare.

South Australian Canine Association

Weblink: www.saca.caninenet.com

Code of ethics contained in the Rules of the South Australian Canine Association.

Governing Council of the Cat Fancy of South Australia Inc

Weblink: <http://users.chariot.net.au/~gccfsa/>

Includes a Code of Ethics for breeders and owners.

Cats Assistance to Sterilise

- Low priced cat desexing.
- Information and advice on humane solutions to cat related problems and cat management.

Others

- SA Greyhound Adoption Program Weblink: www.gapsa.org.au

7.4 Western Australia

RSPCA

Weblink: www.rspcawa.asn.au

RSPCA WA is the state based branch.

Canine Association of Western Australia

Weblink: www.cawa.asn.au

Includes a Code of Ethics, rules and regulations.

Feline Control Council of Western Australia

Weblink: http://users.bigpond.net.au/fcc_wa/

Registered body for pedigreed cats and kittens. Includes a Code of Ethics.

People and Animal Welfare Society

Weblink: www.paws.org.au

A society dedicated to the responsible behaviour and welfare of companion animals.

Greyhound Angels of Western Australia

Website: www.greyhoundangels.com

Dedicated to finding responsible homes for greyhounds that are no longer racing.

Cat Sterilisation Society

Weblink: www.green.net.au/csswa/

Since its inception in 1989 has been responsible for the sterilisation of over 17, 000 cats in Western Australia.

Animal Protection Society of WA Inc

Weblink: www.animalprotectionsociety.westnet.com.au

A refuge for lost and abandoned pets in Western Australia

Dog Aid International

Weblink: www.dogaid.org/

Based in WA, non profit organization dedicated to relieving the plight of sick and unwanted dogs.

Animal Rights Advocates

Weblink: www.ara.org.au

Other

- Compassion for Animals.
- Cat Haven Weblink: www.cathaven.com.au
- Swan Animal Health.
- Pet Rescue Weblink: www.PetRescue.com.au
- Poundwatch: www.happysnax.com.au/photos.php
- S.A.F.E Saving Animals from Euthanasia www.safe.asn.au
- Greyhound Angels of Western Australia www.greyhoundangels.com/
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7.5 Tasmania

RSPCA

Weblink: www.rspcatas.org.au

RSPCA Tasmania is the state based branch.

Tasmanian Canine Association Inc

Weblink: www.tascanineassoc.org

Has a constitution, regulation and code of ethics.

Cat Association of Tasmania

Weblink: www.catinc.org.au/

To promote the general improvement of the standard, exhibition and welfare of cats.

Against Animal Cruelty Tasmania

Weblinks: www.aact.org.au

Aim is to eliminate all exploitation, cruelty and suffering of animals within Tasmania and beyond.

Tasmanian Canine Defence League

Weblinks: www.dogshomesoftas.com.au

- Operates Dogs Homes in Hobart, Burnie and Devonport.
- Pet adoption and fostering.

- The Hobart Home is the official pound for Hobart, Clarence, Glenorchy and Brighton Councils.

Australian Equine Welfare Association

Weblink: www.aewa.org.au

Based in Tasmania focusing on education, lobbying and rehabilitation and rehoming of neglected and unwanted horses.

Others

- Animal Rescue Tasmania (based in Deloraine).
- Cat Centre.
- Feline.
- Greyhound Adoption Program of Tasmania Inc.

7.6 Australian Capital Territory

RSPCA

Weblink: www.rspca-act.org.au

RSPCA ACT is the state based branch.

ACT Canine Association

Weblink: www.actca.asn.au

Includes a Code of Ethics.

Guidelines on caring for dogs.

Animal Liberation ACT

Weblink: www.al-act.org

ACT Rescue and Foster

Weblink: www.fosterdogs.org

Based in Canberra and surrounding areas ACT Rescue and Foster is an associated group working to rescue and permanently re-home dogs. Site provides information on best care and welfare of dogs.

Other

- Canberra Greyhound Adoption Service Weblink: <http://forevergreys.com/>

7.6.1 Northern Territory

RSPCA

Weblink: www.rspcadarwin.org.au

RSPCA Northern Territory is the state based branch.

North Australian Canine Association

Weblink: www.clevelandcattery.com/CANT/

Includes Rules and a Code of Ethics.

Cat Association of the Northern Territory

Weblink: www.users.bigpond.com/naca1/

8 Key Themes & Recommendations

Owners of companion animals

Owners of companion animals are a disparate group who are often not members of a group or organization that promotes responsible pet ownership. In these circumstances there are no commercial or membership imperatives to promote the welfare of pets. A combination of legislation and community education is best suited to this group.

Recommendation 1: Focus on a combination of legislation and community education as the best means for enhancing a welfare orientation amongst pet owners.

Legislation

Each state has welfare based legislation. However the management based legislation varies widely from state to state particularly in relation to whether cats are covered. There is no management based legislation relating to animals other than dogs and cats. A separate consultancy for this project is currently reviewing relevant legislation.

In the management based legislation, the welfare of companion animals tends to be a secondary consideration to the managing nuisance, safety and environmental impacts. The welfare orientation of management based legislation should be strengthened.

Recommendation 2: Strengthen the welfare orientation of management based legislation.

Recommendation 3: Consider whether management based legislation should be extended to cover all companion animals.

Codes of Practice/Position Statements

There is a large number of codes of practice/position statements relating to the welfare of companion animals. The next step is to review the overlaps, gaps and consistency. The review would need to assess the context in which the Codes operate, in particular whether they are mandatory or not, whether there are other legal requirements that might address a gaps identified in a particular jurisdiction, what imperatives/inducements exist to maximise to compliance with the codes.

Recommendation 4: Review existing Codes of Practice and Policy Statements for overlaps, gaps, consistency and identification of best practice.

Education

There has been a significant increase in the focus of state and local governments on education for responsible pet ownership – however this is patchy geographically and relates primarily to education about the safety, nuisance and environmental impacts of dogs and cats. There is a minor welfare orientation which is often a by-product of other efforts. The keeping of other types of companion animals is in some cases covered by codes of practice of user/interest groups that provide an education role in relation to the particular species of interest.

Recommendation 5: Strengthen the welfare orientation contained in education programs in responsible pet ownership.

Animal Management Plans

Many Councils are now preparing Strategic Animal Management Plans. In South Australia and Victoria this is now a requirement of the Management Acts in those states. Whilst Animal Management Plans focus on reducing the nuisance and environmental impacts of dogs and in some cases cats, there is scope to include an enhanced welfare orientation in the development of these Plans.

Recommendation 6: Encourage local Companion Animal Management Plans to include a greater welfare component.

Pets in Indigenous Communities

The primary issue in rural and remote indigenous communities with regard to companion animal welfare is the paucity of service delivery. Of the approximately 1200 discrete indigenous communities that exist in Australia, there is service delivery (veterinary service) to only approximately 100 communities.

Whilst the attention paid to companion animals in indigenous communities is relatively new, there is considerable scope to enhance outcomes through the organisational infrastructure already established with AMRRIC. This organization promotes research, education and assistance with responsible pet ownership in rural and remote indigenous communities.

Recommendation 7: There should be continued strategic support from whole of government to address indigenous social disadvantage.

Research

The last 10 years has seen a significant improvement in our knowledge of human and animal behaviour relating to the responsible ownership of companion animals. This has occurred because of the research and sharing of expertise/experience and has been made possible by the work of the Urban Animal Management Advisory Group and UAM conferences, the Petcare Information and Advisory

Service, the Australian Companion Animal Council, AusVet, the state based-funds available to promote research and education and the range of stakeholders willing to be involved. Future research priorities relevant to the welfare of companion animals should be identified.

Recommendation 8: Identify future research priorities relevant to the welfare of companion animals.