

ANIMAL WELFARE SYMPOSIUM

REAL ANIMAL WELFARE BY THE EXPERTS - THOSE WHO KEEP, CARE FOR AND BREED ANIMALS

Proceedings of an Animal Welfare Symposium attended by community based animal groups to explore ways to work cooperatively to represent their common interests and promote their combined animal welfare expertise to the public and government. The meeting was held 30/6/2018 at the Bill Spilstead Complex for Canine Affairs Luddenham Road Orchard Hills commencing at 2.15 pm.

In attendance:

Robert Zammit	Chairman	Sam Davis	Canary & Cage Bird Federation of Aust
Michael Donnelly	Herpetocultural Co-operative of NSW	Ivan Cindric	Finch Society of Aust
Susan Batho	Blue Mountains Rabbit Club	Graeme Batho	Rabbit Breeders Association
Sandra McLean	Rodent Fanciers of NSW	Karin Nadazdy	Bitless Inc
Helen Toovey	AICC	Grant Holman	NSW CFA
Anthony Stimson	Mobile Wildlife Educators Association	Julia McConnell	Reptile Rescue and Education Service
Lynette Brown	Dogs NSW	Brian Crump	Dogs NSW
Ian Manton	Budgerigar Society of NSW	Graeme Phipps	Avicultural Society of NSW
Paul Terrett	Dogs NSW	Christina Rafton	Dogs NSW
John Hubble	Central Cumberland Pigeon Federation	Hugh Gent	Australian National Kennel Council
Neville Burns	Blue Moutains Rep Aware Mobile Wildlife Educators Association		
Apologies	Exhibition Stud Poultry Australia: Australian National Racing Pigeon Board		

The President of Dogs NSW Lynette Brown welcomed all attendees. Dr Rob Zammit who chaired the meeting introduced himself and gave a short overview of his involvement in Government Legislation and his recent intervention with Ray Hadley and Minister Blair in the POCTA Revision debate. He then asked everybody to introduce themselves and their organisation. After the individual introductions Sam Davis and Brian Crump addressed the meeting.

Sam Davis gave a brief update on the campaigns that the bird fraternity had been involved in, in particular the recent Victorian Legislation; he expressed concern that Animal Rights Organisations have stolen the Animal Welfare debate and have representation on many influential committees. With regard to NSW Government Legislation the Nationals are onside he had a meeting with the DPI Acting Chief Welfare Officer Kim Filmer who is approachable. He reminded the meeting that originally, Codes were written with advice from breeders but the Public Servants had taken them over, the groups we represent are the experts and we need to re assert our influence. The public do not know the difference between Animal Rights and Animal Welfare. The organisations here today can become a powerful voice for animals and owners and he could see interest in joining from other States. Sam suggested that we call ourselves Animal Care Australia, caring for and about animals.

Brian Crump highlighted that by working together we could form an alliance representing many thousands of Hobbyists and pet owners which would make it hard for the legislators to ignore our advice, especially as the numbers could translate into votes which experience has shown that the

Government is very conscious of. Brian emphasised that the RSPCA and AWL are given prominence for their activities but in reality they are just raiding the small profit makers and concerning themselves with enforcing the physical requirements of the POCTA standards with no real concern for the health and wellbeing of the animals, illustrated by their support for the new style of large commercial breeding establishments. Animal Rights organisations do not concern themselves with behavioural measures of animals happiness, cortisol studies of animal behaviours under differing scenarios have provided a dataset for measuring stages of happiness which could be our answer to the Animal Rights anecdotal stories. He was of the opinion that Hobby Breeders understand their species, commercial breeders do not and there is certainly no after sales service from them. PIAA promote themselves as representing us which not correct.

After these presentations there was considerable input from all present much of which, it was agreed, would be useful for future activities and was a confirmation of the wide range of expertise contained within the group.

Paul Terrett reminded those present that there were to be State Elections in March 2019 and that we must get a strategy together without delay. We need to establish dialogue with all political parties and lobby politicians and candidates especially in marginal seats. We need to position ourselves so that Politicians will realise that we represent hobbyists not commercial interests.

The meeting agreed that it would be advantageous for all the groups to work together. Lyn Brown said that it would be an important component of the alliance that all groups had a Code of Ethics which would carry great weight when we were promoting ourselves.

After some discussion it was decided that name to work under would be Animal Care Australia, Sam Davis agreed to source designs for a Logo. Everyone was in agreement that for the protection of all members we should incorporate. Christina Rafton volunteered to also reserve the name ACOZ and facilitate all the other requirements of incorporation. With regard to the development of a Mission Statement it was resolved that suggestions could be sent round by email with a final decision to be made at the next meeting.

In closing, the meeting gave a vote of thanks to Robert Zammit for his Chairmanship, and to Sam Davis, Brian Crump and Michael Donnelly for arranging the meeting and Dogs NSW for hosting.

The meeting concluded at 4.50pm: Next Meeting Saturday 28th July at 2pm

NOTES

On behalf of Dogs NSW Lyn Brown said she had had comments on the Dogs NSW Complex and suggested that other groups might like to utilize it for meetings and events. If anyone would like to have a tour they should meet her at 1.00pm on the day of the next meeting.

Contact List Attached.

Contact List

Name	Organisation	Phone	Email
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