

# people & pets



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FROM THE URBAN ANIMAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE AUSTRALIAN VETERINARY ASSOCIATION

## Introduction

This People and Pets magazine is the first to be produced without the lively authorship and editing of Dick Murray. I hope you will forgive any change in the style which you are used to and enjoy. This issue includes news about the UAM committee, an article about the 2005 UAM Animal Management team of the Year, notice that we are not running UAM Awards in 2006, information about the 2006 conference including the conference program, social program, training program, and registration and accommodation details, information about the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy.

## Urban Animal Management – Update

Many of you will have received this news by email. This update is to advise all of you in the Urban Animal Management community of very recent changes in the Urban Animal Management Reference Group (UAMRG). First, a very brief background.

Fifteen years ago there was no urban animal management discipline. Of course, councils employed rangers, and there were some ranger groups, but the need for a national focus, for sharing of knowledge and ideas, for encouragement of best practice, was recognised by some far-sighted people, and the first UAM conference was born.

The Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) recognised the value of what they were trying to achieve, and formed a UAM Advisory Committee including, AVA members, non AVA veterinarians, and a group of very dedicated and hard working people from Local and State Government. The AVA has had an active role through the CEO, Board representatives and representatives from the Australian Small Animal Veterinary Association.

With some changes of membership and name, this committee has continued to support UAM in this country and run an annual conference for the last 15 years.

Over the last couple of years the AVA has been forced to recognise its responsibilities in Corporate Governance and Risk Management. The AVA Board of Directors are individually legally responsible for the activities of all members and components of the Association, including UAMRG. Good governance and risk management require that activities and procedures once common practice must now be changed to fit within the legal, corporate structure. Change has occurred throughout the AVA's 8 Divisions, and many Branches and Special Interest Groups. The UAMRG was required to change as well.

The upshot of this process is that, as of 7 March 2006, the AVA dissolved the existing UAMRG. AVA recognises the importance of good urban animal management for Australian society and for its members, and is committed to continuing to support the UAM community, to retain and further develop expert knowledge, and to influence government at all levels to promote best practice in UAM. A new UAM committee has been formed, and a mix of veterinarians and others from State and Local Government and Industry have been invited to join.

I am sorry to announce that some members of the most recent committee have not been invited to continue on the new UAM Committee, and others have elected to retire. Those members not continuing have been invited to join us as Mentors – people whom the AVA and the UAM Committee hold in high regard and whose opinions we seek on issues before the committee.



The change in the make up of the UAM Committee does not change the enormous respect and gratitude that the AVA, the UAM Committee, and I personally have for these people.

Like you, we recognise their dedication, hard work, personal commitment and sacrifice. As a relatively new member of the committee, I have had a small glimpse of the work they have put in over many years, and the benefit of their wisdom and experience. I know you will join me in thanking them, and of course we expect to see them at future conferences. At the request of one of the non-continuing members, I have not referred to anyone by name in this document, but most of you will know to whom I refer.

Michael Hayward  
UAM Committee Chairman 2006

### STOP PRESS

Dr Kersti Seksel joins the program for UAM 2006!

## EVENTS CALENDAR

28-29 AUG 06 AMO Training Sessions, Hobart  
30 AUG - 1 SEPT 06 UAM Conference, Hobart

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## The new UAM Committee

The new Urban Animal Management Committee currently comprises:

- Tim Adams** Veterinarian, Petcare Information and Advisory Service, Melbourne
- Bruce Cartmill** Veterinarian, AVA Board representative
- Michael Hayward** Veterinarian, Canberra
- Ian McBryde** Veterinarian, Adelaide
- Deb Osborne** Veterinarian, Alice Springs
- Tony Cooke** Director, Petcare Information and Advisory Service, Melbourne (Mentor)
- Geoff Irwin** Supervisor Animal Management, Gold Coast City Council, Qld (Mentor)
- Russell McMurray** Manager Policy and Education, Bureau of Animal Welfare, Vic.

Other mentors are called upon on an "as needs" basis.

The UAM Committee work to Terms of Reference determined by the Board of the Australian Veterinary Association. These terms include (paraphrased):

- ◆ Developing and maintaining alliance networks with all stakeholders in UAM
- ◆ Participating in discussion with government, industry and community
- ◆ Helping AVA develop submissions to Local, State and Federal Government
- ◆ Monitoring and participating in unfolding UAM issues around the country
- ◆ Providing opportunities for continuing education for stakeholders, such as the UAM conference
- ◆ Maintaining a website of relevant information

This means that the goal and intent of the UAM Committee, to interact with, learn from and support the UAM community throughout the country, has not changed, although we will be undertaking new initiatives as well.

We intend to be open and transparent to you all, and welcome feedback and suggestions to [info@uam.net.au](mailto:info@uam.net.au), or to the address on the cover.

*Michael Hayward, Convenor*

## 2006 Conference Hobart

The 2006 conference promises to be a fulfilling continuing education experience for all delegates, as well as the great time of catch up and sharing it has always been.

Kester Nolder and members of the Animal Management Officers Association of Tasmania have worked hard to choose a magnificent venue (Wrest Point Conference Centre and Casino), to provide an excellent social program for example, a dinner cruise on the Derwent River, and a "no cost" optional visit to an innovative and interesting animal shelter on Friday afternoon.

Geoff Irwin has negotiated an excellent Training Program for Monday and Tuesday, and we are delighted to see the return of Em-Four to deliver the program. After a meeting convened by UAM in Canberra during the 2005 conference, Em-Four will be joined in delivering training by Animal Industries Resources Centre, a very experienced RTO from Queensland. Em-Four and AIRC recognise that they have different backgrounds, experience and expertise, and have agreed to share the delivery of ACR Training to provide the very best for all recipients. Those fortunate enough to receive their training last year in Canberra wrote:

*Very impressed with Matt's style of presenting the course & his own personal experience & passion for what he was sharing was truly evident & refreshing. I have enjoyed learning a different approach to handling conflicts and obtained useful skills that will assist me with my work*

*Overall I believe this course is excellent, especially for new officers*

The Conference Program offers the return of popular speakers like Joanne Righetti as well as new faces and new information. There will be debates and discussions as well as more traditional presentations, and I know all speakers are both keen and are working hard to polish their presentations.

### Where the bloody hell are you?

Along with the Urban Animal Management Committee, the Animal Management Officers' Association of Tasmania (acting as your local arrangements committee) extends to you all the warmest of invitations to join us in our wonderful state for the 2006 UAM conference.

Known as The Apple Isle, or simply Tassie as us Aussies just have to abbreviate everything, Tasmanians are also called Tassies, Taswegians, or Tasmaniac, and often mainlanders joke about them inbreeding and being born with two heads because of the small population base here.

Hobart is the capital of the Island State of Tasmania. Located at the mouth of the Derwent River on the southeast coast it was established in 1803, and early in its history it was a major whaling port and shipbuilding centre. More recently the city has come to function as the main administrative and commercial centre of the State. It has a population of about 130,000, which is about 40 per cent of Tasmanians. The small size of the city, the riverside location, the busy harbour and the beautiful historic buildings all add to its charm. Hobart is Australia's second oldest capital city, the gateway to Antarctica and homeport for Australia's only icebreaker, Aurora Australis.

Head down to the waterfront for a good choice of bars and restaurants, specialising in the finest seafood, meat and produce or try your luck at Wrest Point Hotel Casino (Australia's first legal casino) while you have a drink after the day's proceedings!

Tasmania has 10 of the top 100 things to do in Australia, so if you would enjoy gulping down a freshly shucked local oyster, washing it down with a crisp Tassie sauvignon blanc on the docks, or doing time at Port Arthur Penal Settlement, then you just must join us in August.

*Kester Nolder  
For the Local Arrangements Committee*



Full information about the Conference and all UAM activities can be found on the website: <http://www.uam.net.au>



## Please circulate *People & Pets* to:

- Animal Management Officers
- Environmental Health Officers
- Managers
- Team Leaders
- CEO
- Others Interested

If you received this by email but would prefer to receive a paper copy, please let us know!

Email to  
[info@uam.net.au](mailto:info@uam.net.au)

## Conference Program 30 August - 1 September 2006

### DAY 1 - WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST

08.30	Opening and Welcome	
08.45	Mr Steven Morison (Traffic & Local Laws/City of Whitehorse)	Risk Management In An Animal Management Environment
09.15	Dr Rick Butler	Health Management in Animal Shelters and Pounds
09.45	Mr Steven Moore (Bureau of Animal Welfare)	Why do we need a DAM Plan? The development of Domestic Animal Management Plans in legislation for Victorian Councils
10.15	Q uestions & Answers	
<b>10.30</b>	<b>Morning Tea</b>	
11.00	Dr Joanne Righetti (Animal Behaviourist)	Oh Behave! Understanding the causes of companion animal behaviour problems in our community
11.30	Mr Chris Button (Public Health & Safety SA)	Development of a barking noise standard
11.55	Dr Kersti Seksel (Sydney Animal Behaviour Services):	Dangerous Dog Declarations - the client perspective : Case Studies (Part 1)
12.15	Q uestions & Answers	
<b>12.30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	
13.30	Dr Kersti Seksel (Sydney Animal Behaviour Services):	Dangerous Dog Declarations - the client perspective : Case Studies (Part 2)
14.00	Ms Tania Small (Animal Industries Resource Centre, NSW)	The right person for the job: Reduce risk, turnover and expense through selective recruitment
14.30	Ms Hayley Cutt (University of WA)	Walking the dog and regulation in West Australian councils: Implications for effective UAM planning
14.45	Q uestions & Answers	
<b>15.00</b>	<b>Afternoon Tea</b>	
15.30	Dr Robert Holmes (Facilitator)	Debate: Leash laws – have we created a monster?
17.00	Happy Hour in the Trade Exhibit	
<b>19.00</b>	<b>Dinner Cruise on the Derwent River – MV Cartela</b>	

### DAY 2 - THURSDAY 31 AUGUST

08.30	Mr Russell McMurray (Bureau of Animal Welfare, Vic)	Contracting out services – where are the risks?
09.00	Mr Andrew Foran (RSPCA)	Animal Control and Animal Welfare - working together
09.25	Ms Ellen Jongman (Animal Welfare Science Centre, DPI, Werribee)	How does confinement affect the welfare of the cat?
09.50	Dr Robert Holmes (Animal Behaviour Clinic)	Practical advice for cat confinement
10.20	Q uestions & Answers	
<b>10.30</b>	<b>Morning Tea</b>	
11.00	Prof Natalie Waran (School of Natural Sciences UNITEC, NZ)	Dog Bites in children: A review of results from a recent European and New Zealand study
11.30	Ms Ann Boxhall (Delta Dog Safe, Tas) and Mr Gary Causson (AMO Tas)	Success in preventing dog bite injury - Launceston City Council's community education model
12.00	Mr Rob Morice & Ms Virginia Soderstrom (Bureau of Animal Welfare)	The Victorian Pre/primary education program
12.20	Q uestions & Answers	
<b>12.30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	
13.30	Ms Ellen Jongman (Animal Welfare Science Centre, DPI, Werribee)	Trap, Neuter and Release Programs for cats: a literature review on an alternative control method of feral cats in defined urban areas
14.00	Dr Carole Webb (Cat Protection Socy, Vic)	TNR – the negative case
14.15	TBA	TNR – the positive case
14.30	Debate/discussion/workshop	
<b>15.00</b>	<b>Afternoon Tea</b>	
15.30	Dr Mark Lawrie (Chief Veterinarian RSPCA NSW)	The issue of unwanted animals: Adopting a strategic and practical approach
15.55	Dr Joanne Righetti (Animal Behaviourist)	Oh Behave2! Solutions to problems – are we expected to solve everything?
16.25	Ms Selina Neill (Gold Coast City Council)	Lions, Tigers & Bears! What the AMO can learn from zoos
16.45	Q uestions & Answers	
<b>19.30</b>	<b>Conference Dinner in the Boardwalk at Wrest Point</b>	

### DAY 3 - FRIDAY 3 SEPTEMBER

08.30	Ms Courtney Milton (Kuring-gai Council)	Risk management - planning for a safe event
09.00	Ms Kate Neal (Animal Welfare League, NSW)	OH&S risk management for pound and shelter personnel
09.30	Ms Tania Small (Animal Industries Resource Centre, Qld)	Certificate IV in Animal Control and Regulation: Achieve best practice, reduce costs and minimize risk through Certified staff.
09.45	Ms Maree Garrett	Changes in NSW Companion Animals Legislation
10.15	Q uestions & Answers	
<b>10.30</b>	<b>Morning Tea</b>	
11.00	Ms Maree Garrett	Microchipping in NSW – problems and benefits
11.30	James Crotty (Barrister, Hobart)	Risk management for Councils and Officers - a lawyer's experience
12.00	Dr Joanne Righetti (Animal Behaviourist)	Oh Behave3! Practical solutions to problem pets and people
<b>12.30</b>	<b>Conference close (Lunch not provided)</b>	
13.30	<i>Optional post-conference visit to the Tasmanian Canine Defence League Dogs' Home</i>	

The Program and conference information will be kept updated on the website <http://www.uam.net.au>

## Hobart keynote speaker

At UAM 2005 in Canberra, Behaviourist Joanne Righetti shared the honour of "most popular speaker" (with Keynote Speaker John Snyder from HSUS), and returns to give three presentations this year. Speaker biographies and abstracts for Joanne are on page .... and further biographies and abstracts are available on our website and will be published in the next issue of People and Pets.

### Dr Joanne Righetti

Dr Joanne Righetti is an animal behaviourist who educates the public and professionals in all aspects of the human-animal relationship. Her background is in zoology, with a PhD in animal behaviour and a counselling diploma - qualifications which enable her to work with all sorts of animals - including the human variety! Joanne consults to organisations such as the Animal Welfare League, Delta Society Australia, local councils and private clients through the All Natural Vet Care Clinic in Sydney. Joanne is also "agony aunt" for Dog's Life magazine and is heard regularly on ABC 702 Sydney.

Joanne's latest venture is a series of pet behaviour booklets and the first of these "Barking Problems Solved" is now available. More details at [www.petproblemsolved.com.au](http://www.petproblemsolved.com.au) Joanne lives with a Dalmatian, 4 cats, mice and fish (as well as 3 sons and a husband).

### Oh Behave! Understanding the causes of companion animal behaviour problems in our community

Joanne Righetti

Companion animal behaviour problems, such as excessive barking, aggression, destructive behaviour, inappropriate roaming and defecation, are common in our communities and must be addressed by local government. In addition, animals surrendered to shelters, and even our own pets at home, commonly exhibit behavioural problems such as an abundance of energy, lack of training, toileting problems, anxiety and general mistrust or unfriendliness towards humans or other dogs.

The cause and development of behaviour problems will be explained, including the natural drives of the animal and the inappropriate behavioural habits that have formed. Basic causes of behavioural problems such as inadequate provision of animal's needs, lack of interaction and stimulation will be discussed. These will be presented in an easy to understand 'problem and cause check-list' that can be referenced by all those who work with companion animals.

### Oh Behave2! Solutions to problems - are we expected to solve everything?

Joanne Righetti

With so many companion animal behavioural problems in our community, and an increasing knowledge of potential solutions, it can be tempting to try to fix everything. Whether this is possible, practical and preferable is debatable. The time investment may be too great. Owners may not want to follow our solutions.

Some solutions may not work. Other people may be better qualified for the delivering the solutions. The options for the prevention and treatment of animal behaviour problems that exist in our Australian marketplace will be discussed and their uses to people involved in urban animal management. Ways in which we can all contribute and work together to find solutions will also be suggested

### Oh Behave3! Practical solutions to problem pets and people

Joanne Righetti

Understanding behaviour problems and their solutions may be easy for some people working in urban animal management but actually solving problem pets and their people can be extremely frustrating. Companion animal owners are often non-understanding, non-compliant and some even non-caring. Tips for managing difficult problems, difficult pets and difficult people will be discussed and demonstrated, enabling anyone that works in the companion animal industry, especially those who deal with people directly, to increase the efficacy of their work and ultimately decrease the extent of urban animal problems in our communities.



A compilation of conference abstracts, speaker biographies and some photos can be found on the website: <http://www.uam.net.au>

## The Australian Animal Welfare Strategy

The Australian Animal Welfare Strategy has been developed over the past five years by the Australian Government in consultation with the various States and Territories, industry and animal welfare groups. The aim of the Strategy is to protect the welfare of all sentient animals in Australia by developing, adopting and promoting sound standards and practices.

The Strategy has been adopted by the various Australian States and Territories who have agreed to assist with its implementation. Additionally the Australian Government has set aside \$6 million to help implement the Strategy which includes awareness, education and training. A working group has been established for the six sectorial areas which include Livestock/production animals, animals used for work, sport, recreation and display, companion animals, animals in the wild, aquatic animals and animals used in research and teaching.

The Strategy seeks improvement in:

<b>Legislation and regulations</b>	National standards
<b>Reporting and benchmarking</b>	Education and training
<b>Research and development</b>	International awareness of Australia's approach

### Community awareness

This will have direct implication for Local Government and Animal Management Officers throughout Australia. We will endeavour to keep you informed of the Strategy's progress and any implications for Local Government. In the meantime should you wish to find out more about the strategy or obtain a copy visit [www.daff.gov.au/aaws](http://www.daff.gov.au/aaws) or phone (02) 6272 3933.

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## Hobart training 'looking good'

As advised in earlier editions UAM will be offering two training courses relevant to the theme of the 2006 conference. UAM are pleased to advise that Em-Four and Animal Industries Resource Centre (AIRC) are again delivering the training in Hobart.

Those that attended the Canberra (2005) conference will remember them well and also be aware of the great standard of delivery given to those of who attended.

The courses will be delivered in line with the national competencies and as a gesture of goodwill and as an "added value" component for attendees, Em-Four and AIRC are willing to waive enrolment fees and assessment fees for students enrolling into these workshops. There will be a workshop fee but this means, that any student who wishes to undertake post workshop assessments has the opportunity to be accredited against these units RUV4201A and RUV4203A. Statements of Attainment will be issued in addition to Certificates of Attendance to these students. For those students who wish to simply attend the workshops but do not wish to complete post workshop assessments, a Certificate of Attendance will still be issued. These Certificates and Statements are joint branded by both Em-Four and AIRC.

Any participant who subsequently enrolls in the full Certificate IV in Animal Control & Regulation (RUV40104) offered by Em-Four and AIRC will be given credit transfer for completion of the competency unit within the workshop, together with a reduction in fees for the course. Due to their own accredited status, other Registered Training Organisations may give similar recognition.

'This is a great opportunity to gain that formal qualification you have deserved for so long'

## No UAM Awards in 2006

We have decided not to offer Animal Management Officer of the Year and Animal Management Team of the Year Awards in 2006. Entries for the awards have been waning over recent years, and the Committee will consider whether there are better ways to encourage best practice in urban animal management and to share this knowledge.

We would be happy to receive comments on the Awards or suggestions for encouraging and rewarding innovation and successful programs in local government – please email to [info@uam.net.au](mailto:info@uam.net.au) or post to

UAM Committee,  
Unit 40, 2a Herbert Street,  
St. Leonards NSW 2065

If anyone was in the process of developing an Awards submission, please let us know so that we can find other ways to demonstrate your initiative and hard work to the UAM community around the country.

## Implement and Monitor the Organisations OHS Program

The unit RUV4101A Implement and monitor the organisations OHS program is, as the title suggests, designed to cover the process of managing an OHS program through the *implementation and monitoring* of workplace systems. Thus this unit focuses on the identification of risks through risk assessment procedures, the implementation of workplace policies and procedures and the implementation and monitoring of providing OHS induction and ongoing training for staff members.

This is an interactive workshop whereby participants will undertake their own risk assessments and will generate or upgrade policies pertinent to areas in which they work. The material delivered in this workshop is targeted towards animal management officers of any level with the firm belief it is the responsibility of each and every staff member to maintain compliance to OHS standards in every workplace.

This particular workshop is strongly advised for any individual and for any employer serious about enforcing risk management within their Council.

## Here is your chance to get accredited the easy and fast way!

Em-Four and Animal Industries Resource Centre have generously reduced their prices and have structured this workshop in a way that attendees may receive accreditation against one or both of these units. This means, a student has the option to continue with post workshop assessment without further monetary outlay and for minimal effort, resulting in a nationally accredited and fully portable qualification in RUV4201A Implement and Monitor the Organisations OHS Program, and/or RUV4203A Identify and Respond to Animal Behaviour.

## Maroochy Shire Council Local Laws Unit Winners of the 2005 Animal Management Team of the Year

This is an edited version of a longer document provided by Trish Whitehead, Coordinator, Investigations & Auditing, Local Laws, Regulatory Services Branch, Maroochy Shire Council

Maroochy Shire Council currently has 12 permanent and 1 part time Local Laws Officers'. In addition to the 18,500 registered dogs in the Maroochy Shire there are also an estimated high number of unregistered dogs. Current resources make it impossible to achieve 100% regulatory control in relation to Animal Management. The number of dogs within the Maroochy Shire is increasing at a steady rate; contrary to the national trend (Australian Companion Animal Council Inc. 2003). With the projected population increase in the region, the increase in dogs (both registered and unregistered) within the Shire will only continue. In addition to the number of dogs, the number of complaints, animal infringements, lost dogs and attacks by wild dogs / feral cats on domestic animals and wildlife within the Shire continue to increase.

This is indicative of a significant problem that can potentially cause a hindrance on the people within the community who have a right to live without interference from other people's pets.

## Identify and respond to animal behaviour

The unit RUV4203A Identify and Respond to Animal Behaviour covers the process of identifying animals and their behaviour in the context of an animal control and regulation environment during day-to-day activities. This workshop is designed to increase ones ability to recognise and identify animals including a strong emphasis on the identification of dog breeds. The ability to assess, interpret, anticipate and respond to the behaviour of an animal forms a large component of this training. In addition, the all-important appreciation of the owner, animal, environment triangle that influences behavioural expressions is covered. A greater awareness of all of these functions leads to a greatly minimised chance of dog bite or attack. Thus this is a great risk management opportunity on behalf of employers and staff.

This workshop is designed for any animal management officer, or any individual for that matter who is required to interact with animals, particularly dogs in their course of employment. This may include the AMO responsible for collecting stray animals, the meter reader who is required to enter private property where dogs reside, the veterinary nurse who interacts with animals in a clinical environment, the animal attendant responsible for pound hygiene and the local laws officer who is required to check a registration tag.

The combined efforts of schools, the community and Council have the potential to ensure that the next generation of pet owners will have an improved understanding and appreciation of animals and will be better equipped for the responsibilities associated with owning pets.

Council's responsibility is not just to regulate but also to educate and the education program represents the most effective way to reach those that can make a difference in our community – our children. By working toward a generational change, Council resources can be more effectively utilised and our partnership with the community is greatly enhanced

### School visits

In April 2003 Local Laws Officer Troy Kemp took on the role of the Local Laws Units Education Coordinator. Troy, with the assistance of Rob Allen, developed an educational puppet show that they present to students within a classroom situation. The shows are not only educational, but feedback has shown that Troy and Rob have a 'magical' method in which all children are mesmerised and successfully retain a high percentage of the messages delivered.

Continued on page 6

*Maroochy Shire Council Local Laws Unit - Winners of the 2005 Animal Management Team continued*

Prior to each presentation schools are provided with a teacher resource kit to assist them in smoothly incorporating the responsible pet ownership message into their curriculum. These kits contain fact sheets, activities, poems, rhymes and colouring pages.

To reinforce the messages after the puppet presentation each student is given a responsible pet ownership activity bag. This bag contains a variety of items such as an activity book, colouring pencils, ruler, eraser, balloon, fact sheets, etc.

**Website**

An education website was officially opened on the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2004. It is an additional and interactive resource available to students and teachers, offering more comprehensive coverage of all areas of responsible pet ownership. The website's availability is promoted via Councils website index page, fact sheets, teacher resource kits and student activity bags. [http://www.maroochy.qld.gov.au/sitePage.cfm?code=dogs\\_faqs](http://www.maroochy.qld.gov.au/sitePage.cfm?code=dogs_faqs) and [http://www.maroochy.qld.gov.au/sitePage.cfm?code=cats\\_faqs](http://www.maroochy.qld.gov.au/sitePage.cfm?code=cats_faqs)

**Community events & expos**

Community education presentations are held at events such as an annual Pet Expo, World Animal Day, Microchipping Days, Animal Refuge Open Days and Public Library Story-telling sessions. As with school presentations, community events carry the responsible pet ownership message. Other community education presentations held include:

- Ø AVA PetPEP program - Our pet education program regularly works in partnership with the AVA PetPEP program.
- Ø School holiday library sessions (puppet show).
- Ø SCARS (Sippy Creek Animal Refuge) Open day
- Ø Hospital visits - Our pet education program puppets (with the help of the puppeteers), visit sick children in hospital at Christmas time.
- Ø 6-monthly Microchipping Days - In conjunction with Microchips Australia, Maroochy Shire Council holds 6-monthly microchipping days. The two microchipping days have proved to be extremely successful, complements Council's approach to animal management, and is a fantastic way to encourage responsible pet ownership amongst pet owners.

Ø **Animal Friendly Facilities** - Exercising pets daily relieves boredom and curbs boisterous behaviour such as barking and digging. It is also a great way to develop a strong bond between a pet and their owner.

**Off leash areas**

Off leash areas that have been designated where dogs can exercise freely, play with their owners and socialise with other canine friends. We ask that owners/carers be considerate of others when using the off leash areas, and remind them to pick up after their pet.

**Doggie Bag Dispenser Bins**

Because animal faeces smell and can be dangerous to human health we encourage pet owners to clean up after their pet. Council provides doggie bag dispenser bins at 64 locations throughout the Shire for public use.

**Community Consultation**

During the last financial year Council conducted a dog management survey with questionnaires available from customer service centres, libraries and the Internet, in excess of 1000 replies were received.

Council has set up a "dangerous dog committee" which decides on whether a dog that attacks will be declared dangerous and the conditions under which they can be kept.

An animal management working group was formed to allow Council the capability of receiving continuous feedback from the community on animal management issues. This committee has members from many community interest areas, not just dog owners, including a member of the local AVA. The veterinarians provide continuous assistance and advice to Council. Council pays veterinarian accounts for injured animals found by the public and taken to vets.

**Audit of Animal Management Practices**

In order to ensure that best practice is maintained Council caused management and processes of animal management to be audited. The audit report was comprehensive and identified areas for improvement. All recommendations were adopted and implemented immediately. Council also engaged the RSPCA to audit Pound facilities.



Above: The Maroochy Team



Right: the Maroochy Puppet at work

**Hobart Conference Friday afternoon optional post-conference activity**

**Visit to the Tasmanian Canine Defence League Dogs' Home**

This year we are offering a no-cost add on extra – a tour of the Dogs' Home which provides pound services for a number of Councils as well as shelter and rehoming facilities. The design of this facility is radically different to most other shelters. The Tasmanian Canine Defence League developed its first shelter in 1954, and the current site in Risdon Vale opened in December 1991.

The Hobart Home has 170 bunker style pens, 70 for adoption dogs and 100 as the pound area as well as special pens for dogs held by Councils prior to legal action as well as five exercise/viewing yards. All the pens have floor heating in the sleeping bays.

June 2001 saw the opening of a veterinary surgery at the home and all dogs are now desexed, micro chipped, vaccinated and temperament tested in house prior to adoption.

This facility is unique and is well worth a tour. Afternoon tea will be provided, and we may be able to arrange a drop off at the airport for those flying out later on Friday. Although the tour is free, we do need to know numbers for transport – please indicate on the registration form.

**We would like to hear from you...**

Have you or your Council implemented any interesting animal management initiatives? If so, we would like to hear about it.

Email information to [info@uam.net.au](mailto:info@uam.net.au)

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