

people & pets



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

A new mission for AVA changes for UAM Conferences

This is not your ordinary People and Pets magazine. Most editions have advertised forthcoming UAM conferences, and had one or a number of articles about some aspect of animal management – community education campaigns, research, awards to people in the industry.

This edition announces that the UAM Committee, while continuing to support practical, effective, science based and ethical animal management, will not run any further UAM Conferences, and that this will be the last People and Pets magazine of its type. This does not mean that conferences and newsletters will not continue – they will, but under the auspices of the newly formed Australian Institute of Animal Management, rather than under the auspices of the Australian Veterinary Association.

Having been involved with UAM since almost the beginning, the AVA believes that the interests of animal management officers, your ongoing education and training, and support in your careers and work, are best served by a membership based organisation. While the AVA does offer associate member status, it would cost many hundreds of dollars per year and we would still not be able to offer you voting rights or a say in the association. The new AIAM provides all this – it is your organisation, and you can direct it as you will.

The AVA's UAM committee, with a new name and a new vision, and including experienced and knowledgeable people from within the animal management community but outside the veterinary profession, will continue to work for animal management officers by providing policy makers and legislators with scientifically based information and sound advice.



Michael Hayward, UAM 2006 Convenor



Hobart Conference Committee Members, Kester Nolder from Glenorchy City Council and Greg Turnbull, Hobart City Council

We seek to encourage legislation and animal management policy which will be friendly to pets and pet owners, but practical and effective for animal management officers and local government to enforce. We want to work with councils and planners to produce living environments which encourage the keeping of companion animals in a socially responsible way – blocks which contain pets but reduce the incidence of barking, areas for dogs to walk and play off lead, communities which balance the rights and needs of pet owners, those who choose not to own pets, and wildlife. No small task, you might think!

Read on for a report on the very successful 2006 UAM Conference in Hobart, the text of the speech which announced these changes to conference delegates, and information about the AIAM, its plans for the future, and how to join. And the ongoing UAM Committee will formally announce its name, Vision and Mission in the near future.

The UAM website, repository of so many years' conference proceedings and the other material such as Conference working group papers on Dangerous Dogs and Barking Management, will remain and continue to provide this material for free download. New for this year, you can view or download photographs of the 2006 conference (now) and some of the PowerPoints used by speakers at this conference (near future). See www.uam.net.au

**UAM bids you farewell....
and welcomes AIAM**

**Working together
for best practice in
animal management**

More information inside...

EVENTS CALENDAR

3-5 OCT 2007

AIAM Annual Conference on urban animal management

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- UAM Conference 2006 - Be a Devil in Hobart
- UAM Conference report and photos
- Important information - UAM announces last UAM Conference
- Letter from AIAM President
- UAM Proceedings and CD ROM order form
- AVA UAM Committee 2006

UAM Conference 2006 – Be a ‘Devil’ in Hobart

Kester Nolder and the local organising committee (Neville and the three Gregs) really set the tone for the 2006 UAM Conference by demonstrating what it means to be a devil in Tasmania – we are very grateful for their hard-work. Some of the comments from speakers and delegates (below) suggest this was a very successful conference indeed:

Congratulations on an excellent conference last week in Hobart. I found some of the presentations very enlightening and most helpful. There was a good range of topics and some very good reports on studies. I have reported back to my staff and intend to follow through with them on some of the issues raised.
Sue Moyes, Hornsby Council

.... the Conference was one of the best I had attended. The City was great, the food was excellent and the company was first rate. The papers and delivery by all the presenters was interested and kept your focus for the whole day.
Steven Moore, Bureau of Animal Welfare Vic.

.... a wonderful conference. The energy and enthusiasm expressed by all of the delegates and those involved with the industry is what I particularly personally enjoy and it seems UAM never fails to deliver on this. Well done.
Tania Small AIRC

It was an excellent conference and I appreciate the hard work of you and the committee.
Steve Morrison, City of Whitehorse

This (my first UAM) has been a most informative & enjoyable experience.
Anne Boxhall, Delta Dog Safe Tas

What makes a successful conference is, of course, fundamentally, the delegates, and we had more than 160 enthusiastic (and sometimes well lubricated) individuals who contributed their own experiences and knowledge freely. They enjoyed the social events – a welcome from Alderman Rob Valentine, Lord Mayor of Hobart, at the Hobart Town Hall, welcome drinks at Wrest Point, a dinner cruise on an old ferry on the Derwent, and a formal dinner at Wrest Point which included a slide show of characters from previous UAM Conferences. Wrest Point is an excellent conference venue being situated right on the picturesque Derwent River, and Hobart turned on mostly excellent weather for us.

A dozen delegates came early and had two days of training on the topic from the Certificate IV in Animal Control and Regulation “Identify and Respond to Animal Behaviour” provided by Tania Small (from Animal Industries Resource Centre) and Em-Four. Trainees found the workshop had appropriate content and was relevant to their work, was well presented and resulted in an excellent learning experience. Comments included:

“Would recommend all my AMO’s to the workshop”
D. Handley, Darwin City Council

“The training package is coming together and providing valued and informative subject matter relevant to Animal Management issues”.
R. Warren, Beaudesert Shire Council.

But of course, delegates attend and their employers pay for them because of the conference speakers and their material. Our speakers in 2006 worked extremely hard to make their presentations informative, stimulating, in some cases provocative, and extremely well presented.

With the theme “Risk and Risk Management in Urban Animal Management”, speakers this year represented a full spectrum of those involved in animal management, with topics ranging from staff recruitment to the impact of increased dog walking on human health, health budgets, and implications for local government.

Steven Morrison from City of Whitehorse was the first presenter and introduced the theme of Risk Management in UAM, while Steven Moore from BAW Vic gave the low down Domestic Animal Management (DAM) Plans, and practicalities of Cat Confinement. Chris Button from Onkaparinga in South Australia extended last year’s presentations on a Bark Recording Device by explaining how his council has developed a draft standard for barking based on the device, and showed it has practical application.



Kester Nolder and Samantha Morris from the local Glenorchy City Council detailed risk management of events (acknowledging the valuable contribution of Courtney Milton from NSW), and Russ McMurray (BAW Vic) explored contracting out animal management services.

Selina Neil (Gold Coast City Council) showed that rangers can learn a lot from the management of lions, tigers and bears in zoos, and Maree Garrett (DLG NSW) explained the recent changes to NSW Domestic Animals Legislation and the benefits of compulsory microchipping in that state. She also gave more details of the recent sad fatal dog bite incident in western NSW.

Our friends in the welfare sector contributed greatly. Andrew Foran (RSPCA Vic) showed the enormous role that welfare organisations and shelters play in the management of stray and unwanted animals, and Kate Neil (AWL NSW) gave a detailed approach to OHS and risk management in pounds and shelters.



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

UAM Conference 2006 continued

Dr Mark Lawrie (RSPCA NSW and AVA Board member) explored "The Issue of Unwanted Animals: Adopting a Strategic and Practical Approach".

Other veterinary speakers included Dr Steven Cutter (NT) "Health Management in Pounds and Shelters", Dr Kersti Seksel "Dangerous Dog Seizures – the Owner's Perspective", and Dr Robert Holmes "Practical Advice for Cat Confinement". Robert also organised and facilitated a very entertaining "Hypothetical" on the implications of dog confinement on socialisation and the likelihood of dog bites. Panellists included Kester Nolder and Samantha Morris (Glenorchy), Russ Dickens (veterinarian and Councillor, Blacktown NSW), Kersti Seksel, Russ McMurray and James Crotty (Solicitor, Hobart), who also gave an excellent talk on why councils should love their legal advisors!

Other speakers explored dog bite prevention programs (Anne Boxhall Delta Tas, Gary Causson Launceston Council), Rob Morrice BAW Vic, the effect and practicalities of Trap, Neuter, Release programs for cat control, and research into the welfare of confined cats (Ellen Jongman, Vic), Certificate IV training, and staff recruitment (Tania Small AIRC), and understanding and solving animal behaviour problems and communicating with animal owners (the ever popular Joanne Righetti, NSW).

The conference proceedings will shortly be available on a CD, together with all previous conference proceedings and some of the 2006 PowerPoint presentations. This CD will be distributed for free to 2006 conference delegates and will be available for sale – see elsewhere in this issue for details or check the UAM website www.uam.net.au. The website also includes all previous conference proceedings which are freely available for download; the 2006 proceedings will be uploaded to the website later. In the mean time, paper copies of the 2006 Proceedings (127+ pages) plus most of the previous years proceedings, are also available for purchase.

Many people contributed to the success of this year's conference. I am extremely grateful to the speakers for their excellent presentations, to the local organising committee and my colleagues on the UAM committee, to all those who attended, to the hotel staff, but especially to conference organisers Doreen Culliver and Kelly Skriveris from OnQ Conference Support. Doreen is known and loved by many in the UAM community, and her skills shone again this year.

Michael Hayward, UAM Convenor



Delegates enjoying the last UAM, Hobart 2006



Delegates to UAM Hobart ... will receive a free CD compilation of all UAM Conference Proceedings 1993 - 2006.

CDRom's may be purchased for \$55 (Incl. GST & Postage)
ORDER FORM ON THE BACK PAGE.

... Important Information ...

UAM announces that 2006 was the last UAM Conference, but that conferences on urban animal management will continue to be run by the newly formed Australian Institute of Animal Management.

The following is the text of a speech delivered at the Conference Dinner of the 16th annual UAM Conference in Hobart on Thursday, 31 August 2006, by Michael Hayward, Convenor of the UAM Committee.

Companion animals have lived as part of the family, within the dwelling, throughout human civilisation. Archaeology finds their bones with ours, and recorded history shows that, from 1500-1800, animals commonly slept under the same roof as people and were so numerous as to constitute an urban nuisance.

The need for dog control arose quite early. In England in the period 1750-1900, much media attention was given to rabies, even though the disease was uncommon. A dog tax was introduced in 1796 in England. In early modern England, household mastiffs were a "notorious hazard" to the public, even though their importance for protecting public property was well recognised. Some of these animals were huge, and often kept in large numbers. Municipalities struggled to maintain some sort of control for the protection of the public. The fact that many would have been owned by the nobility may have complicated the keeping of public order.

Because of rabies, dogs were required to be muzzled in public. This led to tension between enforcers and pet owners resentful of efforts to control their behaviour and that of their animals.

Many of today's issues of urban animal management are not new.

During the 1980s, the balance between the rights of animal owners and the need for animal control to mitigate risks and nuisances associated with companion animals seemed to be shifting, and Townsville veterinarian Dick Murray, and Tony Cooke from the Petcare Information and Advisory Service, amongst others, became interested in how animal control could be done better – better for the general public, better for animal owners, better for animals, and better for the animal management officer (ranger). AMOs were expected to do a wide range of difficult tasks despite being under-trained and under-resourced for the job. Their job status was about on par with the "dunny-man" – one of my veterinary nurses was a ranger doing dog control in Queanbeyan at that time, and describes being spat on as she walked down the street.

The first UAM Conference was held in Brisbane in 1992 – convened by Dick Murray and Jo Toia from the Australian Veterinary Association, with the cooperation and support of Brisbane and Logan City Councils, and the underlying support and encouragement of Tony Cooke from PetCare.

Canberra veterinarian Michael Banyard, President of the AVA in 1994, saw the need for veterinary involvement in UAM during the 1993 conference in Penrith.

The AVA formed a UAM Advisory Group, and has supported and backed the UAM movement ever since.

I think it is appropriate to look at what UAM has achieved in the last 15 years.

It has run an **annual conference**, and produced conference **proceedings** which have formed a body of literature, freely available on the UAM website, which together with 2 editions of Dick Murray's book, form a wide ranging yet detailed resource for councils, animal management officers, and all those concerned with animal management. These conference proceedings are used by animal management officers, animal welfare organisations, veterinarians, referred to in council animal management plans, and even in scientific papers and learned theses.

For many years an **awards scheme**, managed by Rick Walduck, made public and rewarded innovation and excellence in animal management. One well known council officer said in his award acceptance speech "I saw and heard what the previous award winners did, and realised that we could do it too." They leapfrogged that council, and established a new benchmark for excellence in UAM. But the important message was "we can do that too". The Awards scheme also highlights that, 15 years ago, education really only received lip service as a component of animal management, but now is seen to be both a practical tool for the AMO and a critical component of animal management plans.

Members of UAM were critically involved with the development of the **Animal Control and Regulation** component of the Animal Care and Management package. A certificate IV provides nationally recognised and therefore transportable training, a professional standard, contributes to a career path, and, perhaps most importantly, a basis for self confidence in yourself as an AMO.

Members of UAM, and the AVA, worked hard to iron out major problems with the introduction and use of microchips, including the development of Australian Standards for chips and scanners.

UAM conference delegates developed a document on Dangerous Dog management including a grading scheme, which has been endorsed by Federal Government committees and promulgated to the States. A Declared Dog Database is being rolled out.

UAM conference delegates developed a working paper on barking dog management which is being used by Councils and AMOs to assist them in handling barking problems in their communities.

But the real achievements of UAM are the intangibles. There has been a marked rise in responsible pet ownership over the last 15 years, in great part due to the efforts of AMOs in their communities and as a result of UAM conferences, resources and encouragement.

Mark Lawrie presented figures in the 2006 conference showing the decline in shelter admissions and euthanasia over the last decade.

UAM has given AMOs a professional ethic and a standard of excellence to aim for. It has helped you to be proud of your job and provided a professional image to overcome the very negative one that the dog catcher once held. Nearly 82% of AMOs agree or strongly agree with the statement "I am proud to be an AMO" according to Tania Small's research, presented in the 2006 Conference.

It has uniquely brought together a range of stakeholders – not just animal management officers, but also their managers and policy makers, elected councillors and State (and Federal) Government employees, animal welfare groups, pet owner groups, and of course veterinarians. And these have all come together with a remarkable willingness to share – at a person to person level over a beer, and the willing sharing of what might be considered intellectual property.

It has helped make Australia a world leader in innovative approaches to animal management – something you should all be very proud of.

So who is UAM? UAM is a committee auspiced by the Australian Veterinary Association. A committee of volunteers including council and state government employees, those in private sector, and veterinarians. While acknowledging that many others have quietly contributed to the production of conferences, newsletters and the like, notable and long standing members include:

- Tony Cooke (PetCare)
- Dick Murray (Townsville veterinarian, honoured with an AMO for this work)
- Shane Scriggins (Caloundra Council)
- Rick Walduck (Veterinarian, director of Trovan microchips)
- Geoff Irwin (Gold Coast City Council)
- Deb Kelly (veterinarian, South Australian Government)
- Russ McMurray (Bayside City Council and then Victorian Government)
- Ian McBryde (veterinarian and member of the DMCB), and
- Doreen Culliver who has organised almost all UAM conferences since 1993, produced the People and Pets magazine, and more recently the website, originally as an AVA employee and more recently as a private contractor.



Speech by Michael Hayward at UAM Conference 2006 continues....

Doreen's role has extended well beyond the administrative – she has provided support and encouragement, friendship and a steady head, and UAM would not have continued or succeeded without her.

But there was always a dichotomy between providing the direct needs of animal management officers, and looking at animal management issues at a policy level for State and Local Government, and of relationships with other stakeholders such as the welfare sector. UAM tried to be all things to all men, and succeeded mightily in some areas while failing to fulfil its objectives in others.

The events of the last few months have resulted in a natural progression – the dissolution of the old UAM group and the formation of two new groups:

- the Australian Institute of Animal Management, formed by previous members of the UAM group, dedicated to the needs of AMOs, and offering membership,
- and an AVA committee working to improve animal management, animal welfare and animal ownership at a policy and legislative level.

This enables each of these important areas to be well serviced.

The AVA's "new UAM" committee has as its **Vision**: "An Australian Society which successfully integrates Companion Animals" and aims to work with both elected and senior managers and policy makers in Local and State government.

We, and the AVA, would never have abandoned the animal management officer – UAM had a commitment to you all which we took very seriously. Now, however, it is clear to us and to AVA that the education and support of animal management officers is best handled by a group specifically looking after your interests. We will be trying to help you through encouraging more logical, practical and effective Legislation and Policy.

I am therefore announcing that this, the 16th National Urban Animal Management Conference, will be the last of its type organised by the Australian Veterinary Association. We are handing the reins of such conferences back to those whose baby it was for so many years. Shane, Dick, Rick, and others such as Steve Rigby and Peter Chandler, will provide services and a conference much more focused on the needs of animal management officers. The dichotomy of UAM conferences with papers discussing both the policy and development of legislation as well as its practical application will not continue.

And for you managers, policy makers and legislators, the new AVA Committee will be providing resources and expertise to assist you in your work.

UAM has always been about the sharing of information and resources.

Not only is there a desire amongst both organisations to cooperate, share resources and avoid competition, but long standing UAM members Geoff Irwin from Gold Coast City Council and Russ McMurray from BAW Vic will be full members of *both* committees, to maintain the communication and cooperation between the two groups.

And as far as the conference is concerned – it's business as usual. I now have pleasure in handing over the responsibility for conferences like these to the Australian Institute of Animal Management, and welcome Geoff Irwin to tell you a little more about the Institute and its immediate plans.



Letter from Dick Murray, President Australian Institute of Animal Management Inc

Readers will by now have a clear understanding that the AVA UAM Group is no longer going to run annual national UAM conferences. *That* baton has been handed on to the recently formed Australian Institute of Animal Management (at the UAM conference Hobart 06).

The AIAM Annual Conference on urban animal management will pick up from where the AVA UAM Conference has left off, so too will it be that the Institute's new *Phoenix Newsletter* will pick up the "keeping in touch" task that the AVA's People and Pets has done in the past.

For my manifest sins, I have drawn the Institute President's job over the next couple of years. I am enthusiastically looking forward to the challenge of running down to the Institute's first conference on urban animal management that is scheduled for the Gold Coast in 3-5 October 2007.

The Institute has a good "launch" crew both on the bridge and in the engine room already and we have confident expectations that by Christmas time this year, our website will have the whole story posted.

Many will be aware that the Gold Coast ('99) UAM conference has the "tag" of having arguably been the most successful national UAM conference convened thus far. The current Gold Coast Council urban animal management team includes the likes of Geoff Irwin, Selina Neill and John Cohen. They are very capable and generous friends to the business of urban animal management in Australia.

These mighty mates with their whole local crew, together with a lot of additional regional assistance, did a huge job of hosting the conference in that year. It is the same people, the same place and the same regional support power that is now focussed on delivering the Institute's first conference in October '07 with the theme of "Back to Basics". It will be great to see everybody there.

The Australian Institute of Animal Management Incorporated

Preamble

The provision of animal management services within the community is a significant Local Government task in Australia. Council officers engaged in animal management, work to maximize their community's health, safety and amenity by minimising the negative social, environmental and financial impacts of inappropriately managed animals.

Animal Management is a discipline that endeavours to engage (in a balanced way) the full spectrum of influences that have an effect on and are affected by animal regulatory services. Important among these disciplines are: human health and welfare; human social science; animal care and welfare; animal behavioural sciences and processes of governance.

The "Institute"

The Australian Institute of Animal Management Inc (AIAM) is a 'not for profit' incorporated Association. All of the Institute's office bearers and committee members are expected to contribute their service in a voluntary

capacity and are obliged to make their own arrangements to attend meetings and functions.

Application for general membership of the Institute is available to all people engaged in the animal management service industry. It is intended that committee members be drawn from all States and Territories in a balanced and representative way. Elections for committee membership will be held each year at the Institute's AGM and arranged usually to coincide with the Institute's annual conference.

The vision of AIAM is to assist the development of an environment for best practice in animal management service delivery. In summary, to promote: community health, safety and amenity; animal care and well-being; and the benefits of good social and environmental outcomes.

The Institute aims to deliver solutions for people employed in Animal management at Federal, State and Local levels of Government.

The following objectives are in effect a summary of Institute member benefits:

- Convening an annual national animal management conference;
- Compiling a body of readily accessible quality literature on this subject;
- Promoting training, career paths and qualification for Animal Management Officers within an accredited national competency framework;
- Maintaining a website that reflects the Institute's activities;
- Producing a quarterly publication to keep in touch with members and others;
- Encouraging best practice in animal management through the sharing of progressive and innovative ideas;
- Recognising excellence in animal management service;
- Fostering a collaborative approach to animal management legislation and policy across Australia.
- Provide consultancy services on animal management

UAM CD NOW AVAILABLE

As an added benefit to 2006 Conference attendees, we have produced a CD containing the proceedings of all UAM Conferences, from 1992 to 2006. While all conferences to 2005 are freely available on the UAM website, and the 2006 material will be available within 12 months, the CD provides an easy way to have permanent and rapid access to all this material forever. The CD has been distributed to 2006 Conference attendees, and is now available for purchase for everyone else.

Bound copies of most year's conference proceedings, including 2006, are also available for sale. Buy now – they won't last!

UAM Proceedings Order Form:

Prices: Printed UAM Conference Proceedings - \$40 (incl. GST) PLUS postage & handling \$10
UAM Conference Proceedings CD - \$55 (incl. GST and postage)

Please send me:

- UAM Conference Proceedings CD No. of copies _____
- UAM Conference Printed Proceedings No. of copies _____ Year _____
- No. of copies _____ Year _____
- No. of copies _____ Year _____

Delivery address:

Name _____
 Organisation _____
 Address: _____
 Suburb _____ State _____ PostCode _____
 Contact phone number or email address _____

- Please provide a tax invoice for this payment
- Enclosed is my cheque (made payable Australian Veterinary Association ABN 63 008 522 852)
- Please charge my credit card

Type of card: AMEX VISA BC MC DINERS

Number on card: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ Expiry date: ____/____

Name of cardholder: _____

Signature of cardholder: _____

Please post or fax your order and payment to:

AVA UAM Proceedings
 c/- On Q Conference Support
 PO Box 3711, Weston ACT 2611
 Telephone (02) 6288 3998 Facsimile: (02) 6161 9024
 Email: conference@uam.net.au

The AVA UAM Committee 2006



L-R Dr Bruce Cartmill, Dr Michael Hayward, Ms Virginia Jackson, Dr Tim Adams, Ms Margaret Conley



L-R Mr Russell McMurray, Dr Kersti Seksel, Mr Geoff Irwin, Dr Ian McBryde

Thank you conference delegates for completing your Evaluations in Hobart!

The lucky winner of the 1 dozen bottles of wine for submitting the Evaluation is:
Monika Polkerston from Kingston City Council, Victoria.



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

People & Pets is Published by the Australian Veterinary Association Ltd, Unit 40, 2A Herbert Street, St Leonards NSW 2065
 Phone: (02) 9431 5000
 Fax (02) 9437 9068

The Australian Veterinary Association Ltd is not responsible for the statements made in this publication by contributors or advertisers. Unless otherwise stated, material in People & Pets does not reflect the endorsement, official attitude or position of the AVA or the editor. Advertisers are responsible for complying with the Trade Practices Act 1974.

