



CEO REPORT

Mark Fraser

Advocacy

PIAA has ramped up recent advocacy efforts in VIC in light of the amended proposals to the Puppy Farm Bill that will actually have a negative effect on animal welfare rather than improve it. PIAA fully supports the move to stamp out puppy farms, but wants any relevant decisions founded on welfare and scientific evidence as opposed to unsubstantiated political promises.

PIAA members have recently received a PIAA flyer outlining the VIC Governments' revised plans to remove the sale of puppies and kittens from pets stores and impose a ten fertile dog limit on all breeders. Whilst this is a Victorian matter, if pushed through, there is no doubt that it will be considered in other states. The flow on effect for all other sectors will also be drastic if this happens.

The amended proposals have already been discussed in the Lower House and will go before the Upper House on December 12. We urge all PIAA members, particularly those in VIC, to contact their local members and express your concerns in relation to these rash proposals. For more information or to obtain a copy of our position statement, please do not hesitate to contact the PIAA office. We need to continue to be pro-active.

In the coming weeks I will be heading back to WA where PIAA has a seat at the table of the Stop Puppy Farming Implementation Working Group. Topics for discussion include breeder registration, compulsory desexing and conversion of all puppy-selling retail stores into rehoming centres. PIAA supports the first two of these points, but will be strongly contesting the latter point.

We have also been doing the rounds visiting key NSW political parties and cross benchers. With a 2018 election looming, we need to ensure that animal welfare is top of the agenda for all political parties and that the findings of the 2015 NSW parliamentary enquiry are implemented and upheld. I recently met with NSW shadow Minister for Primary industries Mick Veitch and we will be meeting with the Niall Blair, Minister for Primary industries just before we close for Christmas break.

PIAA attended a stakeholder forum in Sydney last week to discuss changes to POCTA (prevention of cruelty to animals Act). Along with other stakeholders including AVA, Dogs NSW, Cat Protection Society, Working dog representative groups, the focus was on breeding and pet shops, with the aim to ensure that best practice prevailed.

With the new year rapidly approaching, our educational focus is on delivering bigger and better learning opportunities for our members in 2018. Auspet 2018 - Industry Trade Show and Conference &

Public Reptile, Aquatics and Pet Expo is scheduled for October 19-21 at the Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre, and for the first time, will include the one day trade exhibition day (and conference) and the addition of two public days. The public days will incorporate grooming, information sessions, giveaways, reptile and aquatic displays, family focused activities, market stalls and much more. This is a big move for PIAA, and an opportunity that we are very excited about. Expressions of interest from exhibitors and sponsors are now welcome. Please contact Linda at events@piaa.net.au

With the changing retail landscape and an increasing need to connect suppliers, manufacturers and retailers with the ever-growing pet-owning public, Auspet 2018 opens new doors for members, the industry and the consumer.

We have listened to input from our supporters, and the decision to go back to the Gold Coast and also open Auspet to the public, is part of our commitment to deliver members profitable opportunities, grow the PIAA's brand awareness and also offer relevant and cutting edge education initiatives.

The weekend of Auspet 2018 coincides with the GC 600 Supercars event, being held a little further north at Surfers Paradise. This is another great reason to head north in October. Bring the family. Drop into Auspet. Soak up some quality Queensland sun. Visit the theme parks. Experience the GC 600 Supercars. Book early! More Auspet 2018 information early in the new year.

Our annual Ausgroom conference will be held at Hawkesbury Race Club, Clarendon, Sydney on June 16-19. Ausgroom 2018 will encompass two days of business and grooming conference sessions and two days of compelling competitions. Lock in the dates.

Ausboard is locked in for August 2018, with this year's offering to be held at the beautiful Hunter Valley in NSW. The Conference will include facility tours, wine tastings, excellent business streams, dinner and plenty of networking opportunities. Thank you to all members who responded to the recent AusBoard survey.

The PIAA Pet First Aid courses will roll out across the country in May, July and October. We welcome queries from members wanting to host a course at their premises over the coming year. Contact Kathy on membership@piaa.net.au to find out more.

A big thank you to our members, PIAA staff, Board of Directors, corporate sponsors, supporters and partners. 2017 has been an exhausting but productive year. For a small team with big plans, we seem to be making some strong inroads. We look forward to a productive and profitable 2018. ■