



CEO REPORT

MARK FRASER

I was fortunate enough to attend PIAA's AusBoard 2018 at the beautiful Hunter Valley recently. With delegates from all over the country and also from New Zealand, it was two days of excellent educational sessions and a day exploring the local vineyards and visiting local members' boarding kennels.

AusBoard is unique in that it brings together boarding kennel owners, managers and staff to discuss common issues and take away tips for making their businesses even better. The kennel sector is a passionate one and all the delegates were open, friendly and happy to share their stories over the three days..

A huge thank you to Linda Chamarette for putting together such a successful event. Thanks to our Boarding director Glenn Cooke for MCing the event and Royal Canin for their ongoing sponsorship of AusBoard. Thanks also go to our exhibitors Furry Legs, Pet Tech Pro, Safe 4 All, Digital Rez, Horse & Hound Specialists, Pet Manager & Ceva Animal Health.

The issue of pet minding came up at the AusBoard forum and as an association, we are looking into ways we can work to ensure that pet minders follow the same strict standards that our PIAA Kennel members do. This is a sector that is not going to go away, so we need to ensure that there is a level playing field and that all pet minding operators are registered with local council, hold an ABN, are trained in pet first aid, have relevant insurance, have suitable facilities, are open to inspection and are able to provide an annual vet audit of their premises.

This issue will be up for discussion at the upcoming PIAA Board meeting. I look forward to keeping you updated. In regards to the PIAA Board, I would like to welcome our newest National Directors Richard Bowker (Petbarn) and Matt Pilkington (Mars). We look forward to working with you both.

PIAA has been quite busy in the advocacy stakes of late. We sit on AWAC NSW, where the current focus is the new Animal Welfare Action Plan. The NSW Government is committed to safeguarding animal welfare and providing strongest possible regulatory framework to promote responsible pet ownership by:

- > Modernising the policy and legislative framework
- > Implementing companion animal breeding practices reforms
- > Improving the effectiveness of compliance and enforcement efforts
- > Ensuring sound research and scientific practices are used to develop policy and legislation
- > Engaging with key stakeholders and ensure all views are respected and considered in developing policy and legislation
- > Investing in systems and processes

In the ACT, AWAC is focusing on pound welfare and local biosecurity

issues. They are also reviewing cat, dog, wildlife and reptile codes.

In WA, we sit on the Stop Puppy Farms Implementation Working group (SPFIWG).

Following stakeholder and public survey in relation to breeder registration and pet shops selling puppies, there is still no clear decision in relation to the latter. PIAA supports the move to ensure all breeders are registered and held accountable. PIAA does not support the push to remove the sale of puppies from pet stores. We will keep you updated on the progress of this initiative.

PIAA Pet First Aid: There are five courses in our latest series, with the next series to roll out in November. If you are interested in hosting a pet first aid course at your premises, please get in touch with Kathy-membership@piaa.net.au

PIAA has recently completed a draft Strategic Plan for the years ahead. This will be discussed and ratified at our next board meeting.

And finally, a reminder that time is running out to get your tickets to or book a booth at Auspet 2018. All details at auspet.net.au

And if you are not currently a member of PIAA, we would love to have you on board. Membership benefits can be found elsewhere in this magazine.

PIAA...Education, advocacy, support. ■

