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## **Animal Cruelty for Permanently Deforming Puppy**



21-year-old Artarmon man Mr Hamid Aghaei was convicted in Downing Centre Local Court on 1 May 2019 for committing an act of aggravated cruelty against and failing to provide vet treatment for breaking the legs of his Border Collie puppy Asha.

For committing an act of aggravated cruelty, Magistrate Thompson imposed a 10-month intensive correction order, with the conditions that Mr Aghaei is supervised by Community Corrections, undergoes a psychiatric assessment, and commences psychiatric treatment. For failing to provide vet treatment, he was placed on a two-

year community correction order. She further ordered Mr Aghaei to pay fines of \$5,000 for the puppy's veterinary treatment and he was prohibited from purchasing, acquiring, taking possession or custody of any animal for two years.

The Court heard in agreed facts tendered on sentence that on 4 December 2018, RSPCA inspectors attended Mr Aghaei's home in response to a complaint of animal cruelty. Mr Aghaei told inspectors that Asha belonged to him and admitted he knew she was limping after he forcefully pushed her off a bed for urinating on it. He said he had not taken her to a vet since the incident occurred two days earlier because he was waiting for a Centrelink payment to get health insurance. Asha was seized and transported to RSPCA Sydney Veterinary Hospital in order to receive urgent veterinary treatment for the severe injuries she had sustained.

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# Australian-first wild koala release program



Two rescued koalas treated for a life-threatening disease will be released back into the wild by Queensland researchers as part of a project to help protect the threatened species and improve genetic diversity.

The Living Koala Genome Bank project aims to address the increasing threat of local koala extinction due to habitat loss and disease.

Dreamworld Wildlife Foundation General Manager and University of Queensland Adjunct Associate Professor Al Mucci said he was pleased to see successful results from the conservation effort.

“Two animals have been cleaned, treated for chlamydia infection and vaccinated, and will be released back into the wild where they belong,” he said.

“When these koalas were first brought into our care, one had been displaced due to habitat destruction and would not have survived, so it’s a very positive outcome to see them returning to the wild in healthy conditions.”

UQ’s [Associate Professor Stephen Johnston](#) said the koalas would move to a soft-release enclosure in Coombabah Lakelands Conservation Area on the Gold Coast where they could be monitored.

“These animals will provide us with valuable information about how wild koalas that have spent time in captivity thrive after being released,” he said.

The Living Koala Genome Bank project is a collaboration between UQ, Dreamworld, the Queensland Government and Queensland University of Technology.

It uses breeding and molecular technologies developed by UQ, and a chlamydia-proofing vaccination therapy developed at QUT to help future-proof local koala populations.

“It provides practical mechanisms to improve the genetic diversity of populations and assist in developing disease-free koalas to release into the wild,” Dr Johnston said.

“There are currently five joeys growing in pouches that are possible future releases of the program, and will support and potentially improve the genetic integrity of smaller, fragmented populations.”

The program has two important aims that are being tested for the first time.

“Our first aim uses zoos as a breeding centre for the genetic and disease management of local wild populations, while the second explores whether zoo koala populations might act as reservoirs for safe-guarding the genetic diversity among local wild populations,” he said.

The captive genome bank is initially focusing on the koala population at Dreamworld

with a view to expand to other Queensland zoos to ensure the long-term conservation of koalas in the wild.

A dedicated breeding centre is being built as part of the \$3 million redevelopment of Dreamworld's wildlife precinct.

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'We're All Animals', hosted by journalist and animal lover Tracey Preston looks at the powerful animal- human bond and demonstrates that we need animals just as much as they need us.

Throughout the series, everyday Aussies share their stories of laying it all on the line, sacrificing relationships, finances and even their homes for the creatures they love.

"I admire the selfless people who have the courage to follow their heart and dedicate their lives to saving and protecting the animals they love, said Tracey"

"I wanted to create a series which shines a light on the unsung heroes of the animal

world and shares their amazing tales, and that's exactly what I've done with We're All Animals".

The eight-part feature series takes you on a wild and heart-warming ride, meeting a bird whisperer who rescues birds and teaches them to fly again, a woman who trains horses to help humans, inside a wombat ICU unit, to meet a colourful woman and her flock of feathered friends who brighten up the lives of old folk, a trainer who saves dogs from the pound and gives them a second chance at life and so much more.

We're All Animals is a unique Australian feature documentary that will redefine what it means to be an 'animal lover'.

"I have dedicated years of my life to telling stories about animals and what I've found is it's often the people who save and protect these animals who have the most incredible stories to tell, so creating 'We're All Animals' and being able to share these stories is just wonderful" said Tracey

Tracey Preston is no stranger to the wonderful world of animals, having travelled the globe and experienced the rush of being touched by a wild gorilla, licked by a puma and had her thumb sucked by a lion.

"I feel incredibly lucky to have had such phenomenal experiences with animals and get a lot of joy out of sharing my stories with others".

We're All Animals is available via the Podcast One app and Apple Podcasts



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***ZOOMARK INTERNATIONAL 2019 ON THE STARTING BLOCKS: NEW PRODUCTS,  
PROFESSIONAL TRAINING  
AND NEWS ABOUT THE SECTOR IN THE ASSALCO-ZOOMARK REPORT  
757 EXHIBITORS FROM 45 COUNTRIES, 6 NATIONAL COLLECTIVES***

The opening of ZOOMARK INTERNATIONAL 2019 is edging closer. The event is due to begin on Monday 6 May at 10.30 am with the inaugural convention which will have as its centrepiece the presentation of the ASSALCO Zoomark Report that will offer a detailed analysis of the market trends and an up-to-date picture of the main developments in the pet sector in Italy: an opportunity for important discussions

ZOOMARK INTERNATIONAL, organised by BolognaFiere with the support of ASSALCO (the national association for companies involved in the sectors of pet food and pet care) and ANMVI (the national association of Italian veterinarians) will be taking place from Monday 6 to Thursday 9 May, an alignment of the schedule for the benefit of the international calendar, prioritising weekdays for the large B2B event.

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**LAKESLAND EGG FARM OWNER CONVICTED FOR CRUELTY  
AGAINST 4,000 HENS**

36-year-old Mr Shaun Robert Stone was convicted on 29 April 2019 at Picton Local Court for multiple serious animal cruelty offences in relation to the 4,000 hens on his commercial egg farm.

Mr Stone was convicted and fined a total of \$6,500.00 with half to be paid in moiety to RSPCA NSW. He was placed on a 16-month community corrections order and prohibited from purchasing, acquiring, taking possession or custody of any animal for a period of five years.

In June 2018, RSPCA NSW inspectors, NSW Police, a Local Land Services (LLS) District veterinarian, and an expert avian veterinarian attended Mr. Stone's Lakesland property where they identified approximately 4,000 live hens and approximately 1,000 dead hens in a shed.

Half of the birds in the shed had a respiratory disease with mucoid discharge from the nares and mouth. Most of the birds were in underweight to emaciated body condition. All the birds had severe lice infestations and appeared to be hungry and very thirsty, spending most of the time attempting to drink from the nipple drinkers and search for food.

Multiple animal husbandry problems were identified in the shed, including poor ventilation, poor substrate, broken feeders and water pipes, and dangerous wire causing the birds to become trapped and the deceased bodies left to decompose amongst the hens.

20 birds showing the most severe symptoms were caught and assessed, with 12 found to be emaciated, have chronic respiratory issues with mucoid discharge from the nares and mouth. One bird was covered in mud and excrement, was very cold, and struggled to breathe. It was deemed cruel to keep them alive and the 12 were humanely euthanised.

A post mortem examination of one bird revealed a positive result for Infectious Laryngotracheitis (ILT), a highly contagious respiratory disease that has a mortality rate of up to 70% in poultry. There is no cure for the infection and the birds become carriers for life.

Mr Stone was issued directions to immediately provide sufficient food, water and

veterinary treatment to the 4,000 birds. The shed needed to be cleaned to reduce the faecal soiling, dust and ammonia to reduce the risk of worsening the flock's respiratory infections and the re-infestation of lice.

RSPCA NSW inspectors attended the property nine more times over the next 13 days, including four times with the District Veterinarian, twice with the avian veterinarian, and once with an industry consultant to monitor compliance with the directions issued by the RSPCA.

Further inspections and veterinary assessments found that there were still marked signs of respiratory disease, emaciation, weakness and lice infestations throughout the flock.

After having sought advice from the LLS and expert avian veterinarians and taken into consideration the significant biosecurity risks presented to other flocks and industry, Mr Stone consented to the LLS for the euthanasia of the flock. This was carried out by a private contractor on his behalf

.

Magistrate Cheetham said the situation was objectively serious, and the consequences of Mr Stone's decisions "resulted in 4,000 euthanised animals."

"People who farm animals intensively need to act in accordance with appropriate welfare standards."

"You took on these responsibilities and did not meet them. There have been consequences for you, but the sentence needs to reflect community expectation."

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## **SGS Helps Manufacturers Access China's Growing Market for Pet Apparel**

China has a growing market for pet apparel. Manufacturers are advised to follow the voluntary pet apparel standard – FZ/T 81013-2016 – to help them successful access

this lucrative opportunity.

FZ/T 81013-2016 is technically the standard for dog apparel, but it actually covers clothing made from textiles for all pets. It covers:

1. Instructions for use – must conform to GB/T 5296.4 and label chest girth and top length in cm
2. Specification – main parts should be designed by manufacturer. If the specification deviates, the manufacturer should refer to the standard
3. Raw materials – meet the requirements of relevant nation and industry standards
4. Color difference – no lower than grade 4 among each fabric part
5. Appearance defects – refer to standard
6. Sewing – refer to standard
7. Ironing – each part shall be flat and neat, without over press, water spot or pressing marks. Degumming, bleed through, wrinkling, bubbling or gum stains are not allowed at the fusible interlining placements
8. Physical and chemical properties – cover fiber content, formaldehyde content, pH value, decomposable carcinogenic arylamine dyes, odor, dimensional change after washing, color fastness to washing, and color fastness to rubbing (both dry and wet)

China has a particularly profitable sector for pet clothing. In 2018, 73.55 million people were reported to be owners of pets. The vast majority of these were urban dwellers (56.48 million), accounting for around 91.49 million cats and dogs. In 2018, pet owners contributed CNY 170.8 billion to the economy, a rise of 27 percent on 2017.

The increasing spend on pets is linked to the rise in living standards across China. Many urban Chinese citizens see the ownership of a cat or dog as akin to a surrogate child. They therefore dress them as they would another member of the family.

The market for pet apparel in China is therefore growing to take advantage of these opportunities. It offers boots, shirts, dresses, hoodies, sweaters, costumes and raincoats for all popular breeds, allowing owners to synchronize clothing with their pets.

Pet owners, however, should follow basic advice about dressing their pets:

1. **Only dress if appropriate** – dogs are generally cold-resistant animals, especially longhaired breeds. It is therefore not necessary to dress longhaired dogs for warmth
2. **Consider other factors** – body size, fat content etc. will all impact on the pet's ability to keep warm and therefore its clothing requirements. In general, small dogs with less fat get cold easily
3. **Not only warmth** – clothing can also help protect the pet's body from sharp objects
4. **Protecting you and your pet** – clothing can reduce dander from dogs, which may induce respiratory allergies, and can keep your pet free from ticks and fleas
5. **Cats need to clean** – they lick their hair to clean themselves every day. Make sure clothing is removed to allow them to perform this natural habit
6. **Size is important** – as with humans, ill-fitting clothes can be uncomfortable for the pet

The growing market in pet clothing offers considerable economic returns for clothing manufacturers but they must always consider the well-being of the pet.

### **SGS Solution**

With a global network of over 40 specialist state-of-the-art laboratories focusing on softline products, SGS helps manufacturers bring safe and compliant products to the marketplace. Our cost-effective solutions come with fast turnaround times, helping

business take advantage of the expanding pet apparel market in China. Learn more about SGS's [Softlines Services](#).

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## The Next Threat to Independent Pet Retailers Might Be Other Independents

Independent grocery stores are sometimes hesitant to compete in the pet category, but IGA is encouraging its stores to get into the pet game

Could the next big threat to the independent pet retailer be the independent grocer? Perhaps, if the Independent Grocers Alliance (IGA), a grocery brand based in Chicago, is able to encourage its stores to start finally going after pet product dollars with gusto.

According to Pat Patterson, a category manager and team leader with Nestlé Purina—as quoted in an article on [IGA's website](#)—independent grocery chains are often reluctant to invest in earnest in the pet category, figuring that between the big-box specialty stores, mass marketers, Amazon and Chewy, why bother?

But given the profitability of the category, IGA stores have much to gain by stepping up their pet game, he asserted.

“...Pet is growing in grocery across most demographics in nearly every part of the country in both brick-and-mortar and online,” Patterson said. “And it’s a category that is driven around emotion and affection, which makes it tailor made for IGA’s locally owned, community-focused stores. Now we just need to find the right mix of assortment, marketing and merchandising to help IGA retailers become the local pet care destination.”

This week, IGA, which runs similarly to a branded franchise in which the stores are individually owned and operated, launched a webinar series devoted to helping IGA stores grow their pet business. The first installation of the “Building Pet Care Profit” webinar, lead by Patterson and IGA CEO John Ross, started the process of providing IGA stores with the strategies they need to capture their share of the pet market.

There is no way to know how many IGA stores will heed Ross and Patterson's call to get aggressive about their pet product sales. But there are 6,000 IGA stores in 30 countries, so it's a piece of industry intel worth noting. In fact, independent pet stores that are located in the vicinity of an IGA might want to shop its aisles in the coming months to survey the potential competition.

*Source: US Pet Product News*

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## **“KNOCK-OUT” PLANNING – MEASURED, BALANCED AND DISCIPLINED**



**Muhammad Ali had the capacity to land a telling blow.**

None more so than when he said:

“The best-laid plan is forgotten the moment the first punch hits.”

In business, many strategic plans are soon forgotten, filed or sidelined when competition intensifies, cash-flows dry up, client and consumer confidence contracts and banking credit policies are tightened.

Long-term visions shorten to myopic perspectives. Expansive scopes narrow, and positive responses turn quickly to knee-jerk reactions.

Alligators, elbows, draining and swamps readily come to mind.

## IT'S NOT ALL RISK MANAGEMENT

The current and recent business landscapes are littered with morsels and entrails of liquidations, failures, foreclosures, forced acquisitions and collapses.

It is an unseemly and ongoing calamity.

Retailers, fashion distributors, car dealerships, new-home builders, property developers, contract and digital/on-line service providers are well represented in the unenviable lists. Few sectors, professions and disciplines are precluded. What are the dominant common factors?

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## Dubai, the biggest pet store in Middle East



The PetShop mega store, located at the Dubai Investment Park I, is being opened on April 26, 2019. The sprawling new facility is a mere 200 metres from the existing one.

It offers food for pets ranging from dogs and cats; for small pets that squeak or hop, to large ones like horses; and for freshwater or marine creatures.

Well-trained and experienced staff help customers visiting the megastore, which will be open seven days a week from 8.30 am to 9 pm.

The new complex offers a wide range of services to customers including grooming of their pets. It also has the largest aquatic section in the UAE, a new aquatic quarantine facility, and of course, a new café for customers and pets.

The inaugural, which will span over two days, will see a wide range of activities including the launch of the 'Adoption Day,' fun events and competitions and special offers on products.

The company started operations eight years ago and has three stores including a Sheikh Zayed Road branch (1) - CBD Building, Sheikh Zayed Road Exit 40, Al Quoz Dubai, UAE - Dubai, (2) - The Pet shop LLC Mega store, Dubai investment park 1, E311, Near Premier Inn Hotel, (3) - Dalma Mall - Second Floor, Close to the Cinema, Mussafah - Abu Dhabi and 12,000 products are available. It believes in quality and provides items for pets sourced from only the best and most trusted brands.

Besides pet food, the stores also offer toys, crates, homes and cages, furniture and a wide range of pet accessories.

*Source: Global Pets*

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**A pioneer in exotic animal research, Vetafarm has got the edge on improving canine and feline health with Lovebites treats!**



Giving your pet medication may feel like a wrestling match. Fortunately, Vetafarm's new Lovebites range of functional chews and meal toppers takes the stress out of supplementing your furry companion and makes it an enjoyable bonding experience for you and your pet!

“In the past, supplementing your pets might have left a bad taste their mouth...literally! We designed the Lovebites range to ensure improving your pet's health through natural supplementation is a rewarding experience for all involved,” said Dr Tony Gestier, Veterinarian and Director of [Vetafarm](#), Australia's leading innovator in companion animal health and welfare.

The Lovebites range is tasty and beneficial, **designed and formulated by veterinarians and nutritionists** at Vetafarm with the aim of assisting in the management of health conditions, such as **arthritis, anxiety** and **liver disease**, as well as supporting the animal's **body functions** and **immune system**.

The supplements are available in two delivery systems – soft chewables and sprayable meal toppers.

“Vetafarm's palatable Meal Toppers are for both companion dogs and cats and

applied by a unique powder spray system. Simply spray the handy pump bottle straight onto their food, and away they go!” said Dr Tony.

Lovebites Chews are a soft, moist heart-shaped chew for companion dogs. They not only provide a specific treatment for your dog but taste great and are 100% natural too!

### **Ideal for pets battling weight, joint pain or anxiety**

“Lovebites Chews can also be fed as part of your dog’s daily food/treats, particularly if they are overweight,” said Dr Tony.

The treats have a dosage rate determined by the weight of your dog. For example, a 30kg dog will require 3 chews daily. Each chew is approximately 3 grams, so it is a relatively small but effective part of your dog’s daily food/treats. Flexjoint Chews contain glucosamine and green lipped mussel, an antioxidant that reduces inflammation, stops cell disruption and breakdown, inhibits existing cartilage breakdown and helps to synthesise fluid production for repair, according to research<sup>1</sup>.

Just like people, pets can also suffer from anxiety. Lovebites’ B-Calm Chews contains L-tryptophan and thiamine which naturally assist in the management and reduction of stress and anxiety in companion canines. “The non-drowsy, non-sedative action combats stress and anxiety naturally,” explained Dr Tony. “Lovebites B-Calm Chews can be used daily to assist with travel, separation anxiety and noise. As the core ingredient L-Tryptophan is an essential amino acid required for healthy brain function, a daily supplement can have very positive effects in healthy behaviour and cognition.”

As always, for severe behavioural problems, feeding Lovebites B-Calm Chews should be coupled with veterinary and behavioural advice, said Dr Tony



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