

Prologue

Michael Banyard - Urban Animal Management Convenor

Those involved in Urban Animal Management will be indebted to the authors of this, the Fifth Urban Animal Management Conference Proceedings, for their contribution to the now substantial literature on this subject. We are grateful to the authors, the editor (Dr Sandra Hassett) and the desk top publisher (Ms Doreen Culliver) for the maintenance of the high standard established in previous years. Above all we are grateful to those who have made the extra effort, often outside their paid work obligation, to communicate their knowledge to facilitate the better management of pets in our urban societies.

It may not be immediately obvious, but these Proceedings, together with the previous four editions, represent a valuable reference material on Urban Animal Management. In the past, Councils, groups and individuals wishing to become involved in this area have had difficulty establishing the relevant contacts and acquiring the knowledge. With all editions of the Proceedings in hand, it would be possible to become acquainted with all the current issues and to make contact with the persons involved in Australia and New Zealand.

The National Urban Animal Management conferences have, over the past five years, presented 105 sessions and 74 speakers. It has been a deliberate policy of the Urban Animal Management Advisory Group to encourage as many different views and areas of expertise as possible. This is essential in view of the multi-disciplinary nature of Urban Animal Management.

Through these Conferences a consensus view has emerged on a number of issues such as the role of education, the rights of all community members (dog owners and non-dog owners) and the role of microchips and tags in animal identification. Other areas remain disputed - like the balance between legislation and voluntary compliance and the role of punitive penalties in ensuring compliance. Some areas remain insoluble - like the minority 'irresponsible animal owner' and urban cat colonies - and have to be managed 'at best'.

The Sydney Urban Animal Management conference is set to continue the growth of knowledge and lead to a better understanding of Urban Animal Management problems.

UAM 96 Support Organisations

The Australian Veterinary Association
Department of Local Government
Petcare Information and Advisory Service
Australian Companion Animal Council
The Australian Small Animal Veterinary Association