

Prologue

Michael Banyard - Urban Animal Management Convenor

The seventh National Urban Animal Management Conference represents an evolution which has seen many changes in style content and organisation. This process has been driven largely from the delegate questionnaires which are completed at the conclusion of each year's conference. In this way we seek to improve each year.

This year marks the first formal joint venture between a state body and the Urban Management Advisory Group. The Municipal Law Enforcement Officers' Association (MLEOA) of Western Australia and the Urban Animal Management Advisory Group (AVA) joined together to host the 'Joint Solutions' conference. This is an exciting venture because it provides a closer linkage between the state in which the conference is held and the topics presented. It also gives numerous speakers a good career opportunity to present the excellent work which various groups are doing in the locality. In essence this started last year with a very close link through the SA Dog and Cat Management Board under the daily guidance of Ken McCann. This year takes the process further with a formal linkage with MLEOA. It will be continued next year with the Local Government Association of Queensland.

A number of new themes have been tackled this year including the 'Animals in emergencies and disaster situations' and 'How cultural values in ethnic and indigenous communities affect UAM'. The vicissitudes of Australia's environment with flood, cyclone, bushfire and traffic accidents make disaster preparedness essential. Without proper and integrated planning animals are likely to be given low priority at times of crisis. However for many Australians, apart from human life, companion animals represent one of the most precious 'things' in their lives. The issue of cultural attitudes to animal ownership should also shed light on the complex nature of the human/animal bond and help better understanding between all groups within our communities. In the process it will help solve daily problems in urban pet management.

These Proceedings are the result of a great deal of hard work by our speakers who all provided their time and knowledge freely, so that others may benefit. We are most grateful to you all. The unstinting work of Graeme Raine and Brian Watkins for MLEOA will be appreciated by all delegates. Our editor, Sandra Hassett has again done a wonderful job, under a very rigorous turn around time between submission and publication. Finally the excellent coordination and professional work of Doreen Culliver and her team at AVACOS has allowed this conference to proceed and these proceedings to be in your hands now.

Enjoy Western Australia

UAM Advisory Group Membership

Michael Banyard (Convenor)
Dick Murray
Steve Harbottle

Tony Cooke
Shane Scriggins
Rick Walduck

Craig MacPherson
Jonica Newby
Geoff Irwin

UAM 98 Support Organisations

**The Australian Veterinary Association
Australian Small Animal Veterinary Association
Municipal Law Enforcement Officers' Association
Petcare Information and Advisory Service
Australian Companion Animal Council**