



## REVIEW YOUR ANIMAL CARE

**WORDS Deirdre Crofts**  
**Animal Welfare & Community Liaison Officer**

I have written about best practice in managing care and welfare of your companion animals many times over, in the years I have been DOGS NSW Animal Welfare & Community Liaison Officer. I now ask that you all review your compliance with not only DOGS NSW regulations, but also the constantly changing legislation to

which, companion animal owners and breeders must conform.

All Government legislation undergoes review every five to ten years; the quote “nothing ever stays the same” has never been truer. DOGS NSW regulations also undergo constant review and updating, and, in most instances actually exceed legislated standards.

I can appreciate the time and effort many members put into providing the best housing you can for your animals, the health care protocols you establish to ensure all animals can maintain peak condition for their age, but please keep up to date with changes that may affect the previous acceptable standards you have followed for some time.

The drought throughout NSW is having a severe impact; many normally well-grassed areas are now totally devoid of any plant life. Rather than allow your dogs to run on bare dirt, which is actually not permitted under NSW legislation if you are a breeder, consider paving, concreting, laying artificial turf, or even laying down fine grade blue metal. These measures might seem excessive, but the fact is, if you are breeding dogs or cats, an enforcement body (i.e. RSPCA, AWL or Police) do have the authority to issue a penalty if your animals are living in non-compliant conditions. Getting your animals off bare dirt will also keep them cleaner and in the event

of rain, it will prevent your animal’s living areas from becoming a muddy mess.

General health and wellbeing of your animals must be closely monitored. Apart from checking body condition to ensure your animals are receiving the right type and quantity of food, do a check of their dental condition, keep their skin clean and coat groomed. Please keep documented records of all Veterinary treatment, worming and vaccinations. These types of records must be maintained for each animal, not just a collective recording that all animals have been wormed, etc. on a particular date. Your records should formally identify each animal, do not just record their call name, make sure their microchip number is documented in all records.

Each summer seems to be getting hotter and more humid. Investigate ways to minimise the adverse effects of extreme heat on your animals. I do know that many members bring their animals inside into air conditioning, through the hottest part of the day. Some members have installed misting hoses on the roof of dog pens, the water falling onto paved surfaces are then cooled by this, but also the air temperature in the immediate area also seems tolerable. Always make sure your animals have a dry area in which they can rest. I have been to a couple of kennels that had water running over the roofing of kennels to cut down the effects of radiant heat from a hot metal roof. These kennels had bore water and recycled the water used.

Review and re-evaluate your animal management for the health and comfort of your animals and your own peace of mind, that you are doing the best for your animals.

Contact Deirdre Crofts

Email: [dcrofts@dogsw.org.au](mailto:dcrofts@dogsw.org.au) or Mobile: 0438 400 609

