



PRESIDENTS REPORT

BARRY CODLING

As the FY19 financial year comes to an end, I reflect on some of the many challenges we faced together, with some leaving significant ongoing effects on the pet industry.

I recall the decision of the Victoria Government in legislating the banning of “the sale of puppies in pet shops” whilst most associations such as the RSPCA support this decision the flow on effect to the industry remains costly. By April 2020 Victorian breeders with more than 10 female dogs but capped at 50 dogs will have to seek ministerial approval and will be subject to stricter regulations. Further to this, the Victorian Government is proposing to make changes to the Domestic Animals Regulations 2015. These changes are necessary to successfully implement the Pet Exchange register, and to clarify and improve requirements. The proposed changes include a fee and new requirements for the Pet Exchange register, new changes to the micro chipping program and updated changes to pet shop record keeping.

The Western Australian Government are seeking consultation on Standards and Guidelines for the Health and Welfare of Dogs in WA as part of the Stop Puppy Farming initiative. The Draft Standards and Guidelines for the Health and Welfare of Dogs in WA are being developed by the DPI and Regional Development in consultation with the RSPCA and other experts in dog care and welfare.

The NSW Government passed a bill in Parliament to amend the Companion Animals Act 1998 and Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979. The Companion Animals and other Legislation Bill 2018 allows the NSW Government to implement recommendations made by the Joint Selection Committee Inquiry into Companion Animal Breeding Practices, and other changes in response to community feedback received in 2017 through the statutory review of the Companion Animals Regulation 2008. The changes include new requirements for people advertising dogs and cats for sale or to give away to include an identifying number – either the microchip number, a breeder identification number or rehoming organisation number.

In October 2018 the Senate published their report following a 5-month inquiry into the safety of pet food in Australia following recent animal deaths and strong consumer out complaints. The report largely centred around the fact that the Pet Industry is “self-regulated” thus requiring government intervention. The seven recommendations detailed in this report whilst supported by the PIAA will impose significant changes on how we operate as an industry and no doubt add cost through compliance and registration to all our members.

Already the PIAA has been notified by members and the concerned public in Queensland & Victoria because of the

legislation changes requiring anyone selling dogs to be a registered breeder. The impacts of these changes have already resulted in an increase in online sales, many that have been sold the wrong dog online or told it was a pure bred when it wasn't. There has also been an increase in unregistered breeders stealing breeder ID's and passing them off as their own online. Facebook sales continue to rise despite Facebook banning the sale of animals and livestock online.

The PIAA are committed to advancing the Pet Industry in Australia and the welfare of the pets and their owners, thus committing our resources to work with the Government in all aspects. As you may be aware we have made some structural changes within the PIAA to best position ourselves to tackle these challenges for our members, with the most recent being the new position of Membership Manager. Mr John Parkinson has fulfilled this part time position. His role is dedicated to directly working with the current and potential PIAA members to deliver against the core objectives of the organisation. John comes with a career of experience in leadership roles with 15 years within the pet industry in Australia, Johns commences in this role on 11th June.

We are about to issue our membership renewal invoices for the 2019-2020 financial year. We recognise that business is facing many challenges in the current climate and as a result have made the decision that our fees will remain the same as 2018-2019. For those renewing before June 30, you will have the opportunity to go into the draw to win a \$200 cash-back reward. If you're not a member of the PIAA we urge you to join the Association, if you'd like to discuss the benefits of membership, please contact John or Kathy.

Our annual event for the pet boarding, training, walking & pet sitting sector, AusBoard will return to Cairns in 2019. This event is always very well attended with delegates coming away with tips to help their business, invaluable networking discussions and of course a good time. Our speaker selection this year covers everything from social media to measuring business success and innovation. The industry panel will return by popular demand for two sessions in 2019. There are plenty of opportunities to socialise at our welcome cocktail party, dinners each evening and our popular kennel & cattery tours and networking lunch. If you'd like to have a look at the program and or reserve your place, please visit <https://piaa.net.au> and select the events tab.

Lastly, the PIAA board and staff are here to serve you - our members, associate members & public, welcoming feedback or enquiries as to today's challenges of the industry.

Change is inevitable, better managed than imposed.