

# Animal

## ROUNDAABOUT



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Produced for people with an interest in the exhibition of animals in zoos, circuses, mobile farms, fauna and wildlife parks in NSW.



NSW Agriculture

## Dingoes to go

Impending changes to the Rural Land Protection Act will mean that dingoes can be privately owned. It's possible, exhibitors may soon find they receive interest from the public in relation to obtaining dingo pups as pets.

Before transferring ownership of dingoes, exhibitors should be aware there are certain legal requirements that must be met. These relate to the new *Companion Animals Act 1997* and the 'Code of

Practice for the Care & Management of Breeding Dogs, which exists under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979*.

Puppies must be a minimum of eight weeks of age and all dingoes must be vaccinated against distemper, hepatitis and parvovirus and must be micro-chipped for permanent, lifetime identification.

The new owner should be handed printed advice about dingoes at the time of transfer, including information on:

- ◆ general care, housing and management
- ◆ appropriate diet
- ◆ responsibilities of dog ownership
- ◆ vaccination, desexing and registration
- ◆ microchip details

Exhibitors may also wish to obtain a handbook published by the Australian Dingo Conservation Association titled "*The Australian Dingo Handbook - What you need to know if you are considering owning a dingo*". The aim of the handbook is to educate and increase people's awareness about the dingo. It is available at a cost of around \$11 by calling Barry or Marg Oakman on (02) 6235 9082.

Finally, don't forget your application to dispose of dingoes which must be submitted to the Registrar for approval, prior to the transfer.



South eastern Highland Dingo, seven weeks old.  
Photo courtesy Mrs Marj Oakman, The Australian Dingo Conservation Association

### *canis lupus Dingo*

The dingo is an ancient, primitive dog, descended from the Asian Wolf. It became a companion to the Aborigines after it was brought to Australia by Asian seafarers about 4,000 years ago.

# Looze Lipz



## Regional Tourism Grants

Guidelines for applications for a tourism grant can be found on the Regional Tourism Program website ([www.tourism.gov.au](http://www.tourism.gov.au)). Click on "Tourism site - 'What's New'". The program gives financial grants of between \$30,000 and \$100,000 to businesses and organisations which can put forward a proposal that will lead to an increase in tourism numbers and have a positive, flow-on effect for the regional economy. For more information on how to find out if you are eligible for a grant, email [RTP@isr.gov.au](mailto:RTP@isr.gov.au) or phone the Helpline on (02) 6213 7999.

## Keepers Peepers Opened

A first-time conference for 20 animal keepers from around New South Wales, was recently run by the Fauna and Marine Parks Association to expose

keepers to new techniques and skills. This also was a great opportunity for networking and creating a low-key environment for becoming familiar with giving public presentations. It was a conference with a difference as the delegates spent a lot of time out of the conference room. They took part in activities such as food and diet preparation, operations of quarantine and treatment facilities, reptile husbandry and feeding carnivorous animals. Videos on catching emus and the husbandry of small and large lizards were highlights. Another conference is planned for next year. Contact Rick Webb on (02) 9622 1644 for further details.

## Virus Warning

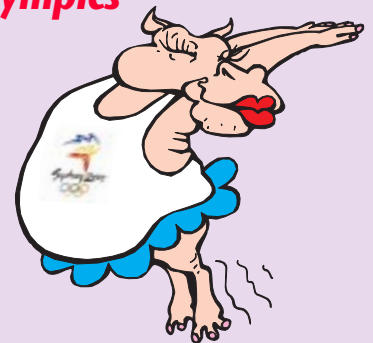
Exhibitors should be aware that the Herpes B virus has been reported in some zoo macaques in New South Wales. This virus can be passed to humans and is capable of causing serious or fatal encephalitis. While this appears to be the first time the virus has been reported in Australia, all macaques should be considered potential carriers. A report in the April 1999 edition of the ARAZPA newsletter, recommends macaques should be tested for antibodies to the virus. The risk of passing this virus on to humans is well worth the cost of sending the serum to the United States to test for antibodies. (Testing in Australia is not available at this stage). Animals which test negative may be latent carriers and convert to a

positive status at a later date. Management strategies which minimise risk to staff and visitors should be employed.

## Over the Border

A mobile reptile exhibitor, no longer authorised under the *Exhibited Animals Protection Act 1986* in New South Wales, was recently convicted and fined \$400 for importing two Freshwater Crocodiles into New South Wales without a permit. The prosecution followed a joint investigation by inspectors from NSW Agriculture's Animal Welfare Unit and officers from NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service Law Enforcement Unit. This case highlights the importance of obtaining a permit from the National Parks and Wildlife Service before exhibitors move protected fauna interstate.

## Animals and the Olympics



As we approach the Sydney Olympics, Exhibited Animals Protection Act licence and approval holders may come under pressure to provide animals for display at promotions such as media appearances, dinners and other events. Australian native animals are often sought for promotional events and pressure can be applied by some promoters for animals at very short notice. If you receive such a request, please make sure approvals to temporarily transfer animals are obtained from the Animal Welfare Unit. Its staff are only too happy to give advice in this area. The Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals in Films and Theatrical Performances applies to everyone who uses animals in all forms of advertising and promotion including still photographs. This Code may need to be brought to the attention of some promoters who are not aware of its existence.

## Animal Bytes



### Animal Omnibus

<http://www.birminghamzoo.com/aol/>

Great educational site with information on hundreds of animals. Includes "Cool Animal" Webpages

### Animal Behaviour

<http://www.erols.com/mandtj/>

An index of animal behaviour sites. Includes list of on-line journals, articles and books and education.

### International Primate Protection League

<http://lipp.org/>

Keep up-to-date on international primate issues

# Housewarming for Koalas and 'Gators

Following the recent closure of an unlicensed fauna park, a group of koalas were in urgent need of specialist care and a new home. Unfortunately, veterinary intervention was unable to save one koala which had suffered substantial weight loss.

The six remaining koalas were relocated by officers of the RSPCA and NSW Agriculture's Animal Welfare Unit and taken in by Featherdale Wildlife Park in Western Sydney. The health and weight of the koalas quickly improved as they responded to a good diet and expert attention.

The importance of regular weight monitoring of koalas; provision of a varied diet including at least three favoured Eucalypt species and supervision by staff who are skilled in the management and care of native species, were all highlighted by this case.

Following the removal of the koalas, 10 mature alligators from the same park needed to be relocated. Members of the

NSW Fauna and Marine Parks Association rallied to the cause and with the assistance offered by staff from the Australian Reptile Park and Featherdale, the alligators were rounded up. They were then transferred to Australian Reptile Park which was prepared to give them a new home.



*It is pleasing to know these alligators have been amicably accepted by resident alligators in the Australian Reptile Park's main lagoon.*

## ARAZPA looks forward

The Australasian Regional Association of Zoological Parks and Aquaria recently held a "Futures Search" workshop to map out its future direction.

Workshops of this type utilise special planning techniques to make sure that all people attending fully participate. At the same time, it allows individuals with opposing opinions to share ownership of mutually-agreed strategies.

Participants came from a cross-section of the Australasian zoo community and worked in groups to determine the problems and capabilities of ARAZPA.

Some of the major problems facing ARAZPA included creation of a solid

financial base for the organisation, matching membership benefits to the expectations of members, limitations on time and expertise to conduct ARAZPA work and the current scope of industry representation.

Two major capabilities identified at the workshop were species management and information management. Others included industry networking and representation of the industry both nationally and internationally.

An action plan to overcome identified deficiencies and to improve the effectiveness of ARAZPA will be presented to members at its Year 2000 Annual General Meeting. This will be held

in conjunction with ARAZPA's conference at Sea World on the Gold Coast, in March 2000.

### BIRTH NOTICE

To Lena, Snow Leopard from Helsinki, Finland and Mangar, Snow Leopard from Melbourne, twins, a male and female cub born October 1999 at Mogo Zoo. First captive birth in Australia of this highly-endangered species for 10 years. Cubs thriving, and ecstatic owners report cubs will be on display to the public at Christmas time.



# Quarantine for Newcomers

Quarantine plays an important part in preventing the movement of diseases and pests from one place to another. Like human travellers, animal travellers are capable of carrying diseases and pests without showing obvious signs they are affected.

There are a number of reasons why animals may be introduced into a collection. Some introductions are planned well in advance, such as bringing new genetic material into a breeding program. Other introductions may be unplanned, such as providing

homes for animals that are displaced or abandoned.

It makes common sense to initially isolate animals originating from outside a collection, for a period of time. During this time, they can undergo a thorough veterinary examination and suitable treatments to control parasites or diseases.

Quarantine facilities must be adequately isolated so there is minimal risk of transmission of parasites or disease to other animals.

Animals arriving from overseas require a period of quarantine and veterinary checks before they are allowed contact with resident animals. There are also many animal diseases which occur in Australia that can cause havoc if they become established in a collection. The same principles of isolation and careful examination should be applied, regardless of where the animals have come from.

In some instances, the history of the animals being introduced will be known, while in others there may be little or no information available. In all cases, to protect the health of all your animals, it pays to seek the advice of your veterinarian in developing an appropriate quarantine strategy for newcomers.



## NEXT ISSUE

### Reportable diseases

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If you would like your own copy of *Animal Roundabout*, we can add your name to the mailing list.

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Short items and good quality photos are welcome. Send them to the editor:

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing. However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up-to-date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of NSW Agriculture or the user's independent adviser.

## HANDY HINT

### Portable Digging Box - fun for carnivores and a great idea for behavioural enrichment

Many animals enjoy the availability of natural substrates in their enclosures, both for resting on and for digging. A good way of making sure an enclosure has an interesting substrate is by providing a portable digging box.

The size of the box can be adjusted to suit any sized animal and its enclosure. It is easily moved and can be filled with a variety of different substrate material such as soil or straw and placed anywhere in an enclosure. Buried treats allows animals to dig and forage for enjoyment.

Further information and complete instructions for building digging portable boxes can be found at the following website. The Shape of Enrichment - <http://www.enrichment.org> or phone Sonya on (02) 6391 3692 for a hard copy.

