

Leopard seal at Taronga Zoo.



LOOZE LIPZ

After several years of consultation with the exhibited animals industry in New South Wales three new standards have been approved by the Director-General of the NSW Department of Primary Industries. The new standards and one revised standard that have been included within the *Exhibited Animals Protection Regulation 2005* are:

- *Standards for Exhibiting Animals at Mobile Establishments in NSW.*
- *Standards for Exhibiting Animals During Temporary Removals in NSW.*
- *Standards for Exhibiting Seals in NSW.*
- *Standards for Exhibiting Circus Animals in NSW.*

A copy of each of these standards has recently been sent out to the respective exhibitors to keep for their records and refer to in order to remain compliant with the *Exhibited Animals Protection Act 1986*. Additional copies of these

standards can be obtained from the Animal Welfare Branch website at: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/animal-welfare/exhibit. Please note that the *Standards for Exhibiting Animals During Temporary Removals in NSW* allow exhibitors to obtain approval for standard operating procedures, removing the need to submit an application at least seven days prior for each temporary removal. The next draft of the *Standards for Exhibiting Reptiles in NSW* has recently been sent out to all reptile exhibitors for comment. Additional copies of these standards can be obtained from the Animal Welfare Branch.

PHOTO CREDIT - RICK STEVENS.

A comparison between the Exhibited Animals Protection Act 1986 and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979.

The welfare of animals held for display within New South Wales is primarily regulated by the *Exhibited Animals Protection Act 1986* (EAPA) and is enforced by DPI Animal Welfare Branch inspectors. The EAPA is broad in its scope as it covers animal welfare, enclosures, staffing, public safety, husbandry and administrative procedures such as animal records.

The *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979* (POCTA) also has jurisdiction if allegations of cruelty or neglect are made relating to animals held for display. It is enforced by inspectors from the RSPCA, Animal Welfare League and the NSW Police Force. Offences under POCTA include authorising or inflicting pain, suffering or distress; failing to exercise reasonable care to prevent cruelty or alleviate pain; and failure to provide veterinary treatment when necessary. POCTA also carries significantly larger penalties than the EAPA. For example, a person convicted of aggravated cruelty could be given a fine of up to \$22,000 and/or up to two years in jail.

The RSPCA and Animal Welfare League can investigate any complaint alleging a breach of welfare. If the complaint relates to exhibited animals the investigation can be done either independently or in conjunction with the Department of Primary Industries as a joint operation. If an exhibitor is investigated by the RSPCA or Animal Welfare League these agencies will usually inform the Department of Primary Industries. Convictions under either the EAPA or POCTA may result in the cancellation or non-issue of an authority to display animals.

PHOTO CREDIT - STEPHEN JACKSON



Giant Panda

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Animal Roundabout is complimentary

The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (January 2008). 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 Department of Primary Industries or the user's independent adviser.



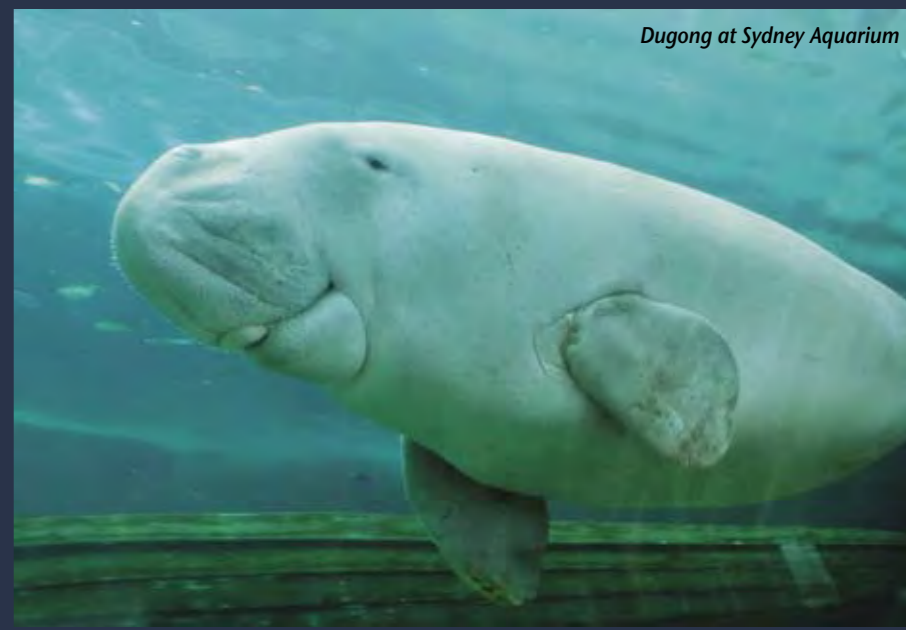
Animal ROUNDABOUT



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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.

Dugongs make their debut at Sydney Aquarium

When it comes to marine mammals most people are generally familiar with whales and seals, however very few have seen or even heard of a dugong. That is until now, with Sydney Aquarium acquiring two dugongs from Sea World. The male "Pig" and female "Wuru" first came into captivity after they were stranded as unaccompanied calves in northern Queensland. Attempts to release them after they were rehabilitated were not successful, which left the problem of them outgrowing their home. As a result the seals in the 1.8 million litre seal exhibit at Sydney Aquarium were moved to Sea World and the Pet Porpoise Pool and the aquarium went through a major overhaul in preparation for the dugongs. Changes to the exhibit included adding haul-out areas, removing a large island, and installing new filtration and heating systems to improve the water quality and increase the temperature. A flat timber deck was also added to provide a working area for staff to spend up to 16 hours a day feeding Pig and Wuru. The dugongs bid farewell to Sea World on 17 December 2008 and made their way to Sydney where they have settled in well to their new expansive home and are already



Dugong at Sydney Aquarium

eating over 100kg of Cos lettuce a day. Pig and Wuru are already contributing vital information on life history, health and physiology of Dugongs to staff involved in several research programs at the aquarium. Traditionally not as well-studied as other marine mammal groups in Australia, dugongs are listed as vulnerable to extinction and are at risk from pollution, severe weather events, habitat loss, unsustainable harvesting, boat strike and entanglement in fishing gear and

shark nets. The knowledge gained from captive and wild animals, along with promoting a better awareness and understanding in people will hopefully bring a brighter future for these beautiful animals.

Andrew Barnes
Head of Marine Mammals
Sydney Aquarium

PHOTO CREDIT - STEPHEN JACKSON

Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines: Exhibited Animals



Red panda

The Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines: Exhibited Animals are currently being developed as part of the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy which is administered by the Federal Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. These standards are being developed with consultation with the FMPA, ARAZPA, zoological institutions, animal welfare groups and government regulators. The principal purpose of these standards and guidelines is to define measures that, when implemented, ensure animals used for exhibition purposes are kept securely and in a manner that ensures animal health and welfare and public safety. The Standards outline the acceptable animal welfare, health and security and public safety requirements that must be met under law for animal exhibition purposes. The Guidelines recommend practices to achieve desirable animal welfare, health and security and public safety outcomes.

This document promotes measures and conditions that, if implemented, would see exhibited animals kept to the same standard throughout Australia. These standards and guidelines will apply to:

- All members of the animal kingdom kept for exhibition purposes at fixed facilities, i.e. for display, conservation, education and entertainment.
- Animals during their temporary removal from a fixed facility.
- Animals during their transport to or from a fixed facility.

It is envisaged that this document will be expanded in the future by the addition of taxon standards that apply to the keeping of specific animal groups.

PHOTO CREDIT – STEPHEN JACKSON

Rare pygmy hippopotamus birth at Taronga Zoo

The pygmy hippopotamus is a large mammal native to the forests and swamps of western Africa where it is reclusive and nocturnal. It is one of only two extant species in the Family Hippopotamidae, the other being its much larger cousin the common hippopotamus. Pygmy hippos were unknown outside of West Africa until the 19th century. Introduced to zoos in the early 20th century, they breed well in captivity and the vast majority of research is derived from zoo specimens. The survival of the species in captivity is more assured than in the wild, as the World Conservation Union estimates there are fewer than 3,000 pygmy hippos remaining in the wild. Pygmy hippos are primarily threatened by poaching and loss of habitat, as forests are logged and converted to farm land. An informal plan for regional cooperation was formulated in 2004 to ensure that regional breeding opportunities were maximised. As a result Taronga Zoo acquired female "Petre" from Adelaide Zoo and male "Timmy" from Melbourne Zoo. Neither of these two zoos could facilitate the breeding of this species at that time. Taronga Zoo successfully paired these two animals and a female named "Monifa" was born in October 2008. A breech birth and a cold snap led to this female requiring hand-rearing by Taronga Zoo's keepers. Despite minor set backs during the hand-rearing process "Monifa" is now thriving and at the last weigh-in showed a healthy 53 kilograms. The regional plan is for "Monifa" to travel to Melbourne, where eventually she will be paired with a suitable male to further secure the species in captivity in Australia. Meanwhile, "Petre" and "Timmy" will be paired again at Taronga Zoo for another attempt at breeding.

Erna Walraven

Senior Curator - Taronga Zoo

PHOTO CREDIT – LORINDA TAYLOR

"Monifa" the pygmy hippopotamus.



News from NSW FMPA

The last few months have been a little challenging for the members of the NSW FMPA. The Executive committee has undergone some changes with Craig Sowden resigning from both his position as President of the NSW FMPA, and as a nominated member of the Exhibited Animals Advisory Committee (EAAC). On behalf of all the members of the NSW FMPA, we would like to thank Craig for his dedication to the Association during his time as President. Rick Webb has again taken up the role of Acting President until the Annual General Meeting, when the Association will hold elections for all positions on the Executive committee. The Annual General Meeting will be held at Mogo Zoo on 18th August 2009. Due to Craig's resignation, the NSW FMPA was again called upon to nominate members for a position on the EAAC. We are currently awaiting notification of the outcome. Bruce Kubbere's term on the Non-Indigenous Animals Advisory Committee was also due to expire, and as requested, the NSW FMPA put forward three nominations for the committee. General Meetings were held at Oceanworld Manly in December, Oakvale Farm & Fauna World in March and at Taronga Zoo in May. Thank you to all three institutions for welcoming the NSW FMPA and its members. The first edition of our new quarterly NSW FMPA

Newsletter has been circulated. If you wish to view a copy visit the NSW FMPA website (www.nswfmpa.org.au). The next edition will be out soon, so if you wish to include any industry related information or would like to receive a copy, please email the NSW FMPA Secretary: lisa_christie@featherdale.com.au.

Lisa Christie

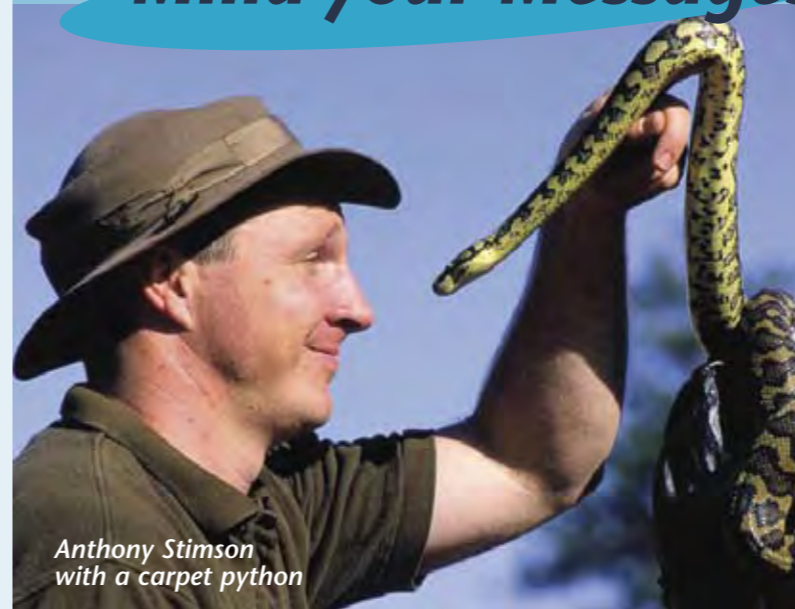
Secretary NSW FMPA

PHOTO CREDIT – NSW FMPA



Members of NSW FMPA attend the Christmas meeting at Oceanworld Manly.

Mind your Messages



Anthony Stimson with a carpet python

"DANGER, DANGER, DANGER, CRIKEY THAT WAS CLOSE... THE DEADLIEST SNAKE IN THE WORLD... DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME KIDS!!!" Sound familiar! What are our audiences getting from this kind of portrayal of our fauna? You or I might think "Gee... There'd be no danger if you didn't do that!" The broader audience, however, probably do not see it as we do. Many people grow up believing that reptiles, particularly the venomous species, are a frightening enemy, mainly because this is how they are typically portrayed. In the face of all the negative press, we must ask ourselves, are we doing enough to promote a positive image for this fauna? On the whole, the continued popularity of the "Danger, Danger!" approach suggests, maybe not! Fortunately, most venomous snake shows have come along way since the days of the fairground "Pit of Death", with sensational feats of bravado and tales of elixirs and antidotes. Modern snake shows make a serious effort to educate audiences with facts and figures. Death from snake bite in Australia is relatively rare. On this basis,

less time could be spent describing the dangers of this fauna and much more time highlighting their beauty and their role in our fragile ecosystems. This information can then be built into an awareness of the importance of taking action for their conservation. A sensitive portrayal of all reptiles is of utmost importance to ensure we do not reinforce people's fears and provide a justification for their demise. The messages that an audience take from a show come not only from what we say but also how we handle the animals. Rough handling and even teasing into defence postures can leave frightening images in the minds of our audience. Careful and respectful handling is therefore of critical importance. Reptile shows are our responsibility to turn morbid curiosity into concern, appreciation and care for this beautiful and precious fauna.

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PHOTO CREDIT – ANTHONY STIMSON