

# 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

## Circus standards

When the NSW Circus Standards were introduced in 1996, circuses operating in NSW were given five years in which to ensure that their animal facilities complied with the new standards. By the time this interim period expired in September 2001, inspections had revealed that animal facilities were up to standard. However, time and travel takes its toll on vehicles and equipment and directions have since been issued to make sure compliance with the standards is ongoing.

In many cases, the need to repair vehicles has led circuses to replace them with new models. This brought the added benefit of solving some minor problems not covered by the Standards. It also provided their animals with an extra star on their accommodation rating!

The world of exhibited animals constantly changes. Outside the circus world, there has been an increase in the number of educational mobile animal displays.

Circuses are making changes too, with a

number of circuses now only exhibiting domesticated species. One circus has already introduced the first bovine act to tour Australia under the big top. The dancing cow act, is the idea of Circus Royale owner, Frank Gasser.

Four Friesian heifers have been winning praise for their twice-daily act. The heifers waltz to music and perform tricks with 'Lobo' the Shetland pony. Trainer, Robin Howell has had positive feedback indicating that the dancing cows are a great hit with both farmers and city folk.

*Circus Royale, trainer Robin Howell with one of his bovine stars.*



**WIN**  
Zoo Tycoon

See Loozlipz  
for details...

# Looze Lipz



## Be a winner

Win the opportunity to be in the hot seat as a zoo designer. Your goal is to design successful zoos that keep both your animals and visitors happy.

Animal Roundabout is offering one lucky winner Microsoft's original and addictive, Zoo Tycoon – a fun packed computer game suitable for kids and adults. All you have to do is submit your great idea for animal behaviour enrichment or best animal welfare practice and post or e-mail to the Editor. (see back page for details) The Exhibited Animals Advisory Committee will judge the best original entry and the winner will be notified by mail and appear in the Winter 2003 edition of Animal Roundabout. Entries close on 1 March 2003 and all entries must include name, address and daytime phone number.

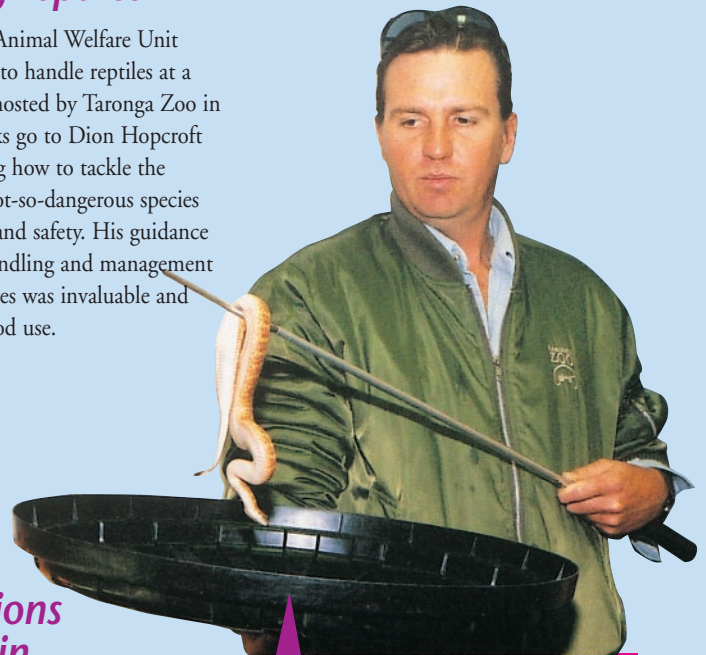
## Animal display at a standstill

The future of Sydney Aquarium's proposal to build an animal display on its Darling Harbour site is still in the balance. Due to its location, the Minister for Planning must approve the development. While having the support of the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority, the proposal has been the subject of several objections, some from Government organisations such as the Sydney City Council and Zoological Parks Board of New South Wales. Objections received by 'planningnsw' include philosophical, ethical and political opposition, accusations that the site is not 'fit for the purpose', that aspects do not comply with the Exhibited Animals Protection Act (EAPA) and that the animals will suffer from external impacts such as noise, pollution, wind, shade and fireworks. Sydney Aquarium has made further submissions seeking to satisfy 'planningnsw' that it has addressed all these issues. 'planningnsw' has sought

assistance from NSW Agriculture regarding the potential for licensing this development under the EAPA.

## Handling reptiles

Members of the Animal Welfare Unit were shown how to handle reptiles at a day-long course hosted by Taronga Zoo in July 2002. Thanks go to Dion Hopcroft for demonstrating how to tackle the dangerous and not-so-dangerous species with confidence and safety. His guidance on the health, handling and management of various creatures was invaluable and will be put to good use.



Dion Hopcroft, Taronga Zoo.

## Applications pouring in

Transaction approvals, temporary removals, permits, alterations, new licences and approvals – these applications have recently been pouring in. On a worrying note, three renewals have been refused during the last renewal process due to lateness of the return of renewal documents or lack of public liability insurance. The way time flies, the next renewal process is already looming on the horizon, so please be prepared and send your renewal documents in on time.

## Breeding time

Kelly Page, Aquarist, reported a full breeding season at Manly's Oceanworld. A clutch of cuttlefish eggs in the foyer tank were found suspended under a rock edge. At the same time, Anemone fish were seen busily attending to a clutch of up to 500 eggs in the Great Barrier Reef tank. The bright orange eggs were firmly attached to the rock face and were being looked after by the 'father' while the 'mother' chased away any potential threats.

## False information

Trying to obtain permits to exhibit crocodiles by furnishing false information has cost a reptile exhibitor a fine of \$1500. NSW Agriculture took legal

action against the exhibitor for giving false information and making false statements in relation to an application for permits to exhibit crocodiles under the Exhibited Animals Protection Act.

## Special delivery

Taronga Zoo is proud of its 35 baby Jackson's chameleons born in September. This amazing birth is a huge success for the reptile enclosure as it's the first time chameleons have been bred at the zoo. Measuring just 4 cm at birth, it will take about two years for the babies to grow to adult size.



# Keeping macropods occupied



Although macropods don't require as much behavioural enrichment as some other animal groups, there are several things that can be provided to keep them occupied.

## Potoroos and bettongs (potoroids)

Add extra food such as truffles (hypogaeal fungi), eggs, cheese and several almonds – three to four times a week. They enjoy sultanas or sunflower seeds occasionally and other fruit and vegetables in season. To promote nest building behaviour, tussocks and different nesting material can be provided.

## Tree kangaroos

Browse should form a significant component of the diet of tree kangaroos. Several branches of leaves of at least one of the following trees should be given daily: figs, ferns, elms, willow, eucalypts, lillipilli, Chinese elm, weeping willow, young banana, mulberry and acacias. Salt blocks and sandy soil can also be supplied. Soil may provide beneficial bacteria and minerals.



## Wallabies and kangaroos

Some kangaroo species, such as western grey kangaroos and swamp wallabies, should be given branches of eucalypts, acacia, melaleuca and other branches – like those suggested for tree kangaroos – to determine preferences. Holding social species in groups

(mobs) will allow natural social behaviours.

**Captain Cook first recorded the word 'kangaroo' on 4 August 1770 at what is now, the Endeavour River near Cook Town, Queensland.**



# Setting benchmarks

Standards have been a part of the Exhibited Animals Protection legislation in New South Wales since 1987. Their purpose has been to set benchmarks, primarily for the care and well-being of animals, but also for presenting the animals in a setting that encourages understanding and respect for the animals and their environment.

The Standards specify basic needs for animals such as appropriate, wholesome, palatable food, clean water and a secure enclosure that affords protection, space

and the opportunity for normal behaviour. In addition, the Standards also require animals to be displayed in a natural setting reflecting the usual habitat of the species. Standards also stipulate that factual information about the species, including its range and habits, must be available to members of the public viewing the exhibit.

By now, exhibitors should have received circulars containing revised General Standards, proposed Australian Mammal Standards, draft Reptile

Standards and draft Mobile Reptile Exhibit Standards.

Your ideas and comments on these standards are welcome, so don't hesitate to let us know what you think. Please keep in mind that they are only under consideration for NSW. It is hoped that a process for establishing national standards will be formalised during 2003. Contact Steve Jackson on (02) 6391 3474 or Peter Johnson on (02) 9264 9533 or e-mail: <animal.welfare@agric.nsw.gov.au>

# Animal health emergencies

In 2001 a devastating outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease occurred in England. The thought of such an emergency within our borders is horrifying.

In Australia, rigorous quarantine procedures governing animal and plant imports are in place to prevent entry of infectious diseases and parasites exotic to Australia. But should the unthinkable happen, there are also plans in place to deal with the disaster of exotic disease and its aftermath.

The Australian Veterinary Emergency Plan (Ausvetplan) sets down the key principles and procedures that will be followed in the event of an animal health emergency in Australia.

Within Ausvetplan, the Enterprise Manual for Zoos describes the arrangements that would apply to animal display establishments affected by an exotic or serious epidemic disease. The plan recognises that many zoos and fauna parks hold rare and endangered species and special management is required for captive wildlife. The need for establishments to remain operational even in the event of a disease outbreak affecting part of their collection is also addressed.

The keeping of accurate animal records, tracking animal transactions, contacts and animal health in the time leading up to and immediately following an outbreak are essential to



the successful containment and control of any disease.

This is critical not only for zoos and fauna parks but also for exhibitors of mobile or temporary animal displays. Transport of infected animals and infected materials is the main way in which diseases travel long distances in a short space of time allowing spread to susceptible animals at new locations. For more information, look at the following website.

<<http://www.aahc.com.au/ausvetplan/index.htm>>

## Exercise Minotaur

A simulated outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease across three states was carried out last September. Exercise Minotaur involved activity in most states and the ACT, with deployment of a first response team to Toowoomba in South East Queensland for testing communications between State and Commonwealth departments and Disaster Response Agencies. Exercise Minotaur proved very successful, demonstrating that Australia has a high level of preparedness to deal effectively with any animal health emergency affecting our livestock and animal industries.



*NSW Agriculture's Animal Welfare Unit Inspector, Peter Johnson was closely involved in Exercise Minotaur.*



## NEXT ISSUE

### Devils and quolls

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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 (December 2002).

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.



NSW Agriculture