



# ANIMAL WELFARE ACTION PLAN



The NSW Government is committed to safeguarding animal welfare and providing the strongest possible regulatory framework to promote responsible animal ownership and care in NSW.

The Animal Welfare Action Plan will modernise legislation that is almost 40 years old; to deliver an animal welfare system that is focused on outcomes and reflects evolving animal welfare science and community expectations.

## Objective

That people responsible for animals provide for their welfare, in line with the best available science and community expectations.

## Goals

1. Modernise the policy and legislative framework
2. Implement companion animal breeding practices reforms
3. Improve the effectiveness of compliance and enforcement efforts
4. Ensure sound research and scientific practices are used to develop policy and legislation
5. Engage with key stakeholders and ensure all views are respected and considered in developing policy and legislation
6. Invest in our systems and processes



## 1. **Modernise** the policy and legislative framework

- A. Review the objectives of the existing animal welfare legislation, in consultation with key stakeholders and the community, as a first step towards modernising the legislation framework



- B. Review legislation and regulation to identify opportunities to reduce red tape and streamline the NSW animal welfare framework



- C. Continue public consultation on reform, seeking feedback on the proposed new animal welfare policy and legislative framework



- D. Introduce modern, streamlined, risk-based and outcomes-focused animal welfare legislation



## 2. **Implement** companion animal breeding practices reforms

- A. Introduce legislation to improve the identification of cats and dogs; and promote responsible pet ownership.



- B. Consult with the public on revised standards and guidelines for animals in pet shops and breeding dogs and cats



- C. Introduce revised standards and guidelines for animals in pet shops and breeding dogs and cats





### 3. Improve the effectiveness of **compliance and enforcement** efforts

- A. Review the adequacy of penalties for non-compliance under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979*



- B. Identify any barriers to effective compliance and enforcement



- C. Consult with the public on proposed legislative changes to improve the effectiveness of compliance and enforcement activities



- D. Amend legislation to improve the effectiveness of compliance and enforcement activities



### 4. Ensure sound **research and scientific** practices are used to develop policy and legislation

- A. Prioritise investment in research projects that will provide a sound evidence base for future animal welfare policy decisions



- B. Contribute to the National Animal Welfare Strategy under the National Primary Industries Research, Development and Extension Framework on behalf of the NSW Government



- C. Undertake research to understand community expectations in relation to animal welfare



- D. Support the development and implementation of evidence based national standards and guidelines by representing the NSW Government on the Animal Welfare Task Group





## 5. Engage with **key stakeholders** and ensure all views are respected and considered in developing policy and legislation

- A. Review current approach for engaging stakeholders on animal welfare and establish best practice governance structures and processes

2018 Q1    **2018 Q2**    2018 Q3    2018 Q4    2019    2020    2021

- B. Engage stakeholders throughout program of activity

2018 Q1    **2018 Q2**    **2018 Q3**    **2018 Q4**    **2019**    **2020**    **2021**

- C. Develop and deliver an education plan to improve community understanding and awareness of changes to animal welfare legislation and regulation

2018 Q1    **2018 Q2**    **2018 Q3**    **2018 Q4**    **2019**    **2020**    **2021**

## 6. Invest in our **systems and processes**

- A. Review licensing processes and systems for animal research and exhibited animals to ensure they are transparent, efficient and cost-effective

2018 Q1    **2018 Q2**    **2018 Q3**    **2018 Q4**    2019    2020    2021

- B. Develop a crisis plan for intensive livestock business failures

2018 Q1    2018 Q2    **2018 Q3**    2018 Q4    2019    2020    2021

