

NATIVE ANIMAL NETWORK ASSOCIATION POLICY STATEMENT

PETS AND LIVESTOCK POLICY

POLICY

NANA members who own pets and/or livestock must demonstrate responsible ownership of those animals. Pets and Livestock must be kept separate from all captive wildlife. **(see definitions below)*

GENERAL

This policy applies to all NANA members who own pets or livestock. This includes all animals held under licence (EG reptile licence, bird keeping licence).

It is important for the image and credibility of our association that all members practice responsible ownership of pets and livestock. Members should be aware of their obligations under the relevant legislation, particularly the Companion Animals Act.

Captive wildlife must not be housed with, or come into contact with pets or livestock. There are two reasons for this: Firstly to prevent the transmission of diseases and parasites, and secondly because some pets species are potential predators. If the captive wildlife becomes familiar with these species, they won't be wary of them in the wild, which may have fatal consequences after the animal is released.

CATS

It is well established that cats can and do predate on wildlife¹. Some pets are more predatory than others, and some individual cats may not attack wildlife at all.

While NANA would prefer that all cats be kept in a properly constructed cat run, at the very least members must take adequate measures to ensure that their cats are under control, housed properly, and do not prey on wildlife. Captive wildlife must never come into contact with cats.

DOGS

Studies have also shown that dogs can and do attack wildlife². Our volunteers have seen first hand the damage done to a range of animals from birds and reptiles through to possums and kangaroos, inflicted by free-roaming dogs. Under the Companion Animals Act, it is unlawful for dogs to be unrestrained in most circumstances. It is also unlawful for any dog to chase or harm wildlife.

NANA insists that any members who own dogs must keep a safe buffer zone between dogs and wildlife, and that wildlife in care never comes into direct contact with dogs.

FAUNA HELD UNDER LICENCE

Volunteers who hold a reptile or bird-keepers licence must not hold captive wildlife of the same species as that held under their keepers licence. Any NANA members who sell, exchange, breed from, or maintain captive wildlife as pets, risk expulsion from the association, and expose themselves to significant fines.

OTHER ANIMALS

Diseases and parasites can transfer between Wildlife, pets and livestock. Birds such as pet cockatoos can create stress for some wild birds. Consequently all pets and livestock must be kept separate from captive wildlife at all times.

COMPLIANCE:

NANA members who care for wildlife understand that committee members have the right to inspect members' wildlife housing facilities. It is a condition of membership that NANA members must be able to demonstrate compliance with this policy and all rules related to the proper care and housing of captive wildlife.

* DEFINITIONS

"Wildlife" refers to native fauna that was not captive-bred.

"Pets and Livestock" means all animals at a person's property other than wildlife.

"Captive Wildlife" refers to wildlife that is being held in captivity for any reason.

Responsible pet ownership is good for pets, neighbourly relations and wildlife

¹ Dickman C.R. (1996) *Impacts of feral cats on Australian native fauna*. Paton D.C. (1993) *Impact of feral and domestic cats on wildlife*. Potter C (ed) (1997) *Impact of cats on native wildlife*.
² Worsley et al (2001) *Spacial analysis for better wild dog management*. Blackshaw J.K. (1986) *Notes on some topics of animal behaviour (Chapter 9) Behaviour and management of pest species*.