



ADO volunteers joined animal advocates around Australia to call for a ban on greyhound racing

ADO Newsletter

Animal Defenders Office
Using the law to protect animals

October 2016

IN THIS ISSUE:

History in the making: greyhound racing to be banned in law in NSW and ACT!

On Thursday 7 July 2016, NSW Premier Mike Baird announced that his Government no longer supported a ban on greyhound racing in NSW, and would instead reform the way the industry is regulated. Barely 3 months earlier Mr Baird had stated that 'Better regulation has been attempted, and failed, many times.' Nothing has changed since then to make that statement less true. The legislative ban will be wound back in early 2017.

On 15 October 2016 Canberrans voted to elect their Legislative Assembly. Four of the 12 parties going into the election supported a ban on greyhound racing. ACT Labor was not one of the parties, preferring instead to see how the dust settled in NSW before deciding what to do in the ACT. ACT Labor did reaffirm its support for stopping the \$1 million taxpayer funds going to the single greyhound racing track in the ACT. ACT Labor may have to form Government with the ACT Greens, who support a legislative ban on greyhound racing. The future of greyhound racing in the ACT therefore remains unclear.

The Animal Defenders Office (ADO) advocated strongly for a ban on the greyhound industry. In January 2016 we lodged a submission to the Special Commission of Inquiry into the Greyhound Racing Industry in NSW. We expressed our grave concerns about the governance of the industry and emphasised the negative effect that gambling and the industry's cruel treatment of animals have on local communities. Our submission is referenced several times in the Inquiry's report.



Victory: Greyhound racing to be banned in the ACT and NSW.



National Law Week 2016: 'Animals and the Law' Seminar

Find out why this was a first for the ACT: page 2.



A Trip to A Poultry Place

ACT's first animal sanctuary celebrates 15 years: page 4.

Animal Law Gets 'Law Week' Limelight

In possibly a first for ACT, animal law took centre stage during the 2016 National Law Week! The theme of this year's Law Week was "Law For All" and the ACT Law Society made sure this included animals by inviting the ADO to co-host a unique "Animals and the Law" seminar.

So on 17 May 2016 the ADO joined forces with the Alternative Law Journal and the ACT Law Society to present a panel of academics and legal practitioners who spoke about animals and the law in Australia.

Among the points raised at the event were:

- How undemocratic our animal welfare laws and policies are because they are based on economic values, not community values.
- How our laws could be modernised to recognise animals as persons.
- Whether the 'best interests' test could be used on animals when families separate, thereby treating animals as sentient beings not property.



ADO Director and lawyer, Mike Rosalky, opened the seminar by discussing many forms of animal abuse allowed under our laws. ANU College of Law Associate Professor Dr Alex Bruce took us back in time to when lawyers were appointed by courts to represent animals charged with crimes. Animal Law Lecturer and RSPCA Senior Policy Officer Dr Jed Goodfellow showed us how far Australia is lagging behind the rest of the world in banning cruel practices such as battery cages. Assistant Law Professor at Canberra University Bruce Arnold spoke about the issue of 'animal personhood'.

The ADO would like to thank the ACT Law Society for the opportunity to promote an understanding of how the law affects animals!

Above: ADO's Director Mike Rosalky speaking to a full house.



Left: The vegan catering organised by the ACT Law Society was a hit!

ADO Meets with ACT Minister Responsible for Animal Welfare

On 14 January 2016 the ADO met with the ACT Minister responsible for animal welfare, Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA, to discuss a number of ways ACT laws could be improved to better protect animals.

We discussed topics such as recognising animal sentience in ACT legislation, phasing out greyhound racing in the ACT, and the welfare implications of barn systems for layer hens (which is the only form of intensive factory farming in the ACT). We are grateful for the respect and engagement the Minister and his staff showed us, and appreciate their interest in improving laws to protect animals.



Layer hens in a barn system

ACT Supreme Court overturns conviction of kangaroo defender

In April this year the ACT Magistrates Court found local kangaroo activist Dr Chris Klootwijk, 71, guilty of hindering a public official by blowing a whistle during the 2015 kangaroo cull. The public official was a government employee supervising the shooting of kangaroos on the night in question. The Chief Magistrate found that the employee had been hindered for 45 minutes while the shooting stopped to investigate the whistle blowing. Her Honour found that the shooter could not have been hindered by the whistle because the government's licence under which he was shooting was actually invalid.

On appeal, the ACT Supreme Court set aside the conviction. The Court held that if the cull licence was not valid, it must follow that the kangaroo cull itself was not valid. And if the cull was invalid, then it could not be 'unlawfully' hindered by Dr Klootwijk. The ADO has written to the Government seeking an explanation as to why it is relying on an invalid licence to shoot kangaroos on public land.



Dr Klootwijk (centre) with supporters outside the Supreme Court – 21 July 2016

PRACTICAL ADVOCACY WORKSHOP



Above: ADO volunteers enjoying the post-workshop plant-based sausage sizzle. Right: Mike talking about the laws that can apply to animal activists.



Practical Advocacy Workshop Success!

Canberra's inaugural 'Practical Advocacy Workshop' was held on 3 July 2016. Organised by Vegan ACT, the workshop was aimed at people thinking about becoming more involved with advocating for animal issues.

ADO Director and lawyer, Mike Rosalky, gave an overview of some of the laws animal advocates and activists need to be aware of.

Other speakers were from organisations such as A Poultry Place, Little Oak Sanctuary and Animal Liberation ACT.

Topics covered during the half-day workshop included:

- Practical advocacy tips
- Legal rights
- Animal ethics

It was a great event to be a part of—congratulations to organisers Michelle, Sia, and Lisa!



FAST NEWS

New National Definition of 'Free Range': As of March 2016 Australia has a new definition of 'free-range' eggs. The definition now allows 10,000 birds per hectare, compared to the original 1,500. That's approximately 1 square metre of space for each bird—seven times worse than the previous standard.

ADO Win! On 21 April 2016 the ADO became the first animal law community legal centre in NSW/ACT to get professional indemnity insurance! Win!

Rescuing Ducks During VIC Duck Shooting Season: After the 2016 Victorian duck shooting season was announced in March, the ADO delivered a community legal education session to duck rescuers about the offences and penalties that may apply to rescuers during the shooting season. To find out more check out our fact sheet on our [Fact Sheets](#) page on our website: www.ado.org.au.

Council Inquiry into Harden Piggery Proposal: In December 2015 a Development Application was lodged with Harden Council by Blantyre Farms, proposing an intensive piggery with up to 25,000 pigs. The ADO was one of the many opponents who lodged objections to the proposal. See our objections on our [Submissions](#) page on our website: www.ado.org.au. Want to find out more? Visit <http://www.aussiepigs.com/> and www.facebook.com/Say-No-To-Blantyre-Farms-In-Harden-108958142816434/.

Wagga Pound Protest: On 30 May 2016 a protest was held in Wagga Wagga NSW as part of an ongoing campaign by pound volunteers to raise awareness about the treatment of animals at the local shelter.

The ADO supports this campaign for better treatment of the thousands of animals who end up in council pounds.

Monkey Business

On 5 February 2016 the ADO attended the Senate Hearing into the 'Prohibition of Live Imports of Primates for Research' Bill (the Bill). Greens Senator Lee Rhiannon had introduced the Bill in the previous Australian Parliament to ban the importation of primates into our country for medical research. The hearing came after the sordid reality of experimentation on primates in Australia was revealed in a [damning exposé](#) in print media.

The media report showed that:

- Primates are not only imported into the country for research, but also are bred in Australia for research purposes.
- Hundreds of these highly sensitive and intelligent animals are used for experiments and then killed.

During the public hearing:

- Researchers opposed to the Bill argued that primates need to be imported to maintain the gene pool health of Australia's own colonies of research primates.

- In response, Humane Research Australia said there should be no need to increase the gene pool of Australian primate colonies as researchers are obliged to 'reduce and replace' animal tests.

The [ADO's submission to the hearing](#) commended the Bill for its proposed ban and argued that the use of animals for research purposes should be banned altogether.

Unfortunately the Bill lapsed at the dissolution of the Australian Parliament on 9 May 2016. However, we'll be sure to keep you posted if anything arises again!



Adult baboons at NSW breeding colony. Photo: SMH

A Poultry Place Turns Fifteen!

On 23 January 2016 the ADO joined many other animal defenders from around the country to celebrate the 15th birthday of 'A Poultry Place'—the region's oldest animal sanctuary! ADO volunteers were honoured to celebrate this milestone with Bede Carmody, the founder of A Poultry Place, and his woolly, furry and feathered friends.

During the day we learnt about the terrible welfare toll of hatching projects on chickens and roosters, and how only a few lucky ones make it to Bede's haven. Unfortunately hatching projects are still legal in the ACT and NSW.

We were also delighted to meet some extremely cool turkeys.

Congratulations A Poultry Place—15 years of helping so many animals is a massive achievement!



The ADO team with Bede and Fluffy, an ex-hatching project rooster.



Who says stalks aren't delicious?



What are you lookin' at?



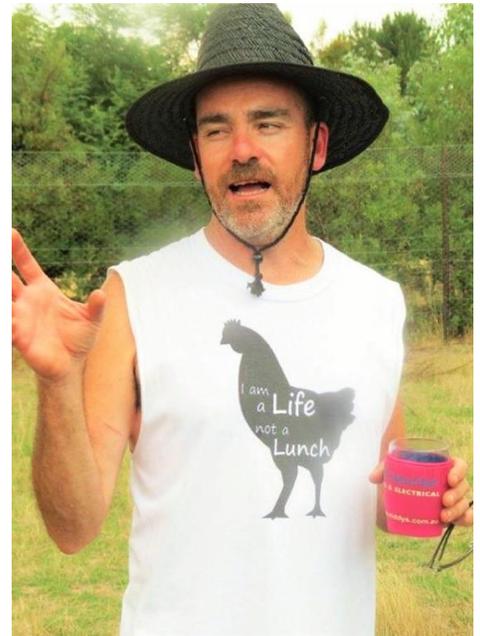
An ex-battery hen with a trimmed beak. Trimming hens' beaks is now banned in the ACT.



Raka, Mike and Alex from the ADO meet some rescued sheep during feeding time.



ADO volunteers meeting a turkey resident.



Bede enlightening us about the wonderful world of feathered creatures.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

A Poultry Place is a **no kill sanctuary** which offers a safe, permanent home to rescued and unwanted domesticated poultry (roosters, chickens, ducks, turkeys and geese).

Since it began A Poultry Place has assisted over 2,100 animals by offering them temporary or permanent shelter.

To discover more about A Poultry Place and its beautiful animal residents, follow them on Facebook: www.facebook.com/apoultryplace.

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