



Supplementary questions for Animals All Around

1. How many exotic animals are currently under your care, and what species (we are assuming it is species not specifics?) are they?

A: As there is no definition of the word 'exotic' (refer to our answer to Q4) we cannot answer the above question, however a list of the animals that we keep are recorded with NSW DPI.

2. Are you breeding exotic animals? If so, please provide details.

A: Again, Animals All Around refer you to NSW Department of Primary Industries as all records are kept with them.

However, all the animals we have are of an ageing population with most of them beyond breeding age. We use contraception with our animals, however due to the social structure/family groups we keep our animals in for their welfare, pregnancies can happen.

Any breeding that does occur is under controlled circumstances and are only for licenced exhibitors.

3. Where in NSW are the animals kept in their 'off display' establishment?

A: As per the legal requirements set out by the Department of Primary Industries. Any further queries relating to the keeping of our animals should be directed to the Department of Primary Industries.

4. The Committee's terms of reference defines 'exotic animals' as 'any animal that is not native and is not a stock or companion animal.'

(a) Do you believe the term 'exotic' is satisfactory? If not, what would be a better term, and is it used in any other jurisdiction?

(b) Do you agree that this is a satisfactory definition? If not, what would be a better definition?

A: Animals All Around holds the view that the term "exotic" is absolutely not satisfactory for the Terms of Reference. This is because the term already has a community understanding as anything considered non indigenous to Australia or outside of the "norm".

In Australia, veterinary practices regularly use the term "Exotic" to describe and include animals such as rabbits, rats and guinea pigs, native reptiles, foreign birds and more, despite

all of these species having been domestically bred as pets. This is to claim an 'exclusive' niche market.

The Federal Government refers to foreign birds as 'exotic' – eg. the common domesticated Canary is on the federal list of exotic bird species known to be in Australia. These animals are neither 'exotic' or companion animals, however they are domesticated, and have been for centuries.

As such, we strongly recommend this inquiry confines itself to the existing definitions within NSW legislation.

Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals Act includes the following definitions:

- **stock animal means** an animal which belongs to the class of animals comprising cattle, horses, sheep, goats, deer, pigs, poultry and any other species of animal prescribed for the purposes of this definition.

- **domestic animal means** an animal which is tame or which has been, or is being, sufficiently tamed to serve some purpose for the use of human beings, or which, although it neither has been nor is being nor is intended to be so tamed, is or has become in fact wholly or partly tame

The Companion Animals Act includes:

- companion animal means each of the following:
 - (a) a dog,
 - (b) a cat,
 - (c) any other animal that is prescribed by the regulations as a companion animal

Most importantly and specifically the **Standards for Exhibiting Circus in NSW** defines:

- **domestic animal** means any of the various animals which have been domesticated by humans, so as to live and breed in a tame condition.

Utilising the existing definitions then ALL animals including the monkeys, lions etc in the care of circus and the marine park are stock, companion and domesticated animals.

Animals All Around is not prepared to recommend any other definition than those already legislated as these definitions have been appropriately scrutinised, consulted and are recognised throughout the community and therefore define the 'community expectation' for ALL animals held within any exhibited establishment, zoo or private keeper.

Animals All Around questions the need to separate so-called exotic animals from other animals. All animals require the same high standard of animal welfare that the Australian Government and other welfare organisations already stringently enforce.

5. The Committee's terms of reference refers to 'circuses'.

(a) Do you believe the term 'circuses' is satisfactory?

(i) If so, how should it be best defined in legislation?

(ii) If not, what would be a better term, and is it used in any other jurisdiction?

(b) Some witnesses argued that the term ‘circuses’ could include agricultural shows, mobile petting zoos, and the supply of animals for use in film and television. Do you agree?

A: There is no definition of the word “circus” in existing legislation. The word “Circus” is included within the definition of a “mobile exhibition” with no further explanation. Is the intent of the inquiry then, to include all mobile exhibitors? We feel there needs to be a clear agreement on what is and is not the subject of the inquiry.

Does the inquiry panel understand that entire circus companies are often hired to provide entertainment at festivals, theme parks and agricultural shows and therefore will directly impact more than just a “circus”.

Animals All Around do not believe we should be defining one sector of mobile exhibitors when the emphasis of the inquiry should be focusing on the welfare of animals regardless of who keeps those animals or where they are kept.

6. The Committee’s terms of reference refers to the ‘welfare’ of exotic animals and cetaceans.

(a) Do you believe the term ‘welfare’ is satisfactory?

(i) If so, how should it be best defined in legislation?

(ii) If not, what would be a better term, and is it used in any other jurisdiction?

A: For the purpose of the definition of ‘welfare’ Animals All Around would like to refer this Inquiry to ACA’s current ‘Animal Welfare Policy & Position Statement’

(https://www.animalcareaustralia.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/ACA-Animal-WelfarePolicy_2020.pdf)

Protecting an animal's welfare means providing for its physical and mental needs. This includes animal care, animal husbandry, and the humane treatment of the animal. Achieving good animal welfare relies on providing animals:

1. Freedom from hunger or thirst, by providing access to fresh water and an appropriate diet;
2. Freedom from fear and distress, through appropriate treatment and surroundings;
3. Freedom from discomfort, by providing appropriate environments in which to live;
4. Freedom from pain, injury or disease, by prevention and rapid diagnosis and treatment;
5. Freedom to express natural behaviour, by providing appropriate space, facilities, and social interactions with members of their own species.

Signs that an animal has a good state of welfare can include longevity, having low levels of disease, displaying normal behaviour, and reproducing normally.

Another common definition of ‘welfare’ is:

- **Welfare** means a state of wellbeing which can be compromised by such things as disease, injury, pain, stress and deprivation

Animals All Around is disheartened by the apparent desire to attempt to re-define the term ‘welfare’ and wonders whose agenda this will benefit.