

## AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ANIMAL MANAGEMENT INC

### ***What is urban animal management?***

Urban animal management involves the control and regulation of pet (otherwise called companion) animals by Local Government. It is a community management service that pursues a twofold objective:

1. Minimise public pet nuisance and thereby maximise community pet benefit
2. Promote a municipal environment of responsible and considerate animal ownership.

Local Government Animal Management Officers (AMOs) provide the links between Councils and community by attending to such matters as public health, public safety and public amenity as they relate to the ownership of pet animals.

It is important to note that urban animal management is different to animal welfare. These two things are not synonymous. There are however some important linkage and convergence between the two.

- Animal Welfare is about the responsibility animal owners have to be considerate of the wellbeing of the animals
- Animal Management is about the responsibility animal owners have to be considerate of well being of their neighbours.

Urban animal management activity dovetails directly with the full spectrum of Local Government's quadruple bottom line as it relates to:

1. Community
2. Economy
3. Environment
4. Governance

Urban animal management can sometimes be as difficult for those so engaged as it is important. It involves working with a complex and interactive mix of the following disciplines:

- Animal behaviour
- Human behaviour
- Community behaviour

### ***The Institute***

The Australian Institute of Animal Management Inc. is a properly constituted Incorporated Association operating under a constitution approved by Consumer Affairs. The Institute has a registered ABN and is a National organisation. The Institute's focus is on service delivery and the development of solutions in animal management.

Having a national focus on Animal Management such as this has the great potential to provide encouragement, assistance and support for any organisation that is already active in this field at State or regional levels. The Institute's intent is to help facilitate the development of best practice in animal management in Australia.

The Institute's primary operational objective each year is to convene the best national urban animal management conference it can. The AIAM annual conference aims to stimulate the following things:

- Critical and constructive assessment of current urban animal management practices and performance
- Reflection about the essential roles and purpose of urban animal management
- Motivation to step outside the square and look for better ways
- Sharing knowledge and experience and build a collegiate sense of common purpose and mutual assistance
- Consideration of occupational health and safety issues
- Drawing together streams of consensus for national uniformity on all matters pertaining to urban animal management policy and practice.

The Institute's annual urban animal management conference is presently structured along the following (general) outline :-

- Main body of lectures (about 70%) on core animal control and regulation business
- Supplementary (about 30%) lecture content of relevant supporting material that reflect the larger animal management environment in which animal control & regulation operates, such as:-
  - Animal welfare
  - Animal behaviour
  - Sociological aspects
  - Business management themes
- A social program that assists networking between delegates
- Workshop sessions that encourage the active participation of delegates in formulating Institute direction and policy
- Awards for recognition of excellence in local government animal management activities
- AMO training linked to competencies of RUV40104 Certificate IV in Animal Control and Regulation