

### *AIAM Position Statement on Animal Officer training*

The Australian Institute of Animal Management (AIAM) recommends that adequate and appropriate training should be a mandatory requirement for Animal Management Officers (AMOs).

All new AMOs should receive induction training on the powers, roles and duties associated with their position before operational deployment. Further opportunity to undertake an Certificate IV qualification should be available to all animal management employees who seek to continue employment in this field of operation after induction.

Socially important issues relating to public health, public safety and community amenity are central to the role of AMOs. Being employed as an AMO is a complex and important occupational role that is far more demanding than most people (including sometimes the employers themselves) realise.

Animal management can be a dangerous and stressful occupation in which workplace health and safety issues are a particularly significant factor in day to day activity. There are considerable risks for both the employee and for the employer if workplace training is not provided, undertaken and kept current.

This position statement is linked to a more complete paper on this subject that was presented as part of the program at the Institute's 2010 conference at Glenelg in South Australia. The supporting document details what courses are available in Australia. It also explains the concept of "The Virtual College" of AMO training that can provide an excellent standard of training and qualification for council officers employed in this role.