

Horror of horrors - now it is not "only in America"!
The totally unacceptable and irresponsible concept
of an on line auction site for live companion animals has reached Australia.
National DOG instantly advised both the ANKC and the RNSWCC
and their comments appear below.
Hopefully the RSPCA and all other Controlling Bodies
will also register their disgust with the appropriate authorities.
This can only add to the dumped and unwanted puppy situation,
more puppies sold to more uninformed buyers by more unscrupulous sellers.

THE ANKC VIEW

The ANKC cannot countenance the auctioning of dogs through such sites as Petsbid as it contravenes the Code of Ethics of its Member Bodies.

Viz: RNSWCC Code of Ethics 9 (iii) a member shall not offer a dog for sale by auction in any form of media.

Australian Companion Animal Council, of which the ANKC is a member, has brought the site to the attention of the AVA and the Animal Welfare League has referred it to the responsible NSW Government Agency.
HUGH GENT

THE RNSWCC POSITION

Keith Irwin, President of the RNSWCC, said that he had viewed the website concerned and was absolutely appalled to see purebred dogs being advertised for sale on an online e-commerce auction site.

"It is unbelievable to think and have positive proof, that not only dog owners, but other companion animal owners could be so irresponsible as to offer pets for sale by way of an onsite auction. Where the only criteria set by the seller was that the buyer be the highest bidder".

He went on to say, the RNSWCC Code of Ethics specifically prohibits members from not only selling puppies through auctions but also through pet shops, which are not accredited by the Pet Industry Association of Australia (PIAA). The exemption for PIAA has been a long standing one which is based upon that organisations code of practice and accreditation requirements which place similar restrictions/requirements upon accredited PIAA members as do the RNSWCC Code of Ethics and Regulations place on our members.

Members found to be selling dogs in or through on line auctions and or non PIAA Accredited Pet Shops etc, can expect the matter to be viewed seriously by the RNSWCC.

Letters recommending the banning of companion animals sales by way of auction have been sent to the Premier and the Minister for Primary Industry, who has state wide responsibility for the prevention of cruelty to animals and the Minister for Local Government, who has responsibility for companion animals.

Also letters requesting support on this issue have been sent to the Animal Welfare League of NSW and New South Wales branches of the AVA & RSPCA.

Keith said *"Whilst I honestly believe that most, if not all our members abide by our code of ethics, we collectively need to do something about the backyard breeder who is not a member of our organisation and can do whatever he pleases, I urge all readers of National DOG to go to the follow site and sign the petition"*

<http://www.saynotobackyardbreeders.com/>



EYE CLINIC
with
Dr Cameron Whittaker
Tuesday 28 February at
VINEYARD
VETERINARY HOSPITAL
starting at 7:30pm
1st adult \$55
any subsequent adult \$35
puppies \$35

Please contact the clinic
FOR AN APPOINTMENT.
02 9627 1257

French Government acts to combat "sharkbait" horror

The French Government has introducing tighter regulations to combat the use of live dogs and cats as shark bait on the French-owned Indian Ocean island of Réunion.

As reported previously in OUR DOGS the French actress turned animal rights campaigner, Brigitte Bardot, brought the outrage to the world's attention following a report in Cicanoo, a leading newspaper on the island that a six-month-old puppy was found with hooks in its nose and one in its legs.

"It is imperative that the government does something to end this practice," Bardot said in a letter to Francois Baroin, the minister for French overseas territories. "Unfortunately these are not isolated incidents."

It is understood that stray animals are rounded up by native fishermen for the purpose of dangling the live animal in the water in order to attract sharks. A graphic photograph of a young dog with a large, thick fishing hook in its mouth was released by the Foundation, although some doubt has been cast on the photograph's authenticity.

It is believed that in the absence of a photograph of an actual dog used as bait a photograph of a stray that had accidentally hooked its mouth whilst foraging for fishing bait was used instead. It has been observed that a large hook in a dog's lips would soon tear free, especially if the dog's weight was pulling on the hook in the sea or if grabbed by a shark.

The UK's RSPCA was said to be "shocked and appalled" at the use of live animals as bait in shark fishing on Réunion and called on the French Government to outlaw the practice, after launching a petition, which garnered close on 100,000 signatures.

So far, only one fisherman has been prosecuted for using live dogs as shark bait. Jean-Claude Clain, 51 walked free from court in Réunion in late September after being given a three-month suspended prison sentence after being convicted of cruelty.

Recently, language student Kathryn Nawrockyi (daughter of Dog Theft Action Co-

ordinator Margaret Nawrockyi) wrote to the French Government to register her family's protest at the barbaric practice. Miss Nawrockyi duly received a reply from Michel Cadot, the Head of Cabinet at the French Ministry of Agriculture and Fishing, in which M Cadot pointed out that more stringent regulations have been put in place to clamp down on the practice.

As translated by Ms Nawrockyi, M Cardot writes:

"Dear Madam,
You have brought to the attention of Mr Dominique Bussereau, Minister of Agriculture and Fishing, the use of dogs as live shark bait by fishermen in the département of la Reunion.

The use of dogs as live bait for game fishing is considered an act of cruelty under the title of article 521-1 of the penal code.

It seems that the press regularly gossips about such practices, but concrete or conclusive facts are generally rare. One such proven case was recorded in 1999 and tried in 2000 by the higher level court of Saint-Denis.

I have asked that any suspicion is subjected to an immediate enquiry by the veterinary services and that every fact obtained is brought to trail. The veterinary services are particularly watchful of the possible zones in beaches.

The State Prosecution, which is aware of these practices, also carries out operations for tighter control in fishing and sailing ports. One alleged perpetrator of these practices was taken in for questioning on 28th September 2005. Tried immediately in court, he was sentenced to 3 months suspended prison sentence and a 5000 fine.

I can therefore assure you that all services of the State have been particularly mobilised to act on these cruel practices, which nonetheless remain extremely marginal. Exemplary sanctions will be imposed on the perpetrators of such acts, in order to curb any such reoccurrences.

Yours sincerely,
Michel Cadot
Head of Cabinet, Ministry of Agriculture and Fishing"

Animal welfare group Sea Shepherd has said that it will pay £680 to any Réunion police officer that catches a fisherman baiting a dog.
NICK MAYS, OUR DOGS 9th December 2005



SNTBYB graphic kindly created by Julie Knoblock

ANIMAL LOVERS - DON'T LET RUBBISH BECOME PART OF THE SCENERY THIS CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

Clean Up Australia is calling on all animal lovers to register sites now for Clean Up Australia Day, next held on Sunday 5 March 2006.

Australia's biggest environmental community event is now in its 17th year and organisers need your help to target rubbish that continues to clog our parks, roadsides, bushland, beaches and waterways and continues to pose a threat to our precious animal life.

Rubbish in the environment is responsible for many deaths and injuries such as fish and sea mammals suffocated by plastics, snakes trapped in discarded drink tins, lizards strangled by ring-pulls and birds trapped by wire and fishing line.

Clean Up Australia Chairman and Founder, Ian Kiernan AO, encourages all Australians to take part in the 2006 campaign themed **'Don't let rubbish become part of the scenery'**.

"Clean Up Australia Day is a practical way for Australians to make a difference to their local environment," said Ian Kiernan. *"It's as easy as identifying a local park, waterway, bushland or street near you that needs to be cleaned up and registering the site with Clean Up Australia. Then simply round up friends and family and help remove rubbish from the scenery."*

"Across Australia, animal lovers of all ages work together to remove the damage done to natural habitats caused by littering and illegal dumping."

In NSW, Clean Up Australia works in partnership with wildlife agency WIRES, who have played a significant role highlighting the effects of littering on Australian wildlife.

"Clean Up Australia Day shows us first hand the impact of rubbish in the environment. I encourage everyone to get involved and experience the positive contribution you can make to your community. Make March 5 the day you start to make a difference," Ian Kiernan concluded.

To register a Clean Up Australia Day site, visit www.cleanup.com.au <<http://promail.profero.com.au/click/?00000000821/13806/2.html>> or phone 1800 CUA DAY (1800 282 329).

All registered sites will be sent a free clean up pack.

Heather McCartney's crusade against animal cruelty

Sorry to be so morbid but on "Parkinson" recently I was listening to Paul McCartney talking about the issue of the fur trade in China and he promoted his wife, Heather's, website so I logged on. I am appealing to you all to please sign the petition on Heather's website to try to help put an end to this horrible act. www.heathermillsmccartney.com/petition.php
 I would be most grateful if you could sign this petition and pass this message onto to your friends and family in support of the tireless campaign against world wide animal cruelty.

KAREN OLSSON

AND AN APPEAL FOR THE WHALES

www.whalesrevenge.com is trying to get a million people to sign a petition to stop whaling. If you could tell as many people as you can about our website, that would be a great help. Thanks for your support and remember to sign the petition.

MICHAEL TRAFFORD