

SUMMIT RESOLUTION PROGRESS – UPDATED October 2010

Much has been happening around Australia with many organisations progressing the Summit resolutions since the 3rd National Summit in October 2009. A sample of progress is presented here. All organisations are invited to send in updates to teamzero@g2z.com.au

2009 SUMMIT RESOLUTION 1: All pounds and shelters to implement strategies embodied in the No Kill Equation and Getting 2 Zero Model.

AWLQ Update

Getting 2 Zero projects funded by the Elsie Cameron Foundation and managed by AWL Qld to date include:

- A Hobart Community Vet Clinic similar to AWL Qld's Gold Coast and Ipswich Clinics is close to completion. This clinic will offer low cost desexing and full veterinary services at reasonable prices and provide support to local shelters for desexing and veterinary care
- Tasmanian Canine Defence League has increased the saving of lives as a direct result of its new G2Z funded foster care program
- Saving Animals From Euthanasia in WA have received some funding to assist with the implementation of a sustainability program.
- 11 other pounds/shelter/rescue organisations are currently liaising with G2Z developing knowledge of and implementing the G2Z model to save lives in their communities
- A G2Z website is in development to facilitate the progressing of G2Z nationwide and allow regular updates of progress by all organisations.

2009 SUMMIT RESOLUTION 2: Animal Welfare and Animal Management to work together to develop a stronger commitment to getting to zero.

AWLQ Update

AWL Qld is working with Gold Coast City Council to introduce two Pilot Projects for the Queensland Government in 2009/10. These are:

1. The introduction of a Breeder Permits system (see below)
2. Cat Safe Fencing promotion to raise awareness of the various ways to keep cats safely in their own yards (a requirement under Gold Coast City Council Local Law) to prevent cats straying and getting injured or killed or taken to the pound.

2009 SUMMIT RESOLUTION 3: Relevant government bodies to introduce breeder permits for anyone who keeps an entire animal for breeding purposes.

AWLQ Update

A new breeder permit system in Gold Coast City was introduced by Gold Coast City Council and AWL Qld working with all stakeholders, as a Pilot Project for the Qld Government. It has the potential to prevent the oversupply of cats and kittens and to prevent puppy farming, particularly if expanded nationwide.

It requires anyone with an entire animal who breeds to have a breeder permit. This includes people with one entire animal as part of the family or many animals for hobby or commercial breeding. Breeders will be inspected by local government officers to see if they comply with an enforceable Code of Practice. This code requires standards of care and responsibility with breeding and rehoming, and highlights the need to limit breeding while there are animals being killed due to lack of sufficient homes.

One of the key elements of this breeder permit system is that the breeder permit number must be published with any advertisement and provided to the new owner which means the public will be able to discern if any breeder has been inspected and following the enforceable standards in the Code of Practice.

2009 SUMMIT RESOLUTION 3 Cont..

Another key element is that kittens are required to be desexed prior to sale or transfer at 10 weeks of age or older, unless being sold to another person with a breeder permit or a vet indicates in writing that the kitten would be at serious risk if desexed.

Any new legislation takes time and persistence to raise both stakeholder and public awareness. It will be a year or two before the full impact of this legislation is known.

2009 SUMMIT RESOLUTION 4: State coalitions to progress Summit resolutions and present a united message to governments and the community.

AWLQ Update

A meeting of State reps is being planned for the near future to progress state and national coalitions and coordinate reporting of the work of many organisations who have been progressing Summit resolutions.

2009 SUMMIT RESOLUTION 5: Pounds/shelters/rescue groups/dog trainers etc to network within each community to share resources, increase rehoming and prevent surrender.

AWLQ Update

AWL Qld has reconvened the Companion Animal Stakeholder Coalition on the Gold Coast which includes all of the above plus wildlife organisations, local and state government to assist with the development and implementation of the new Breeder Permit system.

2006/7 SUMMIT RESOLUTION 1: Relevant government bodies to introduce legislation for all cats and dogs to be desexed and microchipped prior to sale or exchange (unless to another registered breeder)

Queensland – Update

The requirement to **microchip** all cats and dogs prior to sale or exchange, originally just for mainly SE Qld jurisdictions is to be introduced by all cities and shires in Queensland by the end of 2010.

Gold Coast Breeder Permit system(see above) requires kittens to be desexed prior to sale or transfer at 10 weeks of age – legislation introduced in April 2010. See above. Implementation began with launch in August. This only applies to the Gold Coast at present but is a Pilot Project for the Qld Govt. to investigate strategies to reduce unwanted cats and dogs across the state.

Tasmania - Update

The *Cat Management Act 2009* (the Act) was passed by the Tasmanian Parliament on 19 November 2009. It is expected to be introduced by July 2011:

- As a first step to reduce the number of cats that become unwanted and are euthanased each year, the legislation provides that only registered breeders are able to breed cats.
- A member of an approved cat association will automatically be recognised as a registered breeder. Someone who wishes to breed 'moggie' cats, or who is not a member of one of the associations, will be able to apply to be a registered cat breeder.
- There will be no restriction on who can sell or give away cats; however, all cats sold or given away will have to be least 8 weeks of age, microchipped and desexed prior to sale (unless a care agreement has been entered into).
- Once the legislation commences, a person who breeds cats who is not a registered breeder, or who sells or gives away a cat that does not meet the sale requirements, could face a fine.
- This aims to ensure that all new domestic cats are desexed and microchipped, unless being bred from by registered breeders.
- For owned cats, a compulsory element will be phased in after four years: after that, it will be necessary for cats being reclaimed from a Cat Management Facility to be desexed and microchipped.
- Pounds will be required to hold cats for 5 days if identified, 3 days if not, same as for dogs.
- Stray and feral cats who wander or live on farming land, or residential land in remote areas may be trapped, seized or humanely destroyed under the act. Seized cats may be returned to the owner or taken to a pound for identification and owner contact; or to an animal welfare facility.

2006/7 SUMMIT RESOLUTION 1 Cont..

Western Australia - Update

The Western Australian Government issued a Consultation Paper on Cat Control Laws in 2010 which proposed mandatory microchipping and/or collars and tags; mandatory registration of cats; and mandatory sterilisation to reduce the number of stray (unowned) cats in Western Australia. It is proposed that the introduction of the new State cat control legislation will be preceded by a public awareness campaign to advise the community and key stakeholders of its requirements. This will include sufficient time to allow local governments to be prepared to implement, administer and enforce the legislation when it is introduced. An evaluation of the effectiveness of the legislation is possible at some point in the future. This would involve the analysis of euthanasia statistics from animal welfare shelters and surveys of cat owner's compliance with the legislative requirements.

2006/7 SUMMIT RESOLUTION 2: Comprehensive uniform statistics be required from all states, to include incoming and euthanased numbers from all pounds and shelters (perhaps driven by Aust Animal Welfare Strategy group) Other data requirements to be determined to identify and track sources of unwanted companion animals and target desexing and education programs to reduce numbers.

2006/7 SUMMIT RESOLUTION 3: Funding for research, education and legislative initiatives to be addressed e.g. through Victorian DPI model of levies on registration.

2006/7 SUMMIT RESOLUTION 4: National and state initiatives to develop understanding and training of veterinarians in early age desexing, including pilot projects and university vet courses.

AWLQ Update

AWL Qld introduced 5th Yr Vet student desexing experience in 2010 – 50 students attended AWL Qld Community Vet Clinics in the evenings to watch an early age desexing (EAD) and to perform a desexing on an adult cat to provide exposure to Early Age Desexing and raise awareness of the safety and ease of performing EAD.

Research into availability of EAD in private vet clinics has been conducted. An EAD Information session and Workshop is planned for late October for current veterinary practitioners on the Gold Coast.

2006/7 SUMMIT RESOLUTION 5: A National Coalition of stakeholders be formed to pursue all of the above Summit resolutions.

National Coalition will be revisited and progressed following discussions with State Representatives at meeting planned for the near future.

2006/7 SUMMIT RESOLUTION 6: Formation of a Policy Development Committee for the development of strategies for the humane management of unowned free-roaming cats. Focus on the prevention of domestic cats entering the free-roaming cat population, the prevention of breeding in free-roaming cats, and the care and management of free roaming cats.

National Coalition Meeting in 2006 put this action on hold to focus on preventing abandoned owned animals through other resolutions. To be revisited at State Representatives Meeting.