

The welfare, behaviour, and exercising dogs Cluster

ACMGEN303 - Assess the welfare status of an animal

ACMBEH301 - Identify behaviours and interact safely with animals

ACMGEN308 - Walk and exercise dogs

Session #6

All referencing for copyright purposes is located within the Notes section of this resource.

This resources covers the following performance criteria:

ACMGEN303: 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 2.4, 3.1, 3.2, 3.4, 4.1, 4.2

ACMBEH301: None

ACMGEN308: None

GROUP ACTIVITY #1



- This scenario asks you to consider different perspectives on animal welfare.
- You are also invited to consider how to give professional advice when different perspectives cause problems in animal welfare groups.



Background Info

- Transportation can be stressful for dogs and it is important that the journey be made as comfortable and as safe as possible.
- VIC legislation: [Travelling with dogs | Legal requirements for dog owners | Dogs | Animal Welfare Victoria | Livestock and animals | Agriculture Victoria](#)
- However, thousands of dogs are injured each year while travelling in the back of open vehicles because the dogs are not properly restrained.

List some common causes of injury incurred by dogs that are improperly transported in open-backed vehicles.



The situation

- “Mick” is a working dog on a cattle property. “Mick’s” owner, Jerry, has made an appointment at your veterinary clinic for “Mick” to have his annual health check. It has been a heatwave recently and is 32C today. “Mick” has been tethered to the back of Jerry’s ‘ute’ (an open vehicle with a flat tray) for the hour long journey from Jerry’s property to the clinic. There has been no shelter or shade in the back of the ute and the water bowl has spilled over. “Mick” is wearing a choker chain.
- “Mick” is starting to show signs of heat stress, is panting hard with a temperature of 39.8C, and appears distressed on arrival at the clinic. The receptionist has provided “Mick” with some water and also a wet towel to cool him down.
- Jerry says he has always transported his dogs in this way and feels that “Mick” “is a bit hot but will be fine”. Once he has been provided with some water and cooling, “Mick” appears to recover fully and is ready for his consultation.

Initial thoughts:





Which domains are at risk here?

- Use [The 2020 Five Domains Model for Animal Welfare Assessment and Monitoring](#) to decide what is currently at risk.



Take action

- Jerry is a responsible owner and 'Mick' is a working dog. Nevertheless, you are concerned that Jerry needs to be more aware that transporting 'Mick' in this way could be harmful.
- Your vet is about to return to the consult room with Mick and Jerry. You let them know about the situation and they ask you for some suggestions to give to Jerry for future.
 - Come up with 3 suggestions as a group
 - What might the vet need to do to ensure the conversations maintains a positive spin?

GROUP ACTIVITY #2

What is animal hoarding?



Background Info

- [Hoarding Information for Shelter Medicine – Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University](#)



The situation

- While walking dogs in your care as an animal attendance you walk past Mr A's house. Mr A. is a self-identified dog-breeder living in a property on the outskirts of Melbourne with his son, a 17-year-old who has been suspended from school due to violent behaviour. Mr A's partner died two years ago and he lives on a pension. He has not sold any dogs since his partner died, but struggles to pay for food. As you walk past the track near the back of his property you see around 90 Cavoodles in small, wire cages, with matted fur caked in faeces. There are five dog carcasses on the property, all with signs of external wounds (you suspect dog bites but cannot be sure as the animals have been deceased for some time). Mr A's house is squalid and the smell of excrement and urine is overpowering. You both notice Mr A's son Robert kicking a dog.

Initial thoughts:





Which domains are at risk here?

- Use [The 2020 Five Domains Model for Animal Welfare Assessment and Monitoring](#) to decide what is currently at risk.
- What should be done to improve the situation?

Take action

- Your local MP is considering a private members bill to enforce mandatory reporting of animal hoarding. Write your MP a paragraph arguing either for or against mandatory reporting, appealing to reasons related to animal welfare and ethics. Your letter should be no more than 200 words.

GROUP ACTIVITY #3

The situation

- Sue is a dog breeder who owns a 4-month-old female pedigree Pug called “Pebbles”. You have seen Sue and Pebbles at your puppy pre-school every week recently.

On the most recent visit Sue asked if you knew why Pebbles occasionally stops, stands very still and starts to make a strange noise – like she is sucking air through her throat. Sue is concerned this will be a problem when it comes to breeding from Pebbles sometime next year, after her second season.

Initial thoughts:





Which domains are at risk here?

- Use [The 2020 Five Domains Model for Animal Welfare Assessment and Monitoring](#) to decide what is currently at risk.
- What should be done to improve the situation?

Take action

- What are two issues in the scenario presented?
- What are the fixes for these two issues?