



Northern  
Territory  
Government

## Animal Welfare

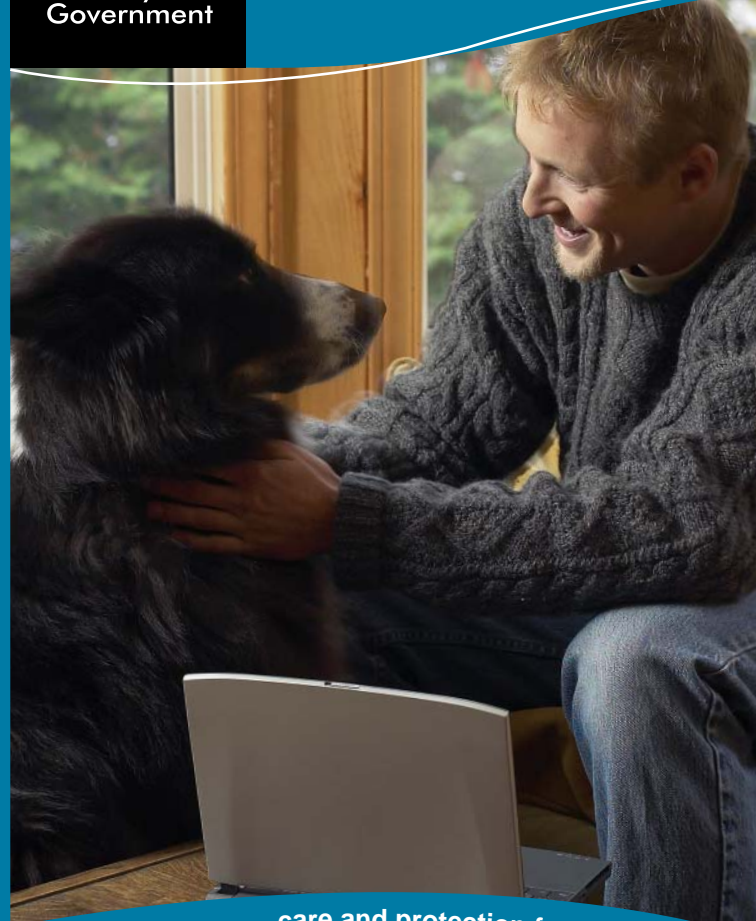
# The Animal Welfare Branch

The functions, powers and responsibilities of the Animal Welfare Branch are defined and determined by the *Animal Welfare Act* the objectives of which are to:

- ensure animals are treated humanely
- prevent cruelty to animals
- promote community awareness about the welfare of animals.

The Animal Welfare Branch also provides advice to the minister responsible for animal welfare, issues licences for research and teaching involving animals, investigates animal welfare reports and prosecutes offenders.

Acts of cruelty or other offences defined in the *Animal Welfare Act* can mean severe penalties for offenders.



care and protection for our animals

For more information visit  
[www.nt.gov.au/animalwelfare](http://www.nt.gov.au/animalwelfare) or call the  
Animal Welfare Branch on 1300 720 386.

looking after  
**your pet's health**  
*pet owner responsibilities*

Pets are an important part of the family and bring many benefits to pet owners. The health and social benefits of having pets are widely recognised with pet owners usually happy and active and suffer less from loneliness, stress and depression.

However, owning a pet is also a large responsibility that should not be taken lightly. Pets need to be treated with respect and owners are responsible for the pet over its entire life span, with time taken every day to devote to their care.

Pet owners are responsible for the provision of sufficient and appropriate:

- food
- fresh clean water
- shelter
- veterinary care
- protection from harm and abuse.

An animal's health and welfare should not be put at risk by their owner's actions or failure to provide for their needs. Failure to provide these basic needs is considered neglect and an owner could face penalties for cruelty, neglect or for failing to alleviate the suffering of an animal.

