



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**

*planning a holiday*

Pets that are left to roam and fend for themselves while their owners are away often suffer from lack of food, water and shelter with responsibility for basic care falling upon strangers or concerned neighbours. Pets that are left behind can end up in pounds or shelters and could be injured or worse.

Pet owners should include options for care of their pet in every holiday plan. If owners cannot take their pet with them on holiday, some options to explore include:

- boarding kennels
- professional home care
- friends, neighbours and house-sitters.

Regardless of which option is decided upon, it is the responsibility of the pet owner to ensure the people looking after the pet have all the tools needed to fulfil this responsibility. Pet owners should provide information on dietary requirements, veterinarian contacts and authorisation to seek vet care in an emergency.

The carer could face penalties if the animal is neglected or abused while in their care and the owner may also be held responsible if adequate arrangements were not made before they left. Abandonment of an animal is an offence which carries a maximum penalty of \$11,000.

