

Media Release

The Hon Jaclyn Symes MLC

Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

Minister for Regional Development

Minister for Agriculture

Minister for Resources



Friday, 16 October 2020

HELPING MOBILE EXHIBITORS CARE FOR THEIR ANIMALS

Animal exhibitors who have been impacted by coronavirus restrictions will get help to cover the costs of food and care for their animals, thanks to support from the Victorian Government.

Minister for Agriculture Jaclyn Symes today announced a \$1 million support package that will help animal exhibitors such as mobile petting zoos and travelling reptile exhibitors to ensure their animals are looked after while their businesses remain unable to operate.

The *Support Package for Animal Exhibitors* will provide funding to purchase feed and to cover the specialised costs associated with housing and caring for exhibit animals.

Animal exhibitors play an important role in the community, letting people get up close to native wildlife and other animals, raise awareness about Australian native animals, and learn where our food and fibre comes from.

Restrictions that have been put in place to protect Victorians during the global pandemic have significantly limited the ability of animal exhibitors to operate as they normally would through school visits, field days, corporate events, and being open to the public.

The funding recognises the impact of the restrictions on animal exhibitors and the ongoing need to provide food, housing and other essential welfare requirements.

Animal exhibitors can apply for support online at [Agriculture Victoria's website](#).

Quotes attributable to Minister for Agriculture Jaclyn Symes

"Our animal exhibitors are really important in helping people learn more about animals by getting up close with them – we want to see them get through these restrictions and keep educating people about our wonderful wildlife."

"We know exhibitors are doing everything they can to keep their animals fed and cared for during this difficult time – these grants will hopefully go some way towards making that easier."

Quote attributable to Minister for Environment Lily D'Ambrosio

"This means the community can learn more about native wildlife, given this support package for licensed animal exhibitors."