

EDITOR'S MESSAGE



It's pouring with rain as I write this. It's been pouring with rain all summer long it would seem. That's been great for the tropical plants that I recently added to the garden but not great for the normal outdoor activity enjoyed over a warm and sunny summer. I'm sure my fitness level and waistline has suffered as a result.

We've also suffered carnage with the critters that live around our house—lizards and frogs. Some of the lizards have come to an unfortunate end through mishap.

One was rolled over by a wheelie bin. Another was chased and caught by an overzealous and curious dog (who promptly spat the poor fella out) and another was found head first in a mousetrap.

The most recent probably had a much more calm end to his life. He was found in our outdoor fridge we use for drinks storage. I console myself with the idea that he was lulled to an endless sleep like a crustacean.

Then there are the frogs that have been found in the pool. I think the chemicals probably did them in. I was called poolside one Saturday afternoon where my boyfriend Paul was doing a spot of gardening. He had found two together and they looked very much like they were drifting in top of the water holding hands. Yes, I know frogs don't have hands but you get the idea. Drifting they were. Alive, they weren't. The next day, another dead frog

was found. But happily, two days later, we were able to rescue another.

Then to add to the carnage, our favourite family of three Kookaburras have decided they like a tree facing our kitchen window. They also like the lizards that frequent the backyard.

Neither of us can bear the idea of a critter suffering or coming to an unfortunate end. Except if that critter is a cockroach—they won't be tolerated in our house and are unwelcome visitors who don't receive much compassion. That's why the lizards, big and small, are welcome as they eat these pests. But some days it seems our backyard is a sushi train for the food chain.

Regular readers of Urban Animal will notice some changes to the magazine—notably that we're in a normal sized magazine format. That's a big change for us and we've decided to do this due to reader feedback. Some readers liked the tabloid, larger size. However, many readers felt that a 'normal' sized magazine would be more appealing and easier to handle. We took that feedback on board and hope that you really like the new look. And with this edition we've managed to hit 30 editions and that makes us feel very grown up.

We've got some great articles in this edition and we're happy to announce our winner in our First Annual Writers Competition. We also have a great subscription offer that ties in nicely with our pictorial from the book *Pet Tails* that benefits the RSPCA in Victoria.

So thank you to all our readers, subscribers and our advertisers. It's nice to know that when the weather is dull and times are uncertain, that we can all celebrate the best of life with our favourite friends—our pets.

Lisa Treen

Managing Editor

FEEDBACK



Dear Urban Animal,

In the latest edition I was almost touched to tears reading about Lenny the Corella. It just shows how resilient birds can be. Lenny may be a little grumpy, but who could blame him. It does sound like Lenny and his original owner had bonded. And wherever his original owner's spirit is, I'll bet he's smiling down at you and I'll bet it's with gratitude. No matter how old he is, at least you have the satisfaction of knowing Lenny must be happier and that he'll live his life, as you say, under the "cone of contentment." All the best. – C HAGGERTY