

Research needs in UAM - a panel discussion

Dr Tim Adams, Petcare Information and Advisory Service

Abstract

“So, you think you know everything...?” What we need to know in UAM – a panel discussion.

Research helps us find solutions in UAM. Please come armed and ready to pose research questions that are yet to yield answers. Are there emerging areas of research we should pursue further? What do we need to know more about? What do we know nothing about? A panel of researchers will help us identify the gaps in our knowledge, and tell us how research might find the solutions we're looking for.

Tim Adams

Tim is the manager of Petcare Information and Advisory Service Australia Pty Ltd (PIAS), an autonomous, non-commercial organization committed to promoting socially responsible pet ownership. He has a special interest in animal behaviour, the human-animal bond and the role of companion animals in society.

A 1993 University of Melbourne Veterinary Science graduate, Tim entered private companion animal practice in Adelaide and quickly recognised the level of emotional importance that pets hold in most pet owners' lives. Through working everyday with people and their pets, he developed a genuine understanding and appreciation of the role that pets play in the family and every day life.

Tim joined PIAS in 2003, and since then has managed major projects including:

- Creation, compilation and production of the first Australian Directory of Human Animal Interaction Programs which lists special programs where animals are helping people.
- Developing a comprehensive new website database of scholarly research on human animal interaction as a resource for academics and professionals
- Evaluating responsible pet ownership programs in Vietnam, Thailand and Japan
- An ongoing scientific research program exploring the role of companion animals in society, including: what effects animals have on human health; matching pets to people's lifestyles; dogs and physical activity in adults and children; pets and social capital; responsible and humane cat housing. Tim also sits on a number of research review committees.
- A national communication package to veterinarians on pet population statistics for veterinary epidemiologist Chris Baldock
- Providing information to industry stakeholders and third parties including government departments, veterinarians, researchers, and animal welfare organisations.

Tim shares his home with two active Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers, two rescued moggies, a busy two-year old daughter and his wife, Karen, a practising veterinarian.