

Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> May 2010

# Raining cats and dogs and sheep, pigs and goats

While ominous rain clouds swelled overhead it literally drizzled cats and dogs at Saturday's Brimbank Pet Expo 2010. And just for good measure the odd sheep, pig and goat were thrown in courtesy of Edgar's Mission Farm Sanctuary. 'Taking responsibility' was the theme for the day, as pet owners were encouraged to take advantage of pet microchipping and advised of the benefits of desexing.

"Around ten thousand years ago the first wolf entered the camp fire of man, changing the lives of both irrevocably" said Pam Ahern, of Edgar's Mission Farm Sanctuary. "Since then we have domesticated thousands of animal species and in doing so have taken on an enormous responsibility that has at times been forgotten. That responsibility doesn't just stop at the animals we have labelled domestic pets; sheep, pigs, goats, and all farm animals have the same capacity for joy and happiness, fear and distress and too rely on us for their welfare. In fact how we treat them says so much about the sorts of people we are"

Edgar's Mission Farm Sanctuary ambassador animals; Hamish McPig, Timmy Lamb (although he really is a sheep) and Ryan the cheeky goat, delivered an on stage presentation that showed that farm animals are just as clever and fun loving as the animals that share our hearts and homes.

Edgar's Mission not for profit farm sanctuary, with its over 200 rescued residents is nestled in the foothills of the Great Dividing Range at Willowmavin, via Kilmore and is open to visitors by appointment.

Photos attached for media use: large file photos available upon request

Media contact: Pam Ahern 0408 397 301