



NOVEMBER 2005 BULLETIN 10 Index

Information from the November 2005 Board meeting

1. Introduction.

To ensure that all interested parties are aware of the Board's activities, the Board will distribute a Bulletin after each monthly meeting.

2 Percentage of Dogs Receiving Registration Rebates in SA

The Board investigated the number and percentage of dogs microchipped, desexed, trained or owned by pensioners in SA.

3 Section 45D; Signage for attack, patrol and guard dogs

Signs were endorsed for attack, patrol and guard dogs.

4 Disability Dogs

The Board investigated a distinctive coat or item that could be worn by disability dogs and training sessions run by the Equal Opportunity Commission.

5 Council capital expenditure on dogs

The Board is developing a set of guidelines to determine the purposes for which Councils can use dog registration fees.

6 Central Register

The Board accepted a proposal for a declared dogs database from Central Animal Records.

7 Bark Counter Collars

The Board are investigating the costs and specifications of bark counter collars.

8 Strategic Board Meeting

A Strategic Board Meeting will be held in late December to discuss projects for the remaining financial year in accordance with the Board's business plan.

9 Registration discs for 2006/07

A decision has been made for the registration discs for the 2006/07 season.

10 POOch Pouches

The Board is investigating options for providing POOch Pouches or some other give away for next financial year.

11 Animal Management Officers Identification

The format of the Animal Management Officers Identification has been reviewed.

12 Powers of Inspectors Training

Council members attended training on 11 November 2005.

1. Introduction

The Dog and Cat Management Board is keen to ensure that all interested parties are aware of the Board's activities and have the opportunity to contribute, provide suggestions and comment on Board proposals. To this end, the Board distributes a bulletin to interested individuals and groups on a monthly basis after each meeting. Your comments and feedback on any issues in the bulletin are welcome. The Board can be contacted through the Executive Officer:

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2. Dogs Receiving Registration Rebates in SA

Using the data obtained by the form 26 and 28 submissions, the Board has determined the following data.

	Number	Percentage
REGISTERED DOGS	268,665	
Dogs with details known	250,794	93%
Known microchipped dogs	29,391	12%
Known desexed dogs	156,579	62%
Known trained dogs	5,787	2%
Known pensioner dogs	82,603	33%

3. Section 45D; Signage for attack, patrol and guard dogs

The Board endorsed signage for premises holding attack, patrol and guard dogs. The minimum size for the Patrol and Guard dogs will be that of the current Dangerous Dog signs (45cm x 30cm) and the Attack Trained dog signs will be A6 size (7.4cm x 10.5cm). All signs will be yellow with black writing.

The following was agreed;

- A warning sign similar to the existing "Dangerous Dog" signs at each entrance to the premises using guard dogs replacing the words "Dangerous Dog" to "Guard Dog". There must be space on guard dog signs for the owner to include a 24 hour phone number as required by the regulations.
- A warning sign similar to the existing "Dangerous Dog" signs at each entrance to the premises replacing the words "Dangerous Dog" to "Patrol Dog Guards these Premises"
- A warning sign at the owners home, kept on the entrance of the property, saying 'Attack Trained Dog on Premises'. This would be much smaller, the size of a "No Junk Mail" sign.

The sign should be visible at all access points. The minimum size for the Patrol and Guard dogs should be that of the current Dangerous Dog signs (45cm x 30cm) and the Attack Trained dogs sign should be A6 size (7.4cm x 10.5cm).

Staff will negotiate with two or three sign printing companies to minimise the cost of purchasing the standard signs. Owners of these dogs will need to buy the signs from a company who can meet the specifications above. It is envisaged that the implementation date will be 1 January 2006. However, this date may be delayed due to the festive season. Stakeholders will be advised of any amendments to the implementation date.

4. Disability Dogs

After the Board reviewed the options, it was decided that a distinctive jacket or other identifying feature for accredited disability dogs will not be pursued further as there is no legislative basis for the determination of such an item. As mentioned in Bulletin 9 the Equal Opportunity Commission (EOC) was contacted regarding training for shopkeepers and people that work in malls etc. The Board was advised that the EOC undertakes training every two months and there is a specific course called "Disability Dilemmas: Managers' Responsibilities" which aims to minimise the risk of discriminating against employees and customers with a disability. It is a half-day course aimed at managers, supervisors, worksite contact people and OHS&W representatives.

A meeting will be held in December between the Board and a representative of the Department of Transport, Energy and Infrastructure to discuss disability dogs on public transport.

5. Council Overheads

The Board agreed that the primary purpose of the facility or action must be dog related so that councils would still provide a certain service if there were no dogs. The cost of that service cannot be derived from dog registration fees (for example, a gardener would still be required to maintain a park whether or not dogs use it, however, if the park had dog play equipment, the cost of that equipment could be derived from registration fees).

A set of guidelines in relation to claimable expenses is being developed as to what Councils can include as overheads. Once these guidelines are developed it will be tabled at the Senior Council Officers meeting for comment. When guidelines have received comment and are finalised they will be communicated to all Councils. The audit process and auditors will ensure guidelines are followed.

6. Central Register

The Board have accepted the proposal from Central Animal Records and have agreed that the database will have the photo inclusion function. The Board is confirming a few minor details before the implementation stage can start. Officers using the database will be provided with hands on training on the use of the database. Where access to data entry is not available there will be a data entry point that will be facilitated by the Board or Central Animal Records.

7. Bark Counter Collar

A bark counter collar was presented at the recent Urban Animal Management conference this year in Canberra. At the time of the conference, further development was being undertaken to prevent the counter from being removed and placed in a quiet position while the dog continues to bark. Mechanisms are being investigated so the collar would be required to be cut in order for it to be removed. The Board is monitoring progress and likely costs of the bark counter collars.

8. Strategic Board Meeting

A Board Strategic Meeting will be held in late December to discuss projects for the remaining financial year in accordance with our business plan.

9. Registration discs for 2006/07

Arlunga Pty Ltd will again provide dog registration discs and the colour for the 2006/07 season will be red. Mr Clive Bowman will contact Councils in the near future for orders of the registration discs.

10. POOch Pouches

The Board sought feedback from Councils on the POOch Pouches provided by the Board in June this year and the responses they have received from the public. The majority of the feedback was positive and there were suggestions that another product be distributed next year. The Board is currently investigating suitable items for next financial year.

11. Animal Management Officers Identification

Most animal management officers are general inspectors so are authorised under various Acts of Parliament. Many are issued with one card listing all the Acts they can enforce. *The Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* states that the officer must carry a card “in a format endorsed by the Board”. This is Form 3 for dog management officers, Form 21 for cat management officers and Form 33 for dog and cat management officers. The multi-legislation cards issued by councils are not in this form, so technically is invalid. Members agreed that as long as the following information required by the Board is on the Animal Management Officers identification card the format is irrelevant:

- Name of officer
- Name of Council
- The word “authorised”
- The words “Dog and Cat Management Act 1995”

Board are advising Councils that forms 3, 21 and 33 have been repealed and the Board now endorses any form that meets the above requirements.

12. Powers of Inspectors Training

Animal management officers, team leaders and inspectors from various Councils attended the Powers of Inspectors training on 11 November 2005. The training covered the rights and responsibilities of dog management officers and Council obligations under the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*. It was an interactive training session and was well attended by both metropolitan and country inspectors.