



### MARCH 2006 BULLETIN 14 Index

#### Information from the March 2006 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 Section 45D**

The Board has determined that retired dogs of the Crown be exempted from the requirement to be on lead in public (as attack trained dogs) and has endorsed the development of an information brochure on section 45D requirements.

**3 Aggression Incident Severity Scale**

The Board has endorsed an Aggression Incident Severity Scale.

**4 Barking Dog Book**

The Board will produce and distribute books on dealing with Barking Dogs.

**5 Microchipping Days**

10 Councils will be hosting microchipping days in April and May.

**6 Training Rebate**

The Board determined their position on the training rebate.

**7 KidsZone section of the website**

The Board has finalised activities for the KidsZone section of the website.

**8 12 Golden Rules**

The Board is organising printing and distribution of the 12 Golden Rules brochure.

**9 Form 33 Warrant to Enter Premises to Seize Dog(s)**

The Board endorsed Form 33 Warrant to Enter Premises to Seize Dog(s).

**10 Animal Management Plans**

The Board has received clarification on the requirement for Councils to make provision for on and off leash areas within their Animal Management Plans.

**11 Grants Policy**

The Board has finalised the Grants Policy.

**12 Pal Dog Breed Guides**

In response to a request, the Board advises of the purchasing details for dog breed posters.

## 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. Section 45D

A brochure detailing the obligations for owners of attack trained, guard and patrol dogs will be distributed to Councils, security companies, breed and dog clubs and be available on the website closer to the 1 July 2006 commencement date. The Board will be providing Councils with distinctive collars for guard dogs that, under the legislation, are required to wear such a collar when this section of the Act comes into effect.

The Board approved that retired dogs of the Crown eg ex Police dogs, will be allowed off leash in designated areas provided they are under the control of the original handler.

## 3. Aggression Incident Severity Scale

The Board has endorsed the Aggression Incident Severity Scale that provides examples and definitions relating Dog Orders and aligns them with the Urban Animal Management (UAM) Scale. This will assist officers in appropriately applying orders and will assist in the development of nationally consistent reporting of attacks. The Board will seek Crown Law advice on the Scale before distributing it to Councils.

## 4. Barking Dog Book

The Board has reviewed its options for provision of information and advice on barking dogs and will be printing a small book on these matters within the next couple of months. The Board understands that barking dogs are a large issue within Councils and the brochure will assist dog owners how to recognise if their dog is causing a problem, causes and solutions to the barking problem. These books will be distributed to all Councils, vets, pet shops, obedience clubs and other interested persons at no charge.

## 5. Microchipping Days

Ten Councils will be holding microchipping days on either Sunday 30 April or Saturday 6 May this year. Exact details of cost and locations will appear in the Sunday Mail (23/4 and 30/4), local Messenger Newspapers and various country newspapers (26/4 and 3/5) prior to the event.

30 April

City of Mitcham, The Barossa Council, Campbelltown City Council and City of Onkaparinga.

6 May

Light Regional Council, City of Marion, City of Charles, City of Salisbury, City of Tea Tree Gully and City of West Torrens.

## 6. Training Rebate

The Board has considered the submissions made on the options paper distributed to stakeholders and has reached a decision on the training registration rebate.

#### PART A

Option A2, the dog will heel, sit, come and stay on command. Once the rebate has been given, this will last for the life of the dog. The Board will continue the rebate for a dog less than a year old that has completed puppy pre-school.

In the future the Board will discuss whether obedience titled dogs should be given a higher rebate to reflect their high level of training and whether older dogs (eg over 8 years old) that have never breached the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* should be given a reduction in registration fees.

#### PART B

That the Board endorsed the following recommendations:

1. That a council officer is able to certify that the dog is trained to the required level. At Council's discretion if they wish their officers to undertake this.
2. That the Board accredit training organisations that use positive reinforcement methods of dog training to certify that the dog is trained to the required level or clubs that are affiliated with SACA.
3. That the Board allow staff to develop a database of such organisations.

(The Board agreed that instead of an individual being recognised within an organisation, the Board accredit the organisation itself. Therefore the term 'Recognised Dog Trainer' will not be defined.)

#### PART C

That the Board endorsed the following recommendations:

1. That the Board develop a certificate that constitutes documented evidence that the dog has met the required standard.
2. That once a dog has passed as being trained, this lasts for life.

Accredited training clubs and Councils will be provided with a certificate pad specific to the requirements of the training rebate. This is currently being developed and will be issued in the near future. A database of accredited organisations is currently being developed, which will be distributed to Councils.

The Board wishes to thank all those who made submissions on the training rebate options.

#### **7. KidsZone section of the website**

Interactive games have been developed for the KidsZone section of the Board's website. These include computerised jigsaw puzzles and 'match the dog'. The games are available in different skill levels and each has a message about friendly, scared and angry dogs. These games are currently being installed onto the website and will be available for viewing in the near future.

#### **8. 12 Golden Rules**

The Board has developed 12 Golden Rules to promote responsible dog ownership and assist owners and potential owners to maximise the benefits of owning a dog and minimise the risks of dog attacks. The brochure is currently being printed and will be available to Councils, dog clubs, vets, libraries, childcare agencies and pet stores. The Board will provide Councils with the 12 Golden Rules in six different languages via the website for downloading and printing. The languages are Vietnamese, Italian, Greek, Chinese, Serbian and Arabic.

#### **9. Form 33 warrant to Enter Premises to Seize Dog(s)**

The Board has endorsed the Form 33 Warrant to Enter Premises to Seize Dog(s) for Council use. The form will be sent to all Councils electronically and be available on the Council section of the website.

#### **10. Animal Management Plans**

The Board sought advice as to whether Animal Management Plans submitted to the Board for endorsement require nomination of specific, identified off and on leash areas. Advice has been received that Plans should make provision for these areas but each park does not have to be listed as falling into one category or the other.

#### **11. Grants Policy**

The Board has finalised its Grants Policy and a letter will be sent to organisations that have previously submitted grant applications to the Board. The Grants Policy will also be available from the Board website [www.dogsncats.asn.au](http://www.dogsncats.asn.au)

#### **12. Pal Dog Charts**

The Board has been asked where Dog Breeds of the World Charts can be obtained.

Company: Masterfoods

Telephone Number: 1800 640 111

Payment Method: Cheque or money order

Price: \$6.50 each including GST

Address: Reply Paid #4 PO Box 153 WODONGA VIC 3689