



JUNE 2006 BULLETIN 17 Index

Information from the June 2006 Board meeting

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

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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:

Dr Deb Kelly, Executive Officer
Office of Animal Welfare

Postal Address: Department for Environment and Heritage
GPO Box 1047 Adelaide, SA 5001

Phone: (08) 8124 4801

Mobile: 0417 801 094

Facsimile: (08) 8124 4938

E-mail: kelly.deborah@saugov.sa.gov.au

2. Golden Rules for Dog Owners

The Minister for Environment and Conservation launched the Golden Rules for Dog Owners brochure on 27 June 2006. The brochure will be distributed to all stakeholders including vets, libraries, primary schools, dog clubs and councils. The brochure and order form is attached, if you have not received any brochures within the next month and would like to order them, please complete the order form and return it to the details on the form.

3. Communications Officer Position

A Communications Officer position was advertised in early June and interviews for the position will be held shortly. It is anticipated that this person will start in August. The aim of the position is to:

- Assist local government in providing advice and support to Animal Management Officers.
- Coordinate the delivery of education programs as determined by the Board.
- Form partnerships with other agencies/organisations with a focus on educating the public about dog and cat management.
- Produce and maintain fact sheets, brochures and other publications on dog and cat management.
- Maintain and update the Board's website.
- Develop a communication strategy for the Board.
- Identify and pursue media opportunities for the Board.

4. Code of Practice for Kennels

A Code of Practice for Kennels is currently being developed. A working group has been formed consisting of representatives from boarding and kennel operators, the RSPCA, SACA (South Australian Canine Association), Greyhound SA, kennels group, the APA (Authorised Persons Association) and the Animal Welfare Unit. It is anticipated that the draft Code will be available for public comment in about three months.

5. Criteria for expenditure of dog derived income

The *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* states that "Money received by a council under this Act must be expended in the administration or enforcement of the provisions of this Act relating to dogs." During 2005, the Board undertook the first external audits of the operational and financial arrangements of councils in accordance with the Act. One of the recommendations of the auditors was that the Board should provide councils with guidance on what does and does not constitute a valid expenditure of dog generated funds.

If an expense would not be incurred if there were no dogs in the area, that expense can be paid from dog registration fees. For example, if there were no dogs, a pound would not be required therefore the entire cost of establishing, staffing and maintaining the pound can be sourced from dog income. Conversely, if there were no dogs in the area, there would still be council owned parks, so the cost of the gardeners, benches etc cannot be attributed to dogs. Dog play equipment, or poo bag dispensers are costs incurred by dogs so these are valid expenses.

In the absence of a full costing of expenditure the Board has determined that an approximation of double the wages cost is an acceptable approximation.

6. Dog Registration Campaign

A Dog Registration Reminder campaign will appear in the Sunday Mail, local newspapers, various radio stations and bus shelters during the first two weeks of July and the last two weeks of August. The aim of the campaign is to remind dog owners that their registration is due and reinforce the message that the dog is more than just an animal, it is a loved family pet.