

DOG AND CAT MANAGEMENT BOARD OF SA

April 2005 BULLETIN 3

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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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Any community or council events of interest to the broader dog and cat community can be communicated via the Bulletin.
3.3 Therapy and Disability Dogs
There has been some confusion between disability and therapy dogs and the criteria which apply to each. The Board has clarified this issue.
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The Board is negotiating the development of a website within the Unity system. In the interim, the dogs'n'cats website has been updated and is now available.
3.5 Your Dog, Your Cat Distribution
The Your Dog, Your Cat booklet has been broadly distributed across South Australia. Should you require additional copies, contact the Board or your local council.
3.6 Council Audits
The Board is required to audit councils to ensure that dog registrations are expended in accordance with the requirements of the Act.
3.7 Form 5 – Application for registration of a dog
The Board has amended Form 5, application for registration of a dog.
3.8 Signage
The Board recommends the use of standard signage for "Dogs Prohibited" "Dogs On-lead" and "Dogs Off-lead" areas.
3.9 Dog Registration Advertising Campaign
The Board will embark on an advertising campaign in July and August to remind people to register their dogs.
3.10 Feedback from Bulletin 1
Several councils have provided comments on issues raised in Bulletin1.

3.1 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 is welcome. The Board can be contacted through the Executive Officer:

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3.2 Dog and Cat Diary

Councils and community groups and other organisations sometimes hold events that are of broad interest. Such events will be published in the Dog and Cat Management Bulletins.

Event	Date	Contact
Million Paws Walk	15 May	RSPCA

3.3 Therapy and Disability Dogs

There appears to be some confusion between disability dogs and therapy dogs.

Disability Dogs

These dogs are eligible for free registration and have the same access rights as guide dogs. The Board has determined that the following criteria must be satisfied for such accreditation.

Any person wishing to apply for disability dog accreditation must prove to the Dog and Cat Management Board that they cannot carry out functions as an able bodied person without the aid of a dog. For example, the dog picks up dropped items, empties washing machines, gives warning when smoke alarms sound.

- The dog must not be a prescribed breed. (Japanese Tosa, Filo Brasileiro, Dogo Argentino, Presa Canario, American Pit Bull).
- The dog must be of sound temperament. If this is in doubt, then a recognised temperament test e.g. National Consultative Committee for Animal Welfare or SAFER, should be undertaken by a person familiar with the test.
- The dog must observe any conditions if so specified by the Dog and Cat Management Board.

Evidence Required

- Person must provide the board with a letter from both a General Practitioner and a Specialist who are treating the person, stating both the illness and details of the disability and whether or not a dog would assist with activities of daily living.
- Dog must be assessed for its temperament and capabilities by the accredited trainer of the Dog and Cat Management Board.

Accreditation will be for a 12 month period,

Pets as therapy dogs – assessment criteria

Therapy dogs are those dogs which visit retirement villages, hospitals and similar venues. They are not eligible for free registration and all the provisions of the Act apply. However, such dogs are deemed to be “trained” for the purpose of registration discounts. Councils may choose to impose a lower registration fee for therapy dogs. The Board suggests that the following criteria apply:

- The dog must not be a prescribed breed. (Japanese Tosa, Filo Brasileiro, Dogo Argentino, Presa Canario, American Pit Bull).
- Person must provide the council with a letter of recommendation from the organisation to which the dog has been a regular therapy visitor for at least the previous 12 months.
- The dog must be of sound temperament. If this is in doubt then a recognised temperament test e.g. National Consultation Committee for Animal Welfare or SAFER test should be undertaken.

3.4 Website development

The Board is in negotiations with Unity to develop a website consistent with the system used by most councils. This will provide easier data collection, an AMO discussion site and better access to information for the public. However, this project will take time. In the interim, the existing “dogs’n’cats” website has been upgraded with accurate information on the legislation and some very useful information sheets. You will be kept advised of progress.

3.5 Your Dog, Your Cat Distribution

As previously advised, the Your Dog, Your Cat book has been updated and reprinted. The book and a promotional flier have been sent to all councils, veterinarians, pet shops, libraries and schools in South Australia (schools did not receive a flier because it is anticipated that the book would be put into the library). In addition copies have been sent to RSPCA, Animal Welfare League, SACA, dog training clubs, FASA and the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy. In the covering letter, the Chairman has advised organisations that they can obtain further copies from their council or from the Board. Your feedback on this publication would be appreciated.

3.6 Council Audits

The Auditor General is of the opinion that the Board should audit councils to ensure that, as required by the Dog and Cat Management Act, all money derived from dogs is spent on dog management and that the amount paid to the Dog and Cat Management Fund is correct. In addition, the Board has a responsibility to ensure that councils are meeting their responsibilities under the Act. To this end, a system of audits will be instigated. The Chairman of the Board has written to all councils advising them of this requirement and stating that, in the first instance, four councils will be chosen at random this financial year. If you have any queries, please contact the Board.

3.7 Form 5 – Application for registration of a dog

The Act requires councils to provide extracts of the register to the public. The register comprises the information the Board determines should be provided by a person who registers a dog. Form 5 (application for registration) requires such a person to provide their work and home phone number. Therefore those phone numbers must be included in an extract of the register and thus must be divulged. The Board is of the view that this is an unacceptable invasion of privacy. Councils seek information additional to that required by the Board from a person who registers their dog (eg many ask e-mail address as well). This additional information does not have to be included in the extracts of the register. Therefore, the Board has amended Form 5 such that it does not require phone numbers to be included. Councils may still request the information but, by removing it from the Board requirements,

councils will not have to divulge it without the consent of the owner of the dog. The amended Form 5 as endorsed by the Board is attached to this Bulletin.

3.8 Signage

The Board has endorsed the following signs to designate “Dogs Prohibited” “Dogs on lead” and “Dogs Off-lead” areas. Section 21 of the Act specifies, in part, that a function of the Board is “to oversee the administration and enforcement of the provisions of this Act relating to dogs, including ... issuing guidelines and providing advice to councils about ... planning for the effective management of dogs”. On this basis, the Board can recommend to councils that the symbols below be used in all future signs, however, whether or not this recommendation is accepted remains at the discretion of councils.



OFF LEAD AREA



NO DOGS



LEAD REQUIRED

The Board is investigating the feasibility of producing these symbols in sticker form for distribution to councils. Feedback on this proposal would be appreciated.

3.9 Dog Registration Advertising Campaign

The Board will undertake an advertising campaign from the beginning of July until the end of August reminding people to register their dogs.

3.10 Feedback from Bulletin 1

Two issues regarding the first issue of this Bulletin.

Dogs in Small Dwellings

A council queried whether or not the Board could require councils to change their by-laws in relation to dogs in small dwellings. The Board cannot do this. The Act states that councils must submit proposed by-laws to the Board and must consider any recommendations made by the Board in relation to them. The suggestion regarding two dogs of suitable type being more appropriate than one dog of an unsuitable type was merely a suggestion for councils consideration.

Puppy Preschool and the Training Rebate

Several councils expressed the view that it would be administratively difficult to provide a training rebate for a dog under a year of age if it had passed a puppy preschool program and to revoke that rebate if, in the second year of life, the dog did not meet the requirements for training. As advised, the intention of providing this rebate is to encourage socialisation of puppies. Most councils provide a pensioner discount for health card holders which is revoked if the status of the person changes. The Board is of the opinion that, equally, a rebate should be provided to people who complete a puppy preschool program but if they do not meet the training standards in subsequent years, that rebate should be revoked.

FORM 5
APPLICATION FOR ISSUE OF CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION OF A DOG

1. I, _____
(insert name of applicant)
- of _____
(insert address of applicant)

I hereby apply for registration in my name of the dog described below and for a certificate of registration and a registration disc to be issued to me pursuant to section 33 of the Dog and Cat Management Act, 1995.

2. Description of Dog

Name: _____

Breed: _____

Colour: _____

Markings: _____

Sex: _____

Age: _____

Microchip: _____

Trained:

*To qualify for training concession, evidence is required that the dog must have **reached and passed** Level 3 SACA obedience training or other training to a similar level accredited by the Dog and Cat Management Board. If the dog is under one year of age and the owner presents certification that it has completed a Puppy Pre-school course, the training rebate will be applied. This provision only applies for the first year of life.*

Other (please specify) _____

If the dog is a registered Guide or Hearing dog, please provide identification details here. If you intend to apply for Disability Assistance dog registration, please fill out section 2 in all detail and advise the Customer Service Officer who will provide information on how to comply with requirements for this category of registration.

3. Certification by Applicant

I certify that I am 16 years of age or over.

I certify that the usual place the Dog will be kept is:

(insert full address)

Signature of Applicant

Date

NOTE: Penalty for false or misleading information: up to \$10,000

4. Notice to Applicant

Following registration of the Dog in your name you are required to notify the Registrar as soon as practicable if any of the following occur:

- The dog is removed from the place you have shown as the place at which the Dog is usually kept with the intention that it will be kept at some other place (whether in the same area, in a different area or outside the state).
- The dog has been missing for more than 72 hours.
- The ownership of the dog is transferred to some other person.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Should ownership of the Dog be transferred to some other person then you will be required to:

- complete a transfer of ownership form (Form 7)
- hand to the new owner the current registration disc last issued for the dog together with the certificate of registration of the dog.

OFFICE USE ONLY: Application No: _____