

**DOG AND CAT MANAGEMENT BOARD OF SA
JUNE 2005 BULLETIN 5**

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5.1 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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5.2 Dog and Cat Diary

Dr Rosemary Ince and Adele Steel attended a meeting of delegates from the South Australian Canine Association.

There will be a meeting of Dog and Cat Management Board stakeholder groups on 18th July 2005 at DEH 1.30 – 4.30pm.

The Urban Animal Management Conference will be held in Canberra this year from 19th – 21st October. The draft program and other details can be obtained from the Board. Anybody with an interest in the management of companion animals is encouraged to attend.

5.3 Council Audits

Section 21(1)(b)(i) requires the Board to oversee the administration and enforcement of the provisions of the Act relating to dogs by councils. In order to fulfil this obligation, the Board will conduct an audit of the financial and operational procedures of every council over the next years. This process has commenced.

5.4 Select A Pet

The primary focus of the Board is to reduce the number of dog attacks and promoting responsible pet ownership. Research has indicated that choosing the wrong type of dog in the first place is a contributing factor in attacks and in failing to adequately socialise or train a dog. The Board decided to place an advertisement in the dog column of the Saturday Advertiser urging people to do the Select A Pet program on petnet.com before buying a dog to ensure they obtain one that fits their lifestyle. The first of these advertisements was run on 28 May 2005. In the first instance, the advertisement has been booked for three months. The initiative will be re-evaluated by the Board in August and a decision taken on whether or not it will continue.

5.5 POOch Pouches

The Board has purchased 100,000 POOch pouches for distribution to councils and dog clubs. The first half of the order has been received and sent to councils so they will be available to give to dog owners who register their dogs. Alternatively, councils may decide to distribute them at pet events or microchipping days. The second half of the order is expected in two weeks. These will be sent to councils and dog clubs as soon as possible.

5.6 Regulation 11

Recently, the Board has been considering the issue of signage for attack trained, patrol and guard dogs. To show the Board the types of signs used, staff visited a number of properties protected by guard dogs. Regulation 11 of the Dog and Cat Management Regulations 1995 requires that, if a property is protected by guard dogs, there must be a sign displayed with a contact phone number in case the dog escapes or is sick or injured. Of the many properties inspected, very few had contact phone numbers and only one of those was current. The

Board suggests that councils contact the owners of properties protected by dogs and remind them of this obligation. The Board will be consulting stakeholders about guard dog, patrol dog and attack trained dogs requirements under section 45D of the Dog and Cat Management Act

5.7 Menacing and Dangerous Dog Signs

As advised in the previous Bulletin, the Board had ordered “Menacing Dog” and “Dangerous Dog” signs. These have now been received and are available to councils on request.

5.8 Dog Registration Advertising Campaign

The Board is undertaking a print and radio advertising registration campaign. The theme is “Register what you could not bear to loose”. The campaign targets two specific audiences. One ad features a young girl and her dog. The radio script describes how important the dog is to her and that is why her parents register it. This is designed to appeal to families. The second features a young man who has restored his car – which of course is registered because he loves the car almost as much as his dog. This targets young males, who traditionally tend to be recalcitrant in registering their dogs. Feedback from interested groups and individuals would be appreciated.

5.9 Dog Training – registration Rebate

The Board is developing a set of criteria for the dog training rebate and will be consulting with stakeholders prior to its implementation.

5.10 Playford Council Shelter

Playford Council opened a shelter on 17th April as a joint venture with the Animal Welfare League. This has been open for 2 months and provides the area with a much-needed pound and shelter facility.