



# Government of South Australia

## Dog and Cat Management Board

### OCTOBER 2005 BULLETIN 9 Index

#### Information from the October 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 Grant Applications**

That the Board would have a policy on grant applications by March 2006.

**3 Next Councils to be Audited.**

That the Board endorse auditing the councils listed in the 2005-2006 financial year and authorise staff to instigate audits on behalf of the Board.

**4 Website Progress**

The new Dog and Cat Management Board website is anticipated to be live in mid November 2005.

**5 Training – Registration Rebate**

The training rebate options discussion paper is attached for input from all stakeholders with a closing date of 10 February 2006. A summary of comments received will be provided to the Board at the February meeting.

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

Signage for premises holding attack, patrol and guard dogs will be developed for the consideration of the Board.

**7 Disability Dogs**

The Board will investigate a distinctive coat or other distinguishing item that can be worn by disability dogs and some mechanism of informing the public on the meaning of that distinguishing feature.

**8 Central Register**

The Board approved in principle the purchase of the declared dog register developed by Central Animal Records and used by Victorian councils.

**9 Dog Attack Form**

The form will be trialled from 1 January 2006.

**10 Endorsement of the Peterborough Animal Management Plan**

The Board has endorsed the District Council of Peterborough Animal Management Plan.

**11 Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council vs Crawford**

A link to the court judgement is provided for information and will be posted on the council area of the Board website in a new area named "legal opinions and proceedings".

## **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](mailto:kelly.deborah@saugov.sa.gov.au)

## **2. Grant Applications**

The Board agreed to include in the next Bulletin an update on the development of the policy regarding Grants. The Policy is anticipated to be finalised within six months and not two as stated in previous correspondence. The variety of projects that the Board has been asked to fund requires that the policy be broad in its application but specific enough to provide guidance on the criteria used to assess applications. This is difficult but it is essential and the Board will give it the consideration it deserves.

## **3. Council Audits 2005-2006**

The Board has decided on the councils to be audited during the 2005 – 2006 financial year. The audit will consider both financial and operational aspects of the implementation of the Act. Those councils selected will be advised in writing and a mutually convenient time to conduct the audit established.

## **4. Website Progress**

The final version of the website is anticipated to be live in mid November 2005. The website will eventually have three zones For Public, For Kids and For Councils. In the first instance, the council and general public areas are the highest priority so the Kid's Zone will be under development when the site goes live.

## **5. Obedience Training – Registration Rebate**

The Registration Rebate options paper is attached for stakeholder comments. Please provide comments in writing by 10 February 2006. All comments will be collated for consideration of the Board. If hard copies are required, please contact the Board.

## **6. Section 45D; Signage for attack, patrol and guard dogs**

Signage for attack, patrol and guard dogs will be developed and considered by the Board prior to the implementation of section 45D. It is envisaged that the implementation date will be 1 January 2006.

## **7. Disability Dogs**

It has been brought to the Board's attention that disability dogs are not recognised in the general community and their owners are frequently challenged by shopkeepers, transport operators and other persons responsible for areas in which dogs are not normally permitted. The Board will seek advice from the Equal Opportunity Commission on this issue and investigate the possibility of distinctive jackets or some other identifying feature for accredited disability dogs.

## **8. Central Register**

Dr Rick Walduck of Central Animal Records demonstrated the declared dog database to senior council officers and the Board in the last week of October. The Board has agreed in principle to purchase the database for use by all councils. This will be available on the "Council Zone" of the Board website. Depending on their security level, officers will be able to view or update the database.

The developer has agreed to incorporate the following features:

- The owner details of all attack trained, guard, patrol, dangerous, menacing, or nuisance dogs or those of prescribed breeds;
- A brief description of the event which led to the dog being declared and a contact name and phone number for further information;
- The owner details of all "accredited" dogs, namely guide, hearing and disability dogs as well as all greyhounds exempted from the requirement to wear a muzzle in public;
- The ability to search the database by owner name or by dog microchip number (all the above categories of dog are or will be required to be microchipped); and
- A link to the general recovery microchip register so council officers can find the owner of any dog which has been microchipped.

## **9. Dog Attack Form**

To improve consistency in reporting of attacks, the Board has developed a standard report form that will also be available on line. This is based on the form developed by the Injury Surveillance Unit of the Department for Health so data will be compatible with the hospital statistics. The form is in the final stages of development and will be trialled for six months by several councils who have agreed to test it for us. It is intended that, from 1 July 2006, the form will be used as a standard across the state. If this initiative is successful, similar forms will be developed for the use of sentinel medical and veterinary practices so it will be possible to correlate the number of reports received by councils with those seen by doctors and veterinarians and those that present to hospital emergency wards.

## **11. Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council vs Crawford**

The District Court made some very important comments in relation to dangerous dog and destruction orders in the above mentioned case. These can be found at

<http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/cases/sa/SADC/2005/135.rtf>

If a hard copy is required, please contact the Board.