

DOG AND CAT MANAGEMENT BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005



**Government
of South Australia**

Annual Report of the Dog and Cat Management Board 2004-05

September 2005

Department for Environment and Heritage
GPO Box 1047
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Copies of the report can be obtained from:

The Dog and Cat Management Board
Telephone: (08) 8124 4975 or (08) 8124 4962

www.dogsncats.asn.au

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

The Hon John Hill MP
Minister for Environment and Conservation
Parliament House
North Terrace
ADELAIDE
South Australia 5000

Dear Minister

In accordance with the requirements of the *Public Sector Management Act 1995*, I have pleasure in presenting the annual report of the Dog and Cat Management Board for the year ended 30 June 2005.

Max Amber
Chairman
Dog and Cat Management Board

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DOG AND CAT MANAGEMENT BOARD

The Dog and Cat Management Board of South Australia has been established under *the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* (the Act) and is the only Statutory Authority of its kind in Australia.

The Act provides powers and functions for councils to manage day-to-day enforcement and administration of the legislative provisions for the management of dogs and cats in the community.

It also provides the opportunity to resolve disputes and breaches of the legislation or Council by-laws through conciliation, thus reducing the need to resort to Court proceedings.

The Act defines the legal status of cats, provides for non-compulsory identification of cats to establish ownership and a head of power for councils to actively manage cats should they wish to do so.

FUNCTIONS

- 21 (1). The Board has the following functions:
- (a) to plan for, promote, and provide advice about, the effective management of dogs and cats throughout South Australia;
 - (b) to oversee the administration and enforcement of the provisions of this Act relating to dogs, including-
 - (i) monitoring the administration and enforcement of this Act by councils; and
 - (ii) issuing guidelines and providing advice to councils about-
 - (a) planning for the effective management of dogs;
 - (b) training for dog management officers;
 - (c) the appropriate level of administration and enforcement in the circumstances prevailing in the area;
 - (d) the issuing of orders or related directions under this Act;
 - (e) the standard of facilities used for the detention of dogs under this Act;
 - (f) the keeping of registers under this Act and the issuing of certificates of registration and registration discs;
 - (g) any other matter related to the administration or enforcement of the provisions of this Act relating to dogs; and
 - (iii) otherwise providing support and assistance to councils;
 - (ba) to accredit dogs as disability dogs, guide dogs or hearing dogs;
 - (c) to inquire into and consider all proposed by-laws referred to it under this Act, with a view to promoting the effective management of dogs and cats, and, to the extent that the Board considers it appropriate, the consistent application of by-laws throughout South Australia;

- (d) to advise the Minister or the LGA, either on its own initiative or at the request of the Minister or the LGA, on the operation of this Act or issues directly relating to dog or cat management in South Australia;
 - (e) to undertake or facilitate research relating to dog or cat management;
 - (f) to undertake or facilitate educational programs relating to dog or cat management;
 - (g) to keep this Act under review and make recommendations to the Minister with respect to the Act and regulations made under the Act;
 - (h) to carry out any other function assigned to the Board by the Minister or by or under this Act.
- (2) The Board's functions may extend to providing the following services as the Board thinks fit:
- (a) the accreditation of training programs for dogs and owners;
 - (b) the accreditation of procedures for testing the behaviour of dogs;
 - (c) the carrying out of any other function relating to responsible dog and cat ownership or the effective management of dogs and cats.
- (3) The Board may fix a fee for providing a service under subsection (2).

21A Accreditation of disability dogs, guide dogs etc

- (1) The Board may, on application, accredit a dog, or renew the accreditation of a dog, as
- (a) a disability dog; or
 - (b) a guide dog; or
 - (c) a hearing dog.
- (2) An application for accreditation must
- (a) be made to the Board in the manner and form approved by the Board; and
 - (b) be accompanied by the fee fixed by the Board.
- (3) An applicant must provide the Board with any information required by the Board for the purpose of determining the application.
- (4) Accreditation of a dog remains in force for the life of the dog unless it is earlier revoked by the Board or surrendered by the owner of the dog
- (5) The Board must maintain a register of dogs accredited under this section by the Board (which may be kept in the form of a computer record) that is to be readily available for public inspection without fee.
- (6) The Board may only revoke the accreditation of a dog if the Board is satisfied that-
- (a) the dog's ill-health, injury or advanced age prevents the dog from carrying out its functions as a disability dog, guide dog or hearing dog (as the case may be); or
 - (b) the dog is temperamentally unsuitable to continue to be accredited as a disability dog, guide dog or hearing dog (as the case may be); or
 - (c) the owner of the dog is unable to maintain effective control of the dog (whether by command or by means of physical restraint).

MEMBERSHIP

The Act was amended during this financial year. Prior to 1 October 2004, Section 12 of the defined the composition of the Board as follows:

- (1) The Board consists of seven members appointed by the Governor, of whom six will be persons nominated by the Local Government Association (LGA), and one will be a person nominated by the Minister.
- (2) The members of the Board nominated by the LGA must include three persons who together have, in the LGA's opinion, the abilities and experience required for the effective performance of the Board's functions, and three persons who together have the following attributes
 - veterinary experience in the treatment of dogs or cats
 - a demonstrated interest in the welfare of dogs or cats
 - a demonstrated interest in the keeping and management of dogs or cats, and
 - who have been nominated from a panel of persons nominated, in accordance with the directions of the Minister, by associations or bodies that, in the opinion of the Minister, have relevant interest.
- (3) If the LGA fails to nominate a person within eight weeks of a written request for the nomination from the Minister, the Governor may appoint a person nominated by the Minister and that person will be taken to have been duly appointed as a member of the Board.
- (4) At least one member of the Board must be a woman and one a man.
- (5) One member (who must be a member nominated by the LGA) will be appointed by the Governor to chair the Board.

The membership of the Board during the reporting period prior to 1 October 2004 was:

Presiding Member

Mr Kenneth Coventry FLGMA Dip LG JP (Chairman)

Nominated by the Local Government Association.

Members

Dr Ian D B McBryde (Nominated by the Local Government Association)

Ms Aileen Ekblom (retired March 2004 due to ill health)

(Nominated by the Local Government Association)

His Honour Kingsley Newman (Nominated by the Local Government Association)

Mr Jeff Cook (Nominated by the Local Government Association)

Mr William Watkins (Nominated by the Local Government Association)

Mr Peter Thompson (Nominated by the Minister for Environment and Conservation)

Amendments to the composition of the Board came into effect on 1 October 2004. It now comprises:

- (1) The Board consists of 9 members appointed by the Governor, of whom
 - (a) 4 will be nominated by the LGA; and
 - (b) 4 will be nominated by the Minister; and
 - (c) one, to chair the Board, will be jointly nominated by the LGA and the Minister.
- (2) The members of the Board nominated by the LGA under subsection (1)(a) must together have the following attributes:
 - (a) practical knowledge of and experience in local government, including local government processes, community consultation and the law as it applies to local government;
 - (b) experience in the administration of legislation;
 - (c) experience in financial management;
 - (d) experience in education and training.
- (2a) The members of the Board nominated by the Minister under subsection (1)(b) must together have the following attributes:
 - (a) experience in state government processes and the administration of legislation;
 - (b) veterinary experience in the care and treatment of dogs or cats;
 - (c) a demonstrated interest in the welfare of dogs or cats;
 - (d) a demonstrated interest in the keeping and management of dogs or
 - (e) experience in community health or medicine.
- (2b) The person nominated to chair the Board must, in the opinion of the LGA and the Minister, have the abilities and experience required to promote the effective performance of the Board and its functions.
- (3) If the LGA fails to nominate a person within 8 weeks of a written request for the nomination from the Minister, the Governor may appoint a person nominated by the Minister and that person will be taken to have been duly appointed as a member of the Board.
- (4) At least one member of the Board must be a woman and one a man.

The membership of the Board during the reporting period after 1 October 2004 was:

Presiding Member

Chairman Max Amber (Nominated by the Minister for Environment and Conservation and the Local Government Association)

Members

Councillor Ian Ridgeway (Nominated by the Local Government Association)
Councillor Jeffrey Cook (Nominated by the Local Government Association)
Dr Ian McBryde (Nominated by the Minister for Environment and Conservation)
Mr Greg Waller (Nominated by the Local Government Association)
Dr Rosemary Ince (Nominated by the Minister for Environment and Conservation)
Ms Sandie Starr (Nominated by the Local Government Association)
Ms Sarah Harris (Nominated by the Minister for Environment and Conservation)
Dr Annette Braunack-Mayer (Nominated by the Minister for Environment and Conservation)

By agreement between the Minister and the Local Government Association, from 1 October 2004, the administrative and executive support to the Board has been provided by the department for Environment and Heritage on a cost recovery basis.

Consultative Committees

The Board and its staff ensure consistency through the establishment and maintenance of two consultative committees:

Senior Council Officers Group

Mr Bruce Lang	City of Unley
Mr Chris Button	City of Onkaparinga
Ms Deryn Atkinson	Corporation of the Town of Walkerville
Mr Robert Hutchison	District Council of Streaky Bay
Ms Jan Hawkins	City of Port Adelaide Enfield
Ms Jain Montieth	City of Onkaparinga
Mr Joe Gregor	City of Adelaide
Mr John Darzanos	City of Salisbury.
Mr Ken O'Neill	City of Holdfast Bay
Ms Linda Allery	City of Playford.
Mr Marco Wenzel	City of Norwood Payneham and St Peters
Mr Mark Austin	Adelaide Hills Council
Ms Natalie Sherrah	District Council of Victor Harbour
Mr Nick Wheatman	City of Salisbury
Mr Paul Davenport	City of Campbelltown.
Mr Phil Kirkpatrick	City of Holdfast Bay
Ms Robyn Butterfield	City of West Torrens
Mr Rocky Warren	Mid-Murray Council
Mr Ronald. Versteegh	City of Whyalla.
Ms Sarah Elding	City of Port Adelaide Enfield
Mr Stephen Saffin	City of Mitcham
Mr Steve Harbottle	City of Tea Tree Gully
Mr Steve Woolley	Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council
Mr Terry Nicholas	City of Mitcham
Mr Tony Pearson	City of Onkaparinga

Stakeholders Group

Representatives of:

- Animal Welfare League of South Australia Inc
- Australian Veterinary Association
- RSPCA (South Australia) Inc
- Local Government Association
- Feline Association of South Australia
- Governing Council of the South Australian Cat Fancy, and
- Department for Environment and Heritage
- South Australian Canine Association
- Council officers

ACHIEVEMENTS 2004-05

A Guide to Developing Animal Management Plans

A priority of the Board was to assist councils in the development of Animal Management Plans. To this end, DEH staff have developed “A Guide to Developing Animal Management Plans” and a template. These documents have been very well received. Councils have been invited to contact the Animal Welfare Unit if they would like to conduct a workshop or brain storming sessions to start their planning process. Several councils have accepted this offer and five such visits have been made, including Kangaroo Island, The Southern Mallee and Naracoorte. .

Bulletins

A Bulletin is produced after each meeting of the Board and circulated to all Councils and stakeholders.

Animal Management Officer Resource Kits and Road Show

From August 2004, DEH staff have produced 350 copies of a “Resource Kit” for council officers. These contained the Act, regulations, forms endorsed by the Board, the Code of Practice for Pounds and Shelters, Board Policies and Determinations and the NCCAW temperament test. To compliment this package, DEH staff undertook a road show around the state to assist councils in understanding and implementing the changes to the legislation.

PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

Budget and Strategic

A draft five-year strategic plan, a two-year draft business plan and the 2005 – 2006 budget are in the final stages of development for the consideration of the Minister in consultation with the Local Government Association.

Priorities of the Board

In early February, the Board held a strategic planning day and determined its priorities to be:

- Reduce dog attacks
- Assist Councils in the development of Animal Management Plans
- Create a greater awareness of dog legislation across the state
- Formulate a plan to manage cats
- Develop training for animal management officers
- Develop a systematic public education program

Information Sessions

With the introduction of the new changes to legislation the Board produced Resource Kits on the amendments to the Act for the Dog Management Officers. The Board produced templates to enable local councils to produce Animal Management Plans. In partnership with The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals training was provided for Animal Management Officers on the handling of aggressive dogs.

Board Meetings at alternative venues

Meetings of the Board have been held at the Keswick and Netley offices of DEH, the Goodman Building of the Botanic Gardens and the Adelaide Oval during this financial year.

Revision of Public Information

The “*Your Dog, Your Cat*” booklet has been redesigned and rewritten and 200,000 copies produced. They have been distributed to all councils, schools, veterinarians, pet shops, libraries and dog and cat welfare or interest groups around the state. In addition, fliers promoting the book have been produced and distributed to all the above (with the exception of schools as it is envisaged that the booklet will be incorporated into the school library).

A new website is being developed through Unity, the system that underpins most council computer systems. This will incorporate a council officers restricted site for legal opinions, exchange of information etc, a general public website and a kid’s area.

Radio and Television Advertising

The Board approved radio and television advertising for a \$50,000 for a dog registration reminder campaign based on the theme “Register what you could not bear to lose”.

Pooch Pouches

To encourage dog owners to “pick up” after their pet in public places, the Board authorised the purchase of 100,000 POOch Pouches. These have been distributed to councils and dog clubs and will be given to dog owners either:

- when they register their dog or
- enrol in obedience training or
- attend a microchipping day or
- are seen by a council officer to be doing the right thing.

Initial feedback on the pouches has been positive.

Communications with Councils and other Stakeholders

The Board distributed Bulletins to Stakeholders in 2004-05. A Bulletin is produced after each meeting and circulated to all interested parties.

By-Laws and Animal Management Plans

The Board has a responsibility under the Act to consider proposed Council by-laws for dog and cat management, and make recommendations if it so wishes. Councils must consider those recommendations before introduction of the by-law. Councils submitted by-law applications to the Board during the year; all applications were approved, some with minor recommended amendments.

The Act also requires that all councils develop animal management plans which have been endorsed by the Board by 1 July 2007. This financial year, four Councils submitted their plans which were subsequently approved and made available to other councils as examples.

POLICIES OF THE BOARD

Board Policy on Training & Recruitment for Dog Management Officers

The Board is currently investigating the accreditation of disability, guide and hearing dogs and the requirements for the keeping of attack trained, patrol and guard dogs.

ADVICE TO MINISTER AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

The Board continued to provide advice and assistance to the Minister and the LGA on dog and cat management issues. The Board did not receive any directives from the Minister during 2004-05.

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND PROMOTION PROGRAMS

In 2004-05 the Board continued to give high priority to public education and promotional programs. In 2004-05 the Board expended \$525,529.00 in the following areas:

- Delta Dog Safe South Australia
- Radio and Print Media awareness campaigns
- Pamphlets and brochures
- Seminars for the public and Animal Management Officers
- Pooch Pouches
- Website development

It is intended that these initiatives will, in time, result in an increase in:

- Child awareness of how to behave around dogs
- Recognition of dangerous dogs in the community.
- Dog registration compliance
- More responsible dog ownership
- Dog owner awareness of responsibility to public safety
- The number of dogs returned to owners
- Removal of dog faeces by dog owners

It is anticipated that these initiatives will result in a decrease in:

- The number of dog attacks
- The number of dogs wandering at large
- The number of dogs placed in animal shelters
- Dog barking complaints

RESEARCH

To facilitate future planning and management activities, the Board continues to collect annual statistical information from councils and data from other sources on:

- Dog registrations and dogs found wandering at large
- Information about (reported) dog attacks in public and private places
- The future need for public education on dog and cat management, and
- Information from both national and international sources relating to dog and cat management

STATISTICS

Dog Registration

STATUS OF DOG AND CAT MANAGEMENT			
Table 1: NUMBER OF DOGS REGISTERED IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA			
	Metropolitan	Country	Total
1998-1999	173,146	101,086	274,232
1999-2000	180,355	100,886	281,241
2000-2001	181,253	102,311	283,564
2001-2002	182,078	105,594	287,672
2002-2003	191,201	106,540	297,741
2003-2004	188,543	110,207	298,750
2004-2005	179,841	99,599	279,440

The Dog and Cat Management Board are pleased that dog registration compliance continues to be good with Councils achieving high numbers of dog registrations this year.

The Board considers that the decrease in the number of registered dogs during 2004 to 2005 is a reflection of the increased registration period in 2004 resulting in lower Council enforcement this financial year. This will be monitored in 2005 – 2006.

Dogs Wandering at Large

Table 2: NUMBER OF DOGS IMPOUNDED BY COUNCILS AS A RESULT OF WANDERING AT LARGE			
	Dogs Impounded	Dogs Returned to Owner	Percentage Returned to Owner
1998-1999			
Metropolitan	7,337	3,321	
Country	3,926	1,742	
Total	11,263	5,063	45.00%
1999-2000			
Metropolitan	7,876	4,166	
Country	4,368	1,809	
Total	12,244	5,975	48.80%
2000-2001			
Metropolitan	7,903	3,968	
Country	4,314	2,049	
Total	12,217	6,017	49.25%
2001-2002			
Metropolitan	7,855	3,844	
Country	4,836	2,466	
Total	12,691	6,310	50.00%
2002-2003			
Metropolitan	8,364	4,300	
Country	5,259	2,773	
Total	13,623	7,073	52.00%
2003-2004			
Metropolitan	6,301	3,437	
Country	4,551	2,314	
Total	10,852	5,751	53.00%
2004-2005			
Metropolitan	8,698	4,997	
Country	4,376	2,502	
Total	13,074	7,499	57.36%

The Board expressed its pleasure in the continued increase in the return to owner rates. In 2004-05 the Board agreed to provide recurrent grants of \$50,000 to both the RSPCA (South Australia) Inc and the Animal Welfare League of South Australia Inc (AWL) for the provision and maintenance of pound facilities used by councils.

Reported Dog attacks

	Metropolitan	Country	Total
1998-1999	670	421	1,071
1999-2000	990	464	1,454
2000-2001	1,460	535	1,995
2001-2002	1,873	775	2,648
2002-2003	1,635	775	2,410
2003-2004	1,564	715	2,279
2004-2005	2,001	884	2,885*

This table does not include all of the dog attacks that have occurred in South Australia, only those that are reported to Councils.

The Board considers that the increase in reported dog attacks may reflect increased public awareness resulting in increased reporting to councils rather than an increase in attacks per se. The changes to legislation on 1 July 2004, increased media profile of dog attacks and thus increased public awareness of the need to report such incidents.

The Board notes an inconsistency in data collection in that Councils record different levels of threat as an attack and vary in whether such a treat is against a human or an animal. The Board is working with Councils and the Department of Health to achieve consistency in reporting.

*NB The actual number of dog attacks reported to councils for 2004-05 was 2406

TRAINING UNDERTAKEN BY DOG MANAGEMENT OFFICERS

The Board, in conjunction with the Local Government Association, RSPCA and DEH provided councils and other interested groups with training in:

- Understanding of the Act
- Dog Handling Techniques and Dog Behaviour
- Legal Processes in Connection with the Act
- Order Making – The Role of General Inspectors

ABORIGINAL RECONCILIATION STATEMENT

The Board would like to acknowledge the land on which it meets is the traditional lands for the Kaurna people and that it respects their spiritual relationship with their country. The Board also acknowledges the Kaurna people as the custodians of the greater Adelaide region and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still as important to the living Kaurna people today.

In fulfilling its functions, the Board is cognisant of the cultural and natural heritage of traditional owners and strives to achieve positive outcomes wherever these matters are concerned.

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Members of the Board are paid in accordance with the directives of the Commissioner for Public Employment, namely:

Chairperson: \$160.00 per four hours

Members: \$140.00 per four hours

Pursuant to Department for the Premier and Cabinet PC014, public servants do not receive any remuneration for their services to the Board.

Staffing

Prior to 1st October 2004 the staff employed by the Board during 2004-05 were:

Ms Teresa Nottle	Acting Executive Officer
Ms Nicole Bungey	Administration Officer
Ms Teresa Cartwright	Administration Officer
Ms Karen Aisthorpe	Administration

After 1st October 2004 administrative and executive support was provided by the Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH). DEH staff serving the Board during 2004-05 were:

Dr Deborah Kelly	Manager Animal Welfare Unit, DEH, acts as Executive Officer to the Board.
Ms Sylvia Nowecki	Administration Officer
Ms Adele Steel	Urban Animal Management Officer
Mr Josh Yeats	Temporary Administration Officer
Mr Marco Wenzel	LGA Dog and Cat Management Liaison Officer

Disability Action Plan

The members of the Board are aware of and abide by their obligations under the Commonwealth *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and the State *Equal Opportunity Act 1984*. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEH Annual Report 2004-05.

Equal Opportunity Employment Programs

The gender balance of the Board is always taken into consideration when members are appointed. Within the reporting period, the Board consisted of five male and one female members prior to 1st October 2004 and five male and four female members after 1st October 2004.

The Dog and Cat Management Board is an equal opportunity employer. The Board is aware of and abides by equal opportunity policies and programs of DEH.

Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare

There has been no occupational health and safety issues brought to the attention of the Board this financial year. Induction is carried out for new members and appropriate precautions are taken if field trips are undertaken. As a user of DEH facilities and equipment, the Board is aware of and abides by DEH's OHS&W policies.

Use of Consultants

The Board engaged consultants during the 2004-05 financial year for

- Dog registrations media campaign
- Audit for administrative responsibilities for the Board to the Department for Environment and Heritage

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

The Board is a body corporate under section 10 of the Act and is required to cause proper accounts to be kept of its financial affairs.

The Dog and Cat Management Fund is established under the Act and is to be kept and administered by the Board. The Board must keep proper accounts of the receipts and payments from the Fund. The Auditor-General may at any time, and must at least once in each year, audit the accounts of the Fund.

Investments

The Dog and Cat Management Fund is invested in interest bearing deposits. Interest is paid quarterly and an amount of \$20,848.00 was derived from interest earned in the financial year 2004-05.

Account Payment Performance

DEH provides the administrative resources for processing account payments for the Board. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEH Annual Report 2004-05.

Contractual Arrangements

The Board did not enter into any contractual arrangements exceeding \$4 million in value during the reporting period.

SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING

Triple Bottom Line Reporting

The Board uses the facilities and services of staff of DEH. Reporting to quantify environmental performance is contained in the DEH Annual Report 2004-05.

Energy Efficiency Action Plan Reports

Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEH Annual Report 2004-05.

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

It is declared that no member of the Board has travelled overseas on the business of the Board during the reporting period.

FRAUD

It is declared that there were no instances of fraud detected in the activities undertaken by the Board during the financial year.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

No applications were received by the Board under the Freedom of Information Act during the year. Members of the public may apply for access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* by applying in writing to:

The Freedom of Information Officer
Dog and Cat Management Board of South Australia
PO Box 550,
Marleston SA 5037

Email: hughes.helen@saugov.sa.gov.au

REGIONAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

No Regional Impact Assessment Statements were undertaken by the Committee in 2004-05.

URBAN DESIGN CHARTER

No events occurred in 2004-05 that required the Board to consider the principles of urban design contained in the South Australian Urban Design Charter.

ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT IN GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

The Board does not own any non-residential buildings and therefore is not required to develop an asbestos risk reduction program.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Board would like to thank the Minister and staff of the Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH) for the support and encouragement that it has received over the year.