

DOG AND CAT MANAGEMENT BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008



**Government
of South Australia**

Annual Report of the Dog and Cat Management Board 2007-08

September 2008

Dog and Cat Management Board
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
www.gooddogsa.com.au
www.goodcatsa.com.au

ISSN 1832-9446

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

The Hon Jay Weatherill
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 and the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*, I have pleasure in presenting the annual report of the Dog and Cat Management Board for the year ended 30 June 2008.

Jan Connolly
Chair
Dog and Cat Management Board

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL	3
INTRODUCTION	5
FUNCTIONS	5
MEMBERSHIP	7
Consultative Committees.....	8
PLANS AND OBJECTIVES	10
OPERATIONS AND INTIATIVES	11
PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT	13
ADVICE TO MINISTER AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION	14
PUBLIC EDUCATION AND PROMOTION PROGRAMS	14
STATISTICS	15
Dogs Impounded and Return to Owner - Statistics.....	15
Dog Registration - Statistics	16
Reported Dog attacks - Statistics.....	17
TRAINING UNDERTAKEN BY DOG MANAGEMENT OFFICERS	18
HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	18
Staffing.....	18
Declaration of Interests.....	19
Disability Action Plan	19
Equal Opportunity Employment Programs	20
Gender Reporting.....	20
Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare.....	20
FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE	20
Account Payment Performance.....	20
Use of Consultants	21
ENERGY EFFICIENCY ACTION PLAN REPORTS	21
GREENING OF GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (GoGO) FRAMEWORK	21
OVERSEAS TRAVEL	21
FRAUD	21
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION	21
REGIONAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT	21
ABORIGINAL RECONCILIATION STATEMENT	21
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	22

INTRODUCTION

The Dog and Cat Management Board of South Australia (the Board) is constituted under section 10 of 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 term of appointment of four members expired in June 2008. The outgoing members are to be commended for their commitment and contributions to dog and cat management in South Australia.

FUNCTIONS

Sections 21 and 21A of the Act describe the functions of the Board as follows:

Section 21 – Functions of the Board

- (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;
 - (b) 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 Local Government Association (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).

Section 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

Pursuant to Section 12 of the Act, the Board consists of nine members appointed by the Governor, of whom:

- (1)
 - (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 cats
 - (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 was:

Presiding Member

Ms Jan Connolly

Nominated by the Minister for Environment and Conservation and the Local Government Association. Appointment from 12 June 2008 until 11 June 2011.

Members

Cr Jeffrey Cook

Nominated by the Local Government Association. Appointment from 7 December 2006 until 30 September 2009.

Mr Chris Button	Nominated by the Local Government Association. Appointment from 12 June 2008 until 11 June 2011.
Cr Rosalie Haese	Nominated by the Local Government Association. Appointment from 7 December 2006 until 30 September 2009.
Cr Irene Whennan	Nominated by the Local Government Association. Appointment from 7 December 2006 until 30 September 2009.
Dr Ian McBryde	Nominated by the Minister for Environment and Conservation. Appointment from 7 December 2006 until 30 September 2009.
Ms Judy Hughes	Nominated by the Minister for Environment and Conservation. Appointment from 12 June 2008 until 11 June 2011.
Ms Sarah Harris	Nominated by the Minister for Environment and Conservation. Appointment from 7 December 2006 until 30 September 2009.
Dr Katina D'Onise	Nominated by the Minister for Environment and Conservation. Appointment from 12 June 2008 until 11 June 2011.

The following members terms expired October 2007: Cr Max Amber, Dr Rosemary Ince, Dr Annette Braunack Mayer and Mr Greg Waller.

The administrative and executive support to the Board has been provided by the Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH) on a cost recovery basis.

Consultative Committees

The Board and its staff ensure consistency through the establishment and maintenance of one consultative committee (the Board has power to establish committees pursuant to section 22(2)(e) of the Act):

Senior Council Officers Group

Name	Council
Mr Dominic Bonfiglio	Adelaide City
Mr Joe Gregor	Adelaide City
Mr Mark Austin	Adelaide Hills
Ms Lisa Hoyle	Alexandrina
Mr Phil Herrmann	Barossa
Mr Jamie Turley	Barossa
Mr Len Bawden	Berri Barnera
Mr Gary Peterson	Burnside
Ms Karen Cook	Campbelltown
Mr Brian Baines	Campbelltown
Mr Remo Paolini	Campbelltown
Mr Bruce Kingdom	Charles Sturt
Mr Terry Nicholas	Clare & Gilbert Valleys
Mr Phil Kirkpatrick	Clare & Gilbert Valleys
Mr George Powell	Gawler
Mr Peter Kempe	Holdfast Bay
Mr Peter Edmonds	Holdfast Bay
Mr Lloyd Mott	Light Regional
Mr Brenton Schultz	Loxton/Waikerie
Mr Peter Buttery	Mallala
Ms Sharon Perin	Marion
Mr Rocky Warren	Mid Murray
Ms Joanne Agar	Mitcham
Mr Eddie Richter	Mt Barker
Mr Marco Wenzel	Norwood, Payneham & St Peters
Mr Chris Button	Onkaparinga
Mr Tony Pearson	Onkaparinga
Ms Linda Allery	Playford
Mr David Ellis	Port Adelaide Enfield
Ms Julie Earl	Port Adelaide Enfield
Mr Rod Smart	Prospect
Mr Darren Hurst	Salisbury
Mr John Darzanos	Salisbury
Mr Craig Hickman	Tea Tree Gully
Mr Chris Buckley	Tea Tree Gully
Mr George Kyros	Unley
Mr Trevor Button	Victor Harbor
Mr Steve Woolley	Wakefield Regional
Mr Paul Davenport	West Torrens
Ms Robyn Butterfield	West Torrens
Mr Ronald Versteegh	Whyalla

When the need arises, the following groups are consulted:

- Animal Welfare League of South Australia Inc
- Australian Veterinary Association
- RSPCA (South Australia) Inc
- Local Government Association
- Feline Association of South Australia
- The Governing Council of the Cat Fancy of South Australian Inc.
- Department for Environment and Heritage
- South Australian Canine Association
- Council officers
- Dog Obedience Clubs
- Lions Hearing Dogs
- Guide Dogs SA & NT
- Royal Society for the Blind
- SA Police Dog Unit
- Authorised Persons Association

PLANS AND OBJECTIVES

The Board has developed a Business Plan containing the following Strategic Objectives:

- Strategic Objective 1 - Reduction in Dog Attacks
- Strategic Objective 2 - Assisting Councils in the Development of Animal Management Plans
- Strategic Objective 3 - Provide Training and Support for Animal Management Officers
- Strategic Objective 4 - Improve Public Awareness of Dog Legislation
- Strategic Objective 5 - Develop a Cat Management Strategy
- Strategic Objective 6 – Research and Evaluation

These strategic objectives in the Board's Business Plan contribute to Objectives 1 and 2 of the South Australia's Strategic Plan, set out as follows. The Board also contributes to Objective 5 in relation to women in leadership (see below).

Objective 1 – Growing Prosperity

T1.7 Performance within the Public Sector: Increase the satisfaction of South Australians with government services by 10% by 2010, maintaining or exceeding that level of satisfaction thereafter.

The Board will work towards this target by reducing the risk of injury caused by dogs either by attacks or road traffic accidents caused by dogs wandering at large, providing training and support for animal management officers and improving public awareness of dog legislation (Board Strategic Objectives 1, 2 and 3).

T1.8 Performance within the Public Sector: Become, by 2010, the best performing jurisdiction in Australia in timeliness and transparency of decisions which impact the business community (and maintain that rating).

The Board will work towards this target by developing a cat management strategy (Board Strategic Objective 5). The Board has commissioned a regulatory impact assessment on cat legislation and microchipping of cats and dogs.

Objective 2 – Improving Wellbeing

T2.3 Sport and recreation: Exceed the Australian average for participation in sport and physical activity by 2014.

The Board will work towards this target by assisting Councils in the Development of Animal Management Plans – developing areas where people can exercise with their dogs and interact with other dog owners in a safe environment. This encourages dog owners to exercise their dogs, and therefore themselves (Board Strategic Objective 2).

T2.7 Psychological wellbeing: Equal or lower than the Australian average for psychological distress by 2014.

The Board contributes to achieving this target by promoting responsible pet ownership with the psychological benefits that pets provide their owners and promoting the social benefits of dog ownership and interaction with other dog owners (Board Strategic Objectives 1, 2 and 3).

T2.8 Statewide crime rates: Reduce victim reported crime by 12% by 2014.

The Board works towards this target by minimising the community impact of wandering dogs, barking dogs, and reducing dog attacks, training council officers in the enforcement of companion animal management legislation and ensuring that dog and cat owners are aware of their legal obligations (Board Strategic Objectives 1, 2 and 3).

Objective 5 – Building Communities

T5.2 Chairs of Boards and Committees: Increase the number of women chairing State Government boards and committees to 50% by 2010.

The Board appointment of a female presiding, Jan Connolly member contributes to this target.

T5.1 Boards and Committees: Increase the number of women on all State Government boards and committees to 50% on average by 2008, and maintain thereafter by ensuring that 50% of women are appointed, on average, each quarter.

The Board contributes to this target by ensuring that membership is gender balanced.

OPERATIONS AND INITIATIVES

This section of the report satisfies the requirements of s24(2)(b) of the Act that the annual report contain a report on the status of dog and cat management in South Australia.

During the 2007-08 reporting period, the Board undertook the following operations and initiatives to meet its Strategic Objectives: