

DOG AND CAT MANAGEMENT BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007



**Government
of South Australia**

Annual Report of the Dog and Cat Management Board 2006-07

September 2007

Department for Environment and Heritage
GPO Box 1047
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Copies of the report can be obtained from:

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www.dogsncats.asn.au
www.gooddogssa.com.au

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

The Hon Gail Gago MLC
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 2007.

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 (the Board) is constituted 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

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 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

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

Members

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

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:

Senior Council Officers Group

Name	Council
Mr Dominic Bonfiglio	Adelaide City
Mr Joe Gregor	Adelaide City
Mr Mark Austin	Adelaide Hills
Mr Kim Vivian	Alexandrina
Mr Peter Mutton	Alexandrina

Mr Brian Hill	Alexandrina
Ms Lisa Hoyle	Alexandrina
Mr Phil Herrmann	Barossa
Mr Jamie Turley	Barossa
Mr Len Bawden	Berri Barmera
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 Gary Oliver	Copper Coast
Mr Lyndon Elsworthy	Copper Coast
Mr Wayne Scholz	Elliston
Mr George Powell	Gawler
Mr Les Hill	Goyder
Mr Neil Phillips	Holdfast Bay
Mr Peter Kempe	Holdfast Bay
Mr Ken O'Neill	Holdfast Bay
Mr Paul Wilson	Holdfast Bay
Mr Lloyd Mott	Light Regional
Mr Brenton Schultz	Loxton/Waikerie
Mr Peter Buttery	Mallala
Mr George Frangoulis	Marion
Ms Sharon Perin	Marion
Mr Rocky Warren	Mid Murray
Mr Andrew Kirkley	Mitcham
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 Paul Roberts	Playford
Ms Jenny Gay	Playford
Mr David Ellis	Port Adelaide Enfield
Mr Davin Thompson	Port Adelaide Enfield
Ms Julie Earl	Port Adelaide Enfield
Mr Michael Dunn	Prospect
Mr Rod Smart	Prospect
Mr Darren Hurst	Salisbury
Mr John Darzanos	Salisbury
Mr Dave Gustafson	Tea Tree Gully
Mr Chris Buckley	Tea Tree Gully
Mr George Kyros	Unley

Mr Trevor Button
Mr Steve Woolley
Mr Paul Davenport
Ms Robyn Butterfield
Mr Ronald Versteegh

Victor Harbor
Wakefield Regional
West Torrens
West Torrens
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
- 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

These objectives contribute to Objective 2 of the South Australia’s Strategic Plan “Improving Wellbeing”:

Target	Description	Board Objective
T2.3 Sport and recreation	exceed the Australian average for participation in sport and physical activity by 2014.	1. Reduction in Dog Attacks 2. Assisting Councils in the Development of Animal Management Plans
<p>How this contributes to T2.3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the development of areas where people can exercise with their dogs and interact with other dog owners in a safe environment • By encouraging people to exercise their dogs – and therefore themselves • By encouraging dog obedience training through the application of registration fee rebates • Through financial support to the Pt Pirie Dog Obedience Club 		
T2.4 Healthy South Australians	increase the healthy life expectancy of South Australians by 5% for males and 3% for females by 2014.	1. Reduction in Dog Attacks 2. Assisting Councils in the Development of Animal Management Plans
<p>How this contributes to T2.4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By encouraging people to exercise their dogs – and therefore themselves • By reducing the risk of injury caused by dogs either by attacks or road traffic accidents caused by dogs wandering at large 		
T2.7 Psychological wellbeing	equal or lower than the Australian average for psychological distress by 2014.	1. Reduction in Dog Attacks 2. Improve Public Awareness of Dog Legislation 3. Develop a Cat Management Strategy
<p>How this contributes to T2.7:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By promoting responsible pet ownership with the psychological benefits that pets provide their owners • By minimising the community impact of wandering dogs, barking dogs, and dog attacks • By promoting the social benefits of dog ownership and interaction with other dog owners 		
T2.8 Statewide crime rates	reduce victim reported crime by 12% by 2014.	1. Reduction in Dog Attacks 2. Provide Training and Support for Animal Management Officers 3. Improve Public Awareness of Dog Legislation
<p>How this contributes to T2.8:</p>		

- By reducing dog attacks
- By training council officers in the enforcement of animal welfare legislation
- By ensuring that dog and cat owners are aware of their legal obligations

In addition, the Board contributes to Objective 5: “Building Communities” by ensuring that membership is gender balanced in accordance with Target “T5.1 Boards and Committees”

OPERATIONS AND INITIATIVES

During the 2006-07 reporting period, the Board undertook the following operations and initiatives to meet its Strategic Objectives:

Strategic Objective 1 - Reduction in Dog Attacks

- Commissioned and implemented the Good Dog Communications strategy
- Funded and oversaw the Delta Dog Safe SA Program which was delivered to 20,000 junior primary students
- Commissioned and trialled data collection from councils to ensure consistency in data provision
- Commissioned an independent assessment of the Delta Dog Safe SA Program
- Contributed nationally to the development of the dangerous dog database and the development of prescribed or restricted breed legislation.

Strategic Objective 2 - Assisting Councils in the Development of Animal Management Plans

- The emphasis on this strategic objective declined through 2006 – 2007 as most councils had commenced the planning process.
- Oversight, assistance and comments were provided by the Board as councils developed their animal management plans.
- All animal management plans were posted on the Board’s website once they had been endorsed to encourage public awareness of council initiatives and to ensure that councils would be aware of programs and strategies being adopted in other council areas.

Strategic Objective 3 - Provide Training and Support for Animal Management Officers

- Undertook financial and operational audits of fifteen councils as part of a five year audit program.
- Received, considered and endorsed animal management plans from all but ten councils.
- Received, noted and where appropriate provided comment on numerous council proposed by-laws for dog and cat management.
- Provided training for council officers on the Act, their roles and responsibilities and the obligations of councils (from Leigh Creek to Mount Gambier).

- Provided financial and in kind support to the development of the TAFE certificate course for Animal Management Officers.
- Provided ongoing comment and assistance through the Authorised Persons Association network.
- Obtained legal opinion on the documentation used by councils pursuant to the Dog and Cat Management Act to ensure legal validity (opinion obtained, forms in the final stages of development for distribution).
- Undertook a survey of councils on the management and impounding of dogs wandering at large to find and remedy inconsistencies.
- Provided funding for the RSPCA and Animal Welfare League to provide facilities for councils to impound dogs in metropolitan Adelaide.
- Provided in kind and financial support to the Authorised Persons Association and networks.
- Provided opportunity for rural council officers to attend a conference on the management of dogs in indigenous communities.
- Contributed to the annual Urban Animal Management Conference.
- Provided a supportive media outlet for council animal management issues.
- Developed standard operating procedures for animal management officers.
- Sought, obtained and disseminated legal advice on various issues on behalf of councils.

Strategic Objective 4 - Improve Public Awareness of Dog Legislation

- Commissioned and implemented the Good Dog Communications strategy.
- Developed the Good Dog website with information sheets for public use.
- Commissioned the development of a “Dog-a-gotchi” web game for the Good Dog website.
- Developed and distributed pamphlets relating to the Good Dog campaign and associated merchandise.
- Utilised numerous media opportunities to promote responsible pet ownership.
- Undertook two research studies to determine the factors that people seek in dog parks.
- Provided financial support to the Pt Pirie Dog Obedience Club.
- Commissioned a regulatory impact assessment on the options for permanent identification of companion animals (completion due at the end of 2007).
- Initiated coordination between animal welfare and management interest groups RSPCA, Animal Welfare League, Australian Veterinary Association and the Animal Welfare Unit to ensure consistency of messages being delivered.
- Purchased a dog suit for the use of councils to be held by the City of Charles Sturt.
- Provide an information source for the public on all companion animal management issues.

Strategic Objective 5 - Develop a Cat Management Strategy

- Provided financial support to the City of Tea Tree Gully for the development of their cat management education program.

- Commissioned a regulatory impact assessment of the options for cat management (completion due at the end of 2007)
- Contributed to the development of cat management debates nationally
- Funded the development of the City of Charles Sturt “Kit’s Cat” play
- Developed the “Golden Rules for Cat Ownership” brochure
- Contributed to the development and distribution of a brochure on minimising the impacts of cats on wildlife - particularly aimed at the Adelaide peri-urban area.

PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

The Board is continuing to work towards its five key strategic objectives to reach the following targets by 2009:

- Reduce dog attacks
- Assist councils in the development of Animal Management Plans
- Provide training and support for Animal Management Officers
- Improve public awareness of dog legislation
- Develop a cat management strategy.

During the reporting period the Board developed and implemented a Communications Strategy. The strategy has helped increase South Australia’s capacity to manage its dog population through increased registration revenue, increased data on the dog population, increased public safety, reduced strain on dog pound and shelter resources and an overall decrease in the incidence of dog attacks and the ill-treatment of dogs.

In June 2006 the key element of the Communications Strategy, the “Good Dog SA” campaign was launched through newspaper articles, advertising on bus shelters and print media and the development of a new website.

Provision of Public Information

The Board provides the following booklets and information to stakeholders

- Your Dog and the Law
- Training and Socialisation
- Good Owners Lead to Good Dogs
- Section 45D of the Act – Guard, Patrol and Attack Trained Dogs Booklet
- Your Dog / Your Cat Booklet – an owners manual
- Golden Rules for Dog Owners Brochure
- Kids Caring for Dogs – colouring in book and children’s activities
- Barking Dog Booklet available to all councils
- A series of information sheets available from the “Good Dog SA” website
- A series of brochures available from the “Good Dog SA” website.

Further information on various dog and cat management issues is also available on the Board's two websites and a Bulletin is distributed each month which highlights the Board's decisions and actions after each meeting. This information is available to stakeholders and members of the public.

The Board has two websites available for public use: www.dogsncats.asn.au and www.gooddogsa.com.au

By-Laws and Animal Management Plans

The Board has a responsibility under the Act to note proposed council by-laws for dog and cat management, and make comment as necessary.

Councils must give due consideration to the Board's comments, prior to implementation of the proposed by-law. In 2006-2007, the Board noted five draft by-laws submitted by councils, and provided comment recommending minor amendments to some.

The Act also requires that all councils obtain Board endorsement of their Animal Management Plans by 1 July 2007. By that date, thirty nine councils had their management plans approved by the Board.

POLICIES OF THE BOARD

The Board endorsed policies relating to the following:

- Research Grant Policy
- Community Grants Policy
- Accreditation of Disability Dogs
- Greyhounds accredited to be exempt from wearing a muzzle in public
- Training rebate criteria.

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. During 2006-07, the Minister requested that the Board consider the issue of cat management and provide advice on its recommended course of action.

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND PROMOTION PROGRAMS

In 2005-06, the Board prioritised public education and promotional programs. In 2006-07, the Board expended approximately \$280,000 in the following areas:

- Delta Dog Safe South Australia
- Print media awareness campaigns

- Seminars for the public and for Animal Management Officers
- Website development
- Select-a-pet Media Campaign
- Good Dog SA launch, brochures and website.

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
- 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.

STATISTICS

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.

Dogs Impounded and Return to Owner - Statistics

Table 1: 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			

Table 1: NUMBER OF DOGS IMPOUNDED BY COUNCILS AS A RESULT OF WANDERING AT LARGE			
	Dogs Impounded	Dogs Returned to Owner	Percentage Returned to Owner
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%
2005-2006			
Metropolitan	8,574	5,024	
Country	4,594	2,460	
Total	13,168	7,484	56.83%
2006-2007			
Metropolitan	8,146	5,179	
Country	5,233	2,829	
Total	13,379	8,008	59.85%

Although the number of dogs impounded by councils this financial year has increased, the number returned to their owners also increased resulting in a slight improvement in the percentage of dogs returned (56.83% to 59.85%). In metropolitan areas there was a 5% decrease in the number of dogs impounded and a 5% increase in return to owner rates. The Board's facilitation of microchipping days in 2005 - 2006 across 10 councils, 8 of these being metropolitan councils, could have been a contributing factor to the continued

improvement in the figures. In contrast, the country council impounding rate increased by 12% and the return to owner rates remained constant at around 53.5%.

In 2006-07 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.

Dog Registration - Statistics

Table 2: 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
2005-2006	188,513	101,045	289,558
2006-2007	183,863	106,210	290,073

The Board is pleased that dog registration compliance has risen slightly with councils achieving higher numbers of dog registrations this year. The Board considers that the increase in the number of registered dogs during 2005/06 is a reflection of council's enforcement of the legislation, door knocking exercises and registration reminder campaigns.

Reported Dog attacks - Statistics

Table 3: NUMBER OF REPORTED DOG ATTACKS/HARRASSMENTS				
YEAR	REPORTED TO COUNCILS			HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS
	Metropolitan	Country	Total	Total
1998-1999	670	421	1,071	131
1999-2000	990	464	1,454	140
2000-2001	1,460	535	1,995	118
2001-2002	1,873	775	2,648	136
2002-2003	1,635	775	2,410	132
2003-2004	1,564	715	2,279	163
2004-2005	1,613	793	*2,406	190
2005-2006	1467	708	2,175	184
2006-2007	1540	978	2,518	230

*Note: The number of dog attacks reported to councils for 2004-05 was incorrectly recorded in the Annual Report for 2004-05 as 2,885.

These figures do not include all of the dog attacks/harassments that have occurred in South, Australia, only those that were reported to councils and hospital admissions.

Public awareness to report dog attacks and highlighting the responsibilities of being a responsible dog owner could have lead to the increase of reported dog attacks/harassments. The public is also becoming increasingly aware of their rights associated with dog management and the role of the council. The Board encourages people to report all attacks whether in public or at home and is undertaking a data collection project to enable the above figures to be collected in a more detailed manner. This will assist both the Board and councils, in understanding and preventing the types of attacks/harassments that occur and the situations that they arise. Until this data is collected it is difficult to separate the attacks from harassments and whether these were on a human or an owned animal.

The number of people hospitalised as a result of dog attacks increased in the order of 25%. This result is disappointing particularly given the public education campaign undertaken by the Board to encourage responsible dog ownership and safe behaviour around dogs. The programs will be reviewed in light of these figures and the input of councils and other stakeholders will be sought to determine if there are more effective strategies that the Board could adopt.

The Board is working with councils and the Department of Health to achieve consistent reporting and data collection when recording the severity of dog attack or threat.

TRAINING UNDERTAKEN BY DOG MANAGEMENT OFFICERS

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

- Understanding the Act
- Dog handling techniques and dog behaviour
- Legal processes in connection with the Act

- Order Making – The role of General Inspectors
- Rights and responsibilities of Animal Management Officers.
- In addition, the Board has provided financial support and advice in the development of the Authorised Persons' Charter and an associated TAFE Certificate Four in Local Government Regulatory Services. This has been conducted in partnership with the Authorised Persons Association, Strategon, the Local Government Association and TAFE. It incorporates recognition of prior learning, on site training, distance education options and specialist area training. Enrolments are currently being accepted for the first intake of this course.

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Pursuant to Department of the Premier and Cabinet Circular PC016: *Remuneration for Government Appointed Part-time Boards and Committees*, it is a long-standing policy of government that government employees are not paid for board membership without the specific approval of the Commissioner for Public Employment.

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

Chairperson:	\$160.00 per four hours
Members:	\$140.00 per four hours

Staffing

Administrative and executive support is provided by the DEH. DEH staff serving the Board during 2006-07 were:

Dr Deborah Kelly	Manager Animal Welfare Unit, DEH (Executive Officer Dog and Cat Management Board)
Ms Briony Huddleston	Administration Officer, A/Urban Animal Management Officer
Ms Adele Steel	Urban Animal Management Officer
Mr Vasee Nesiah	Communications Officer

Declaration of Interests

A member of the Board who has a direct or indirect pecuniary or personal interest in a matter under consideration by the Board must disclose the nature of the interest to the Board. These declarations of interest were noted by the Board at the start of every Board meeting and were accurately recorded in the minutes.

Dr Ian McBryde is a registered practicing veterinarian and member of the Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) and declared his interest in:

- microchipping which elicited discussion on whether inserting microchips should be an act of veterinary science or be supervised by a registered veterinarian.
- microchipping of cats and dogs and the process of inserting chips, longer term dog registration, cats wandering at large and removal of the requirement for an M in the cat's ear to signify that it has been identified in accordance with the regulations.
- the Australian Veterinary Association, PetPEP Program grant application.

- the budget item relating to PetPEP.

Cr Irene Whennan is a Councillor with the City of Marion and declared her interest in:

- the City of Marion's Animal Management Plan.

Ms Sarah Harris is Co-ordinator of the Delta Dog Safe SA program and declared her interest in:

- the Delta Dog Safe SA interim report.
- the budget item relating to Delta Dog Safe SA.

Cr Rosalie Haese is a Councillor with the City of West Torrens and declared her interest in.

- the City of West Torrens' Animal Management Plan.

Mr Greg Waller is a staff member with the City of Salisbury and declared his interest in:

- the City of Salisbury's Animal Management Plan.

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 2006-07.

Equal Opportunity Employment Programs

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.

Gender Reporting

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 four female members.

Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare

There were no occupational health safety and welfare issues brought to the attention of the Board this financial year. An induction process is carried out for new members. Appropriate training measures are taken for field trips. As a user of DEH facilities and equipment, the Board is aware of, and abides by, DEH's OHS&W policies.

Use of Consultants

No consultants were used during the Annual Report reporting period.

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 \$29,000 was derived from interest earned in the financial year 2006-2007.

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 2006-2007.

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 DEH staff, facilities and services. The DEH Annual Report 2006-2007 quantifies environmental performance.

Energy Efficiency Action Plan Reports

Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEH Annual Report 2006-2007.

GREENING OF GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (GoGO) FRAMEWORK

The members of the Board are aware of, and abide by, their obligations in relation to minimisation of waste, reduction in energy consumption and conservation of water. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEH Annual Report 2006-07.

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

There were no instances of fraud detected in the Board's activities for the year 2006– 07.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

One Freedom of Information application was received by a member of the public requesting copies of the minutes of the Dog and Cat Management Board meetings.

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 1047
Adelaide SA 5001

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

REGIONAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

No Regional Impact Assessment Statements were undertaken by the Committee in 2006-07.

URBAN DESIGN CHARTER

No events occurred in 2006-07 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.

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.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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