



Submission on the Domestic Animals Act

Presented by Elke Tapley, Coordinator Community
Compliance
Date 17 November 2015

MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL



Impounded dogs

	2014/15			2013/14	
Total dogs impounded	984			876	
Returned to owner **	276	28%	**79%	242	28
Released to owner**	504	51%	24 seized	451	52
Rehoused	139	15%	48 surrendered	125	14
Euthanased	65	6%	26 surrendered	52	6
<i>Diseased, terminally ill or aggressive</i>			8 seized		
Registered on impound	412	42%		343	39
Not Registered on impound	410	42%		266	31
Registration not renewed	77	8%		72	8
Blank – no reg identified	85	8%		189	22

Open Court Prosecutions

Year	Dog attack of a serious nature	Dog Attack - Non serious injury	Dangerous Dog	Animal Infringements	Total
To 10/15	11	7	2	42	47
2014	15	7		123	138
2013	13	14		81	94
2012	5	7		20	25
2011	1	6		4	5

	Dog Attack – Person	Dog Attack – Animal	Wandering at Large	Pick ups
2014	22	59	221	646
To 11/2015	13	45	240	648

Dog Breed Statistics

	Top 10 Registered		Top 10 Impounded		Most Seized	
1	Jack Russell Terrier	905	English Staff Terrier	147	English Staff Terrier	7
2	Labrador	740	Maltese Terrier	98	German Shepherd	5
3	Maltese Terrier	656	Jack Russell Terrier	87	American Staff	3
4	Australian Kelpie	648	Australian Kelpie	71	Whippet	2
5	English Staff Terrier	617	Labrador	65		
6	Border Collie	465	Border Collie	37		
7	Australian Cattle Dog	342	German Shepherd	26		
8	German Shepherd	241	Bull Arab	18		
9	Cavalier King Charles Spaniel	215	Australian Cattle Dog	17		
10	Fox Terrier	259	Fox Terrier & Siberian Husky	14		

Concerns on current framework

Restricted Breed Legislation

- Based on looks
- As a dog owner, would you know if your dog meets 'the Standard'?
- Impacts on community perception of professionalism of Officers – no support for legislation interpretation



Hungarian Visla X



Labrador X Staff



Mastiff X Boxer



Rhodesian Ridgeback X

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Non compliance

Dangerous Dog

- Dog attack on another dog
- Injuries of a serious nature
- Prosecuted and proven
- Dog declared dangerous following a DAA Panel Hearing
- Inspection conducted with clear breaches of the Regulations
- Issue – declaration decision takes place from the end of the review period



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Unsuitable option

- Dog rushes a person – impounded. Victim refuses to provide a statement. Release day - 3 rushes on 3 separate people
- Seized, fines issued and a Menacing declaration put in place following a DAA Panel Hearing
- Currently under investigation again – dog was being walked on a lead and bit a person

Issue – known aggressive dog but limited with what could be implemented to reduce risk to the community

Contradictory legislation

- Two dogs deemed dangerous for guarding non residential premises
- Friendly family dogs not securely confined – no previous record of wandering from home
- Prosecuted twice

Issue – could be taken off non residential property and returned to a residential environment with no dangerous dog requirements – the best result for this matter

Legislation doesn't prevent that occurring for a trained guard dog

Responsible Pet Ownership

- Pet Expo, discount microchipping and registration days
- Website, social media
 - *Animals of Mitchell Shire* FB page
- Media release strategy, brochures and fact sheets
- ***The Wandering Project***

Dogs101

AIAM

ANIMAL INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA



Dogs 101

The FIVE Fundamentals for the right start with your dog

1. Sensible Selection

Consider carefully the type of dog that will best suit your needs, environment and resources. It is always best to identify the key aspects of your lifestyle as well as the characteristics of different available dog types before making a final decision.

- **Matching lifestyles** - Different dogs have different lifestyles just as people do. A good idea is to think of selection as if you are trying to accurately match your new dog's lifestyle needs with your own. You have to be mindful of issues such as accommodation, property security, exercise effort, time availability, grooming needs, health care, maintenance costs and so on.
- **Plan ahead** - Remember that you and your dog will be looking to spend the next 10 to 15 years together. Think about that carefully, it is a serious commitment!
- **Rehomed dogs** - Rehomed dogs can make excellent pets provided behaviour assessments and owner matching procedures have been appropriately and successfully carried out by shelter staff.
- **Check out 'Selectapet'** - Selectapet at www.petnet.com.au can provide insights into the most appropriate breed of dog to suit your lifestyle. Other online and library research may also be carried out and advice can be sought from breeders, retailers, veterinarians and dog clubs etc.

Selection - What do I need to do?

Stop and think. Don't acquire any pet animal on impulse. Please 'look before you leap'.

Dog ownership is great, but having the wrong kind of dog in the wrong kind of environment is never going to be a real success.

A poor choice or an impulse purchase will often end unhappily for both the owner and the dog!



Socialisation - What do I

Remember that every interact behaviour and early impress owners should particularly sit at this time, because bad im as good ones.

Many Councils, dog club expertly supervise

if/when its size should prog class

Remember that training is how a dog is shown to do while obedience is when it will comply when asked. Training takes skill and leadership - control and trust needs both.

Leadership - What do I need to do?

Be aware that by failing to actively and positively train your dog, you will, in effect, be asking it itself—and it will! The behaviour of dogs that make their own arrangements will often be what you don't want.

By providing your dog with obedience training, discipline and confident leadership, you will be doing a natural and normal thing as far as the dog is concerned.

2. Puppy Socialisation

Puppy socialisation involves the 'shaping' of a puppy's attitude towards the things it is going to live with into adulthood. Socialisation helps puppies to feel more comfortable, more confident and more secure.

- **Socialisation period** is a defined stage of puppy brain development that occurs at the time when puppies are 'ready' to be introduced to their new and wider social world.
- **Socialisation period** is when puppies are striving to understand who they are and to fit in with everyone (and vice versa).
- **Socialisation period** occurs 4 and 14 weeks of age.
- **It is much harder** to socialise a dog if they have missed this important period.
- **Socialisation is a comm** done separately and in isolation.

3. Leadership and Training

It is obviously important that all owners should confidently believe that they can control and trust their dog at all times. It should be understood that the terms 'control' and 'trust', when applied in this context, are nothing to do with being cruel or causing fear. They are about providing clear, consistent and consistent boundaries for what is considered acceptable behaviour.

- In the presence of capable leadership, dogs of mind and the composure that stems from where they belong and what is expected of them.
- In the absence of capable leadership, dogs arrangements as it suits them. This can result in unsettled, unpredictable and even dangerous behaviour.
- It is important to appreciate that dominant control you want than it is to establish it in the first place.

Remember that training is how a dog is shown to do while obedience is when it will comply when asked. Training takes skill and leadership - control and trust needs both.

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4. Day to Day Management

Dogs have a number of important environmental needs that are linked to how they have evolved. Meeting these needs helps to create a more natural life style and a better quality of life for your dog.

The K9 quality of life package is another 5 stage plan as follows:

- **Things to do** - Dogs are intelligent animals. They need mental stimulation, games to play and tasks to complete. They like to have purpose. They don't like to be bored.
- **People to see** - Dogs are highly social animals. They like to be socially involved. They enjoy being with others and doing things together. They don't like being 'left out' of things at home.
- **Places to go** - Dogs are mobile animals. They need adequate exercise (provided it is appropriate to their breed and type). They like to get out.
- **Grapevine to tend** - Dogs are unusually sensory animals. They need to be in regular touch with the sights, scents and sounds of their community in their neighbourhood. Getting out for walks is more than just getting exercise.
- **No need to breed** - Pet dogs cope better and have less stress if they have been desexed/neutered/spayed. The notion that they have to be sexually active and reproducing at some stage of their lives to be healthy and happy is not based on fact.



Management - What do I need to do?

It is important to realise that dogs evolved as highly intelligent, social, mobile, sensory animals. Boredom, loneliness, sensory deprivation and lack of exercise are the root causes of nuisance behaviour.

Remember always that dogs didn't ask to be lumbered with the companion animal role we (humans) have given them. It is a role for which they are uniquely well suited, but even so, we still have an obligation to make it a way of life that works well for them too.



5. Community Consideration

Considerate owners create good public relations for dogs and for dog ownership.

Dog owners sometimes fail to realise that while their dog may be their best friend, to everyone else it is just another dog and not everyone is comfortable around dogs.

When dog owners are seen to be restraining their dogs so as to effectively prevent them from being a nuisance or a worry for other people, the community as a whole is always appreciative.

The flow on effects from socially responsible and considerate dog ownership are remarkable - everyone benefits.

Consideration - What do I need to do?

Keep your dog secure behind your fence when it is at home. Dogs at large are a consistent source of public nuisance and risk - including risk to themselves!

Comply with restraint requirements in all public places.

Actively prevent your dog from barking excessively and becoming a noise nuisance in your neighbourhood. Don't let your puppy grow up to be a chronic barker. It is not popular!

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Dog Attack Campaign

Campaign 2012 – Traditional Messages



Are you a responsible pet owner?

Pet owners are responsible for their pet's actions. Don't face a fine, be a responsible pet owner. Make sure you can tick all of the boxes on the right to help protect the safety of your pet, other animals and people.

Dogs and Cats both need to be registered by law.

RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERS >>

- ✓ Register their pets with council.
- ✓ Microchip their pets to locate them when lost.
- ✓ Keep their pets properly secured in their yards.
- ✓ Exercise them regularly and put them on a lead in public.
- ✓ Make sure their pet doesn't cause a nuisance by barking or wandering.
- ✓ Ensure their pet is not aggressive toward people or animals.
- ✓ Pick up after their pets.
- ✓ Update your details with council if you move house.

FOR MORE INFORMATION >>

- ☎ 1300 878 001
- ✉ enquiries@townsville.qld.gov.au
- 🌐 www.townsville.qld.gov.au

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Aggressive Dog Campaign 2014 – Changing Attitudes



Bill Boards

TOWNSVILLE CITY COUNCIL

Aggressive Dog Campaign 2014 - Drivers for change



No deterrent MESSAGE NOT GETTING THROUGH
 More people being injured Media Interest Physical & Mental trauma

A CHILD WILL BE KILLED

Socially unacceptable The problem is getting bigger
 Council aren't doing anything Dissatisfaction

Change in attitude critical Unregistered Dogs
 Deliberate disregard Survey results

This is no longer acceptable to some people

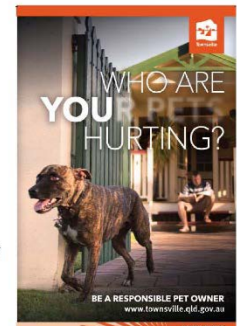
Problem areas
 Petition
 Responsibility

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Responsible Ownership Campaign 2015 Changing Attitudes



- Focuses on the cause – rather than effect
- Builds on the Big Issue targets
- "My dog doesn't go out....."
- Apathy - significant contributor
- Ignorance - significant contributor
- Inadequate enclosures - significant contributor
- Presence of mind - significant contributor
- Social acceptability - significant contributor
- Community pressure – BIG ally



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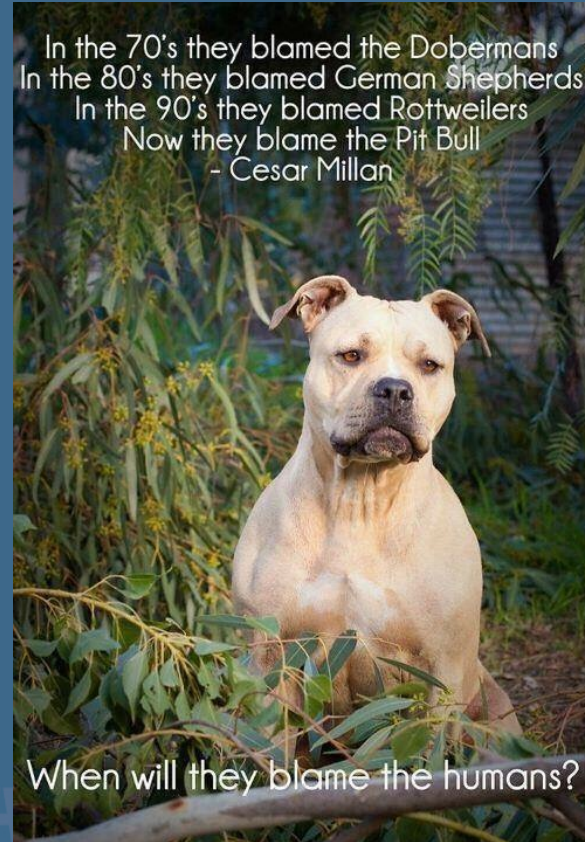
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QUESTIONS

In the 70's they blamed the Dobermans
In the 80's they blamed German Shepherds
In the 90's they blamed Rottweilers
Now they blame the Pit Bull
- Cesar Millan



When will they blame the humans?

CONTACT.

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