

Achievement highlights

2024-2025

Our charter

Plan, promote and provide advice on dog and cat management practices. Oversee the administration and enforcement of the state's dog and cat management laws.

Our priorities

- 1.1 Deliver and evaluate educational programs that promote responsible ownership and effective management of dogs and cats.
- 1.2 Develop and implement a cat management strategy and plan.
- 1.3 Develop a plan for improved dog-attack data and dog attack counter measures.
- 1.4 Advise the minister and LGA on amendments required to the Dog and Cat Management Act.
- 1.5 Monitor emerging issues.
- 2.1 Implement and evaluate the communication and engagement plan which includes a strategy for developing partnerships with stakeholders.
- 2.2 Implement the DACO framework and action plan to ensure long term viability and sustainability of the system.
- 2.3 Maintain a rolling five year financial plan for the Dog and Cat Management Board to ensure financial sustainability and viability.
- 2.4 Regularly evaluate Board operations and performance.
- 2.5 Support administration of the Act by local councils and review compliance approaches by the Board.



Good dogs have bad days

was re-run via free-to-air television, radio, social media, news websites, billboards, bus backs and shelters from 1 July to 30 September 2024. The awareness campaign maintained a strong prompted recall **measure of 30%**, meeting the target.



How to leave your dog home alone

Animated Buddy videos and supporting publications were developed and released as part of the Good Dogs, Bad Days education campaign.

151,000 views

116,432

cats registered in Dogs and Cats Online

▲ 9.3%

- 97% are microchipped
- 87% are desexed

Cat desexing grant scheme

\$42,273

13 partner councils

The Board contributed

\$90,000

to the development of the statewide Cat Management Strategy.

313,713

dogs registered in Dogs and Cats Online including:

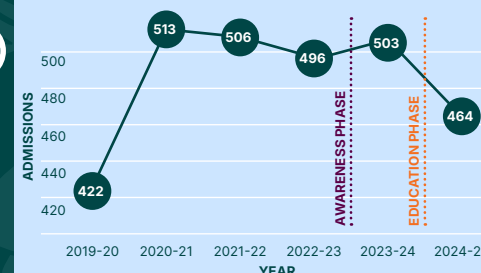
- 13,045 working dogs
- 998 racing greyhounds
- 306 assistance dogs
- 95% are microchipped
- 71% are desexed

Dog attack counter measures

Hospitalisations resulting from dog bites and attacks **dropped to 464**—the lowest figure recorded in the past five years.

▼ 8.7%

HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS (2019-2025)



Second cat sentiment survey 2024 completed
> [Data.SA.gov.au](https://data.sa.gov.au)

Australia Post Bite campaign

Partnered with **Australia Post** to launch a statewide dog safety education initiative for South Australian dog owners. **Letters from 'Buddy'** were mailed to registered dogs directing recipients to visit the official campaign website for further information. **Dog safety materials were available at all Australia Post offices, free of charge.**



Government of South Australia
Dog and Cat Management Board

DOG AND CAT
BOARD.COM.AU

Dog Incident Investigation Guidelines

The new guidelines were available from August 2024.

Dog Incident and Investigation Guideline Training commencing throughout the State in June 2025.



1.3

Grants to Organisations

The Board provided grants totalling **\$81,211 to the Safe Pets Safe Families Inc.** This was the first year of a three-year **\$195,000 initiative, funded community connections program.**

This program helps keep pet owners united with their pets during crises, reducing pressure on animal shelters.



1.5

Advice on Act amendments

The Board is committed to ongoing engagement with dog and cat management stakeholders including local government, animal welfare organisations and the veterinary sector.

The Board undertook **2 workshops to inform the draft amendments relating to breeder licencing.**



The Board supported the Minister in progressing legislative amendment, the *Dog and Cat Management (Breeder Reforms) Amendment Act 2025* passed by Parliament on 18 June 2025.

1.4

Board operations

19 assistance dogs accredited (new and renewed)

529 greyhound muzzle exemptions

12 by-laws reviewed

14 dog and cat management plans reviewed

2 detention facilities approved plus 2 reviewed

306,445 dog and cat renewals sent on behalf of councils

2 councils visited by the Board



Dogs and Cats Online

Enhancement and fixes

- FAQ guide and administrative documentation
- DACO Inspection of Dogs and Cats Online Guideline updated
- DACO Information Management Policy implemented

Forward planning

Design and development of a new Dogs and Cats Online platform is currently underway, aimed at ensuring the system's long-term viability and sustainability.

2.2

Support local government compliance & administration

Grants of up to \$20,000 to support councils for activities that address: cat management solutions; community education/events; innovative compliance activities.

Total council grants

\$88,923

Roxby Downs

Port Augusta

Northern Areas

Charles Sturt

Prospect

Mount Barker

Alexandrina

Kangaroo Island

Regional travel grants

The Board gave 11 regional councils grants to contribute to travel and accommodation so they could attend the Authorised Persons Association meetings and conference held in Adelaide.

Total travel grants

\$8250

Roxby Downs

Streaky Bay

Elliston

Barunga West

Goyder

Northern Areas

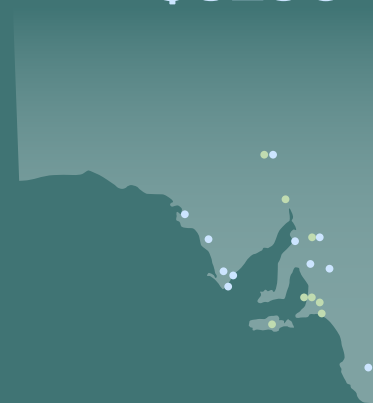
Loxton Waikerie

Lower Eyre

Tumby Bay

Port Lincoln

Naracoorte Lucindale



2.5

Stakeholder engagement

- Conducted quarterly meetings with key stakeholders, including:
 - LGA
 - Authorised Persons Association (APA)
 - RSPCA & AWL
 - Australian Veterinary Association
- Attended the **Adelaide Animal Expo, APA conference** and hosted 3 **Senior Animal Manager Officer forums.**
- **Visited 145 vet clinics** across SA, distributing educational publications and offering support.

2.1

Financial expenses and full operational details

are set out in the Board's 2024-25 Annual report published at dogandcatboard.com.au/about/plans-reports

127,564

Publications

distributed to councils, vet clinics, shelters and trainers free-of-charge.

▲10%



1.1



Government of South Australia

Dog and Cat Management Board