

Local Government Bulletin

Changes to *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Regulation 2009*

The *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2009* (the Regulation), notified in the Queensland Government Gazette on Friday 25 September 2009, prescribes earlier dates for the implementation of certain provisions of the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008* (the Act) in certain councils and extends transitional arrangements in relation to dogs declared dangerous under a local law.

Early commencement of *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008* in certain councils

Since 1 July 2009, the registration and microchipping provisions of the Act have been in force across councils in South East Queensland, Gladstone and Central Highlands regions.

The rest of the state was allowed up to 10 December 2010 to give the remaining councils time to implement their administrative and operational processes before the registration and microchipping requirements came into force.

At the request of the following councils, the Regulation implements the microchipping and registration provisions of the Act on the following dates:

- Banana Shire Council on 1 March 2010
- Charters Towers Regional Council on 1 July 2010
- Cassowary Coast Regional Council and Tablelands Regional Council on 1 December 2010.



Enclosures for dogs declared dangerous under a local law

Concerns have been raised regarding the costs to some owners associated with altering existing dangerous dog enclosures to comply with the new requirements when they are compliant with relevant local law requirements for the dog in existence before 1 July 2009.

The *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Regulation 2009* has been amended to provide that a keeper of a local law dangerous dog will not be required to change the existing enclosure arrangements provided the keeper continues to comply with the enclosure requirements that applied to the dog before 1 July 2009. The amendments apply for example to the minimum area and minimum height requirements under the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Regulation 2009*.

The keeper of the dog must comply with the new requirements under the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Regulation 2009* part 2 division 3 if one or more of the following occurs:

- the keeper stops complying with the local law enclosure requirements

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- the dog is moved to a new or different enclosure in the same or different council area
 - their local law declaration before 1 July 2009 said nothing about enclosure or fencing requirements.

Other amendments

The *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Regulation 2009* prescribes the dangerous dog yellow tag to be an Australian Standard (AS) yellow. Some local governments are having difficulty in sourcing the prescribed yellow. The Regulation removes the requirement for the yellow tag to be the AS yellow and affords councils flexibility in sourcing an appropriate yellow.

Any further enquiries on this matter should be addressed to the department's postal address: PO Box 15009, City East, Queensland 4002, or via telephone on 07 3404 3302, or via e-mail on: catsanddogs@dip.qld.gov.au

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