Working for our future – today

Legislative Changes within Gold Coast City

Protection, Education and Prevention

st October 2009

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old Coast City Council

Gold Coast City Council

Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008

- The new act implemented on 1 July 2009
- Designed to deal with Registration for both cats and dogs
- Stipulates a michrochipping regime (PID's) for cats and dogs and
- Regulates implanters
- Covers Regulated dogs which are:
  - Restricted dogs (breed specific)
  - Declared Dangerous dogs and
  - Menacing dogs (new provision for majority of Qld Councils)

The new Act also provided for a phased in rollout and pilot studies

- Only effects SEQ Councils until October 2010 when other Councils will come on board
- The pilots are designed to allow consideration of further policy development when outcomes are achieved
- It may naturally be seen as best practice in the particular areas
- The Qld Government allocated $315,000 for studies
- Councils involved were:
  - Townsville City Council (Catscan on Magnetic Island) $68,000
  - Moreton Regional Council (Michrochipping) $86,000
  - Logan City Council (Desexing and Michrochipping) $84,000 and
  - Gold Coast City Council (Breeder Permits and Cat fencing) $77,000
- Councils involved will address the particular issues and in some cases amend local laws

Gold Coast Pilot Study

- Engaged the existing Stakeholder Coalition for the City
- Coalition made up of representatives from:
  - Animal Welfare League Qld
  - Gold Coast City Council
  - Canine Control Council of Qld
  - Qld Feline Association
  - Qld Independent Cat Council
  - Council of Federated Cat Clubs of Qld
  - R.S.P.C.A Qld
  - Qld AVA
  - Qld Dept of Infrastructure and Planning
  - Wildcare
  - Wildlife Preservation Society
  - Pet Industry Assoc of Australia
  - Gold Coast Dog Obedience Club
- Regular meeting convened over several months
- Consensus regarding many aspects

Development of a code of practice

- The code may result in State wide legislative change
- There were many issues to consider
- The code was broken into two parts Standards and Guidelines
- Standards are compulsory for permit approval
- Guidelines are recommended and depict the standard of the breeder

Some examples of the standards required

- Breeders must comply with the standards
- Standards ensure no negative impact upon the community
- No harm to bred animals and offspring
- Registration and identification at point of sale
- Desexing for cats (not dogs) at point of sale

Some examples of the Guidelines

- Good breeders offer stimulation to their animals
- Ensure breeding occurs at the right time and rate
- Animals are vet checked and cared for properly
- Prospective owners are educated and made aware of their responsibilities as a new pet owner

CatSmart Fencing

- Second part of the pilot study
- DIY Brochure from Vic Dept Primary Industries
- New technologies
- Home containment may be best and easiest
- Change owners mindset regarding control and ownership of cats

What is the impact

- Negative impact upon the markets puppy and kitten farms
- Very little impact upon good breeders
- A reduction in indiscriminate breeding = less unwanted litters?
- Improved awareness by owners
- Increased responsible ownership
- Community needs satisfied
- Animal needs also satisfied

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