

Australian Institute of Animal Management Inc supporting papers to Position Statement on Dangerous Dogs

INTRODUCTION

The Australian Institute of Animal Management (AIAM) when defining its statement of purpose acknowledged that an important role in its charter was to foster and support initiatives that offered practical and effective solutions to the management of companion animals.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to provide a structural overview of factors considered pertinent to understanding the issues concerned with dangerous dogs and to encourage the development of protocols and procedures, that when implemented, will assist to minimise harm, physical or emotional, to humans and other animals.

SCOPE

This document is provided to interested parties who want to understand the issues pertaining to dangerous dogs in the community and seek potential solutions concerning reduction in dog attacks.

DEFINITIONS

Declared Dog – A dog that has been deemed menacing or dangerous by an authorised person or body.

BACKGROUND

AIAM recognizes that there are multiple factors that may influence aggression in dogs.

These include:

- Competence of the owner to adequately select, socialise, train and manage.
- Amicability.
- Environmental triggers.
- Degree of control.

STRATEGIES

AIAM recommends

- Heightened awareness through education of appropriate dog selection, socialisation and training.
- The development and implementation of educational programs for both adults and children.
- Education programs targeting 0-4 year olds
- Behavioural research to investigate aggressive incidents
- Genetic research to uncover inherited traits in the dog that may predispose to an aggressive incident.
- The development and implementation in all States and Territories in Australia the collection of information in a uniform way.
- The expansion of existing Declared Dog databases to record "incident" details.
- The effective communication and data exchange between Declared Dog databases.
- Identification with a Permanent Identification Device (PID) of all dogs with a Municipal/ Council declaration of Menacing or Dangerous and those dogs involved in a reported aggressive incident
- The linking of reported dog attack injury hospital data to existing Declared Dog databases nationally.