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Dear John,

Re: Findings of Council Consultation on Breeder Compliance

In September the Dog and Cat Management Board (the Board) invited South Australian councils to comment on a breeder compliance discussion paper. Councils were asked about their breeder compliance activities and the level of support for a state-wide Board-funded scheme.

The Board received 27 submissions including from City of Tea Tree Gully. We wish to thank you for enabling this information to be provided as it was a valuable contribution to the final recommendations.

The responses we received came from a diverse range of councils which provided a good sample for sound statistical analysis. The Board considered the report and approved the recommendations at its October board meeting. The consultation revealed education is a successful mechanism for achieving compliance and there is general support for a state-wide approach to breeder compliance. A program to deliver on the outcomes is now under development.

I am pleased to attach a summary of the findings of the survey consultation. Please share this information, and our thanks for their contribution, with your dog and cat management compliance team. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me ph 0419 223 875 or email gayle.grieger@sa.gov.au.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gayle Grieger', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr Gayle Grieger
Manager
Dog and Cat Management

Council Consultation Breeder Compliance

Summary of findings



Response representation

Twenty-seven councils responded to the Dog and Cat Management Board's (the Board's) discussion paper. To analyse the responses, councils were categorised by geographic demography and the number of breeders in each. Every cluster was represented with sufficient survey responses (except Metro with <30) to provide a diverse, inclusive sample for sound statistical analysis

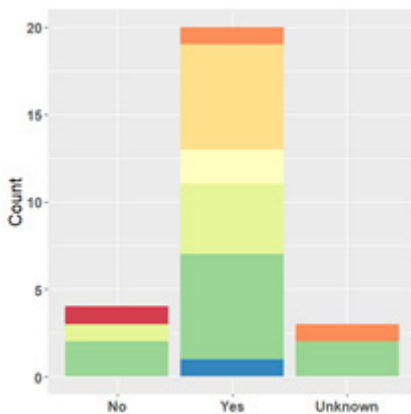
Cluster	Councils	Responses
Metro >100	7	6
Metro 30-100	5	2
Metro <30	6	1
Greater Adelaide >100	3	2
Regional >100	2	1
Regional 30-100	22	10
Regional <30	24	5

Response results

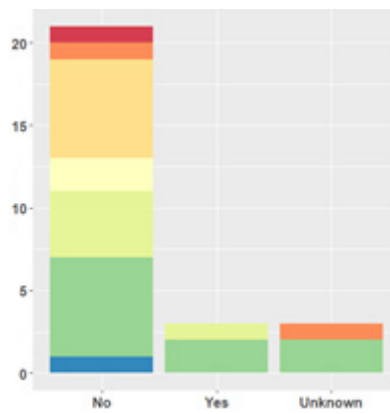
Current investigation methods

Responses show councils mainly take action from community reports of advertised puppies and kittens. Ten percent (10%) run a proactive monitoring program.

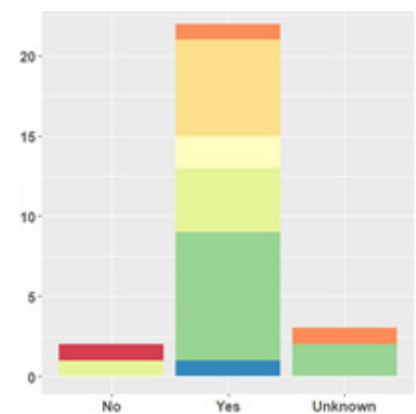
Q: Does your council investigate advertising based on community reporting?



Q: Does your council proactively monitor Facebook, Gumtree and newspaper advertisements



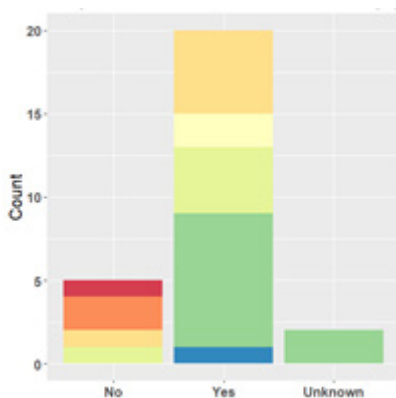
Q: Does your council undertake compliance activities on owners of non-desexed dogs and cats?



Advice and education

A majority of the respondent councils provide advice to breeders, this was true across each cluster.

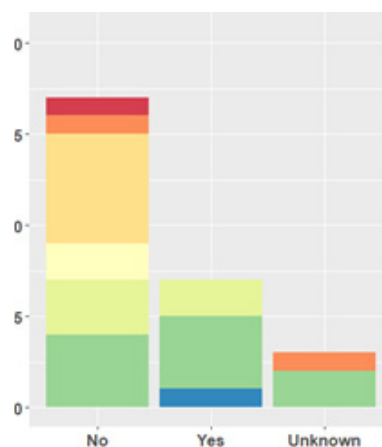
Q: Does your council provide advice and education to breeders to help them understand and comply with the Act?



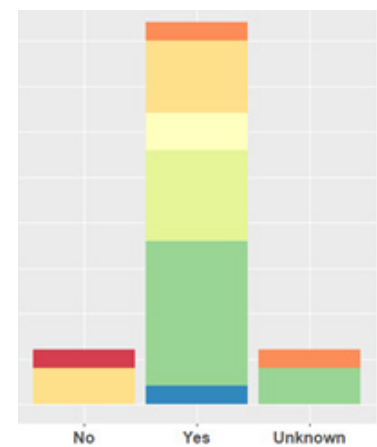
Breeder expiation

Around 25% of responding councils indicate they have expiated a breeder for non-compliance. Further analysis of the responses identified that of the councils that have not expiated non-compliant breeders, 80% say they would if required.

Q: Has your council expiated non-compliant breeders?



Q: Would your council expiate non-compliant breeders?



Time spent on compliance each week

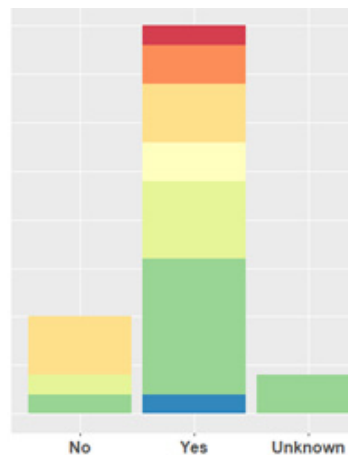
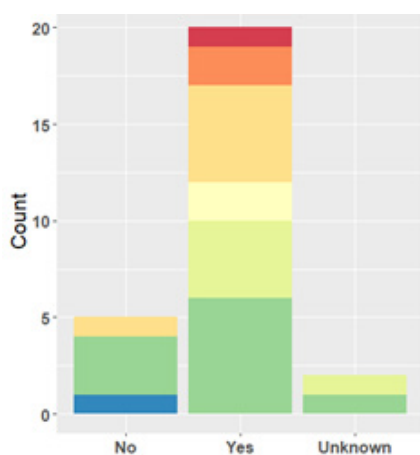
Most respondents couldn't quantify the amount of time spent on breeder compliance, indicating either: it is not an issue requiring dedicated time; it is included in general dog and cat management activities; it is not a priority compared to other dog/cat management issues; or it is difficult to gauge due to sporadic community reporting. Respondents that did estimate the time they spent on compliance, reported between 1 and 10 hours per week, mostly following up community reports.

Support for state wide resource to support breeder registration compliance

There was overwhelming support for state-wide programs to support breeder compliance with the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* and improve animal welfare outcomes.

Q: Does your council support a state-wide resource for breeder registration compliance?

Q: Does your council support a state-wide program to support animal welfare checks on breeders



Cluster	
■	Metro >100
■	Metro 30-100
■	Metro <30
■	Greater Adelaide >100
■	Regional >100
■	Regional 30-100
■	Regional <30

What currently works well for councils?

When asked what of their current programs worked well, educational activities were a significant contributor to success. The following tactics were identified as examples of successful educational activities:

- Promoting breeder compliance with the registration renewal notices, in council newsletters and leaflet drops in rates notices.
- Having accessible, accurate information on Board and council websites.

What could be improved?

When asked what improvements could be made, responses could be grouped into the following themes.

- Increased resources to support breeders and councils.
- Focus on education and engagement activities.

Conclusion and next steps

The consultation provided a clear indication that education was successful in achieving breeder compliance in the sale of puppies and kittens. Coupled with the general support for a state-wide approach, there is a clear opportunity for the Board to increase support for compliance by breeders with the Act.

The Board approved two approaches at its October 2021 meeting as a result:

1. A 6 month pilot program focussing on surveillance of advertisements on electronic platforms and educating sellers, and
2. A comprehensive communication campaign supporting the Board and councils with standard messaging for breeders and sellers, and more proactive contact with breeders as they register on DACO.

The pilot program of electronic platform surveillance and education will test the scale of non-compliant advertising for the sale of puppies and kittens, and the ability to contact sellers and discuss their obligations under the Act.

The Board understands it made a previous decision to employ a person full time to undertake breeder compliance activities, however the outcomes of the consultation strongly supports the pilot approach suggested. The program will be delivered as a part time, short term contract with measurable outcomes, allowing for evaluation and adaptation as needed. On-going discussion with councils will occur in the development and delivery of the pilot program.