



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QON No. 25

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, TRANSPORT, AND CITY SERVICES
JO CLAY MLA (CHAIR), SUZANNE ORR MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MARK PARTON MLA

Inquiry into referred 2019–20 Annual and Financial Reports and Budget Estimates 2020-21
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by Nicole Lawder:

In relation to: DAS

- 1) Can you please elaborate on the "Own a dog, Own the Responsibility" campaign and were there any strategic targets on raising community awareness of dog ownership responsibilities and if so, what were they?
- 2) How much money in total was spent on the "Own a Dog, Own the Responsibility" campaign and is there any planned follow up from the campaign to reiterate the key messages?
- 3) How were locations chosen for public signage promoting responsible dog ownership and how many of these included local walking tracks in suburbs?
- 4) How many dog attacks were reported in 2020 and how does this compare to previous years? Did the campaign have any impact on this result?
- 5) What impact if any has the recent changes to the Domestic Animal Act had to outcomes and operations at DAS?
- 6) Can you please provide a breakdown of the recent upgrade to the Domestic Animal Services Shelter and elaborate on what areas were improved?
- 7) How much money was specifically spent on upgrading the 12 dangerous dog kennels? What did these upgrades include?

Chris Steel MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

- 1) The 'Own the Dog, Own the Responsibility' campaign was created to raise community awareness to dog owners on their legal requirements under the *Domestic Animals Act 2000* and to provide education materials on best practice dog ownership. This campaign included videos, merchandise, flyers and responsible dog owner booklets which have been handed out to members of the public by rangers and at community events. There were no strategic targets for this campaign.
- 2) A total of \$38,888 was spent on the campaign merchandise. This does not include staff costs associated with the campaign. There is follow up planned with the launch of the Yellow Dog campaign with relevant videos, merchandise and key messages to be released as part of this.
- 3) Locations for signage were chosen based on the number of complaints or issues in that particular area. 60 signs were erected around Canberra which included local paths, walking tracks, reserves, and parks.
- 4) In 2020 there were 627 dog attack and harass reports. This compares to 817 dog attack and harass complaints in 2019. The Directorate believes the education campaign is effective as evidenced by the reduction in the number of dog attack and harass complaints.



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5) The recent (2017) amendments to the *Domestic Animal Act 2000* have had a positive impact on making Canberra safer for the community, strengthening the already tight laws governing domestic animals across the ACT. Operations at Domestic Animal Services were strengthened with the recruitment of additional Rangers to assist in implementing the amended legislation.

6) During 2020 upgrades to the Domestic Animals site were as follows:

Safety

- Backup generator with the ability to run the entire site off grid
- Installation of Access Control System
- Relocation of the sewer maceration system
- Secure shopfront created for visitors to site to check in which eliminates unauthorised access to kennels
- Additional security gates to separate staff and public areas
- Installation of convex mirrors on corners to see approaching dogs/handlers
- Pedestrian crossings for volunteers
- Upgrade of electricity supply to the site and upgrade of electrical switchboards
- New non-slip flooring applied to quarantine area
- 8 additional CCTV cameras

Animal Welfare

- Vet facility renovations, new joinery and stainless steel food preparations areas
- New footpaths to allow volunteers to walk dogs in a directional flow around the site
- Café blinds to block afternoon sun
- Misting system to reduce heat during summer
- Upgrades to electrical switchboards providing consistency of the slab kennel heating
- Concrete mowing strips around exercise yard perimeter preventing escape and also unwanted intrusions
- New dog bowls
- New wash down hoses

General works

- Landscaping – install of river stone throughout garden beds which looks great and reduces risk of fire around the buildings
- Over 500 plants from Yarralumla Nursery

7) The Dangerous Dog Kennel Project is an essential project to improve safety outcomes for staff, improved animal welfare outcomes for dogs. The facility is still under construction with delays due to many wet weather days. The allocated budget for this project is \$852,000 +gst. This project was for the construction of 12 new specially designed kennels, not for an upgrade of existing kennels.



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Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transport, and City Services

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Chris Steel", written over a blue grid background.

Date:

11/3/21

By the Minister for Transport and City Services, Chris Steel MLA