

## Interim Environmental Assessment Guides for Planners



### DOG KEEPING/DOG KENNELS

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Dog keeping, which may include the use of dog kennels, can have minimal environmental impact if it is located in an appropriate area and sited, designed and managed properly. If proper care is not taken in addressing environmental issues, however, dog keeping also has the potential to cause environmental harm.

For the purposes of this guide, dog keeping or dog kennels is defined as:

- the keeping of a significant numbers of dogs (i.e. more than 10)
- dog keeping in confined accommodation (i.e. in a kennel)
- involving a boarding or racing or training establishment
- dog breeding for commercial, show or private purposes.

The purpose of this guide is to help council planners assess proposals for dog Dog keeping from an environmental viewpoint. It focuses on environmental issues and does not deal with the process of assessing proposals against the provisions of the Development Plan.

#### Key environmental issues

- Noise
- Waste management
- Water quality
- Mortalities

*Your comments and feedback regarding this guide are welcomed.*

This guide provides information in relation to the assessment of a development application involving an activity removed from *Schedule 21 of the Development Regulations 1993* in November, 2006 and is intended to assist local government planners carry out an environmental assessment previously done by the EPA.

Comments on the format and content of this interim guide are invited up until June 30, 2007 via the EPA's consultation website, <http://www.epacommentss.sa.gov.au> or email the Project Manager, [phil.hazell@epa.sa.gov.au](mailto:phil.hazell@epa.sa.gov.au).

Alternatively contact by, Phone: (08) 8204 1806 or Fax: (08) 8124 4673

### Information requirements

The following environmental information is required to undertake an adequate assessment:

- separation distances from residential or other sensitive receivers
- air quality protection measures
- noise mitigation measures
- water demand and use
- water and soil protection measures including
  - wastewater containment and disposal
  - chemical storage and work areas
  - stormwater pollution prevention
  - solid waste storage and disposal.

*Guide for Applicants: Dog Kennels* provides more detail on information requirements and can be found at <[www.planning.sa.gov.au](http://www.planning.sa.gov.au)>

Applications lacking any of this information should not be accepted.

### Environmental assessment

#### Noise

The potential for noise may be increased where animals are kept in close proximity to other animals or to sites where other animals are kept (e.g. one dog barking may lead to other dogs barking in the same, or nearby, kennels). Therefore, the more dogs kept on the premises the greater the potential for noise impact and complaint. Strategies to reduce nuisance noise may need to be implemented, such as citronella collars or advice from a qualified noise consultant or both.

Boarding kennels in particular may give rise to noise problems because of the large numbers of dogs, the range of different breeds and the stress experienced by the dogs in unfamiliar conditions.

A minimum separation distance of 500 metres from sensitive receptors (i.e. houses on neighbouring properties) is recommended.

#### Waste management

Attention to the cleanliness of the kennels and effective waste management will minimise the potential for odour nuisance. Kennels should be cleaned daily. All faecal matter, old bones and uneaten food must be collected from the kennels and yards at least twice a day and temporarily stored in lined and sealed containers prior to removal from the site by an appropriate waste disposal service.

### Water quality

Pollutants from dog kennels have the potential to contaminate water resources unless the facilities are properly designed and managed. Pollutants may include dog faeces, veterinary products, food additives, disinfectants and other chemicals. The long-term impact of intensive animal Dog keeping can be detrimental to the soil and may lead to groundwater pollution and odour issues if waste is not managed properly.

Liquid wastes from kennels and yards should be drained to a septic tank and subsurface soakage type system designed and constructed to meet the *South Australian Standard for the Construction, Installation and Operation of Septic Tanks in South Australia* under the *Public and Environmental Health (Waste Control) Regulations 1995*. Compliance with these standards should avoid potential insanitary conditions and water pollution.

Stormwater from roofs should be collected and kept separate from kennel runoff and effluent systems, and reused where practicable (e.g. yard washdown). Rain falling outside the kennel area must be directed away from yard areas and the kennel effluent system.

### Mortalities

Mortalities must be dealt with on day they occur. They can be taken to a vet for disposal, buried on site in an approved mortality pit or taken to a waste depot licensed by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to take such wastes.

A mortality pit must:

- be greater than 100 metres from the pool of the River Murray and above the 1956 flood level
- be greater than 50 metres away from any other watercourse
- not exceed 1.2 metres in depth
- be backfilled with a minimum of 600 millimetres of earth, slightly mounded and compacted to control odour, vermin and fly breeding.

Lime should be added at the time of deposition to assist decomposition.

### Checklist of environmental issues

- Siting of facility and proximity of nearby dwellings
- Scale and purpose of the facility
- Regular cleaning regime of kennels and yards
- Frequent collection of wastes, storage and disposal
- Stormwater and wastewater independently managed
- Mortalities removed and appropriately disposed of within 24 hours

### Draft standard conditions

To use and adapt as may be applicable to a specific proposal

1. The number of dogs (including pups over the age of four months) kept on the site at any time must not exceed 'x' in total.
2. All kennels must have an impervious floor draining to an appropriately sized septic tank and subsurface soakage system designed and constructed to meet the South Australian *Water Control Systems - Standard for the Construction, Installation and Operation of Septic Tanks in South Australia*.
3. Stormwater from kennel roofs must be collected for use on the property with overflow directed away from the kennel or yard wastewater treatment and disposal system in a manner that does not result in soil erosion.
4. Solid waste from the kennels or yards must be collected and contained in sealed bins, prior to removal off site, so that odour does not cause a nuisance beyond the boundaries of the site. Such waste must be disposed of to a licensed waste depot.
5. The facility must be inspected daily by the owner or operator for any mortalities. Any mortalities must be removed from the kennels on the same day as occurrence and disposed of via one of the following means:
  - taken to a veterinary surgery for disposal
  - buried on site in an approved mortality pit
  - disposed of at a waste depot licensed by the EPA to take such waste.
6. The kennels and yards must be cleaned at least daily to ensure that there is no accumulation of wastes and the generation of offensive odours is minimised.

**The following note provides important information for the applicant and should be attached to the approval notice.**

The applicant is reminded of its general environmental duty, as required by Section 25 of the Environment Protection Act, to take all reasonable and practical measures to ensure that the activities on the whole site, including during construction, do not pollute the environment in a way which causes or may cause environmental harm.

### References

The *Environment Protection (Water Quality) Policy, 2003*, the *Public and Environmental Health Act 1987* and the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* can be accessed through:  
[www.legislation.sa.gov.au](http://www.legislation.sa.gov.au)

South Australian Health Commission, *Waste Control Systems- Standard for the Construction, Installation and Operation of Septic Tanks in South Australia*, 1995 can be found at:  
[www.dh.sa.gov.au/pehs/publications/Septic-tank-book.pdf](http://www.dh.sa.gov.au/pehs/publications/Septic-tank-book.pdf)