

Thursday 1 September 2011

## **New legislation on Restricted Breed Dogs in Victoria**

Please note that a new version of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* will commence on 30 September 2011. The changes to the Act were introduced on 30 August in the *Domestic Animals Amendment (Restricted Breeds) Act 2011*.

The new legislation removes the current amnesty provisions in relation to Restricted Breed Dog registration and keeping in Victoria, however the declaration process and the rights of the owner to appeal through VCAT remain unchanged.

The registration and keeping of restricted breed dogs will be limited to those dogs:

1. That were in Victoria prior to 1 September 2010 **and**
2. Were registered (as any breed) prior to 30 September 2011.

The amendment also provides that the Minister may approve an 'approved standard' that is to be published in the Government Gazette, and allow that a dog that fits the 'approved standard' will be deemed to be a restricted breed dog and so able to be declared by an authorised officer. The standard provides a descriptive and diagrammatic tool for authorised officers and the general public on what dogs constitute a restricted breed. The standard was published in the Gazette today (1 September).

Within the "Approved Standard" American Staffordshire Terriers are not considered Restricted Breed Dogs, if the owner has one of the following certificates stating that the dog is an American Staffordshire Terrier—

- a pedigree certificate from the Australian National Kennel Council;
- a pedigree certificate from a member body of the Australian National Kennel Council;
- a pedigree certificate from a national breed council registered with the Australian National Kennel Council; or
- a certificate signed by a veterinary practitioner stating, or to the effect, that the dog is of a particular breed.

Within the next few days the new Act, as well as a range of other relevant information, can be downloaded from the following links.

[www.dpi.vic.gov.au/animalwelfare](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/animalwelfare) (follow links to legislation page)

[www.legislation.vic.gov.au](http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au) click on 'law today' then select Acts beginning with 'D'.

[www.gazette.vic.gov.au/](http://www.gazette.vic.gov.au/)

For further information please phone the DPI Customer Service Centre on 136 186 or visit the DPI website [www.dpi.vic.gov.au/animalwelfare](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/animalwelfare).