



City of Hobart Dog Management Policy Review

Submission of the
Australian Veterinary Association Ltd

April 2024

The Australian Veterinary Association

The Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) is the national organisation representing veterinarians in Australia. The AVA consists of members who come from all fields within the veterinary profession. Clinical practitioners work with companion animals, horses, farm animals, such as cattle and sheep, and wildlife. Government veterinarians work with our animal health, public health and quarantine systems while other members work in industry for pharmaceutical and other commercial enterprises. We have members who work in research and teaching in a range of scientific disciplines. Veterinary students are also members of the Association.

We empower the veterinary profession to thrive by providing a voice, education, community, and support.

The Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) appreciates the opportunity to contribute to the City of Hobart Dog Management Policy Review.

AVA Statement of principles with respect to Animal Welfare

Animals are sentient beings that are conscious, feel pain, and experience emotions. Animals and people have established relationships for mutual benefit for thousands of years.

Humans have a duty of care to protect animals. Where a person does not meet his or her obligations to animals in his or her care, animals may suffer. When this happens, the law must be able to adequately intervene to enforce compliance and prevent suffering.

Animals have intrinsic value and should be treated humanely by the people who benefit from them. Owned animals should be safe from physical and psychological harm. They need access to water and species-appropriate food and shelter and should be able to fulfil their important behavioural and social needs. They must receive prompt veterinary care when required and have as painless and stress-free a death as possible.

Animals can be used to benefit humans if they are humanely treated, but the benefit to people should be balanced against the cost to the animal. They should not be used in direct combat or for purposes where suffering, injury or distress is likely to be caused.

Humans should strive to provide positive experiences to promote a life worth living for the animals in their care. We should strive for continuous and incremental improvement in the treatment and welfare of animals.

Humans have a responsibility to care for the natural environment of free-living native animals. People should take steps to preserve endangered species and protect native animals from disease where possible.



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Summary

The AVA includes a series of recommendations in this submission that underscore the need for responsible dog ownership, thoughtful policy-making, and includes consideration of the welfare and economic impacts of a Dog Management Policy on the community, dogs and the veterinary profession.

Areas addressed include the clarification and review of policies concerning dog sterilisation, kennel licenses, and the handling of dangerous dogs, which are urged to be consistent with expert and evidence-based practices.

Breed-specific legislation is not supported by the AVA as it does not effectively address the complex factors contributing to dog aggression, with a call for a more individualised and behaviour-focused approach.

The AVA also suggests removing references to aggression from policy language due to the subjective nature of labelling a dog as aggressive.

The management of dog barking issues and the process for declaring dogs dangerous should be backed by expert veterinary opinion.

Discussion

Veterinarians are highly valued and trusted by the communities they serve. Their knowledge and expertise are an essential contributor to any matters relating to animal health and welfare.

The following input utilises the AVA's extensive knowledgebase derived from members of the veterinary profession who have special interest, expertise, or are specialists in the areas of dog behaviour and welfare.

3. Code of Dog Ownership

The Code for Responsible Dog Ownership has been developed to help dog owners or prospective dog owners to understand the importance of being a responsible owner and to encourage more responsible behaviour by dog owners.

Whilst this code is voluntary it outlines best practices to achieve a caring and responsible environment for dogs and their owners with the aim of minimising neighbourhood inconveniences, animal welfare concerns (including oversupply and homelessness) and the destruction of wildlife and its habitat.

Responsible dog ownership means accepting full responsibility for your dog's needs and the standards set in relation to dog management within our community.

3.1 Council's Responsibilities



The Council seeks to promote responsible dog ownership within Hobart, ensure adequate facilities for dog owners, and reduce the negative impacts caused by dogs.

As a Council, we will:

- Promote and educate members of the community about responsible dog ownership
- Provide a broad range of experiences for people with dogs
- Respond to complaints about dogs in the community
- Maintain and develop areas where dogs can exercise and socialise
- Patrol the municipality

The AVA seek further information regarding what sources and/or subject matter experts have been used to inform the City of Hobart in preparing its resources to “*Promote and educate members of the community about responsible dog ownership.*”

3.2 Owner’s Responsibilities

The privilege of owning and enjoying the companionship of a dog carries responsibilities of care for the animal, and respect for your neighbour and the local community.

The following guide is designed to help you decide whether dog ownership is right for you, what type of dog you wish to buy, and then how to ensure your dog is a healthy and happy member of your family and the Hobart community.

Before you buy a dog, there are a few things to think about:

- Is your home and yard big enough for a dog?
- Do you have a secure yard or do you need to improve or install fencing?
- Are you able to meet any costs for its care including food, toys and veterinary care?
- Is your chosen dog of the appropriate size and temperament to suit your individual circumstances? Think about the people who may come into contact with your dog such as children or vulnerable people
- Do you have the time to exercise and train a dog?

Once you’ve decided to bring a dog into your home, you have the responsibility of keeping them healthy and happy. This means;

- Getting your dog vaccinated and microchipped
- Consider de-sexing your dog. The City strongly encourages you to do this by offering a discounted registration fee for de-sexed dogs.



- Taking your dog to see a veterinarian regularly
- Training and exercising your dog
- Keeping your dog in a secure, clean location
- Giving your dog access to food, clean water, and comfortable shelter
- Spending time with your dog; they are social animals who need companionship and affection

It is also crucial that you take steps so that your dog doesn't cause a nuisance and is compliant with Council regulations and the Dog Control Act 2000:

- Ensure your dog is registered once it turns 6 months old and wears a sturdy collar with its registration tag attached at all times
- Keep your dog under effective control when out in public. Your dog must always be on a lead unless in a declared off-lead area.
- Clean up any dog faeces in a public place and on private property immediately
- Prevent the dog from going into a prohibited area (see section 9 for a list of prohibited areas)
- If you own more than two dogs, you need to apply for a kennel licence (see section 4.1)
- Prevent your dog from barking at, chasing or threatening people, other animals or vehicles.

Regarding the information provided above around “*Before you buy a dog, there are a few things to think about:*”, there are many factors that require to be given consideration prior to the acquisition of a dog. **We appreciate that this is not intended to be a comprehensive guide, however, we would suggest that additional information and resources could be provided.**

This could include:

What do people need to understand before, or when, they take on the care of an animal about costs?

- Animal ownership is a responsibility, and with that comes the financial planning to manage an animal's health care – across their full life.
- The purchase cost of a companion animal can vary greatly. This will depend on how and where the animal is sourced which can be through a breeder (which may be interstate and involve significant transport costs), council pound, animal shelter or rescue/re-homing organisation. People should consider carefully how much they can afford to pay for the purchase, taking into consideration the other associated costs with caring for an animal.
- These costs will include veterinary services which can be preventative such as vaccinations, microchipping, health checks, parasite control and desexing



procedures. As an animal's life is quite short compared to humans, animals reach old age and often develop chronic diseases in a shorter period, so planning for this is also essential. The management of an animal's end of life also needs to be considered. How to manage unexpected illness or injury and associated veterinary care costs must also be planned for.

- To help with financial management for veterinary care, some people put money away regularly to have a safety net; others use pet health insurance. Some veterinary practices may offer “Wellness Plans”, where clients make regular monthly payments which help cover the cost of specified routine veterinary services.
- Animal owners should be aware that they can make choices about the care their animal receives in the context of their circumstances - just because advanced veterinary care is available doesn't mean owners must always choose it. A veterinarian will often discuss a range of treatment options with owners.
- There are multiple additional costs that potential animal custodians must consider when planning for a companion animal in their lives, these include: training, council registration, housing and bedding, grooming and enrichment provisions (such as day care, toys, boarding etc.).
- How a beloved companion animal is going to be cared for if the owner goes away on holiday or becomes incapacitated, for a short or long term, must be thought about in advance. This may include how the routine or basic care that is required, such as feeding and exercising, will be provided. If an animal develops an illness or chronic condition that requires medication or other therapies, the ability for these to be administered or carried out by someone else must also be considered.
- Some companion animals may develop behavioural conditions (such as separation anxiety) which often require the opinion of expert veterinary behaviourists or management with assistance of qualified and reputable training services. This can have both a cost, as well as a lifestyle impact for many people.
- A very important and increasingly significant factor that people must consider extremely carefully is not only the species of animal they are choosing (eg dog, cat, snake, ferret) but also the breed. Many breeds of dogs and cats can be prone to very serious breed related health issues. These are not only potentially highly costly from the aspect of provision of ongoing veterinary care but are enormously deleteriously impactful on the quality and length of an animal's life. The AVA and RSPCA have a combined campaign [Love is Blind](#) that provides information on this aspect for dogs, which should be reviewed by anyone considering acquiring a dog with exaggerated features (eg flat faced French Bulldogs, Pugs etc). The AVA policy [Brachycephalic dog breeding](#) is another source of veterinary expertise which includes recommendations for prospective owners.



We would encourage that for the 2 points provided, that relate to keeping a dog healthy and happy;

- *Giving your dog access to food, clean water, and comfortable shelter*
- *Spending time with your dog; they are social animals who need companionship and affection*

Consideration be given to the [5 Domains of Animal Welfare](#) and that these principles are more fully articulated and set as an expectation or guiding principles in this management policy.

3.3.2 Dog Attacks

If a dog attacks or chases any person or animal the owner of the dog is guilty of an offence.

If you have been involved in an incident with an aggressive dog please let us know by:

- complete and submit Dog Attack Investigation Request (which can be found on the City of Hobart website)
- by email to: coh@hobartcity.com.au
- by telephone: 03 6238 2711
- in writing: to the General Manager, City of Hobart, GPO Box 503, Hobart 7001
- in person: Customer Service Centre, 16 Elizabeth Street, Hobart

The [AVA's position around aggression in dogs](#), states that; *aggression is a part of the normal behavioural repertoire of all dogs. People decide whether the intensity and frequency of the aggression and the situations in which it occurs are acceptable. Opinions may differ widely about even a single incident.*

The labelling of an individual dog as aggressive is not something that can be done by a person making a report about an incident that has involved a dog. An incident being viewed as being an act of "aggression", whether it results in physical or other injury to a person or another animal, is highly subjective with many influencing factors. These factors can include the threshold for aggression being reduced when a dog is experiencing pain, discomfort, irritability, anxiety or frustration. Factors pertaining to the person involved in a dog related incident can also influence how that incident is viewed (e.g. an individual's understanding of dog behaviour and body language, or their previous lived experiences and interactions with dogs).

The AVA requests that the words "an aggressive" is removed in the above section.



3.3.3 Barking

All dogs bark as it is their main form of communication, but if you believe it is happening more often and more loudly than is reasonable, our officers may be able to assist. In some cases the owner may not realise that the barking is causing a problem, particularly if it is happening when they are not home.

If you have a problem with a barking dog in your area you can: complete and submit the Dog Barking Investigation Request which can be found on the City of Hobart Website or alternatively contact us by:

- email to: coh@hobartcity.com.au
- by telephone: 03 6238 2711
- in writing: to the General Manager, City of Hobart, GPO Box 503, Hobart 7001
- in person: Customer Service Centre, 16 Elizabeth Street, Hobart

Once we receive a request there are several stages involved in dealing with barking problems.

Stage 1

A letter is sent to the dog owner stating when the barking is occurring, providing them with advice and measures to reduce the dogs barking, the legal responsibilities of dog owners and the penalties involved for continued barking.

Stage 2

If there has been no improvement, the complainant can submit Dog Barking Formal Investigation Request (which can be found on the City of Hobart website). This attracts a fee determined by the Council annually in accordance with its fees and charges process, which is refunded if the matter is proven. Once this request is received, we will conduct an investigation and decide if formal action is required for nuisance barking.

Barking dog complaints are often protracted and difficult to resolve. Advice for managing barking

Dogs bark to communicate with each other, and this may become a nuisance behaviour if it is frequent or sustained. More frequent barking is often caused by dog feeling lonely, bored distressed or anxious. If your dog is barking, we recommend you take the following steps to try and manage it;

- Take your dog for more regular walks
- Enrol your dog in obedience training or stream some online help and give it a go at home. This provides mental stimulation that is very important for dogs
- Block the ability of your dog to see people moving past a boundary fence if that triggers the barking



- Ensure your dog is left with adequate food and water when alone as well as a toys to play with
- Consider enrolling your dog in day-boarding or leave it with a friend or neighbour if they struggle with separation anxiety
- Seek professional advice from a veterinarian or a dog trainer

In the above for “Stage 1” of this management policy “*providing them with advice and measures to reduce the dogs barking*”, the AVA requests clarification on what this advice would be and where it has been sourced. **The AVA makes this request to ensure that the information being given is consistent with current, evidence-based methods for managing dog behaviour issues.**

For the “Stage 2” point, it is advised that an investigation will be conducted to decide if formal action is required for nuisance barking complaints. The AVA seeks information on what is involved for this investigation, most specifically what expertise is sought as part of the investigation process.

Advice for managing barking

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- Block the ability of your dog to see people moving past a boundary fence if that triggers the barking
- Ensure your dog is left with adequate food and water when alone as well as a toys to play with
- Consider enrolling your dog in day-boarding or leave it with a friend or neighbour if they struggle with separation anxiety
- Seek professional advice from a veterinarian or a dog trainer

The AVA holds concern over the recommendation provided regarding "online help". Extreme caution must be exercised with the type of advice that may be available in this manner regarding managing dog barking. We emphasise the need for quality advice from a qualified training body with ethical standards and **we would ask that this be used as the**



recommendation here. Veterinary professionals can assist with providing more information on this topic.

The final point in the above section advises people who are managing dog barking issues to seek professional advice, including from a dog trainer.

The AVA believes that as dog trainers are not a regulated sector, they should not be included in the first avenue for consultation around animal behaviour concerns. Veterinarians should be consulted in the first instance and for more complex issues a veterinarian who has a speciality or a special interest in dog behaviour should be consulted. Dog trainers should only be used on the advice or recommendation of a veterinary professional.

The AVA requests that wording "or a dog trainer" is removed from this recommendation.

4. Fees

Please note that owners must provide evidence to the City of sterilisation in the form of a vet certificate.

The AVA would advise that a definition for "sterilisation" is provided in this management plan. This is due to the options that are now available to perform sterilisation. We would refer you to the AVA Policy [Surgical sterilisation of dogs and cats](#) which explains surgical and medical options for sterilisation.

The reasons for sterilisation can vary from a veterinary perspective, which would require confirmation from relevant Tasmanian legislation as to what is deemed to be accepted as an animal being classified as "desexed" for the purposes Hobart City Council registration of dogs.

A veterinarian will issue a sterilisation certificate and may place an ear tattoo when they have performed a procedure that permanently prevents that animal from being capable of reproducing. Where gonad-sparing surgical techniques are used, it is recommended that veterinarians note this on a certificate issued for that animal. Where medical sterilisation techniques are used, these may not be issued a certificate or tattoo.

4.1 Kennel Licences

Step 3: Submit your application

After we receive your application and payment of the licence fee, we will arrange to visit your property to assess the suitability of the premises, including the yard size, fencing, shelter, bedding, and health of the dogs.

With regards to the assessment of suitability of premises subject to Kennel Licence application, **the AVA highly recommends that the following policy be reviewed and taken in to consideration for this application assessment process:** [Boarding facilities including dog and cat daycare centres.](#)



5.3 Managing your dog's behaviour while out and about

It is crucial that when you are out in public that your dog is always kept under effective control. This means that the dog is not being aggressive, and is responsive to your commands. Dogs must be in control of someone strong enough, so it is important you closely supervise children who are walking or playing with dogs. When your dog is happy and relaxed, they are less likely to cause a nuisance or pose a danger to other dogs and people. The best way to ensure your dog is happy and calm in public is to ensure they enjoy lots of safe, on-lead exposure from an early age. Keeping your dog on lead even in off-lead areas allows you to exercise more control until the dog can learn appropriate behaviours.

Remember that not everyone feels comfortable with dogs.

The [AVA's position around aggression in dogs](#), states that; *aggression is a part of the normal behavioural repertoire of all dogs. People decide whether the intensity and frequency of the aggression and the situations in which it occurs are acceptable. Opinions may differ widely about even a single incident.*

The labelling of an individual dog as aggressive is not something that can be done by a person making a report about an incident that has involved a dog. An incident being viewed as being an act of "aggression", whether it results in physical or other injury to a person or another animal, is highly subjective with many influencing factors. These factors can include the threshold for aggression being reduced when a dog is experiencing pain, discomfort, irritability, anxiety or frustration. Factors pertaining to the person involved in a dog related incident can also influence how that incident is viewed (eg an individual's understanding of dog behaviour and body language, or their previous lived experiences and interactions with dogs).

The AVA requests that the wording "This mean that the dog is not being aggressive," is replaced in the above section with "This means your dog is being kept safe from items or activities which may cause stress," Furthermore, this information; *"When your dog is happy and relaxed, they are less likely to cause a nuisance or pose a danger to other dogs and people.*

The best way to ensure your dog is happy and calm in public is to ensure they enjoy lots of safe, on-lead exposure from an early age. Keeping your dog on lead even in off-lead areas allows you to exercise more control until the dog can learn appropriate behaviours."

Is requested to be changed to this more appropriate and evidence-based advice:

"Early socialisation, starting before 12 weeks of age, which is done safely and which your puppy enjoys, can increase the chances of your dog growing into a relaxed, social member of the community. Well run puppy classes can assist with this."



6 Captured Animals

Management of captured dogs

If officers become aware of a stray dog whilst on patrol or have been alerted by a complaint to City, they will attend the scene and capture the dog.

Once a dog has been captured, it will be checked for a microchip. If the dog has a microchip, then the owners will be contacted and advised their dog has been captured. The officers at their discretion may return the dog to the premises, or take the dog to the Dogs Home of Tasmania for collection.

The City has a contract with the Dogs' Home of Tasmania and all captured dogs are taken to their Hobart based centre.

Once the dog has been taken to the Dogs Home, owners have five days to collect the dog. If the dog has not been collected within five days, it will become the property of the City and the Dogs Home will then have the right to re-home the dog. If you wish to collect your dog after five days, you will have to go through the formal adoption process with the Dogs Home.

When collecting your dog from the Dogs Home, you will be required to pay an impounding fee, and this includes an additional surcharge for each day the dog spent in care.

Clarification is recommended around the proof of ownership of a dog, with regards to the person who is registered on the microchip registry and the Council registry. Relevant legislation should be consulted to determine how this is managed in cases where the information may differ between these two registrations, with regard to legal ownership. In other jurisdictions it is the person registered as the dog owner with the relevant council that is the legal owner.

The AVA suggests that the process for determining legal ownership of dogs is made clear in this strategy to mitigate ownership disputes around re-uniting dogs with owners and re-homing of strays.

Privacy and safety issues may also need to be considered for the aspect of dogs being returned to an address by a Council officer. Domestic and Family Violence situations where dogs can be used for coercive control should be addressed, especially where ownership is not clear or able to be confirmed.

Further information on this area can be sourced at [Lucy's Project](#) and [Safe Pets safe Families](#).

It is noted that Council utilises the private facilities of the Dogs' Home of Tasmania for managing captured dogs. **It is recommended that the AVA policy [Animal shelters and municipal pounds](#) is used for the Dogs' Home of Tasmania to meet standards that Council should require for a contractor providing services to manage captured dogs.**



7 Dangerous dogs

The Council takes public safety very seriously, and any incidents involving a dog will be quickly and thoroughly investigated. If a dog has been found to cause serious injury, or demonstrates that it is likely to do so, the General Manager can declare the dog to be a dangerous dog.

Restricted breeds and guard dogs are by default treated as dangerous dogs.

If you have any questions about Dangerous Dogs, please contact the City's Animal Management Unit before taking any further action.

7.1 Declaring Dogs Dangerous

The General Manager has the power to declare a dog dangerous.

If you disagree with this declaration, you can lodge an appeal of this decision in the Magistrates Court within 14 days of being informed of the General Manager's declaration.

The AVA request clarification on the process for the General Manager declaring a dog dangerous to confirm if it is consistent with evidence based, expert opinion on how a dog is declared dangerous.

7.2 Requirements for owning a Dangerous Dog

If you own a dangerous dog, you must ensure your premises and dog meets the requirements of the Dog Control Act 2000. You cannot keep more than two (2) dangerous dogs on your property at any one time.

Dangerous dogs must:

- Be de-sexed and micro-chipped; and
- Wear an approved collar advising that it is a dangerous dog at all times; and
- Be muzzled when in a public area, and never be let off lead even in an off-lead area; and
- Be kept in an approved enclosure when on private property. The enclosure must:
 - Be childproof, with a self-closing and latching gate; and
 - Have a minimum height and width of 1.8m; and
 - each dog must have an area of 10 square metres; and
 - Have solid or sturdy mesh walls, roof and gate; and
 - Have a sealed concrete floor with adequate drainage; and
 - Have a sleeping area for the dog out of the elements; and
- Be on a part of the property that does not have to be walked through to access any other part of the property.

Warning signs must also be placed on the perimeter of the property.

If you are unable to comply with these requirements, you must surrender the dangerous dog(s) to the Council.



For the above requirement: “*Be kept in an approved enclosure when on private property*”, the AVA requests clarification if the dog must be constantly kept in this enclosure, or if it is able to be with family, in the family home, when supervision requirements are being met.

Regarding the requirement: “*each dog must have an area of 10 square metres*”, the AVA recommends that consideration is given to the quality of the space.i.e. enrichment and exercise opportunities must be provided to mitigate the potential development of behaviour or physical problems.

The AVA also recommend that the requirement “*Having a sleeping area for the dog out of the elements*” should embrace the 5 Domains of Animal Welfare, which would include that the dog is not only protected from adverse weather but is also comfortable and their other welfare needs are being met.

7.3 Restricted Breeds

Restricted breeds in Tasmania are specified in the Dog Control Act 2000 and include:

- Dogo Argentino;
- Fila Brasileiro;
- Japanese Tosa;
- American pit bull terrier or pit bull terrier;
- Perro de Presa Canario or Presa Canario;
- Any other breed, kind or description of dog whose importation into Australia is prohibited by or under the Customs Act 1901 of the Commonwealth.

The AVA does not support Breed Specific Legislation, and we recommend that the classification and labelling of dogs (such as dangerous and menacing) should be reviewed from an ethological (behavioural science) perspective to make it clearer and less ambiguous.

We recommend that an individualised approach to dog aggression be adopted. As every aggression incident involving a dog is unique, there should not be a 'one size fits all' approach when it comes to requirements for owners of restricted dogs. Instead, careful consideration of how such restrictions affect animal welfare should be taken into account, recognising that dogs are sentient beings deserving of respect and kindness even in restrictive environments. The concept of “community expectations” also requires further understanding and clarification in order to ascertain what is required to meet these expectations.

While the AVA supports the need of penalties for owners who fail to comply with strategies and restrictions provided after a full investigation of a dog bite incident, the details of the penalties should be determined based on knowledge from experts, such as human psychologists and legal professionals, on whether penalties effectively act as deterrents for non-compliance.

The AVA advocates for an evidence-based approach that recognises that the likelihood of any individual dog biting is complex and multi-factorial and is not because of a dog’s breed.



Control measures that focus solely on breed risks giving the community a false sense of safety. We encourage collaboration with experts from relevant fields to determine appropriate penalties, including their effectiveness, and strategies for enforcing regulations involving dog bite incidents.

For more information on this matter please refer to the AVA document: [Dangerous Dogs – a sensible solution.](#)

8.2 Public Education and promotion

The City will continue to run events such as the annual ‘Dogs on the Domain’ to bring together dogs owners from across the community. These events are an opportunity to educate dog owners on how to best care for their dogs, and ensure they do not cause a nuisance.

The AVA would be interested to understand what level or form of veterinary knowledge or participation is included in ‘Dogs on the Domain’ this event?

8.4 Environmental Protection

It is crucial that as a dog owner, you do not let your dog chase and hunt other animals. It may encourage predatory behaviour and causes significant environmental damage.

The AVA supports that environmental damage, protection of native species and harm to others are important factors that must be taken into consideration with a dog management policy and includes dogs should not be allowed to chase and hunt other animals. However, **the statement “It may encourage predatory behaviour.....” is not correct and we request this wording be removed.**

Conclusion

As champions for the significant roles that veterinarians play in ensuring the health and welfare of dogs in our society, the AVA fully supports the critical importance of responsible dog ownership.

This submission has highlighted several areas where AVA policies could be used to improve and better align The City of Hobart Dog Management Policy with evidence-based practices.

This includes the necessary revision of policies around breed-specific legislation, the handling of behaviourally challenged animals, and the need for clear, compassionate guidelines in dog management. The incorporation of a nuanced understanding of animal behaviour, coupled with a strong recommendation for reliance on professional veterinary advice, promotes a more humane and scientifically grounded approach to dog management.

Moreover, the AVA's advocacy for re-evaluation of financial models within veterinary care, including the impact of economic challenges on animal welfare, is of particular importance.



This consideration is crucial not only for maintaining the health and welfare of animals but also for supporting the veterinary profession during economically challenging times.

The collaboration of legislative bodies, veterinary professionals, and the community is essential to create a framework where the welfare of dogs and the needs of those who care for them are effectively balanced and addressed.

Contact details

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