

**Analysis of Council Data Collection System  
for Seizures of Cats and Dogs 2005/2006 to  
2009/2010**

**Division of Local Government  
Department of Premier and Cabinet  
April 2011**

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# 1. Introduction

Section 67A of the *Companion Animals Act 1998* (hereafter referred to as the Act) provides a requirement for councils to report on activities relating to animal pounds under the ultimate responsibility of the council.

The Division of Local Government, Department of Premier and Cabinet has developed a system for the collection of animal pound data. The primary purpose of the data collection system is to provide a management tool for councils to inform the design and implementation of operations to meet their responsibilities under the Act. The data has a variety of purposes, such as:

- assessment of resource needs including staffing;
- provision of information to the community about pound activities;
- preparation of submissions for new or upgraded facilities and equipment or additional staff;
- allocation of resources to account for seasonal fluctuations in activity identified in the monthly data;
- evaluation of existing strategies in regard to council responsibilities under the Act;
- strategic planning of companion animal services.

In addition, the data collected by each council are provided to the Division annually and held on a central database.

A number of improvements have been made to the pound data collection system over time, in particular to the instrument used for collecting the data to increase its accuracy. Providing the data to the Division was made mandatory from the 2006/2007 reporting period to increase the response rate.

Despite these improvements, the data in this report need to be interpreted with some caution. Inspection of the data indicates that there are some errors by councils in recording data. However, these are considered not to be to an extent that would invalidate overall findings.

Chapters 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7 of the report present data for each financial year from 2005/2006 until 2009/2010. Chapter 5 compares data for the financial years from 2005/2006 until 2007/2008. Chapter 6, which presents data for 2008/2009, also includes a comparison with data from 2007/2008. Similarly, Chapter 7, which presents data for 2009/2010, also includes a comparison with data from 2008/2009.

The data in the report is presented on a regional basis. The councils which comprise each region are listed in Appendix 1.