



Peta Reeder-Gibb of Gamester Staffordshire Bull Terriers married Matt Weber at Curzon Hall on January 19, 2008 at Curzon Hall, in what may go down as the Sydney dog scene's wedding of the year. Well attended by a large contingent of not only the Sydney show scene, a number of well known doggy personalities from interstate were also in attendance. Don Day was the MC, and Catherine Jack – a well known Stafford breeder with her parents under the Jackstaff prefix and extremely successful junior handler in the early 1990s – was one of the bridesmaids.

Pictured from left, Grandfather of the bride, Ron Reeder, mother of the bride Kim Reeder-Gibb, the bridal couple, Peta and Matt, Julie Reeder and her husband, Rodney, the bride's uncle, and Kerry Reeder, the bride's aunt.

'UNLEASHING ADELAIDE' - join us on our journey!

In my original proposal to the South Australian Canine Association, I used a quotation from Charles Swindoll which says: "We are all faced with a series of great opportunities brilliantly disguised as impossible situations". It is a sentiment which I think should be embraced by the dog fancy - particularly in its quest for solutions to the seemingly never-ending threat to our canine companions, and their future prospects.

'Unleashing Adelaide' is a promotional campaign and community outreach program, which seeks to create a more dog-friendly environment. In order to put some much-needed balance back into the dog debate, we will be showcasing the many valuable canine contributions to community life. In addition to sending out regular media releases reinforcing the image of dogs as the 'good guys', we will be officially recognising meritorious achievement through our Dog Hero awards. In much the same way that celebrities' hand prints are immortalised in that well-known Hollywood footpath, we are hoping to establish a Dogwalk of Fame, where canine 'stars' can be similarly honoured, and their pawprints preserved for perpetuity. Ideally, we would like the site to incorporate a prominent dog statue, and become a community gathering place for other 'dog rituals' and events.

In a similar vein, we will be establishing an elite performance team, to provide entertainment at major events. It is anticipated that this will incorporate highly skilled exponents of agility, obedience, duck herding, doggy dancing, etc - and will hopefully serve to remind the general public of the joys of dog ownership, while engendering respect for the many amazing talents of our canine friends.

'Meet the Breeds' parades and promotions will take place during the lunch break in the dog pavilion throughout the Royal Show, as well as in Adelaide's premier shopping precinct (Rundle Mall) during the year. An Open Day at SACA Park in August will also hopefully help to woo owners and potential owners of 'designer mutts', back to the wonderful world of purebred dogs.

A series of educational seminars, clinics and workshops will be staged - some geared to the general public, with more specialist ones for the dog fancy.

Movies showing dogs in a positive light will be supported with 'patting pooches' at film premieres, plus we will be attempting to have as much dog representation as possible in community pageants and festivals. There will even be a 'pet Santa' photo opportunity offered, with Father Christmas and dog, during the yuletide season!

One of the major planks in our 'Unleashing Adelaide' campaign is being proactive in welcoming the general public into our ranks. The more user-friendly name of DOGS SA is to become the public face of SACA, and 'Unleashing Adelaide' activities will all come under this banner. A dedicated UA telephone number is being installed, and a UA web site set up.

All businesses welcoming dogs into their establishments (such as shops, outdoor cafes, B&Bs, etc) will be offered a specially designed UA 'dog friendly' sticker to place prominently on their premises, as well as a free listing on our web site. A special award will recognise any services above and beyond the call of duty in helping to facilitate dogs becoming more readily accepted as an integral part of the community.

To assist in making responsible dog ownership easier and more accessible, we are putting together an 'Unleashing Adelaide' dog directory - which will be distributed far and wide. It is anticipated that this free publication will include a list of all dog events taking place during the year, dog-friendly beaches, parks and accommodation, dog services and resources, a membership form, important contact numbers, and a map of dog destinations and highlights. (We are even hoping to be able to offer half-day and full day 'doggy tours').

As you can see, we are planning to paint the town 'dog' !!! Stay tuned for all the latest developments...

JUDY CHAPMAN
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NEW VICTORIAN LEGISLATION

Clause 82

There have been a number of misunderstandings about Clause 82, the new state laws regarding the showing of dogs with docked tails and this is a great opportunity for DOGS Victoria to clear up any misunderstandings.

We recognise that this issue has struck an emotional chord with many breeders who have a long-standing tradition of shortened tails. This legislation has been particularly difficult to accept as it was brought about as an animal welfare issue and has been seen as particularly hurtful to members who have always loved and cared for their dogs.

DOGS Victoria will not ban dogs with docked tails from shows.

Dogs Victoria will not police the new Act in this way. It is for each member to make their own decision after considering the requirements of the Act. However, although we disagree with the government's decision on this matter, the law is the law and we cannot condone illegal activities.

When this legislation was proposed, we contacted the government several times to put across our view that this legislation is completely unnecessary. Those who do not comply with the law are a small minority. We are particularly concerned that the presence of inspectors will spoil the fun, positive atmosphere of our beloved dog shows. Even those with legally docked or naturally short tails could be made to feel uncomfortable.

There are many dogs (most will full-length tails) out there who are not properly cared for. We hope those enforcing all sections the Animal Welfare Act will prioritise their efforts accordingly.

DOGS Victoria will continue to put its efforts toward promoting responsible dog ownership for everyone, and supporting its members in every way it legally can.

As stated in the Tail Docking FAQ from the Bureau of Animal Welfare, any dog docked

RE ANIMALS (REGULATION OF SALE) BILL 2007

Thank you for publishing the Report on this Bill by Messrs Cunningham, Giles and Hedberg in your last issue.

On 1 February 2008 Dogs NSW received a letter from Steve Whan MP, Parliamentary Secretary For Primary Industries, addressed to our former President, Keith Irwin, which advises that, although the draft Bill put forward by Ms Clover Moore MP aims to protect the lives and wellbeing of companion animals in NSW, which is admirable, it is unlikely that these aims would be achieved by adopting this Bill as legislation.

Your readers will see that this view accords with the advice received by Dogs NSW in the report referred to above and which has been adopted by our Board of Directors.

We do not know when the Bill will be further debated in Parliament but will monitor the situation closely.

Set out below is the full text of the letter received from Steve Whan. Yours Sincerely
Frank Pieterse, President, Dogs NSW

Thank you for your letter of 1 November 2007 to the Hon Ian Macdonald MLC, NSW Minister for Primary Industries concerning the proposed Animals (Regulation of Sale) Bill 2007. I understand that you have also written to other Ministers on this matter. The Minister has asked me to respond to you on his behalf.

The draft Bill put forward by Ms Clover Moore MP aims to protect the lives and wellbeing of companion animals in NSW, which is admirable. However, it is unlikely that these aims would be achieved by adopting this bill as legislation.

The proposed Animal (Regulation of Sale) Bill 2007 bans the sale of all mammals, which would include mice, guinea pigs, rabbits and the like, in pet shops. NSW families wanting a pet mouse would be required to acquire the animal through a registered breeder, have the mouse micro chipped and register themselves as breeders with an unspecified organization, should their pet mice breed.

prior to 12/12/07 has been granted complete amnesty. It is as clear-cut and simple as that. Dogs docked before that date are exempt; dogs docked after that date are open to prosecution under the Act.



You can download this Q&A document from the DOGS Victoria website at www.dogsvictoria.org.au or find it in your Jan/Feb issue of National Dog.

The slate will effectively be wiped clean so that only dogs docked after the law goes into effect (12/12/07) will be subject to the new Act.

To assist members, DOGS Victoria will be issuing cards on request, stating that your dog complies with the law if

1. It had its tail docked prior to the date the law takes effect (12/12/07)

2. It has a naturally bobbed tail

3. The tail was docked in compliance with the Act (i.e. medical emergency or the procedure was performed in a state or country where it is legal)

If there are inspectors present at a dog show, you will simply be required to show them your card so they know your dog complies with the Act.

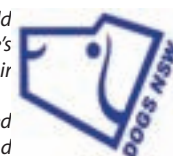
Clause 89

A seminar has been scheduled to discuss the impact of Clause 89, the changes in the laws referring to "intentionally or recklessly" breeding dogs with heritable diseases. We are currently working with the ANKC Canine Health Committee to develop a Breeding Code of Practice that will exempt DOGS Victoria breeders from the law.

It is a very general law and we know that our breeding programs are above and beyond the irresponsible people it was written to restrain.

We will discuss this section of the law in greater details once we have finalised the Code of Practice and incorporated feedback from our experienced, responsible breeders.

These restrictions would severely impact on people's freedom to own and breed their pets.



There are an estimated 30,000 working cattle and sheep in rural NSW, which are an essential part of farming life. These dogs are bred by a range of people, including farmers, drovers and stock and station agents and then advertised through rural newspapers, filed days, sheep dog trials or other rural networks. Under this propose Bill, working dogs could not be advertised for sale, effectively shutting down the breeding of working dogs for the rural sector.

Furthermore, prohibiting the sale of animals, particularly dogs and cats, in pet shops, will not achieve the stated aims of the Bill. The published figures on companion animals in NSW suggest that less 11 percent of dogs and cats are sold from pet shops. Therefore, banning that sale of animals from pet shops will have minimal impact on the numbers of cats and dogs recruited to pounds and shelters in NSW.

The NSW Government is committed to ensuring that the principles of responsible pet ownership are promoted in the community. In recent years, the NSW Government has introduced initiatives including the Companion Animals Act 1999 which made micro chipping compulsory. This has assisted the trend of a 25 percent decrease of dogs received in shelters in NSW. Furthermore, there has been a 40 percent reduction in the numbers of these dogs euthanased.

NSW Department of Primary Industries also assists in the achievement of these aims by working with industry and enforcement authorities under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 and the Pet Shop Code of Practice to deliver continual improvement in animal welfare standards. The NSW Government will continue to work with industry and animal welfare organizations to deliver functional animal welfare reforms.

Your sincerely **Steve Whan MP**
Parliamentary Secretary For Primary Industries