

A Message from the President

DogsACT – President's Update Ahead of the 2026 AGM

As we approach my first AGM as President, I would like to share an overview of what Council, and I have delivered over the past 12 months. It has been a challenging but rewarding year, guided by three core principles: openness, accountability, and transparency. I look forward to working with new Councillors for the second half of my Presidency to explore how Council can best support our members.

Openness

I instigated an "opendoor" session for members from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm before every Council meeting. These conversations have been invaluable, and I encourage any member wishing to raise an issue to attend. I would like members to know that DogsACT Council meetings are not closed meetings. Members are welcome to observe discussions (not participate), except where confidential matters arise. Your attendance may not only strengthen your understanding of Council's work but may also inspire future Council involvement.

Presidents and Secretaries meetings have been held more frequently, improving collaboration with affiliates and strengthening alignment across our community.

Accountability

Council has appointed a nine member Show Committee, allowing Council to focus more effectively on governance and oversight. My sincere thanks to all committee members for their commitment. Members interested in assisting are encouraged to contact DogsACT Administration. The future location of DogsACT grounds was a lingering unresolved issue. Accordingly, late last year, Councillors and affiliate representatives along with more than fifty members inspected Canberra's Greyhound Track. Your feedback was clear: while the site has potential, the scale of required work makes it unsuitable at this time. I would like to thank those that attended: your collective input was critical to inform Council's deliberations.

Council appointed DogsACT's first Child Safety Champion, this role is seen to ensure that child safety practices are embedded across our activities and that we foster a culture where children and young people feel empowered and supported.

Transparency

Council commissioned a financial review to strengthen DogsACT's long term viability. Several cost saving measures have already been implemented. Our accountant will also attend the AGM to answer member questions directly. Work is underway to reinstate publication of Council minutes, which ceased in June 2025. Our aim is to upload approved minutes to the DogsACT website and make future minutes available shortly after each Council meeting.

Ongoing Activities

Maintaining a strong relationship with EPIC remains, for obvious reasons, essential.

Regular meetings have so far:

- secured our ability to host shows over the October long weekend
- progressed arrangements for night shows beginning January 2027
- advanced approval for timber gazebos at the lower ring and
- ensured EPIC's support for the newly constructed offleash area

Some of the issues being discussed with EPIC relate to construction, engineering or planning. If any member has experience in these fields, has spare time, and would like to assist, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Council has established Puppy of the Year award commencing March 2027. This will be exclusively for puppies owned by ACT residents. We hope this becomes a valued annual DogsACT event.

Council has re-introduced a Judges Training Scheme, reducing reliance on NSW's program and easing the burden on our members. Though it may be limited to just a couple of groups in the first instance, I hope that over the coming years we will be able to hold a complete seven-group training scheme.

Recruitment for a new Administrator is underway. I would like to thank Linda Buckley and Councillors for stepping in and going above and beyond during this transition.

While many initiatives relate to conformation, Council is committed to supporting all DogsACT sports. I encourage members from every discipline to bring forward ideas, needs, and proposals. Your input ensures Council continues to serve the entire DogsACT community.

I would like to give a special thanks to Julie Cutts, Helen Mossler, Kylie White Judith Barlow) for their involvement with DogsAct sports



Regards
Douglas Anderson
President DogsAct