

News Release Minister Ian Hunter

Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation
Minister for Water and the River Murray
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation



Wednesday, 13 March 2013

Schools take the lead in responsible pet education

A new programme aimed at reducing the incidence of dog attacks by teaching primary-aged children how to behave safely around pets has been launched today.

Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, Ian Hunter welcomed the Dog and Cat Management Board's 'Living Safely with Pets' programme this morning at Kidman Park Primary School.

"Dog attacks continue to have an impact on safety in our community," Mr Hunter said.

"The Dog and Cat Management Board's research indicates that 80 per cent of children who are involved in dog attacks are attacked in their own homes or that of a family member or friend.

"This means they were attacked by their own dog or a dog that was known to them.

"It is vitally important that children and their families are educated to reduce the risk of an incident occurring by learning how to interact safely with pets.

"Living Safely with Pets is a structured learning programme that aims to reduce the incidence of dog-related injuries in the community and encourage responsible pet ownership.

"Children will learn how to behave safely around dogs and cats, what it means to be a responsible pet owner and the wonderful role pets play in our lives," Mr Hunter said.

The plan has been developed by qualified junior primary educators and includes school visits, take-home information for students and their parents as well as a teacher resource package.

School visits will be delivered by a trained team of pet educators, who use strategies such as role playing, music, dance and interactive media to help convey their messages.

For more information on safe and responsible pet ownership, visit www.dogandcatboard.com.au