

Ipswich City Council

Supreme Court ruling calls American Staffies Pit Bulls

24 May 2010

IPSWICH City Council is seeking urgent advice from the Department of Infrastructure and Planning to determine what it should do about 126 dogs registered in Ipswich as American Staffordshire Terriers in the wake of a Supreme Court ruling on the Gold Coast.

Health and Regulation Committee Chairperson, Councillor Andrew Antonioli said a drawn out court case on the Gold Coast last month declared a dog registered as an American Staffordshire was, in fact, an American Pit Bull Terrier, banned in Queensland.

"We are concerned that we have at least 126 of the 30,000 dogs registered in Ipswich which were identified on their registration as American Staffordshire Terriers.

"Council has decided today to continue current procedures in regard to the registration and keeping of American Staffordshire Terriers and cross breeds of that type until we receive legal advice from the Department of Infrastructure and Planning and a further report is prepared for Council to consider.

Cr Antonioli said the recent ruling in the Supreme Court of Queensland in the case (*Kylie Louise Chivers vs Gold Coast City Council*) found the dog breed known as the American Staffordshire Terrier (AmStaff) was considered the same as an American Pit Bull Terrier (APBT) and that Gold Coast City Council's (GCCC) local law provisions in relation to prohibited breeds would apply to the dog in question.

"We understand The Department of Infrastructure and Planning (DIP) has sought legal advice and will forward that advice to Councils for their information once they receive it.

"We eagerly await that advice and will maintain the status quo until we hear from them.

"Ipswich City Council currently prohibits American Pit Bull Terriers under *Local Law No.7 (Dogs) 2005* , therefore the advice from the Department of Infrastructure and Planning is essential in finding our way forward."

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