

**Moorabool Shire Council**  
**DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
**2008-2011**



**Promoting Responsible Pet Ownership**

The Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) 2008-2011  
was adopted by Moorabool Shire Council on XX/XX/2008

The Plan outlines strategies to manage dogs and cats within the municipality

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In 2008, the State Government amended the Domestic (Feral and Nuisance) Animals Act 1994 specifying that all Victorian councils prepare a three-year Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) for 2008 to 2011.

The DAMP enables Council to take a greater strategic approach to animal management within the municipality by:

- Promoting and encouraging responsible pet ownership;
- Encompassing an effective management of dogs and cats through desexing programs and identification through microchipping of cats and dogs; and
- Reducing public and environmental nuisances caused by dogs either wandering and/or not under effective control in public places and open spaces.

The development and implementation of the DAMP for Moorabool Shire, incorporating the State legislative amendments, will:

- Improve animal management;
- Increase the likelihood of implanted animals being reunited with their owners;
- Decrease the numbers of cats and dogs being handed into the pound;
- Decrease the numbers of cats and dogs having to be euthanized;
- Decrease the amount of dog attacks;
- Increase public safety;
- Provide safety and welfare for animals;
- Regulate the confinement of dogs and cats; and
- Provide access to open and public spaces for dogs and owners.

In representing the community, Council's responsibility is to keep its community well informed of innovative approaches in managing domestic animals across the municipality.

Council is responsible for the management and operation of the Shire's Pound, located in Bacchus Marsh.

## **AIM**

The development and implementation of this Plan will:

- Raise community awareness to be responsible pet owners;
- Educate and assist the community;
- Increase Council awareness;
- Heighten Council support for animal management;
- Address animal issues within the municipality;
- Address authorised officer training needs;
- Address animal welfare issues; and
- Ensure Council remains up-to-date with current legislation.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

### **Purpose of the Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP)**

In 2008, the State Government amended the Domestic (Feral and Nuisance) Animals Act 1994 (the Act).

To further improve animal management, councils in Victoria are now required by legislation to prepare and implement a Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP).

The purpose of the DAMP is to improve the way domestic animals are managed.

The Plan aims to increase the chances of animals being reunited with their owners and decrease the numbers of cats and dogs being surrendered to the animal pound, therefore decreasing the numbers of dogs and cats that are euthanised.

The DAMP provides the community and stakeholders with the chance to express their views about matters relating to animal management, particularly the community's views on compulsory microchipping and desexing of all cats and dogs in the Shire.

Section 68A of the Act requires a Domestic Animal Management Plan include:

1. An evaluation of current animal control services provided by Council to ensure they comply with the requirements of the Act.
2. Services and strategies to promote responsible pet ownership of dog and cats.
3. Ways to decrease the risk of dog attacks on people and animals.
4. Address the high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats.
5. Encourage and promote the registration and identification of cats and dogs.
6. Reduce the potential for cats and dogs to create an environmental nuisance.
7. Effectively identify all dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs in the municipality and ensure these dogs are kept in compliance with the Act.
8. Provide training for authorised officers to ensure they can properly administer and enforce the requirements of the Act.

Organisations such as Animal Welfare and the Human Society for Animal Welfare have formed the Cats Crisis Coalition and have written to several councils and key stakeholders to address the problem and seeking support for the introduction of compulsory desexing of cats and dogs. This issue is to be reviewed by Council in the future.

## **Process applied in developing the DAMP**

In March 2007, consultation was undertaken by Council with key stakeholders including the Lost Dogs Home, individual cat and dog owners, dog breeders, the Cat's Crisis Coalition and the general community to gain a broad range of views and input into the development of the DAMP. Additional information was sort by reviewing current domestic animal-related literature, and discussing current animal issues with other Council service units to discover their views on compulsory microchipping and desexing of dogs and cats.

The consultation process included:

- Conducting consultation with other organisations;
- Advertisements in Council's customer service centres;
- Community consultation;
- Views sort from the local veterinarians;
- Input from other councils; and
- Consultation with dog breeders.

This consultation process, together with investigations by Council Compliance Officers, has contributed to the development of the Domestic Animal Management Plan.

## 2. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

### **Moorabool Shire Council's Mission (Council Plan 2007-2012)**

#### ***Respecting and serving our communities***

Moorabool Shire Council respects and serves its communities through:

- Planning and delivering sustainable growth;
- Advocating to protect our rights, heritage and diversity; and
- Managing and fairly distributing resources for the overall well-being of the community.

### **Moorabool Shire Council's Strategic Vision for the municipality (Council Plan 2007-2012)**

#### ***By 2012 Moorabool Shire will:***

- Be characterised by viable and vibrant communities and towns forming an integrated Shire with strong identity. They will be communities of choice attracting growth.
- Have water resources secured and management strategies implemented to ensure agricultural development and town development continues.
- See the services and infrastructure supporting this growth reflect community needs and underpinned by:
  - long term financial forecasting
  - sound financial and resource management
  - performance-based land use planning
  - key external partnerships
  - be led by a respectful, balanced and committed group of Councillors

### **Moorabool Shire Council Animal Management Services**

Moorabool Shire Council recognises that pets contribute to the quality of life for many people.

The benefits of animal companionship for health and wellbeing are associated with being a pet owner. Therefore, educating the community about the needs and responsibilities of animal ownership is very important.

Council also recognises that being proactive within the community assists in animal management, as well as working in partnerships with stakeholders and the community to ensure the safety and wellbeing of residents.

Councils are required to provide an animal management service to ensure community safety, respond to enquires from the community and provide enforcement of relevant Acts. Council operates under the following Acts:

- Domestic (Feral and Nuisance) Animal Act 1994
- Impounding of livestock Act 1994
- Infringements Act 2006
- Pound Act 1958
- Code of practice for the operation Breeding and Rearing Establishments
- Code of practice for the operation of Boarding Establishments
- Codes of practice for the Management of Animals in Shelters and Pounds
- Codes of practice for the operation of Pet Shops
- Codes of practice for the operation of Greyhound Establishments
- Codes of practice for Dog Training Establishments

### **3. MOORABOOL SHIRE COUNCIL'S GOAL FOR DAMP**

To educate and inform the community of compulsory microchipping of all new dogs and cats before they can be registered with Council and the importance of desexing pets.

To ensure key outcomes from the DAMP meet the community's expectations in regards to responsible pet management.



#### 4. DOMESTIC ANIMAL STATISTICS AND DATA

In 1998, Bis Shrapnel estimated that:

- 40 percent of households owned one or more dog at a rate of 1.44 dogs per household; and
- 26 percent of households owned one or more cat at a rate of 1.47 cats per household.

Assuming these statistics can be adopted by the Moorabool population, it is estimated that:

- Moorabool Shire's dog population is approximately 5,200 dogs; and
- Moorabool Shire's cat population is approximately 3,450 cats.

\* Calculation has been based on 9,528 residential dwellings in the Shire.

<b>Moorabool Shire Council-Key Statistics for 2006/07</b>	<b>Moorabool Shire Council</b>	<b>Like-councils (average)</b>	<b>State (average)</b>
Population	26,445	16,000-56,000	
Area	2110 sq km	NA	
No. of EFT Authorised Officers (Animal Control)	3.0	2	NA
Hours training per officer annually	35 hours	24	NA
No. of registered dogs (% registered)	4,713 (85%)	2,261	64%
Estimated dogs (owned population)	5,488	NA	NA
No. of cats registered	1,104	531	41%
Estimated cat owned population	3,641	NA	NA
No. of registered dogs declared	1	2	NA
No. of prosecutions completed	0	0-2	33
No. of impoundments (dogs)	354	116	11.2 per
No. of dogs returned to owner	230	50	55%
No. of dogs re-housed	44	29	13%
No. of dogs euthanized	70	37	32%
No. of impounded cats	90	22	6.0 per
No. of cats returned to owner	8	1	10%
No. of cats re-housed	4	5-10	15%
No. of cats euthanized	78	9	75%

## 5. CURRENT ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Council's Compliance Officers trained in animal management deal with a wide range of issues associated with domestic animals throughout the municipality. These include:

- Dealing with customer complaints;
- Maintaining the animal pound to the required standards;
- Investigating dog attacks;
- Random visits (door knocks) to pet owners' homes to ensure pets are registered;
- Providing after hours emergency service;
- Access to open and public places;
- Daily pick-ups of strays, unwanted and feral animals;
- Inspections of kennels, dangerous and restricted breed premises ensuring compliance with legislation;
- Educating the community on being responsible pet owners;
- Assisting other departments with animal advice;
- Maintaining the impound register; and
- The continuous review of Council's duty to fulfill legislative requirements.

Council's Compliance Unit is expected to meet a number of minimum service level requirements each year as part of its standard service delivery to the community. These include:

<b>Program/Service</b>	<b>Service Level</b>
Identification and registration of cats and dogs	Ongoing
Identification and registration - door knock campaigns for unregistered animals	Annually (At various intervals throughout the year)
Domestic animal complaints	Addressed as a matter of priority
Dangerous Dog complaints	Immediate response where practicable. Treated with the highest priority
Routine Street Patrols for wandering animals	Daily in the course of duties
Pound – Cleaning and feeding of animals	2 hours per day
Pound hours of business	Monday – Thursday 4.00pm – 4.30pm Friday 3.30pm – 4.00pm
Microchipping	Conduct an annual microchipping day so residents can have their pets microchipped without needing to visit a vet. (In 2007, Council held two microchipping days. In total, 236 cats and dogs were microchipped at these days).
School information sessions about responsible pet ownership	Compliance officers are available to conduct Responsible Pet Ownership sessions at schools upon request at agreed scheduled times.
After- hours service	On call Compliance Officers will respond to emergency situations.

## **6. CONSULTATION OUTCOMES**

### **Background**

Members of the community and stakeholders were invited to participate in a consultation process to assist Council in the development of the DAMP and to measure the attitudes of the community regarding compulsory microchipping and desexing of all cats and dogs.

The consultation process was conducted in early 2007 and included participation from:

- The Lost Dogs Home;
- Cat and dog owners;
- Registered breeders;
- The Cats Coalition Crisis Centre; and
- The broader Moorabool community.

Additional information was obtained by reviewing current literature about animal management issues and by obtaining feedback from other Council service units.

### **Outcomes**

The consultation and research findings indicate that the major concern pertaining to domestic animals within Moorabool Shire is dogs at large. The second major complaint is barking dogs.

Outcomes of consultation also indicate that there is considerable concern regarding irresponsible pet ownership in the Shire.

The amount of regulatory control which exists to manage issues such as irresponsible pet ownership is another area of concern for residents.

## 7. DAMP KEY ISSUES

### Responsible Pet Ownership (Prospective and New Pet Owners)

The DAMP placed a strong emphasis on educating prospective pet owners and new pet owners about all aspects of owning a pet, including microchipping, desexing, registration and health. This will be achieved through the development of a responsible pet ownership education program, and by providing prospective pet owners with information and advice prior to obtaining a pet.

The objective of the education program will be to inform new and prospective pet owners of the responsibilities of owning a pet. Advice will include:

- Selecting a breed that is appropriate for your lifestyle;
- Registering your pets every year;
- Vaccination of pets;
- Desexing of pets;
- Socialisation of pets around other animals and humans;
- Exercising of dogs;
- Appropriate fencing for containment;
- Microchipping of existing animals; and
- Ensuring pets have regular check-ups.



### Desexing Cats and Dogs

Unless otherwise stated in the Act, dogs and cats are not required to be desexed other than if they are a restricted breed dog. However, owners of cats and dog are encouraged to have their pets desexed.

Benefits of desexing your pets include:

- Decrease in unplanned and unnecessary breeding;
- Decrease in the likelihood of aggressive behavior, predominantly in males;
- Reduced amount of dogs wandering at large; and
- Improved temperament.



## Microchipping Cats and Dogs

As at 1 May 2007, it is now State Government legislation that all new dogs and cats must be microchipped before they can be registered with Council. Whilst this rule does not apply to pets already registered with Council, it is recommended that they be microchipped as well.



The advantages of microchipping are:



- Microchipping your animals is the most effective way of identifying your pets if lost;
- Microchipping assists Council staff in reuniting you with your lost pets;
- Animals that are impounded are scanned for a microchip; and
- Microchipping is a permanent method of identification that stays with your animals for life.

## Dog Attacks

All dogs have the potential to bite regardless of their size, age and temperament, particularly in situations where they are frightened, vying for domination over another dog, or are being protective of their owners.

Dogs that have been exercised and socialised with other dogs are less likely to have aggressive tendencies.

Dogs that are on leads and confined to their properties reduce the risk of dog attacks occurring within the municipality. All dog owners are encouraged to contain their animals to their properties unless they are under effective control, which requires the dog to be on a lead.

On 11 June 2003, Council adopted a plan that requires dogs to be on leads **at all times** within the community other than in designated off-lead areas.

Upon request, Compliance Officers will visit schools to teach students how to behave around animals.

As most dog attacks occur in the family home, parents are encouraged to supervise their children at all times when they are playing with dogs.



### **Dogs Wandering at Large**

It is assumed that a dog is wandering at large when it is in public place and/or without consent of an owner/occupier.

A person who is responsible for the dog wandering at large, and who is not in control of the dog or does not have the dog on a lead, is guilty of an offence under the Act as wandering dogs at large can be a threat to the community.

To reduce the amount of dogs wandering at large, a combination of education, encouragement and enforcement maximising dog registration and identification will ensure that the majority of impounded dogs are returned to their owners.

### **Cats Wandering at Large**

Cats need to be under the effective control of their owners at all times. A growing stray cat population (currently there are over 500,000 stray cats in Victoria) creates a public health risk and a public nuisance in terms of disease if the cats are not vaccinated and desexed.

Feeding and harbouring stray and feral cats can cause over population with disease, and aggressive animals becoming a nuisance for neighboring properties.

### **Welfare of Cats and Dogs**

Cats and dogs that have been impounded within Moorabool Shire Council's pound facility will be:

- Scanned for a microchip;
- Provided with veterinary treatment as required;
- Provided with fresh water and suitable food in accordance with relevant legislation;
- Maintained in the pound facility to prevent disease transfer;
- Provided bedding and housing from weather conditions in order to remain clean, dry and in comfortable surroundings;
- Handled by trained staff; and
- Provided with a facility for humane euthanasia.

### **Keeping cats inside at night**

Cats that are outside at night have a tendency to roam from their home, are at greater risk of sustaining injury through being hit by a car and are more at risk of contracting a disease, such as Feline Aids or Enteritis (both of which are not dangerous to humans) from fighting with other cats.

By keeping your cat inside at night between the hours of 7.30pm to 6am, it will also minimise the amount of hunting your cat does, as most of a cat's hunting is done at night. This hunting generally causes reduction in numbers of various native animals species.

## **Community Safety**

Council will aim to increase public safety through the reduction of animals wandering at large by:

- Ensuring dogs are on leads at all times, other than at designated off-leash areas;
- Implementing strategies to assist pet owners and members of the community who are experiencing difficulties with pets;
- Introducing barking dog collars, access to cat cages, as well as re-housing; and
- Encouraging the reporting of all dog attacks.

## **Barking Dogs**

The continued nuisance of a barking dog can become a very complex and difficult issue to deal with effectively and can be rather stressful for those involved.

Council promotes a collaborative approach to overcome barking dog complaints, including:

- Liaising with concerned parties involved in a complaint regarding a barking dog and the animals owner;
- Providing advice on barking dog collars available for hire;
- Promoting keeping cats inside at night; and
- Requesting complainants and adjoining neighbours to complete a barking dog diary to ascertain times when dogs are barking excessively.

Council staff liaises with all parties to achieve positive outcomes.

## **Promote Socialisation and Dog Training**

Training and socialisation is encouraged to pet owners who adopt a dog from Council's pound.

Information is available from Council to encourage training and socialisation of newly adopted pets. Some examples of Obedience Training Clubs that clients can contact are:

1. Bacchus Marsh Obedience Club
2. Vern Ryan Training and Boarding
3. All Paws Forward K9 Training
4. Raksha Kennels Obedience Training

## **Promotion of Dog Off-Leash Areas**

On 11 June 2003, Council adopted a plan whereby dogs need to be on leads at all times when out in the community other than when they are at designated areas throughout the municipality where dogs can be exercised off leads.

As part of promoting the dog off-lead areas, signs have been erected at these sites. Information has been placed in Council Customer Service Centres and advertisements were placed in the local newspaper.

## **Registration and Identification**

All dogs and cats over three months old must be registered with Council. Council is continuously seeking ways to increase the number of dogs and cats that are registered. Some of these include:

- Promoting the registration incentive booklet; and
- Encouraging concessions for eligible members of the public on their registrations.

## **8. STRATEGIC DIRECTION FOR DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT**

### **Animal Management Officer Training and Development**

Moorabool Shire Council's main objective is to ensure all staff involved with animal management have the skills and knowledge necessary to safely carry out their work.

All of Council's Animal Management staff have participated in Customer Focus Training to ensure they are familiar with organisational customer service standards and response timeframes.

Other training being undertaken by staff includes:

- Certificate IV in Animal Control and Regulation course
- Undertaking the studies to implant Microchips
- Animal and Livestock handling (training)
- Training in Animal Management in the shelter

Council will work towards:

- Providing ongoing customer focus training to staff
- Encouraging all officers to undertake the Certificate IV in Animal Control and Regulation
- Authorisation to implant microchips

### **Encouraging Responsible Pet Ownership**

Moorabool Shire Council's main objective is to assist pet owners to protect the health and welfare of their pets. Council will encourage pet owners to be more responsible through:

- Education - advertisements/pamphlets
- Microchipping days
- Delivering responsible pet ownership sessions within schools as per requests
- Placing brochures in local veterinary clinics

Planned Programs and Initiatives:

- Initiate programs with YMCA and other community and sporting groups
- Promote responsible pet ownership in schools
- Deliver pamphlets promoting information on responsible pet ownership
- Provide additional and ongoing microchipping days
- Promote off-leash areas and the need to exercise dogs
- Provide information to the media on successful factors for pet ownership



## Identification and Registration

Moorabool Shire Council's main objective is to increase the number of registered and identifiable animals in the municipality through:

- General mail-out of renewal of registrations on a yearly basis
- Annual door knock
- Leaflets in Customer Service Centres and from the Compliance Unit
- Advertisements in the local paper
- Bi-monthly Moorabool Shire Community Newsletter *Moorabool Matters*

Planned Programs and Initiatives:

- Continue annual door knocks
- Continue to include information about responsible pet ownership in the Moorabool Shire Community Newsletter *Moorabool Matters*
- Advertisements in the local paper
- Pamphlet drop in areas considered to have high rates of unregistered animals
- Continue mail-outs of renewal of registration for animals on a yearly basis
- Continue participation in the State's pet registration incentive scheme
- Provide up-to-date information in Council's Customer Services areas and in the Compliance Department



## Compliance and Enforcement - Local Laws and Orders

Moorabool Shire Council's objective is to achieve Compliance by implementing and enforcing laws and regulations of the Domestic (Feral and Nuisance) Animal Act 1994.

Moorabool Shire Council's current enforcements include:

- Local Law permit required for more than two dogs or cats
- Current off-leash designated areas (adopted by Council on 11 June 2003)

Planned Programs and Initiatives:

- Review Local Law pertaining to zoning of animals
- Patrol and monitor open spaces and public place (dogs off leads)
- Educate the community on having dogs on leads and the fact that it is an offence to have dogs off leads in public and open places and in doing so breaches the Act

## Domestic Animal Businesses

Moorabool Shire Council has seven registered domestic animal businesses within its municipality.

Animal Compliance Officers undertake annual checks of these businesses to ensure compliance with the Code of Practice.

Planned Programs and Initiatives:

- Continue annuals checks of these businesses to ensure Codes of Practice are adhered to
- Promote responsible pet ownership

## Declared Dogs

Moorabool Shire Council's objective is to prevent dog attacks in the community by dangerous dogs.

Council currently has one declared dangerous dog and one restricted breed dog registered.

The Shire undertakes patrols of non-residential properties to identify dogs that are on premises which is followed up with investigation procedures.



Planned Programs and Initiatives:

- Continue to patrol all non-residential areas
- All dogs declared to Council are recorded on the Victorian Declared Registry
- Continue to inspect the current premises of the dangerous/restricted dogs to ensure that compliance is adhered to

## Restricted Breed Dogs

*American Pit Bull Terrier*



*Japanese Tosa*



*Dogo Argentina*



*Fila Brazilliero*



*Presca Canario*



## 9. PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Council will monitor and review the DAMP continuously to improve the animal management services that are detailed in the plan.

### Key Performance Indicators

KPI Indicative	Target	Current
1. Dog Registration rate (%Dogs registered /estimated dog population)	+10%	5331(35%)
2. Cat Registration rate (cats registered/estimated cat population)	+10%	404(4%)
3. Enforcement Success Rate :( successful prosecutions/total prosecution)	NA	NA
4. Dog Complaints: Number of dog's complaint per1.000 population	36	46
5. Cat Complaints: Number of cat complaints per 1.000 population)	2.5	3.5
6. Dog Attacks: (Number OF dog attacks causing injury per 1.000 population)	0.0	5.5
7. Dog Re – housing Rate (%total dogs re-housed/total impounded)	50%	1 8%
8. Cat Re-housing Rate (% total cats re-housed/total cats impounded)	15%	3.6%
9. Cat Reclaim Rate (%total cats reclaimed/total cats impounded)	20%	7.2%
10. Cat Euthanasia Rate (% total cats euthanized/total cats impounded)	50%	89%
11. Declared dog Compliance Rate: (Number declared/number of complaints/number of audits)		0.000065651
12. Domestic Animals Business Compliance Rate: (Number registered/number of complaints/number of audits)	100%	100%

## **10. REVIEW CYCLE FOR DAMP**

The Domestic Animal Management Plan will be reviewed on each year as part of service delivery planning by Council's Animal Management Team. Should there be any issues arising from the DAMP, they will be reported immediately to the Compliance Co-coordinator for further action.

Moorabool Shire Council will continue to monitor the progress of the DAMP and will conduct a full review in three years.



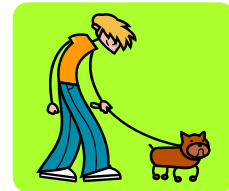
**APPENDIX A: ACTION PLAN**

<b>New Initiatives/Programs/Services or Objectives</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Who is Responsible</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Resources Required</b>
<b>Initiative 1</b> Responsible Pet Ownership. (New and prospective pet owners)	Ongoing microchipping days. Pamphlets and brochures made available at the pound and service centres throughout the Shire.	Manager		
<b>Initiative 2</b> De-sexing Cats and Dogs	Adopted by Order of Council	Manager		
<b>Initiative 3</b> Microchipping cats and dogs	Adopted by Order of Council	Manager		
<b>Initiative 4</b> Dog attacks	Promote responsible pet ownership. Promote Dogs Off Leash areas. Continue advertisements in local paper and Council's Community Newsletter <i>Moorabool Matters</i> . Prosecution	Manager		
<b>Initiative 5</b> Cats and dogs wandering at large	Continue education of responsible pet ownership. Continued education on the benefits of confining cats at night.	Manager		
<b>Initiative 6</b> The welfare of dogs and cats	Continue maintaining the welfare of cats and dogs at the pound. And continue encouraging responsible pet ownership.	Manager		
<b>Initiative 7</b> Community Safety	Ensuring dogs are in designated off leash areas. Continue regular patrols. Introduce barking dog collars. Access to cat cages as well as re-homing. Encourage the reporting of all dog attacks	Manager		
<b>Initiative 8</b> Barking dogs	Educating the community on the effects of continual barking. Promote barking dog collars for hire. Education to ensure the barking dog diaries are completed correctly.	Manager		
<b>Initiative 9</b> Promote Socialisation and Dog Training	As part of responsible pet ownership, socialisation and dog training is encouraged and recommended when dogs are purchased from the Council pound. Brochures are made available from the pound	Manager		
<b>Initiative 10</b> Promotion of Dogs Off Leash Areas	Promote dog off leash areas. Patrol areas to ensure compliance.	Manager		

<p><b>Initiative 11</b> Registration and Identification</p>	<p>Promoting incentive booklet. Encouraging concessions for eligible members of the public. Continuation of microchipping days. Annual door knocking, advertisements in local paper and Council's Community Newsletter <i>Moorabool Matters</i>.</p>	<p>Manager</p>		
<p><b>Initiative 12</b> Conduct Animal Management Officer training</p>	<p>Encourage officers to undertake Certificate IV. Ongoing training in Animal Shelter Management. Authorisation and training. To implant microchips. Continued Customer Focus Training.</p>	<p>Manager</p>		
<p><b>Initiative 13</b> Monitor performance and evaluate the effectiveness of the service</p>	<p>Existing reporting systems. Consultation with AMO</p>	<p>Manager</p>		



## APPENDIX B: DOG OFF-LEASH AREAS



On 11 June 2003, Moorabool Shire Council made the following order pursuant to Section 26(2) of the Domestic (Feral and Nuisance) Animals Act 1994:

*“All dogs must be kept under the effective control of a person by means of a chain, cord or leash when in any public place (including but not limited to any park, footpath, nature strip, traffic island, market and shared pathway) within Council’s municipal district except where:*

- (i) The dog is participating in any activity of a type which has been approved by resolution of Council; or*
- (ii) Any of the circumstances listed in Section 20(2) of the Domestic (Feral and Nuisance) Animals Act 1994 applies.”*

Council has further resolved that dogs may be exercised off lead at any time at the following locations:

- Peppertree Park Bacchus Marsh
- Federation Park Bacchus Marsh
- Reserve adjacent to Lerderderg River Bacchus Marsh (from pump shed to bridge)
- Reserve on Western side of Links Rd behind houses in Pamela Court Darley
- Telford Park Darley
- Caledonia Park Ballan
- Road East Recreation Reserve Mt Egerton
- Lyndhurst St Public Park & Water Reserve Gordon
- Parkers Rd Reserve Lal Lal
- Vacant land at south east corner of Dunnstown Recreation Reserve and after 4.30pm Mon-Fri, and on Saturday and Sunday, only when the Reserves are not in use for designated public sporting events, training and/or special events as designated from time to time by the Committee of Management at:
  - Masons Lane
  - Blackwood Recreation Reserve
  - Myrniong Recreation Reserve and when reserves are not in use for designated public sporting training and/or special events as designated from time to time by the Committee of Management.
  - Bungaree- Creswick Road Reserve
  - Ormond Road/Western Highway Recreation Reserve Wallace

### OWNERS RESPONSIBILITIES

- Ensure your dog is not a nuisance to other park users.
- Ensure your dog remains under effective control at all times.
- Dogs must be on a leash within 10 metres of barbecue and picnic areas, public gatherings and children’s play areas.
- Dog owners must clean up their dog’s faeces. Dog dispensers are provided in most parks and reserves. Used bags and scoops may be disposed of appropriately in park bins.