



Pyrenees Shire Domestic Animal Management Plan 2008

This plan was adopted by Council 19th August 2008

Introduction

The purpose of the Domestic Animal Management Plan (the Plan) is to provide the Pyrenees Shire with a strategic framework that delivers policy direction and action plans for animal management over the next 3 years.

The preparation of the Plan follows a recent amendment to the Domestic (Feral and Nuisance) Animals Act 1994 (DAA) which now requires all Victorian councils to have a three year plan in place for the management of dogs and cats within their area.

The Plan integrates the developing expertise in domestic animal management with Council's own investigations to produce a program of action to be undertaken over the next three years (2008-2011). Relevant issues include those prescribed under relevant legislation and local laws as well as the generally understood notion of responsible pet ownership.

The Plan is confined to Council's management of dogs and cats under the DAA.

1.1 What will the Plan address?

Section 68A of the DAA sets out the statutory requirements of the Plan which state that the Plan must:

- *Set out a method for evaluating whether the animal control services provided by the Council in its municipal district are adequate to give effect to the requirements of this Act and the regulations; and*
- *Outline programs for the training of authorised officers to ensure that they can properly administer and enforce the requirements of this Act in the Council's municipal district; and*
- *Outline programs, services and strategies which the Council intends to pursue in its municipal district-*
 - *to promote and encourage the responsible ownership of dogs and cats; and*
 - *to ensure that people comply with this Act, the regulations and any related legislation; and*
 - *to minimise the risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals; and*
 - *to address any over-population and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats; and*
 - *to encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats; and*
 - *to minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance; and*

- *to effectively identify all dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs in that district and to ensure that those dogs are kept in compliance with this Act and the regulations; and*
- *Provide for the review of existing orders made under this Act and local laws that relate to the Council's municipal district with a view to determining whether further orders or local laws dealing with the management of dogs and cats in the municipal district are desirable; and*
- *Provide for the review of any other matters related to the management of dogs and cats in the Council's municipal district that it thinks necessary; and*
- *Provide for the periodic evaluation of any program, service, strategy or review outlined under the plan.*

1.2 Process Applied in Developing the Plan

In September 2007, a group of 10 Councils engaged Harlock Jackson Pty Ltd (animal management consultants) to prepare a single DAMP that could then be customised by each Council in the group. The group have many common issues that justified a regional approach. They included:

- Buloke Shire Council
- Gannawarra Council
- Hepburn Shire Council
- Hindmarsh Shire Council
- Horsham Rural City Council
- Pyrenees Shire Council
- Mount Alexander Shire Council
- Northern Grampians Shire Council
- West Wimmera Shire Council
- Yarriambiack Shire Council

After preliminary background investigations, a workshop was held in October 2007 attended by the consultant and representatives of each Council. A draft Plan was then prepared by the Consultant, which was in turn customised by each Council. The draft Plan was then released by each Council for public comment and adjustment as appropriate.

1.3 Structure of the Plan

Section 2 describes the context for developing the Plan. It provides an overview of animal management at the Pyrenees Shire including a brief overview of the Pyrenees Shire, a summary of the DAA, key Council animal management statistics and Council animal management staffing. It also outlines the role of other stakeholders.

The **Statement of Purpose** is provided in Section 3. It includes overarching goals for the provision of Council's animal management services. It also identifies key issues that the plan will address.

The **Strategic Directions** contained in Section 4 outline how Council will achieve and implement its goals. Each strategic direction contains objectives and a discussion that explains the issues and Council's intentions.

Section 5 describes how the Plan will be **monitored and reviewed**, including monitoring its success against a selection of key performance indicators that will be designed to test whether the Plan's objectives are being achieved.

The **Action Plans** are contained in Section 6. This section provides the detailed actions Council will implement to achieve the Plan's goals and objectives.

The Plan also contains the following appendices:

Appendix 1: Organisation diagram showing where the animal management function sits within the overall Council structure,

Appendix 2: Council's current animal management programs and services.

2 Animal Management at the Shire of Pyrenees

Shire of Pyrenees: A Snapshot

Pyrenees Shire is located in the central west of Victoria, 130 km North West of Melbourne; it covers an area of approximately 3500 square kilometres. The Shire is bounded by the following Shires: City of Ballarat, Golden Plains, Corangamite, Rural City of Ararat, Northern Grampians, Central Goldfields and Hepburn.

Pyrenees Shire includes the towns of Beaufort, Avoca, Lexton, Snake Valley, Waubra, Amphitheatre, Landsborough, Moonambel, Evansford, Raglan, Crowlands and Redbank.

The Shire's population is approximately 6600, including 3200 households.

The Pyrenees Ranges dominate to the north, comprising of steep hills and ridges; the high peak being Mount Avoca. The Great Dividing Range passes east west through the central portion of Pyrenees Shire and includes, Mt Lonarch, Ben Major with the apex being Mt Cole.

The Domestic (Feral and Nuisance) Animals Act 1994

Council is responsible for implementing the Act, which has been in operation now for well over a decade. It replaced the former Dog Act. Its introduction heralded a new era in animal control with cats included for the first time in animal control,

tougher penalties for dangerous dogs, clearer nuisance provisions and a greater emphasis on prevention.

The purpose of the DAA is to promote animal welfare, the responsible ownership of dogs and cats and the protection of the environment by providing for:

- *A scheme to protect the community and the environment from feral and nuisance dogs and cats;*
- *A registration and identification scheme for dogs and cats which recognises and promotes responsible ownership;*
- *The identification and control of dangerous dogs;*
- *A registration scheme for domestic animal businesses which promotes the maintenance of standards of those businesses;*
- *Matters related to the boarding of dogs and cats;*
- *Payments to the Treasurer from fees received by Councils under this Act; and*
- *Other related matters.*

A recent amendment to the Act saw the introduction of a requirement for all councils to develop and implement three year animal management plans for dealing with all matters relating to dog and cat management issues. Section 1.1 of this Plan outlines what the Plan is required to include.

Council Local Laws and Orders

Council's existing local laws and orders relating to animal management are summarised below. A mechanism will be established to ensure that they are reviewed over the life of the Plan.

Local Law Part 6 Animals

Without a permit an owner or occupier of land, other than land rated as farmland, must not keep or allow to be kept on that land more than 2 dogs or 2 cats.

- Under Section 10A of DAA Council has made an order for the mandatory desexing of cats. First time registered cats must be desexed prior to registration as at 10th April 2009 unless exempt under Section 10B or a Council permit.
- Under Section 25 of DAA Council will introduce a night curfew for cats between the hours of sunset and sunrise within the township zones of Avoca, Amphitheatre, Beaufort, Landsborough, Lexton, Moonambel, Snake Valley and Waubra (those times as defined by the Bureau of Meteorology) The night curfew will become effective upon publication in the Government Gazette and municipal district newspapers.
- An order has been made under Section 26(2)(b) of the DAA. It requires dogs to be under effective control by means of a chain, cord or leash within the business precincts of the townships of Avoca, Amphitheatre, Beaufort, Landsborough, Lexton, Moonambel, Snake Valley and Waubra.

The dog on leash order also applies to school and Kindergarten zones and will take effect upon publication in the Government Gazette and municipal district newspapers.

Dogs must also be kept on leash within the Goldfields Recreation Reserve and Caravan Park at Beaufort.

- Under Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1989, Council will introduce a Local Law which requires an owner or a person in charge of a dog to remove and dispose of excrement deposited in public places such as foot paths streets, nature strips and reserves. A person in charge of a dog must also carry a facility for the effective removal of dog excrement. This will take effect upon publication in the Government Gazette and municipal district newspapers.

Animal Management Statistics

Council's key animal management statistics are provided in Table 1. Statistics are not known regarding rehousing or euthanasia of dogs and cats due to the Ballarat RSPCA Shelter taking ownership of impounded animals after 8 days.

Table 1: Key Animal Management Statistics - 06/07

	Pvrenees Shire	Like Councils	State Average
Population	6688	9887	58400
Area	3500 sq km	3865	3200
No of EFT Authorised Officers	1	1.83	3.00
No. of registered dogs.	2764	2404	7384
Estimated owned dog population	3852	5694	913000*
No. of registered cats.	842	689	3324
Estimated owned cat population.	2556	3778	616000*
No. of registered declared dogs.	3	1.1	Not Available
No. of prosecutions completed in 06/07	1	1.3	Not Available
No of successful prosecutions in 06/07.	1	1.3	Not Available
No of impoundments (dogs).	23	132	485
No. of dogs returned to owner.	5	67	53.0%
No of dogs rehoused.	Not known	18.5	13.0%
No. of dogs euthanised.	Not known	46.9	34%
No of impoundments (cats).	85	116.1	269
No of cats returned to owner.	None	12	11.5%
No. of cats rehoused.	Not known	18	15.5%
No. of cats euthanised.	Not known	91	73.0%

(*Statistics from the Australian Companion Animal Council Inc. document- 5th Edition 2003)

Staffing and Organisational Structure

Council's organisational structure is provided in Appendix 1.

Pyrenees Shire Council has two part time authorised animal management officers.

Council operates its own out of hours service (generally limited to emergencies) and impounds cats & dogs at Ballarat RSPCA shelter facility.

Current Programs and Services

Council's current animal management programs and services are listed in Appendix 2.

Role of Other Stakeholders

The **Department of Primary Industries** (DPI) has a range of responsibilities associated with the administration and enforcement of provisions of the Act. It also undertakes or facilitates research and educational programs relating to dog and cat management.

Veterinarians are an important point of contact especially in a pet's early years. They have an important role to play in maintaining the health of pets and educating pet owners. The Pyrenees Shire has one Veterinary Practice located at Beaufort with a vet available by appointment. The Beaufort practice is owned and operated by the (neighbouring) Ararat Veterinary Clinic. The Northern areas of the Shire are serviced by the Maryborough Veterinary Practice, St Arnaud Veterinary Clinic and Stawell Veterinary Clinic. There are also several veterinary practices located in neighbouring Ballarat.

Domestic Animal Businesses including breeders, veterinary behaviourists, private dog trainers, dog walkers, kennels and catteries and pet shops are important stakeholders in providing services to dog owners that may assist them to be responsible pet owners. Council currently has no registered Domestic Animal Businesses. Any Domestic Animal Business which may be registered in future will be monitored as required under the DAA.

The **local media** can assist Council with media coverage to promote responsible pet ownership.

Neighbouring councils have many common interests and issues. Council will consider ways of extending the responsible pet ownership message more efficiently and effectively through increased dialogue and collaboration.

Pet owners themselves have a role to play in choosing an appropriate pet to suit their lifestyle, in training and socialising their dog, and by adhering to Council requirements.

3 Statement of Purpose

Our GOALS for animal management are:

- To create an environment where people and pets can peacefully co-exist within the community;
- To inform and educate the community about the needs of companion animals and promote responsible pet ownership.
- To promote the welfare of companion animals; and
- To protect people and animals (pets, livestock, wildlife) from attack by dogs and cats;

KEY ISSUES for the delivery of animal management services in the Pyrenees Shire are:

- Unregistered dogs and cats.
- Dogs wandering at large and attacks on livestock.
- Cats –nuisance cats which appear to be semi owned but never claimed and some wild cat colonies which have developed from the semi owned cats. Occasional feral cats.
- Limited resources compared to metropolitan councils.
- The large size of the Shire compared to metropolitan councils.

The Plan is based on the following priorities or STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS for the delivery of Council's animal management services:

- AMO training and development.
- Responsible pet ownership.
- Compliance and enforcement.
- Registration and Identification.
- Confinement of dogs and cats.

- Prevention of animal attacks and risk to the community.
- Animal welfare.
- Domestic animal businesses.

4 Strategic Directions

4.1 AMO training and development

Objective

Ensure that all staff involved in animal management has the knowledge and skills necessary to carry out their work.

Discussion

All Animal Management Officers receive ongoing on the job training.

All Animal Management Officers will be encouraged to have or attain the Certificate IV in Animal Control and Regulation.

Council will encourage officers to undergo further study to obtain higher animal management and welfare qualifications.

The annual review of this Plan will include a skills audit to identify any gaps in the skills available within the animal management team.

Council will ensure that annual performance reviews include a review of the staff member's skills and training undertaken in the last year.

Council will encourage the Animal Liaison Group (recommended in Section 5) to operate as an information sharing network.

4.2 Encouraging responsible pet ownership

Objectives

Implement appropriate community education programs in responsible pet ownership.

Discussion

The DPI operates education programs and activities on a state-wide basis. These include:

Each primary school in Victoria is entitled to a free annual visit from a trained Pet Educator. They educate the children on issues such as choosing an appropriate

pet for the family pet health and welfare and the importance of registration. Particular attention is also given to recognising the warning signs given by dogs, the correct way to approach a dog and what to do if approached by an aggressive dog. Council will encourage all schools in the Shire to take up this opportunity annually. Council will also consider augmenting the State Government's schools visitation program.

Council's community education programs in responsible pet ownership will focus on the following priorities:

- Registration and microchipping of dogs and cats;
- Desexing of dogs and cats; and
- Confinement of dogs and cats.

Council will continue to door knock householders as appropriate to identify unregistered dogs and cats.

Council will hold annual microchipping days and seek to obtain as much publicity as possible both before and after the event as a way to extend the message.

Council will ensure the DPI's brochures on responsible pet ownership are appropriately distributed.

The Animal Management Liaison Group (*i.e. the Officers from the Councils listed 1.2 of this document*) will consider regional approaches to education in responsible pet ownership.

4.3 Compliance and enforcement

Objectives

Maximise compliance with domestic animal laws, orders and regulations (State and Local).

Discussion

Council will review its procedures for dealing with animal management complaints and incidents in Year 2 of the Plan.

Council will review all existing animal management laws and orders in Year 3 of the Plan.

4.4 Identification and registration

Objectives

To endeavour to have all dogs and cats registered as required.

To endeavour to have all dogs and cats identified as required.

Discussion

Registration and identification are considered to be a core and fundamental task for animal management. It is the basis for distinguishing between owned and unowned animals, returning lost pets to their owners, identifying offending animals etc.

From 1st May 2007, all newly registered dogs and cats need to be microchipped before they can be registered. Council recognises that this is difficult in isolated areas with few veterinarians.

Council will continue to promote and encourage all pets to be microchipped. This will be achieved through holding an annual microchipping day and through random Council doorknocks.

4.5 Confinement of dogs and cats

Objectives

Ensure dogs are confined to their property.

Encourage cat owners to confine cats to their property especially at night.

Introduce a cat curfew which requires cats to be confined to a property between sunset and sunrise.

Discussion

Confinement of dogs and cats is a strategic priority of the Plan.

For the safety of all pets, humans and other animals, confinement of dogs and cats is high priority.

For dogs, this is easier in towns than rural areas where properties generally have boundary fences. Confinement of cats means confinement indoors or confinement to an external cat run.

Council will ensure there is information available on the importance of animal confinement at Council service centres and other key locations.

Desexed animals are less likely to wander and generally create fewer problems than "entire" animals so Council will continue to encourage owners to have their pets desexed.

4.6 Prevention of animal attacks and risk to the community

Objectives

Reduce the incidence and severity of attacks by dogs on people, livestock, other pets and wildlife. Reduce the incidence of cats attacking wildlife.

Discussion

Whilst the number of dog attacks is not high in the Pyrenees Shire, managing them is a critical animal management role. There is also increasing concern about the impact of cats on wildlife.

All dogs are required to be confined to their property. This is a requirement under the Act and Council will continue to place importance on the need for dogs to be confined. Council will also continue to place importance on the need for cats to be confined, especially between dusk and dawn.

Council will encourage people to have their dogs and cats desexed. This can help to reduce aggressive tendencies and the urge to wander.

Council discussed the merits of introducing an order under Section 10A of DAA which makes the desexing of cats compulsory unless a cat is exempted under the Act

Council believes the State Government's state-wide schools visitation program is an excellent means for educating children in how to behave around dogs.

4.7 The welfare of pets

Objectives

Reduce the number of unwanted litters.

Reduce the number of stray, lost and abandoned animals.

Increase the number of returned animals.

Ensure wounded and lost animals are treated humanely.

Encourage pet owners to attend to their pet's basic needs and provide them with a quality home environment.

Discussion

The number of animals impounded every year remains high. Key strategies to reduce the number of animals taken to shelters are to increase the rate of:

- **Desexing.**
- Identification and registration.
- Confinement.
- Obedience training (an obedient dog is less likely to be abandoned).
- Rehoming of lost and unwanted animals through Animal Shelters.

Pet owners also need to ensure they meet their pet's basic needs and welfare.

4.8 Domestic animal businesses

Objectives

Work in partnership with domestic animal businesses to ensure they are compliant with the applicable Code of Practice.

Discussion

There are approved Codes of Practice for the operation of breeding and rearing establishments, boarding establishments, and shelters and pounds. Council should ensure each establishment complies with the relevant Code of Practice by conducting regular audits.

5 Performance Monitoring and Review

Monitoring and Review

Monitoring the Plan is the process established to ensure the Plan is implemented in accordance with the action plans and recommended timeframes.

Reviewing the Plan is an opportunity to consider performance in implementation of the plans and whether the goals, objectives and action plans are still relevant or whether they need to be updated.

Responsible Officer

The Team Leader/Director Assets and Development Services will be assigned with responsibility for the successful implementation of the Plan.

Develop a Sound Basis for Recording Data

The current development of Council's procedures for recording animal control data will provide an ongoing accurate and comprehensive basis to assess Council's performance in animal management.

Animal Management Liaison Group

The 10 Councils involved in the development of this Plan will establish an Animal Management Liaison Group. The group will meet as required to report on and discuss the implementation of each Council's Plan including the sharing of resources. This is a key element in monitoring the implementation of the Plan.

Annual Review

The Plan will be reviewed and amended each year as appropriate. The review will evaluate progress against an agreed set of key performance indicators for the

Plan. If the indicators do not show that the strategies of the Plan are being successful, then changes should be considered in light of the latest information available, both for the local context and by way of benchmarking with the success (or otherwise) of similar efforts by other Councils.

If the Plan is amended, Council must provide the Bureau with a copy of the amended Plan.

Key Performance Indicators

It is important that key performance indicators are identified so Council's performance can be measured and judged. It is recommended that the Animal Management Liaison Group adopt the following KPIs and establish procedures for collecting and collating the data on an on-going basis:

- *Increase in the rate of dog and cat registration;*
- *Increase in the rate of microchipping of dogs and cats;*
- *Increase in the rate of desexing of dogs and cats;*
- *Reduction in the number of incidents of dogs and cats found wandering at large.*
- *Endeavour to increase the number of children participating in the State Government Responsible Pet Ownership Program for Schools;*
- *Increase in the number of houses doorknocked (to identify unregistered dogs and cats);*
- *Reduction in the number of semi-owned and unowned cats;*
- *Reduction in numbers of animal related complaints (divided into complaint sub-groups);*
- *Reduction in the number of animals being impounded; and*
- *Increase in return rate of impounded animals.*

6 Action Plans

The Action Plans that follow list the actions that Council will implement over the next 3 years to achieve its goals and objectives. The Action Plans are based on the objectives developed in Section 4.

1. AMO TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OBJECTIVE: <i>Ensure all staff involved in animal management has the knowledge and skills necessary to carry out their work.</i> 			
ACTION	TASK COMPLETION INDICATORS	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME
-1.1 Review qualifications and training requirements for Council's animal management staff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Review completed. -South West Authorised Officer Group - Certificate 1V Animal Control & Regulation. -Certificate 1V in Government (Statutory Compliance) 	Director of Assets & Development Services.	On going
-1.2 Conduct an annual skills audit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Audit completed. 	Director of Assets & Development Services.	On going
-1.3 Encourage AMOs to undergo further training and study.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -AMO job descriptions, new staff induction plans and performance review procedures reviewed. 	Director of Assets & Development Services.	On going
-1.4 Continue to update and extend officers' skills in dealing with animal management services eg diagnosis and treatment of excessive barking bite avoidance etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Incorporation into Staff Performance Reviews. -MAV Forums & training days -SWAOG meetings 	Director of Assets & Development Services.	On going
1.5 Encourage the Animal Liaison Group to operate as an information sharing network.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Terms of reference to contain a clause that encourages information sharing and professional development. 	Director of Assets & Development Services.	On going

2. RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP

OBJECTIVE: *Implement appropriate community education programs in responsible pet ownership.*

ACTION	TASK COMPLETION INDICATORS	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME
-2.1 Ensure prospective pet owners have access to information on appropriate breed selection and animal management responsibilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Information provided on Council's website and other promotional material. - Press releases/Fact sheets. -Advice from Council AMO's 	Director of Assets & Development Services.	On going
-2.2 Encourage the community to provide their dog with appropriate etiquette/obedience training. Provide links on Council's website and other promotional material.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Information provided on Council's website and other promotional material. - Press releases/Fact Sheets. -Advice from Council AMO's 	Director of Assets & Development Services.	Ongoing
-2.3 Prepare material on how to minimise excessive barking problems from developing. Include in website and other promotional material. Prepare a press release for rotational inclusion in local media.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Material prepared on minimising excessive barking problems from developing and incorporated into Council provided information. -Press releases/ Fact sheets 	Director of Assets & Development Services.	Year 2. Ongoing
-2.4 Encourage all schools in the Shire to participate in the State Government's schools visitation program.	-Letter to each school in the Shire.	Director of Assets & Development Services.	Year 1.
-2.5 Consider augmenting the State Government's schools visitation program.	-Contact Wayne Flemming, BAW School Educator	Director of Assets & Development Services.	Year 2.
- 2.7 Identify any locally provided dog training and puppy pre school programs and include links on Council's website.	-Review completed.	Director of Assets & Development Services.	Year 2.

3. COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

OBJECTIVE: *Maximise compliance with domestic animal laws, orders and regulations (state and local).*

ACTION	TASK COMPLETION INDICATORS	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME
- 3.1 Review procedures for dealing with complaints made & incidents occurring under DAA	- Review completed. - Recommendations implemented.	Director of Assets & Development Services.	Year 2. Year 2-3
- 3.2 Review all animal management laws and orders made under the DAA.	- Review completed.	Director of Assets & Development Services.	Year 3.
- 3.3 Patrols as required to identify problems such as dogs at large	Door knocks First action generally will be a warning	Director of Assets & Development Services.	Ongoing

4. IDENTIFICATION AND REGISTRATION

OBJECTIVES:

- *Ensure all dogs and cats are registered as required.*
- *Ensure all dogs and cats are identified as required.*

ACTION	TASK COMPLETION INDICATORS	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME
-4.1 Prepare & implement a plan for doorknocking “Hot Spots” in the community to identify unregistered dogs.	-Plan prepared. -Door knock completed.	Director of Assets & Development Services.	On going as required
-4.2 Plan annual microchipping days.	-Plan prepared.	Director of Assets & Development Services.	Annual
-4.3 Hold microchipping days in accordance with annual plan.	-Microchipping day/s held.	Director of Assets & Development Services.	Annual
-4.4 Review Council’s microchipping day within 1 month of the last event (appropriateness of publicity, date, and venue, results, cost and community satisfaction).	-Review completed.	Director of Assets & Development Services.	Annual
-4.5 Consider the merits of having officers able to microchip animals.	-Veterinary agreement required -In progress	Director of Assets & Development Services.	On going

5. CONFINEMENT OF DOGS AND CATS

OBJECTIVE:

- *Ensure dogs are confined to their property.*
- *Encourage cats to be confined to their property.*

ACTION	TASK COMPLETION INDICATORS	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME
-5.1 Continue to treat incidents of dogs wandering at large as an issue demanding priority attention.	-Continue existing practice.	Director of Assets & Development Services.	Ongoing
-5.3 Review the procedures for dealing with dogs that are wandering at large.	-Review completed.	Director of Assets & Development Services.	Ongoing
-5.4 Ensure information is available on the importance of animal confinement and how desexing animals can help to reduce wandering.	-Review information available.	Director of Assets & Development Services.	Ongoing
-5.5 Introduce a cat confinement requirement between sunset & sunrise within townships.	-Community consultation	Director of Assets & Development Services.	Take effect upon publication

6. PREVENTION OF ANIMAL ATTACKS AND RISK TO THE COMMUNITY

OBJECTIVE:

- *Reduce attacks by dogs and cats on people, livestock, pets and wildlife.*

ACTION	TASK COMPLETION INDICATORS	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME
-6.1 Review procedures for dealing with dog attacks and harassment complaints.	-Review completed.	Director of Assets & Development Services.	Year 1.
-6.2 Develop a press release on the implications for your dog if it attacks or bites an animal or human.	-Release once a year.	Director of Assets & Development Services.	Year 1
-6.3 Consider introducing a standard to ensure Council has one or more officers trained in an appropriate Dog Safe Program.	-Review completed. -Recommendations implemented.	Director of Assets & Development Services.	Year 3.
-6.4 Ensure any dangerous and restricted breed dogs are properly identified and managed by their owners.	-Conduct annual audit of properties containing dangerous and restricted breed dogs.	Director of Assets & Development Services.	Annual
-6.6 Ensure all dogs declared by Council are recorded on the Victorian Declared Dog Register.	-Annual audit completed.	Director of Assets & Development Services.	Ongoing.
-6.7 Ensure Council's website has information on the importance of confining cats and the impact of wandering cats on wildlife. -	-Review completed.	Director of Assets & Development Services.	Ongoing

7. PROMOTING ANIMAL WELFARE

OBJECTIVES:

- *Reduce the number of unwanted litters.*
- *Reduce the number of stray, lost and abandoned animals.*
- *Increase the number of returned animals.*
- *Increase the number of rehomed animals.*
- *Ensure wounded and lost animals are treated humanely.*
- *Encourage pet owners to attend to their pet's basic needs and provide them with a quality home environment.*

ACTION	TASK COMPLETION INDICATORS	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME
-7.1 Investigate and prepare a report for Council on the issue of mandatory cat desexing.	-Investigation completed and report presented to Council - (<i>The Cat Crisis paper</i>)	Director of Assets & Development Services.	On going
-7.2 Investigate procedures for dealing with feral or stray cat colonies with a view to reducing unwanted cat populations.	-Investigation completed. -Trapping program implemented as required. -Promote the "Who's for Cats" campaign	Director of Assets & Development Services.	Ongoing
7.3 Review Councils procedures for dealing with lost and impounded animals.	-Review completed.	Director of Assets & Development Services.	Ongoing
-7.5 Develop procedures for the investigation of stray, lost and un-owned or feral cats and implement as necessary.	-Operational procedures developed.	Director of Assets & Development Services.	Ongoing

7. PROMOTING ANIMAL WELFARE - *continued*

<p>-7.6 Promote cat traps for hire for property owners to humanely trap cats on their property for handing over to Council or another approved animal shelter.</p>	<p>-Review completed. -Traps provided -Council promotional material available.</p>	<p>Director of Assets & Development Services.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>-7.7 Screen Council provided information to include encouragement for prospective pet owners to consider obtaining a pet from an approved animal shelter.</p>	<p>-Screening and amendments completed.</p>	<p>Director of Assets & Development Services.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>- 7.8 Ensure Council's website has information on attending to pets' basic needs and that this is included in other relevant promotional material.</p>	<p>-Council's website and other relevant promotion material amended. -Include links to appropriate breed selection and information to help people to reduce problem behaviours in their pets that might result in them relinquishing their pets.</p>	<p>Director of Assets & Development Services.</p>	<p>Year 2</p>

8. DOMESTIC ANIMAL BUSINESSES

OBJECTIVE:

- *Ensure all Domestic Animal Businesses operate in accordance with statutory requirements and community expectations.*

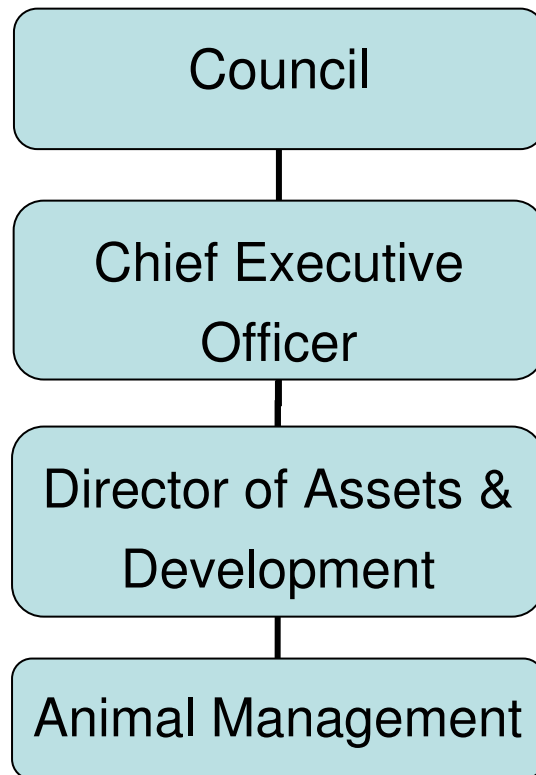
ACTION	TASK COMPLETION INDICATORS	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME
- 8.1 Prepare a plan for auditing all domestic animal businesses - . Implement plan.	- As per DPI audit/inspection check list - Audit completed.	Director of Assets & Development Services.	On going

9. PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND REVIEW

ACTION	TASK COMPLETION INDICATORS	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME
- 9.1 Assign responsibility for implementation of the Plan to the Director of Assets & Development.	- Position description amended.	Director of Assets & Development Services.	Year 1.
- 9.2 Review all data collection methods and procedures and update.	- Review conducted.	Director of Assets & Development Services.	Ongoing
- 9.2a Determine a set of key performance indicators that are both strategic and measurable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key performance indicators established. - Key performance indicators benchmarked. 	Director of Assets & Development Services.	Year 1
- 9.3 Establish an Animal Management Liaison Group with neighbouring Councils to use as a sounding board for implementation of the Plan and sharing of resources. Establish terms of reference.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Group established. - Terms of reference agreed to. 	Director of Assets & Development Services.	Ongoing
-9.4 Review the Plan each year and make adjustments as appropriate.	-Review completed and Plan amended as appropriate.	Director of Assets & Development Services.	Annual
-9.5 Review trends shown by data and ensure basis for recording data is sound.	-Review carried out annually in July. Procedures for reviewing trends and recording data reviewed and updated.	Director of Assets & Development Services.	Annual
-9.6 Review all Council Local Laws and Orders relating to animal management.	-Review completed.	Director of Assets & Development Services.	Ongoing

Appendix 1. Diagram where animal management sits within over all council structure.

Organisational structure



Appendix 2 Council's current animal management programs and services

Provide (basic) information to animal owners which may assist with animal keeping.

Make available DPI brochures, posters and fact sheets on various topics such as-

- Code of Practice for the Private Keeping of Dogs
- Code of Practice for the Private Keeping of Cats
- Pet registration
- Choosing a pet
- Responsible pet ownership.
- Barking Dogs
- Desexing your pet
- Cats/dogs in the community
- Safety with children and pets
- How to prevent dog attacks
- How to build cat proof fencing and cat enclosures
- Code of Practice for the Operation of Boarding Establishments
- Code of Practice for the Operation of Breeding and Rearing Establishments
- Code of Practice for the Operation of Dog Training establishments

Advice to help with issues such as barking dogs & nuisance cats

Pick up of stray or wandering & lost/found dogs

Supply & delivery of cat traps and pick up of trapped cats

Annual Microchipping Day

Continuing support South West Authorised Officer's Group