

City Of Melbourne

Domestic Animal Management Plan 2008 – 2011

July 2008



Message from the Chief Executive Officer

Melbourne is a vibrant, thriving and sustainable city with a continually increasing resident population.

Council's ongoing vision for the city is to foster a healthy, sociable community in which all people can live and learn, work and play.

An important aspect of this community life is the management of pets and the promotion of responsible pet ownership to ensure that pets live in harmony with the social, natural and built environments.

For many Melbourne residents, pet ownership is an enjoyable and valued aspect of their daily lives. The companionship of pets can contribute to their owners' health and wellbeing and provide children with lessons in responsibility. For older people particularly, pet ownership can lead to the benefits that accrue from increased physical activity and greater community engagement.

This Animal Management Plan acknowledges the challenges that face the City of Melbourne in a capital city environment where the aspirations of pet owners must be balanced with those of all members of the community.

The Domestic Animal Management Plan of 2008 sets Council's direction for the next three years and is consistent with the requirements of the Domestic Animal (Feral and Nuisance) Act of 1994.

Council's aim is that Melbourne will be recognised for the way it manages pets in the community and promotes rewarding, responsible pet ownership and this Plan will help us to achieve this goal.



Kathy Alexander
City of Melbourne CEO

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Definitions

The Act / DFNA Act	The Domestic (Feral and Nuisance) Animals Act (1994).
Domestic Animals	Cats and dogs that are part of the community whether 'fully owned', 'semi-owned' or 'unowned'.
Fully owned animal	An animal for whom a person takes full responsibility for their wellbeing, registration, microchipping, desexing etc.
Semi-owned animal	An animal that is partially cared for by a person/number of people e.g. feeding.
Wild animals	Animals that are not 'owned' depend on the urban environment for food and generally frequent areas such as alleyways and factories.
Feral Animals	Animals that are not dependent on people in any way and generally live outside of urban areas.
The Plan	Domestic Animal Management Plan
Owner/Guardian	Any person responsible for the wellbeing of a specific animal.
Council	Melbourne City Council.
Authorised Officer	A Council Officer appointed under Section 72 of the DFNA Act or Section 224 of the Local Government Act.

1.0 Executive Summary

The purpose of the Domestic Animal Management Plan is to provide a framework to guide Council's decision making in relation to services and programs relating to domestic animals for the next three years.

The Plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Domestic (Feral and Nuisance) Animals Act (1994)*.

There are 2,238 registered dogs and 1,519 registered cats in the City of Melbourne and Council recognises the important role of pets in the community and the many benefits of pet ownership.

This Plan acknowledges the challenges that face the City of Melbourne in providing for the needs of pet owners in a capital city environment where there is significant potential for conflicting needs and aspirations relating to pets.

The Plan also recognises the need for strategies to address a number of animal welfare and wellbeing issues that confront not only the City of Melbourne and its residents but also the broader Victorian community.

In particular this Plan acknowledges the changed face of local government animal management services and the role that Council will play into the future. This role extends beyond monitoring and ensuring compliance with relevant federal, state and local government legislation relating to pets. There is now an active role for local government to play in relation to ensuring pet

owners have the required information and knowledge to enable them to be responsible pet owners; balancing the needs of pet-owners, non-pet owners, a range of animal wellbeing issues and developing partnerships that can deliver innovative solutions and opportunities in relation to pets in the City of Melbourne.

The key issues and opportunities that Council will address in the three year life of this Plan are consistent with the requirements of the *Domestic Animal (Feral and Nuisance) Act (1994)*. They relate to;

- Performance Monitoring and Evaluation
- Training of Authorised Officers
- Encouraging responsible pet ownership
- Compliance and Enforcement
- Minimising risk of dog attacks
- Over-population and high euthanasia rates
- Encouraging Registration and Identification of cats and dogs
- Minimising potential for nuisance
- Dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs
- Other matters such as dogs in public places, dog excrement and signage
- Review of Domestic Animal Management Plan

2.0 Introduction and Context of the Plan

2.1 The City of Melbourne

The City of Melbourne is made up of the city centre and a number of inner-city suburbs and is 37.6 km² in area.

The City is estimated to have a resident population of 85,844 which grew by 4,466 people, almost 6%, in the 2006/07 year making the City Victoria's second fastest growing municipality in the that year.

Between 2001 and 2006 the population increased by 30,500 people or 60% and reached 81,000 two years earlier than population forecasts predicted. The population is relatively young (average age of 28) compared to the average age of the Melbourne metropolitan area at 36.

- 44% of 'family households' live in the Melbourne CBD, Kensington or North Melbourne.
- 60% of 12-25 year olds live in the CBD, Carlton or Southbank.
- 42% of the City's 7,150 people over 60 live in North Melbourne, Carlton or Kensington.

2.2 Domestic Animal Statistics and Data

The standard used to estimate the likely cat and dog population in any local government area is that developed by BIS Shrapnel in 2006 (2). This standard estimates there are 18 dogs and 12 cats for every 100 people. This would yield an estimated 15,450 dogs and 10,300 cats in the city of Melbourne.

These standards do not take into account variations in cat and dog populations that may occur in any one Local Government Area as a result of its location in a rural or city environment or the structure of the population.

Given Melbourne's capital city environment and the very different population structure compared to other Victorian Local Government Areas, the cat and dog population for the City is likely to be significantly less than that calculated using the current industry standards.

- There are 3,757 pets registered in the City of Melbourne.
- The suburbs of Kensington and North Melbourne have the highest pet registrations in the City with 1,022 and 669 pet registrations respectively.
- In 2011 Carlton is likely to have the largest cat and dog populations in the City . (BIS Shrapnel 2006)
- Docklands is likely to have the smallest cat and dog populations. (BIS Shrapnel 2006)

The following provides an overview of key statistics relevant to animal management services for the City of Melbourne for 2008.

Subject	Statistic
Population	85,844
Area	37.6 km ²
No. of EFT Authorised Officers (Animal Control)	2
No. of Registered Dogs	2,238
No. of Registered Cats	1,519
No. of Registered Declared Dogs	4
No. of Prosecutions Completed	3
No. of Successful Prosecutions	3
No. of impoundments (dogs)	168
No. of dogs returned to owner	90
No. of dogs re-housed	30
No. of dogs euthanased	40
No. of impoundments (cats)	260
No. of cats returned to owner	24
No. of cats re-housed	10
No. of cats euthanased	218
No. of Domestic Animal Businesses	5

2.3 The Purpose of the Domestic Animal Management Plan

The purpose of the Domestic Animal Management Plan is to:

- Provide a framework to guide Council's decision making in relation to animal management services for the next three years
- Ensure that the needs of the wider community are reflected through Council's domestic animal management policies
- Provide a framework for considering issues associated with domestic animals and informing the community about responsible pet ownership.

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- **Approximately 53% of households in Victoria own a cat or a dog.**
 - **Cat populations have been in decline since 1998.**
 - **Dog populations have been in decline since 2002.**
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In accordance with the requirements of the *Domestic (Feral and Nuisance) Animals Act (1994), section 68A* the Plan will identify:

- A method for evaluating whether the City's animal management services respond appropriately to the requirements of the Act
- Training requirements for staff responsible for implementing the requirements of the Act
- Programs, services and strategies that Council will undertake to address issues and opportunities associated with domestic animals
- Strategies to encourage people to be responsible pet owners, particularly in relation to:
 - » the registering of animals
 - » managing animals appropriately in public places
 - » minimising the potential for dogs and cats to create unwanted impacts
 - » the microchipping and desexing of animals

- Strategies for:
 - » minimising the risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals
 - » addressing over-population and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats
 - » effectively identifying all dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs and to ensure that these dogs are kept in compliance with this Act
- The process for creating and reviewing orders that apply to the Act
- The process that will guide the review of the *Domestic Animal Management Plan* in three years as required by the Act.

2.4 Vision and Principles that Underpin the Plan

This Plan is consistent with Council's Vision for the City, which is ...

Melbourne, the capital of Victoria, will be internationally recognised for the opportunities it offers all Victorians to live, learn, work and prosper.

Melbourne is a vibrant, thriving and sustainable city that is viewed with pride by all Victorians.

In support of Council's goal of healthy sociable community, the Vision for Animal Management Services is ...

Melbourne will be recognised for the way it manages pets in the community and promotes responsible pet ownership.

The following principles underpin the City of Melbourne Domestic Animal Management Plan:

- Pets contribute to the health and well being of our community and their health and wellbeing is also important.
- It is necessary to balance the needs of pet owners with the needs of other members of the community.

- Responsible pet ownership ensures that pets live in harmony with the social, natural and built environments.
- Council will work with a range of partners to continuously improve its delivery of animal management services.

2.5 The Process Applied in Developing the Plan

2.5.1 – Council Planning and the Plan

Council has developed a number of service planning documents that have been considered in preparing the Domestic Animal Management Plan. These documents are:

- Municipal Public Health Plan
- Recreation and Leisure Strategy
- The Open Space Strategy
- The Active Melbourne Strategy
- Park Master Plans
- Neighbourhood and Precinct Plans.

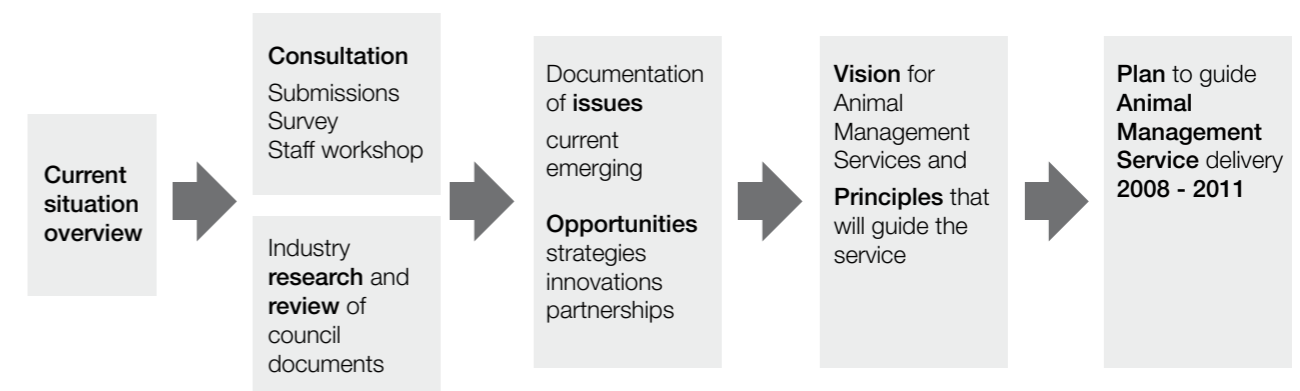
Findings raised in these documents that have particular relevance for the Domestic Animal Management Plan relate to:

- Effective planning of living, urban and open space environments
- Benefits that accrue to pet owners, in particular families with children and older people e.g. increasing physical activity and community engagement
- Acknowledging pets play a significant part in community life.

2.5.2 – The Domestic Animal Management Plan

In 2006 the Department of Primary Industries prepared a framework to assist Councils develop Domestic Animal Management Plans. This Plan has been prepared in consideration of that framework and the following diagram provides an outline of the process used to prepare the Plan.

How to Prepare a Domestic Animal Management Plan (Department of Primary Industries, 2006)



Promotion of the development of the plan included:

- A letter to resident groups and other key stakeholder groups inviting input
- An article in the 'Melbourne Times' inviting submissions
- An interactive survey and information about the project on Council's website and
- Information on request

Feedback received as part of the consultation for the project supports:

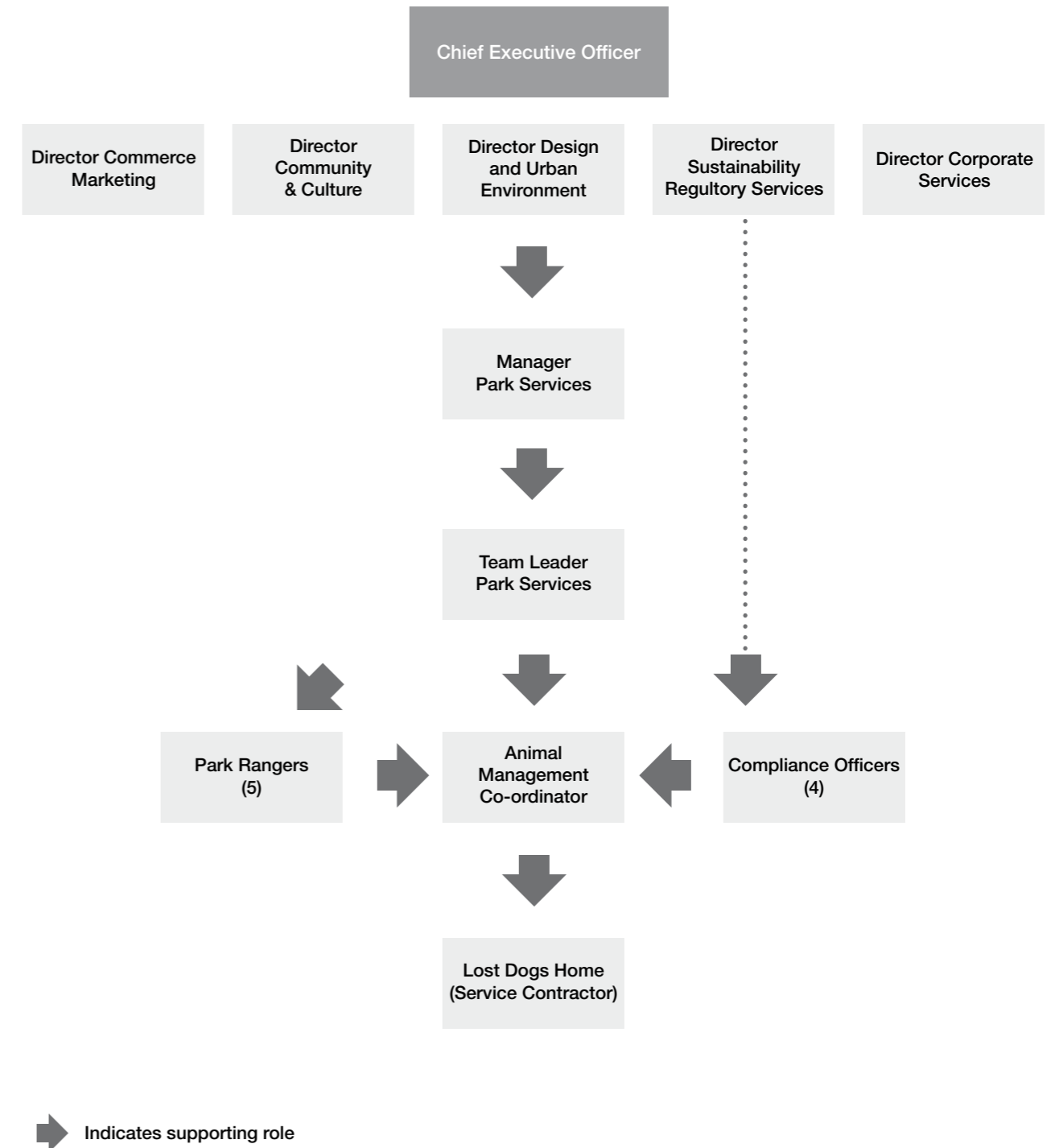
- Pet ownership particularly because of the associated health and wellbeing benefits
- Appropriate provision of dog off-leash areas in parks
- Enforcement of regulations relating to dogs in public spaces
- Proactive strategies to address the over-population of cats in the community
- The consideration of policies relating to a night-time curfew for cats and the management of cat colonies on animal welfare grounds
- A limitation on the number of pets that can be kept at any one property in respect of animal welfare and neighbourhood amenity considerations
- Access to information about the keeping and welfare of pets in the community

2.6 Animal Management Staffing and Operational Structure

- Council employs a fulltime Animal Management Coordinator who is responsible for the administration of the Animal Management Services contract, promoting responsible pet ownership and facilitating associated community awareness programs, and for ensuring that Council's obligations under the Act are carried out.
- Council also has nine staff, including five Park Rangers and four Compliance Officers who are 'authorised officers' under the DFNA Act and the Local Government Acts. These staff support compliance monitoring relating to pets and community education initiatives in parks and the CBD.
- Day to day operations are carried out by The Lost Dogs Home which has the contract for delivering a range of services to the City including the following:
 - Animal Control Services (e.g. patrol, collection, trapping / capture, complaint resolution, investigation and inspections)
 - Registration Services
 - Pound and shelter services
 - Education and Information Service
 - Information and Records management services
 - Public relations service
 - Customer Satisfaction surveys

The following table provides an overview of Council's operational structure and identifies the staff who play a role in delivering animal management services in the City.

Animal Management Services Operating Structure



2.7 City of Melbourne Services

The following provides a summary of services currently provided by Council.

Program/Service	Service Level
Identification/Registration	Annual notification to owners of registered cats and dogs Annual door-knock to owners not re-registering pets Tags to owners within 5 days of registration
Owner notification – impounded animals	Within 24 hours
Complaints	
Nuisance/trapping	Within 24 hours Resolution time varies depending on the case.
Trespassing animals	Within 24 hours Resolution time varies depending on the case.
Barking Dogs	Respond within 24 Hours Resolution time varies depending on the case.
Monitoring- Park patrols	Average of 20hr/week
'Dangerous dog'	Twice annual monitoring
Dog Attacks and 'Rushes' - Attending	Within 30minutes or as directed
Investigation of attack/rush	Within 12 hours (if identity of dog known). Resolution time varies depending on the case.
Pound – Opening hours	Open 48 hours p/week (closed public holidays)
Emergency after hours service	24hrs/day
Collection stray / abandoned / injured animals	Within 30 minutes
Collection unwanted/relinquished animals	Within 24 hours
Trapping/capture of cats at large	Within 24 hours
Trapping/capture of dogs at large	Within 30 minutes
Desex and Return Scheme (subsidised program)	On request
Community Education / Information	New pet owners pack on request

3.0 Strategic Directions for the Domestic Animal Management Plan

3.1 Performance Monitoring and Evaluation (S. 68A(2)(a) and (2)(f) of DFNA Act)

Domestic animal management services will be reviewed against the following key service measures and targets. The purpose of these measures is to ensure continuous improvement of the service, tracking trends that may influence service priorities and ensuring the service is provided in accordance with the Act and Council objectives for the service.

Measure	Current as of 2007 / 08	Targets for 2011
DOG registration rate / 100 people	14.4%	20%
CAT registration rate / 100 people	14.7%	20%
Enforcement success (% successful prosecutions / total prosecutions)	100%	95%
DOG complaints / 1000 people (attacks/rushes/'at large'/noise)	1.65	1
CAT complaints / 1000 people	0.61	0.5
DOG re-homing rate (% re-homed / total dogs impounded)	17.8%	20%
DOG reclaiming rate (% reclaimed / total dogs impounded)	57.1%	60%
CAT re-homing rate	3.8%	10%
CAT reclaim rate (% reclaimed / total cats impounded)	9.3%	15%
CAT euthanasia rate (% euthanased / total cats impounded)	86.9%	75%
Declared DOG compliance rates (no. declared / no. compliant / no. of audits)	100%	100%
Domestic Animal Business Compliant Rates (no. registered / no. compliant / no. of audits)	100%	100%

Initiatives will relate to:

- Benchmarking Capital City cat and dog registration rates
- Increasing registration rates of cats and dogs
- Improving re-homing rates for re-homable cats and dogs
- Decreasing euthanasia rates for re-homable cats and dogs

3.2 Training of Authorised Officers (S. 68A (2) b of DFNA Act)

Council and contracted staff are appropriately qualified and experienced to carry out required roles and responsibilities. Council has a commitment to ongoing training and education of staff in accordance with industry guidelines. In particular relevant Council and contracted staff will be completing the Certificate IV (Animal Control and Regulation) in 2008.

Staff will continue to receive training in customer relations, operational procedures, animal handling and the delivery of community education information, and will be encouraged to attend industry information sessions.

Initiatives will relate to:

- Completion of Certificate IV (Animal Control and Regulation)
- Customer service training
- Animal handling training

3.3 Encouraging Responsible Pet Ownership (S. 68A(2)(c)(i) of DFNA Act)

Council recognises the benefits of ensuring pet owners have access to information that will assist them as responsible pet owners. Council priorities for responsible pet ownership will focus on information relating to:

- Appropriate selection of pets
- Desexing of pets
- Registration and identification of pets
- Pet health and wellbeing and
- Control and confinement of pets.

Information and awareness initiatives will build on literature and successful programs currently being delivered to the community.

Initiatives will relate to:

- Information on Council's website
- Media releases
- Provision of information through Council and allied outlets

3.4 Compliance and Enforcement (S. 68A(2)(c)(ii) and (2)(d) of DFNA Act)

Council has significant responsibilities relating to State Government Laws including the DFNA Act and Codes of Practice, and for ensuring that animal business and residents also comply with these requirements. Council also has obligations under the State Government 'Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act'.

In 2008 Council carried out an extensive survey of park users and non-users of parks. This survey identified that 20% of park visitors use a City of Melbourne park for dog walking.

Council is responsible for the effective planning and management of parks to ensure that the needs of a diverse range of users are addressed. Council recognises the importance of planning for dogs in parks and urban environments in a manner that respects the needs of other user groups.

Council is currently reviewing the type and placement of signage relating to dogs in parks. This will assist residents to better understand dog off-leash opportunities and regulations relating to the use of parks for dog activities. Signage strategies will be supported by information strategies

Initiatives will relate to:

- Review of current enforcement strategies in order to monitor and ensure compliance.
- Review current operating procedures to ensure consistent investigation and enforcement.
- Review of signage requirements relating to dogs in parks

3.5 Minimising Risk of Dog Attacks (S. 68A(2)(c)(iii) of DFNA Act)

- Council recognises the importance of community education and awareness strategies to ensure that public environments are safe, that dog owners are aware of their responsibilities and know how to effectively confine and manage their dogs when in public places.

- There has been an increase in the incidence of dog attacks and rushes being reported in the City with 18 incidents being reported in the first four months of 2008 compared to five reports in 2007.

Council will be looking at the locations where dog attacks and rushes are occurring to develop strategies that effectively address the issue. In the case of dog attacks from within or on private property, strategies will focus on appropriate confinement of dogs. In the case of attacks and rushes that occur in public spaces, programs will focus on the appropriate management of dogs by owners.

Initiatives will relate to:

- Information on effective confinement of dogs on their property
- Information on control of dogs in public spaces
- Promotion of animal education/handling programs and encouragement of owners to attend programs
- Procedures for reporting of attack incidents

3.6 Over-population and High Euthanasia Rates (S. 68A(2)(c)(iv) of DFNA Act)

The City of Melbourne encourages owners to desex their cats and dogs if they are not intended for breeding. Apart from assisting to manage pet overpopulation, benefits relate to the health and wellbeing of pets and minimising anti-social behaviour.

The Act enables Council to require the compulsory desexing of cats and dogs if it so chooses. Cats and dogs registered for breeding are exempt from this requirement.

Behavioural problems including wandering, fighting, spraying, mounting (dogs) are significantly reduced in desexed pets resulting in fewer nuisance issues associated with pets.

The City of Melbourne offers residents a Desexing Voucher Scheme that allows pet owners with a 'benefits/concession card' a 33% discount on the cost of desexing their cats or dogs.

Initiatives will relate to:

- Encouraging pet owners to desex their pets.
- Consideration of strategies for the management of cat colonies.
- Increasing community awareness of the impacts of the over-population of cats.

3.7 Encouraging Registration and Identification (S. 68A(2)(c)(v) of DFNA Act)

Under the DFNA Act all cats and dogs must be registered. Over the next three years Council will aim to raise awareness of the benefits of pet registration.

As of 2007 the DNFA Act requires that all animals being registered for the first time, and dogs identified as 'dangerous', 'restricted breed' or 'menacing' to be microchipped.

- The Bureau of Animal Welfare receives \$2.50 from every dog registration and \$1.00 from every cat registration which supports a range of state government initiatives including pet research and education programs.
- In addition the fees help provide services within municipalities such as animal control and community education.

There is a higher compliance with registration requirements by dog owners than with cat owners. Council records show that of the animals collected by the animals control service, 87% of cats and 36% of dogs do not have any form of identification.

Initiatives will relate to:

- Promoting the benefits of registration and identification of pets
- Microchipping initiatives/programs
- Neighborhood awareness programs

3.8 Minimising Potential for Nuisance (S. 68A(2)(c)(vi) of DFNA Act)

In 2007 Council received 509 complaints and/or customer requests in relation to animals.

The greatest number of complaints and/or customer requests were received in relation to the collection of stray and unwanted animals (47%). Dogs accounted for 35% of complaints and cats 9%.

Animal welfare and other animal management issues accounted for the remaining 9% of complaints and/or customer service requests.

Complaints about dogs relate primarily to barking dogs and dogs at large while complaints about cats relate mainly to stray and feral cats.

There is an increasing acceptance in the broader community for a night-time curfew for cats on both a wildlife and cat welfare basis.

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- Around 80% of accidents involving cats occur at night either through car accidents or fights with other cats.
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Organisations such as the Lost Dogs Home, Cat Protection Society and Animal Aid actively encourage owners of cats to keep their cats confined on their property and inside at night.

The City of Melbourne currently does not require any confining of cats. However council or any other person may seize a cat found outside the owners premises without current identification that has been issued by the council and it appears to be over three months old (Section 84A of the Act).

Initiatives will relate to:

- Continuing education programs and strategies for barking dogs.
- Consideration of the merits of policies relating to cat confinement

3.9 Dangerous, Menacing and Restricted Breeds (S. 68A(2)(c)(vii) of DFNA Act)

The City of Melbourne has four dogs declared as dangerous or restricted breed dogs in the City. Council undertakes annual inspections of dangerous or restricted breed dogs to ensure compliance with the Act.

Initiatives will relate to:

- Continued monitoring to ensure compliance with the Act.
- Continued information and education on the requirements or restricted breed and dangerous dogs.

3.10 Review of Orders and Local Laws (S68A(2)(d) of DFNA Act)

Council has in place the 'Activities Local Law' (pursuant to part five of the Local Government Act) and a 'Council Order' (pursuant to Section 26(2) the DFNA Act) relating to dogs in public places. The Order in Council was reviewed in July 2008 and the Local Laws are due for revision on the 30th June 2009.

The Activities Local Law relates to the preservation of public amenity and requires any person in charge of an animal in a public place to collect and remove any excrement left by the animal.

The Order in Council requires dogs to be kept on leash in all public spaces other than in designated areas. It also requires dogs off-leash to be under effective hand or voice control, remain in sight of their carer, not threaten other park users and not to venture within 20 metres of

a playground or picnic area. The following reserves are those that have designated off-leash areas under the Order - Fawkner Park, Gosch's Paddock*, Holland Park, North Melbourne Recreation Reserve, Princes Park, Royal Park, Yarra Park.

(* To be transferred to Melbourne Olympic Park Trust)

A review of the dog off leash areas in Royal park off leash area was carried out in 2008. A further review of Yarra Park is programmed in the near future. The appropriateness and adequacy of the dog off leash areas in parks will be monitored and further reviews will be carried out if needed.

Initiatives will relate to:

- consideration of the merits of developing policies relating to the number of cats and dogs that can be kept at any one property, a night time curfew for cats and compulsory desexing and microchipping of cats and dogs.
- review of Local Laws and Orders as required and ongoing review of policy requirements

4.0 Performance Monitoring and Evaluation

The Plan is to be reviewed as required under Section 68A of the DFNA Act.

A review process is important to ensure that the Plan continues to respond to current issues and opportunities. The Domestic Animal Management Plan has been prepared as a working document and provides a basis for community and Council partnerships.

It is therefore essential that the principles on which the Plan is based continue to reflect the changing needs and priorities of Council, the community and other stakeholders.

Initiatives will relate to reviewing the Plan in line with the Act, that is:

- On an annual basis the Action Plan and priorities will be reviewed to identify changing needs and issues, and to ensure it is implemented in accordance with key measures
- In Year 3 a full review of the Plan will be undertaken

5.0 Action Plan

The Action Plan identifies the timeline for addressing the action, resources required and Council's role in addressing the Action.

Timeframes have been established for each action. These time frames will be dependent on a number of factors including:

- Other Council budget and staffing demands
- The capacity of the community to support relevant activities

- The level of state and federal government (including agency) funding and resources available
- The capacity of other relevant sectors e.g. business, employment, service sectors to support initiatives

Council's role will be defined in the Action Plan in terms of - Service Planning and Policy (Planning & Policy) Service Provision (Provision), Advocacy, Leadership and Innovation (Leadership), Facilitation, and Information and Communication (Information)

DFNA Act reference	Actions	Year	Council role	Resource
Performance Monitoring and Evaluation (S. 68A(2)(a) and (2)(f) of DFNA Act)	1. Continue to review the service in line with Council's Best Value review process and benchmark performance against like LGAs.	Ongoing	Service provision	Within operational budget
	2. Identify strategies to increase registration rates of cats and dogs, improve re-homing and euthanasia rates for re-homable cats and dogs.	1-2	Planning & policy Leadership Information	
Training of Authorised Officers (S. 68A (2)(b) of DFNA Act)	3. Review, monitor and provide staff training and education needs particularly as they relate to formal animal control and regulation training (Certificate IV), customer service and general animal handling training.	1	Service provision	Within operational budget
Encouraging Responsible Pet Ownership (S. 68A(2)(c)(i) of DFNA Act)	4. Review the responsible pet ownership initiatives including the information on Council's website, media releases and provision of information through other Council and allied outlets.	2	Planning & policy Service provision Information	Within operational budget
Compliance and Enforcement (S. 68A(2)(c)(ii) and (2)(d) of DFNA Act)	5. Continue to monitor service compliance with relevant legislation, and review Council Local Laws and Orders and policy requirements.	Ongoing	Planning & policy Service provision	Within operational budget
	6. Complete the review of signage requirements relating to dogs in parks a continue to monitor community awareness initiatives relating to dogs in public places	1-2	Leadership	

DFNA Act reference	Actions	Year	Council role	Resource
Minimising Risk of Dog Attacks (S. 68A(2)(c)(iii) of DFNA Act)	7. Continue to provide information and education programs on effective control of dogs in public spaces, and procedures for reporting dog attacks.	Ongoing	Service provision Information	Within operational budget
Over-population and High Euthanasia Rates (S. 68A(2)(c)(iv) of DFNA Act)	8. Provide information that encourages pet owners to desex pets and that increases awareness of the cat over-population issue.	2	Planning & policy Service provision	Within operational budget
	9. Identify and implement strategies to manage cat colonies in Melbourne.	3	Advocacy Information	
Encouraging Registration and Identification (S. 68A(2)(c)(v) of DFNA Act)	10. Promote the benefits of pet registration and identification of pets.	2	Service provision	Within operational budget
	11. Develop and implement microchipping initiatives/programs.	3	Advocacy Facilitation Information	
Minimising Potential for Nuisance (S. 68A(2)(c)(vi) of DFNA Act)	12. Provide information and strategies for dog owners that will assist to minimise associated nuisance complaints.	1	Planning & policy Service provision	Within operational budget
	13. Consider of the merits of policies relating to night-time cat confinement.	3	Leadership Information	
Dangerous/ Menacing/ Restricted Breeds (S. 68A(2)(c)(vii) of DFNA Act)	14. Continue to monitoring restricted/ dangerous breed dogs to ensure compliance with the Act.	Ongoing	Service provision	Within operational budget
Review of Domestic Animal Management Plan (S. 68A(3)(a) of DFNA Act)	15. Review of the Plan in line with the Act	Ongoing	Planning & policy Service provision	Within operational budget

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