

Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021-2025 Action List

Council will implement the following Action Plan over the next 4 years to achieve its goals and objectives. The Action Plan is based on the objectives developed in Sections 2 through 9 of the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021-2025.

1. TRAINING OF AUTHORISED OFFICERS				
OBJECTIVE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a training plan that clearly identifies minimum training requirements and any additional training opportunities that should be undertaken by animal management officers. 				
ACTION	TASK COMPLETION INDICATORS	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME	OUTCOME
1.1 Identify minimum training requirements for Council's Animal Management staff	Training Plan for Council's Animal Management staff finalised and approved	HR	2025 March	Ongoing, following strategic planning and procedure writing a training plan will be developed.
1.2 Review staff qualifications	Staff have the relevant training	HR	Annually	HR keeps a record of training completed and existing qualifications and renewal dates or refresher courses.
1.3 Identify additional training opportunities by consulting with relevant staff and management	Annual performance reviews include review of skills along with personal development awareness throughout the year	Management HR	Annual	Staff are alerted to appropriate training courses and encouraged to undertake further training.
OBJECTIVE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council will encourage officers to undergo further study to obtain higher animal management, welfare qualifications and, where practical, to attend relevant conferences and seminars. 				

<p>1.4 Identify additional training opportunities, e.g., prosecutions training, conflict management, communication / education technique, networking opportunities and conference</p>	<p>Annually review what training officers undertook that was in addition to their minimum requirements. Identify training through personal development awareness throughout the year as the need arises.</p>	<p>Management HR</p>	<p>Annually</p>	<p>Records Management training completed in 2023 Prosecutions and Investigations, and Dangerous Dog training planned for 2024 for Local Laws Assistant.</p>
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2. PROGRAMS TO PROMOTE AND ENCOURAGE RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP AND COMPLIANCE WITH LEGISLATION

OBJECTIVE:

- *Reduce the number of pecuniary compliance actions by educating the community about their legislative obligations.*

ACTION	TASK COMPLETION INDICATORS	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME	OUTCOME
2.1 Develop fact sheets and web content regarding legislative obligations to ensure that it is relevant, engaging and accessible.	Reduce infringements issued	Management	Nov 2024	Additional information for the website has been requested, this is being collated alongside the review task and will be implemented.

OBJECTIVE:

- *Promote 'Safe Cat, Safe Wildlife' messaging among residents.*

2.2 Circulate safe Cat, Safe Wildlife education material throughout municipality (Find out more: www.safecat.org.au)	Effectiveness proved by a drop in numbers of cats impounded.	Local Laws	Annually in March	In practice through media and brochures at Customer Service Centres.
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3. PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS OVER POPULATION RATES AND ANY HIGH EUTHANASIA RATES

OBJECTIVE:

- *To provide readily accessible information to the public in relation to overpopulation and high euthanasia rates*

ACTION	TASK COMPLETION INDICATORS	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME	OUTCOME
3.1 Promote confinement of animals to owner's premises to prevent stray cats and dogs and possible euthanasia if the animal is not microchipped and registered.	Effectiveness proved by a drop in numbers of cats and dogs impounded and euthanised.	Local Laws	Ongoing	In practice through media and brochures at Customer Service Centres
3.2 Circulate safe Cat, Safe Wildlife education material throughout municipality (Find out more: www.safecat.org.au)	Effectiveness proved by a drop in numbers of cats impounded.	Local Laws	Annually in March	In practice through media and brochures at Customer Service Centres.

OBJECTIVE:

- *Reduce the number of cats and dogs euthanised*

3.3 Investigation of the suitability of entering into section 84Y agreements with animal welfare, re-housing and adoption groups. A section 84Y agreement can allow for a person or body to seize, retain or dispose of cats or dogs.	Rehome/adoption numbers consistent with a drop in the number of dogs euthanised.	Manager	Ongoing	Ongoing review of 84Y Agreement entered into with animal rescue organisation in Stawell. Ongoing engagement with alternate organisations to ensure greater pool of organisations with capacity to take animals.
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OBJECTIVE:

- *Reduce the number of cats and dogs euthanised*

3.4 Complete and lodge a grant application to run a low-cost desexing program to support disadvantaged Victorian families within our municipality	Number of cats desexed by the end of the desexing program.	Manager Governance and Human Services	Nov 2025	Program completed in January 2024 with 25 additional animals desexed. Ongoing review for grant and funding to investigate running an annual program. Ongoing support offered through payment plans.
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4. REGISTRATION AND IDENTIFICATION

OBJECTIVE:

- *Increase the number of dog and cat registrations by conducting door knocks and educating residents in relation to their legislative obligations*

ACTION	TASK COMPLETION INDICATORS	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME	OUTCOME
4.1 Increase registration by conducting annual door knocks throughout the municipality to ensure dogs and cats are registered	Demonstrated increase in numbers of pets registered with Council annually.	Local Laws	Annually	Annual door knocks were completed in preceding years however due to safety concerns they have been reduced. Continued community education through social media and information at Community Centres regarding the importance of registration.
4.2 Advertise pet registration renewals – webpage, entry points of Council and social media posts	Increase in numbers of pets registered with Council	Local Laws	Annually	Completed by Local Laws Officers and Customer Service Officers

5. NUISANCE

OBJECTIVE:

- *Reduce cat nuisance complaints*

ACTION	TASK COMPLETION INDICATORS	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME	OUTCOME
5.1 Provide education material about cat enclosures	Effectiveness proved by a drop in numbers of cats impounded and euthanised.	Local Laws	Ongoing	In practice through media and brochures at Customer Service Centres.
5.2 Circulate safe Cat, Safe Wildlife education material throughout municipality (Find out more: www.safecat.org.au)	In practice through media and brochures at Customer Service Centres.	Local Laws	Annually in March	In practice through media and brochures at Customer Service Centres.

6. DOG ATTACKS

OBJECTIVE:

- *Increase reporting of dog attacks in the community*

ACTION	TASK COMPLETION INDICATORS	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME	OUTCOME
6.1 Improve public awareness of what a dog attack is and how to report it	Evidenced by a reduction in the number of seized animals.	Local Laws	Ongoing	In practice through media and brochures at Customer Service Centres.
6.2 Review Council's dog attack procedure	Under continuous improvement	Management	Ongoing	To be reviewed 24/25.
6.3 Develop information pack for owner of attacking dog and owners of attacked animal	Work in progress	Local Laws	Ongoing	Dog Attack information which is available to the public through the Customer Service Centre. Information reviewed annually and updated accordingly.

7. DANGEROUS, MENACING AND RESTRICTED DOG BREEDS

OBJECTIVE:

- *Developing a policy to assist in deciding whether or not to declare a dog dangerous, menacing or restricted breed dog provides assurance to local residents the decision making is fair and nonbiased.*

ACTION	TASK COMPLETION INDICATORS	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME	OUTCOME
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7.1 Develop a policy to assist decision making regarding the declaration process	Policy implemented and under continuous improvement.	Management	Ongoing	Developed January 2023 To be reviewed 24/25.
OBJECTIVE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ensure declared dogs are compliant to relevant legislation and regulations</i> 				
7.2 Conduct random property inspections of declared dogs to ensure compliance	Effectiveness measured by reduced number of prosecutions.	Local Laws	Ongoing	Random inspections were completed in preceding years however due to safety concerns they have been reduced. Continued community education through social media and information at Community Centres regarding the importance of safe keeping and compliance with legislation concerning declared dogs.

8. DOMESTIC ANIMAL BUSINESSES

OBJECTIVE:

- *Identify and register all Domestic Animal Businesses in the municipality*

ACTION	TASK COMPLETION INDICATORS	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME	OUTCOME
8.1 Identify all businesses that should be registered DABs in the municipality, including businesses selling pets / pet products / services in the municipality. Follow up to determine whether they are and should be registered with council.	Compare number of registered DABs before and after activity.	Local Laws	Annually	Ongoing
8.2 Inspect properties with excess animal permits to ensure they are not a breeding business	Identify domestic animal businesses	Local Laws	Ceased 24/25 unless a new business is registered.	No properties were inspected in 2024 as there are currently no registered DAB's within the municipality.