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1. Introduction

The City of Wodonga Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) endeavours to cater for the needs of companion animals (dogs and cats), their owners and promotes and enhances the concept of ‘Responsible Pet Ownership’ across the city’s companion animal owners.

The aim of this Domestic Animal Management Plan (the Plan) is to support the council’s mission through effective management of domestic animals (dogs and cats) within the city of Wodonga while addressing the issues relating to animal management in our urban and rural areas.

The civic services team in delivering the Plan aims to provide a community-focused service which strikes a balance between community expectations and compliance obligations under the Domestic Animals Act 1994 (the Act). See Appendix B About the Plan. The approach will use a mix of educational and regulatory processes to promote the notion of responsible pet ownership to gain compliance under the Act.

The preparation of the Plan is in line with the Domestic Animals Act 1994 (DAA) which requires all Victorian councils to have a four-year plan in place for the management of dogs and cats within their area.

Development of the plan

This plan has been developed based on the outcomes and learnings from the previous plan, and a review of the existing data in areas such as complaints, dog attacks, registrations and impoundments. Initial community feedback and consultations with key stakeholders including veterinarians, animal businesses, volunteer groups, dog trainers and other service providers have also informed the plan. Issues identified by these consultations include:

- Adherence to legislation (the Act);
- Increased compliance to the Act;
- Identification of potential off-leash areas;
- Reduction of the number of stray and wandering animals;
- Introduction of ‘on-leash’ and other local laws relating to dogs and cats towards responsible pet ownership;
- Increased resourcing to help drive the council’s animal management and education programs; and;
- Increased community and domestic animal business awareness of animal welfare matters.

The aim of the plan

The principle aim of this plan is to recognise that companion animals have come to play an important part in the lives of many people and to create an environment that meets the needs of pet owners and the community to co-exist. The City of Wodonga will:

✓ Encourage statutory compliance and promote responsible pet ownership through education, engagement and enforcement;

✓ Support and facilitate the benefits of animal ownership and companionship;

✓ Increase public safety and general amenity by reducing nuisances caused by dogs and cats, and non-responsible pet ownership;

✓ Increase public safety by ensuring compliance of declared dangerous and restricted breed dogs;

✓ Provide for the welfare of dogs and cats;

✓ Reduce the number of unwanted animals bred and euthanised; and

✓ Ensure the council fulfils its legislative responsibility under the Act.
About the city of Wodonga

Spanning 433.7 square kilometres, the city is located in Victoria’s north east, about 300km from Melbourne. The city, along with its near neighbour, Albury in NSW, is located in a strategic location on the main Melbourne-Sydney freeway and railway.

The DAMP has been prepared for the needs of the City of Wodonga, which is characterised by its relaxed lifestyle and preferred choice for residential and rural living. There are more than 80km of bike and walking paths with picturesque parks and gardens dotted throughout the community including the foreshore reserves of Lake Hume, including Kookaburra and Jacksons Point, Murray and the Kiewa River, Wodonga Creek frontage and reserves, all providing the perfect opportunity for pet activities.

The city includes the suburbs and rural localities of Bandiana, Baranduda, Barnawartha North, Bonegilla, Castle Creek, Ebden, Gateway Island, Huon Creek, Killara, Leneva, Staghorn Flat (part), West Wodonga and Wodonga.

Population and demographics

A snapshot of Wodonga:

- The estimated residential population at June, 2016 was 41,286 people. The 2016 Census reported the City of Wodonga residential population at 39,358;
- Wodonga is the largest and fastest growing centre in North East Victoria and one of the fastest growing regional Victorian cities;
- For the cycle of this plan 2017 to 2021, Wodonga’s population is expected to increase by 4042 persons.
- Between 2011 and 2036, the population for the City of Wodonga is forecast to increase by 21,609 persons (59.98% growth), at an average annual change of 1.90 per cent.
- The average household size in 2016 was 2.54;
- The average household size in 2036 will be 2.55; and;
- In 2036, people aged zero to four, 5 to 14, 15 to 19 and 20 to 24 will be the most populous forecast age groups (Av. 4150.5).
- It is expected the number of pets in the city will grow in proportion to the population growth. By 2036, it is estimated there will be at least 10,818 registered dogs in the city.

The council’s mission states:

“We will strengthen our community in all that we do.”

The council’s vision for domestic animal management is:

“A community where pets are embraced as an integral part of a family, and where the safety of humans and the welfare of all animals underpins the delivery of the council’s animal management programs.”
**Domestic animal statistics and data**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Impounded</td>
<td>542</td>
<td>466</td>
<td>501</td>
<td>527</td>
<td>449</td>
<td>526</td>
<td>419</td>
<td>474</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pick-up but returned home %</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Released – Owner %</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Released – Sold %</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Destroyed %</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**City of Wodonga**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2013-2014</th>
<th>2016-2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of registered dogs</td>
<td>6478</td>
<td>7476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of dangerous dogs</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of restricted breed dogs</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of menacing dogs</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of dogs impounded annually</td>
<td>449</td>
<td>474</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average number of dogs reunited with owners - not impounded</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Released – Owner</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Released – Sold</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Destroyed</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Infringements Issued</th>
<th>Warnings Issued</th>
<th>Prosecutions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014/15</td>
<td>579</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015/16</td>
<td>402</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016/17</td>
<td>813</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Domestic animal business**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registered domestic animal businesses</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of boarding establishments</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of pet shops</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of pounds / shelters</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Top 10 Breeds**

- Labrador X 158
- Kelpie X 176
- Staffordshire Terrier X 205
- Jack Russell X 295
- Border Collie 303
- Maltese Terrier X 384
- Labrador 386
- Maltese Terrier 321
- Staff Terr 377
- Jack Russell 539
2. Training of authorised officers

Section 68 (A) (2)(b) of the Act outlines 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.

Context

The civic services team Wodonga Council is responsible for animal management operations under the Domestic Animals Act 1994, other applicable laws and the council's local laws.

Pound services were discontinued in 2016 and a tender to run the pound services was awarded to Canine Country Kennels. The service changed to the new operator on July 1, 2016. The Albury Animal Management Facility services the following cities and shires:

- Albury City (NSW);
- Greater Hume (NSW);
- City of Wodonga (VIC);
- Indigo (VIC), and
- Towong Shire (VIC).

Current officers involved in animal control are trained to the required standards to be able to perform all requirements of their position under legislation. Officer competency is developed through a mix of practical training and through structured courses and industry training. Civic services officers are appointed as ‘authorised officers’ according to Section 72 (Appointment of Authorised Officers) of the Domestic Animals Act 1994.

Annual skills audits have been undertaken and all authorised officers have the required skills set for their positions. Each officer also attends workshops with the North East Authorised Officers Association (quarterly).

Ongoing officer competency is developed through a mix of practical exposure to the animal management environment, structured courses and industry engagement and training.
## Future Plans

### Objective 2.1:
Maintain competency of animal management officers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Evaluation</th>
<th>Measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Continually identify relevant training needs for civic services officers through consultation with management and the team. Include in the annual training plan.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Training needs identified and included in the training plan.</td>
<td>All planned training undertaken and officer competency increased.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Objective 2.2:
Annually review all internal processes to ensure best practice investigation, compliance and enforcement processes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Evaluation</th>
<th>Measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Review all investigation, compliance and enforcement processes to ensure they are consistent with current practices, legislation and community expectations. Undertake training relevant to any changes across the sector.</td>
<td>By July annually</td>
<td>Annually – processes reviewed and officer guidelines developed, approved training undertaken and officers deemed competent. Officers using a range of techniques including compliance and education dependant on council and community expectations.</td>
<td>All officers have attended a variety of training in animal management and canine identification.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Objective 2.3:
Implement training guide that clearly identifies minimum training requirements and any additional training needs that should be undertaken by all authorised officers by 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authorised officer training – basic</th>
<th>DAMP 2014-2017</th>
<th>Planned – Next DAMP cycle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Microchip implantation training:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Officer one</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Officer two</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Officer three</td>
<td>Training in Microchip implantation was not undertaken as this service is undertaken by Canine Country Kennels under contract.</td>
<td>Not required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Officer four</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry training</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animal handling</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breed identification</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal assessment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statement taking and brief preparation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence presentation and prosecution skills</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer skills</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loading and unloading animals</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency first aid for domestic animals</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Court etiquette training</td>
<td></td>
<td>Certificate IV in Local Government (Regulatory Services)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Court warrants, issue and filing</td>
<td>Completed x 2 permanent staff. One still to complete.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflict resolution</td>
<td>Refresher courses as required.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggressive dog handling</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2 officers undertaking Cert IV in Regulatory Services and Animal Management. Internal training completed on investigations and preparing for prosecutions.
### Occupational Health & Safety (OHS) Training

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Completion Status</th>
<th>Link</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animal handling induction</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal handling practical skills and practice</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manual handling</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency evacuation procedures</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dealing with aggressive customers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflict resolution</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Client interaction</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council policies and procedures under OH&amp;S legislation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Explore use of Vehicle K-9 Cube to minimise animal handling and dog bite OHS issues.

---

### Bureau of Animal Welfare – training and information seminars, e.g. dangerous, restricted breed, and menacing dogs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Attendance Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All officers</td>
<td>Officers to attend on a rotational basis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

### Induction program for new staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Attendance Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All officers</td>
<td>As required</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

### Municipal Association of Victoria and local government professionals – training and information days

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Attendance Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All officers</td>
<td>Officers to attend on a rotational basis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. Registration and identification

Current situation

Pet registration is a legal requirement under the Domestic Animals Act 1994. The council may take action for not complying. Every dog and cat three months of age and over must be registered with your local council. Existing registrations must be renewed by April 10 each year. Also, microchipping is compulsory for all animals under the Domestic Animals Act 1994. Wodonga Council encourages animal owners to be responsible by ensuring their pets are microchipped, registered and securely contained, suitably tethered or on a lead. Pet registration is NOT the same as microchip registration.

The council’s identification and registration activities include:

- Annual registration renewal follow up including:
  - Reminder notices sent after May 10
  - Phone audit
  - Door knock
- Encouraging pet identification at every opportunity;
- Random door knocking audit for unregistered animals;
- Maintain and update the animal registration database;
- Offering reduced fee for registration of puppies (between three and six months). This reverts to full fee if evidence of desexing is not provided at next registration cycle;
  - Fee reduction for pets is a way to encourage responsible pet ownership.

The council offers fee reductions if your pet meets one or more of the following criteria:

- Desexed (evidence must be provided)
- More than 10 years of age
- Part of a domestic animal business or the owner is a member of an applicable organisation*
- A pet that has undergone specific training
- A working dog

*Applicable organisations

- Australian National Cats Inc.
- Feline Control Council (Victoria) Inc.
- Cats Victoria
- Greyhound Racing Victoria
- Dogs Victoria
- The Governing Council of Cat Fancy Australia and Victoria Inc.

Impounded animals are taken to the Albury Animal Management Facility (AAMF) at 695 Mudge Street, Lavington NSW 2641. All animals released from the AAMF must be microchipped and registered.

- The AAMF website and Facebook page provides photographs of impounded wandering pets to enable owners to locate lost animals quicker.

Addresses Section 68A(2) (a), (c) (i), (c) (ii), (d) and (f).
Current data

Currently (September 2017) there are 7666 registered dogs and 2018 registered cats. Animal registration numbers in the City of Wodonga appear to have varied in proportion to population growth over the last 10 years. During the last DAMP cycle (2014-2017), dog registrations were stable and cat registrations were trending down in the latter part of the cycle but are now on the increase. Data shows an overall upwards trend in registrations across the City of Wodonga for both dogs and cats, which can be attributed to the council's proactive educational programs such as the annual door knock registration checks, increased animal management services and responsible pet ownership by pet owners.

Animal Registration Trend

Compared to the 2014/15 to 2015/2016 financial year, dog registrations have increased by 6% and cat registrations up by 7%

Top 5 dog names

Charlie 122
Max 122
Bella 201
Molly 115
Ruby 91

What’s in a name?
Current education/promotional activities

- Information on [www.wodonga.vic.gov.au](http://www.wodonga.vic.gov.au) website relating to registration, identification, return of lost animals and responsible pet ownership;
- Registration and identification brochures supplied to all local vets, community centres, libraries and dog training facilities;
- Use of media releases, paid advertising and the council’s newsletter Citylife to advise residents of registrations, new pound service arrangements, changes to legislation and responsible pet ownership requirements;
- Registration and animal-related information on all new resident packs;
- Civic services officers available to present to school and community groups on responsible pet ownership;
- High-profile ranger vehicle and uniforms for civic services officers.

Current compliance activities

- Investigation of unregistered animals;
- PatROLS of the municipality;
- Issue of registration renewals annually;
- Follow-up on non-renewal of registrations:
  - phone call; or
  - visit to property.
- Random unregistered animal audits;
- Follow-up on animals notified as sold by domestic animal businesses;
- Regularly update/audit registration database to ensure data is current (e.g., notification of deceased animal, change of address, change of owner);
- Ensure all seized and impounded animals are identified, registered and microchipped prior to release back to their owner; and
- Visiting premises with puppies and kittens for sale to ensure they are microchipped as required under the Act.

Summary

The key focus for the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2014 – 2017 cycle was to increase the number of dogs and cats that were registered, microchipped or desexed. Current data suggests this is being achieved.

Future Plans

The City of Wodonga will continue to promote the benefits of responsible pet ownership as it is recognised they play an integral part in pet owner’s lives, providing company, emotional wellbeing, physical activity and they also teach children responsibility and develop their social and nurturing skills (Agriculture Victoria, 2017).

The city will continue to promoting these benefits along with responsible pet ownership being the key focus to help drive this plan into the future.
**Objective 3.1:**
The ongoing accuracy of the council’s registration database by cross referencing with microchip registry data is improved.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Evaluation</th>
<th>Measure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Undertake a sample review of newly microchipped dogs and cats in the municipality by cross checking registration microchip registries. Check all animals listed on the council’s pet registration database and follow up those that are not.</td>
<td>Annually</td>
<td>Demonstrate the council's pet registration database can be accurately cross-referenced with microchip registries. Demonstrate increase in numbers of pets registered with the council following cross-checking. Engagement of contractor to carry out random door knocks for pet registrations.</td>
<td>Increase in registration numbers for both dogs and cats in line with population growth / pet ownership.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Objective 3.2:**
Increase dog and cat registrations by three per cent (over population growth) each year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Evaluation</th>
<th>Measure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Promote benefits of registering, microchipping, desexing animals through social and local media, and educate resident pet owners. Investigate enforcement / compliance campaign relating to unregistered animals.</td>
<td>Ongoing 2 months after launch of annual renewal date</td>
<td>Quicker identification of roaming / lost animals and return to owner. Increased compliance to legislation. Animals promptly reunited back to owner. Random premises check for unregistered animals. Spot checks on animals outside of premises under control of owner.</td>
<td>Increase in numbers of pets relocated back to owners. Decrease in number of pets impounded.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Objective 3.3:
Improve community understanding of responsible pet ownership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Evaluation</th>
<th>Measure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Develop a more targeted approach to educating and informing the community.</td>
<td>June 30, 2020</td>
<td>Communication plan developed and implementation commenced.</td>
<td>Increase in registration numbers for both dogs and cats in line with population growth / pet ownership. Increase in numbers of pets relocated back to owners.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve the use of existing community networks to distribute and share information.</td>
<td>June 30, 2020</td>
<td>Networks identified, contacted and engaged (dog and cat survey).</td>
<td>Decrease in number of pets impounded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Create opportunities for more engagement with the community on pet-related issues through the use of social media.</td>
<td>June 30, 2020</td>
<td>Social media included as a key channel on communication plan. Social media approaches implemented.</td>
<td>Reduced number of complaints received.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigate the development and distribution of pet-related community newsletter.</td>
<td>June 30, 2020</td>
<td>Considered in the development of the communications plan.</td>
<td>Report presented to council for consideration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broaden responsible pet ownership messages to include matching the new pet to the household.</td>
<td>June 30, 2020</td>
<td>Key messages included in the plan.</td>
<td>Reduced number of incidents involving animals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broaden responsible pet ownership messages to include approaches to reduce the risk of dog attack and animal neglect.</td>
<td>June 30, 2020</td>
<td>Key messages included in the plan.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. Nuisance

Section 68A (2) (c) (VI) of the Act outlines programs, services and strategies to minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance – also addresses 68A (2) (a), (c) (i), (c) (ii), (d), (f).

Current situation

The council is guided by the Act, other state laws and local laws to ensure all members of the community are complying with the legislation.

Council civic services officers aim to inform, educate and communicate to the community about their responsibilities on pet ownership in the first instance. When these avenues do not gain the desired result, the council may issue letters, formal warnings, notices, infringements, court summons or referrals to the Dispute Centre of Victoria.

Civic services compliance team members can also draw upon building, town planning and health requirements to deal with more complex issues relating to the welfare or compliance of animal ownership.

Barking dog complaints vary from year to year. Officer investigations indicate this is an outcome of:

- Incidence of pets being left alone during the day;
- Increased working from home and neighbours noticing their dogs barking;
- Increase in higher density housing and new estates; and
- Declining levels of tolerance.

Excessive barking is caused by but not limited to:

- Boredom;
- Separation anxiety;
- Fear;
- Territorial behaviour;
- Attention-seeking behaviour; and
- Communication to each other.

In most cases, the owners are not at home to hear or stop the excessive barking or may not notice the problem. The council has policies and procedures to deal with barking complaints. In the first instance, the council requests if the barking dog is your neighbour’s that you inform them about the barking. If there is an ongoing problem, log sheets should be kept and council officers will then discuss the issue with the owner of the dog. Further action can be taken if the matter is not resolved satisfactorily.

Dogs wandering or inadequately confined to their premises are also considered a nuisance and a hazard to motorists and the public in general. In these circumstances, the council can utilise local laws or powers under the Domestic Animals Act 1994 to resolve these issues.

Current data

The following statistics are based on the 2016 / 2017 financial year.

- The council investigated 554 barking dog complaints.
- The council investigated 575 wandering dogs.
- The council investigated 16 nuisance dog complaints.
- The council impounded 264 cats.

Out of all cats impounded:

- 13 per cent were returned to their owner;
- 32 per cent were not claimed and sold; and,
- 55 per cent were euthanized (being feral or not suitable for rehoming).

Cats

In Victoria there are approximately 500,000 un-owned cats across the state, presenting the community with a serious over-population issue. One of the reasons is due to the breeding cycle of these animals.

Cats start breeding as young as five months of age. If left un-desexed, just one female cat and her offspring can produce up to 420,000 cats in seven years.

Cat owners are encouraged to be responsible pet owners and desex their cats. Aside from preventing accidental litters, there are many health and behavioural benefits to desexing.

Desexed cats:

- Live longer and healthier lives;
- Are more affectionate and are less inclined to wander, run away or get into fights; and
- Desexed females do not experience heat cycles and males do not spray to mark their territory.
The council uses local laws and the Act to control the implications of irresponsible cat ownership.

Local Laws and Orders under the Act

The council’s Environment and Community Protection Local Law (local law No.3) provides additional requirements to assist with animal management. These include:

- Section 13 – notice to comply;
- Section 14 – power of an authorised officer to act in urgent circumstances;
- Section 57 – restrictions on the number of animals kept on premises;
- Section 58 - conditions under which animals are kept;
- Section 59 – noise and smell;
- Section 60 - animal litter; and
- Section 61 – wandering animals.


The council can make orders under the Act to deal with animal management issues. Orders such as the ‘Order for the Control of Dogs’ and cat curfew are an example of this.

The council during the last DAMP cycle (2014-2017) introduced the ‘Order for Control of Dogs’ to introduce local laws that require owners of pets to have effective control over their animals and, to prohibit dogs entering certain areas within the municipality such as in the immediate perimeter of a public area children’s playground or set distances away from a barbecue within a park. This law was in response of community concerns and views on responsible pet ownership and, the council will only make an order under this part of the legislation after community and stakeholder consultation.

Current orders are listed in Appendix A Effective Control Order in full is also listed in Appendix A.

Revision of the council’s local law and orders

The local laws, orders and all strategies related to the management of domestic animals are reviewed on an ongoing basis as part of the Civic Services Compliance Team Plan and in response to Victorian Government requirements.

Review of local laws, orders and strategies are undertaken on a regular basis to ensure consistency with the council, community expectations and legislation.

Current education/promotional activities

The Department of Economics Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources, Domestic Animals Branch (DEDJTR) operates state-wide educational programs and activities. In Victoria, legislation aims to encourage responsible pet ownership, to protect the community from dangerous or nuisance animals and to prevent animal neglect and cruelty. The Domestic Animals Branch (DAB) is responsible for overseeing the development of this legislation, along with associated regulations and codes of practice.

The council will build on these programs and operate its own education programs to reflect local priorities.

Other council activities include:

- Information on the Wodonga Council website including registration, responsible pet ownership, animal welfare, lost animals, dangerous and restricted dogs, permits, pound and Wodonga Dog Rescue.

Current compliance activities

- Increased patrols of the municipality including local parks and walking tracks outside of normal office hours;
- Responding to animal nuisance and wandering animal complaints;
- Issue of notices to comply;
- Issue of infringements;
- Undertake legal action;
- Issue of barking log sheets to residents to record barking nuisances; and
- Provision of cat traps to assist residents with trespassing cats.
**Objective 4.1:**
Reduce dog nuisance complaints

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Evaluation</th>
<th>Measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research and review the need for additional off-leash areas, in conjunction with planning staff and property developers for consideration of special dog parks.</td>
<td>June 30, 2020</td>
<td>Level of needs identified through dog and cat survey 2017.</td>
<td>Report presented to council for consideration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Include information regarding confinement, barking, wandering animals in registration information packs each year.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Information packs to be sent to new residents and new animal owners in the municipality each year.</td>
<td>Number of information packs issued. Increase in numbers of pets relocated back to owners. Decrease in number of pets impounded.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Hello Neighbour**
I believe it is your dog barking and causing a disruption to the lifestyle of others around you. I decided to let you know about this nuisance instead of making a complaint to Wodonga Council as I am sure you would like the opportunity to sort this out yourself.

For more information about how to manage barking dogs and/or requirements under the Domestic Animals Act 1994, please visit Wodonga Council website at wodonga.vic.gov.au or contact Wodonga Council on (03) 5622 9300.

**Your neighbour (optional)**
Name: 
Address: 
Details of the dog problem/ time dog barks (optional): 

---

**Hello Neighbour**
I believe it is your cat roaming and causing a disruption to the lifestyle of others around you. I decided to let you know about this nuisance instead of making a complaint to Wodonga Council as I am sure you would like the opportunity to sort this out yourself.

For more information about how to manage roaming cats and/or requirements under the Domestic Animals Act 1994, please visit Wodonga Council website at wodonga.vic.gov.au or contact Wodonga Council on (03) 5622 9300.

**Your neighbour (optional)**
Name: 
Address: 
Details of the cat problem/ time cat roams (optional): 

---
### Objective 4.2:
Reduce cat nuisance complaints

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Evaluation</th>
<th>Measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provide educational material about cat enclosures and nuisance issues to:</td>
<td>Current and ongoing</td>
<td>Results of dog and cat survey evaluated to gauge community feedback.</td>
<td>Number of information packs distributed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(a) Cat owners on request; or</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) When issues are identified; and</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c) In registration information packs each year.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase cat trapping by assisting residents with cat trespass/nuisance problems by providing advice and traps through the council’s trap program.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Number of traps delivered Number of cats impounded Number of cats registered</td>
<td>Reduced number of complaints.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Objective 4.3:
Increase community knowledge of cat disease issues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Evaluation</th>
<th>Measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provide educational material about cat diseases which highlight the effect on animals and the impacts on the community. Seek feedback from animal industry and vets on key issues for education to community. Collate and monitor the number of disease-related cat deaths.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Results of dog and cat survey to gauge community feedback (website information). Feedback from animal industry and veterinary businesses. Number of pamphlets/ information sheets distributed through: • Local vets; • Council pound; • Libraries and learning centres; • Social media; • Local press; and • Civic centre customer service. Review information from Albury Animal Management Facility and local veterinaries on cat flu detected numbers. Study of best practice <a href="http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/pets/cats/legal-requirements-for-cat-owners/code-of-practice-for-the-private-keeping-of-cats">http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/pets/cats/legal-requirements-for-cat-owners/code-of-practice-for-the-private-keeping-of-cats</a></td>
<td>Reduction in number of incidence of reported cat diseases.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. Dog attacks

Section 68A (2) (c) (iii) of the Act outlines programs, services and strategies to minimise the risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals – also addresses 68A (2) (a), (c) (i), (c) (ii), (d), (f)

Current situation

Council officers carry out regular enforcement activities relating to wandering dogs. They:

- Respond to all wandering dog complaints;
- Attend after hours emergency dog complaints;
- Attend to all reports of dogs showing aggressive tendencies as a matter of urgency;
- Investigate all alleged dog attacks and ensure legal action is instigated where required;
- Declare animals as dangerous or menacing as required; and
- Ensure that the controls that are put in place under state legislation, local laws and council orders are effectively enforced.

The purpose of these measures is to ensure the risk to the community is controlled, reduced or completely removed.

Current data

The following statistics are based on the 2016-2017 financial year.

- Number of reported dog attacks on persons - 16
- Number of reported dog attacks on attacks on animals – 33

Current education/promotional activities

- Information on the council’s website relating to responsible pet ownership and the owner’s responsibilities relating to aggressive, menacing and attacking animals;
- Links on the council’s website to the relevant state and non-government organisations which have a vested interest in animal welfare, responsible pet ownership and the provision of support services to pet owners and the animals themselves;
- Promote and provide registration and information at organized animal / pet events.

Current compliance activities

The council investigates all dog attacks and safety concerns by:

- Conducting patrols of the municipality;
- Declaring dogs as menacing, dangerous or restricted breeds as required;
- Providing after hours emergency response for dog attacks and dogs acting aggressively;
- Issuing infringements and summons to attend court where applicable;
- Seizing all dogs involved in dog attacks resulting in a serious injury; and
- Maintaining the ban on declared dangerous dogs.

Summary

The council will continue with its strict enforcement approach to all reported dog attacks and aggressive dog complaints in the municipality.
Future Plans

Objective 5.1:
Increase the reporting of dog attacks in the community

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Evaluation</th>
<th>Measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improve public awareness of what a dog attack and dog rush</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Monitor the number of complaints received year on year.</td>
<td>Reduction in number of complaints.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>is, increase awareness of public reporting wandering animals.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase awareness of the possible penalties and possible legal</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Cat and dog survey results. Include additional questions when interviewing owners of dogs that have attacked to gauge if they had prior knowledge of the seriousness of the event.</td>
<td>Reduction in number of prosecutions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>actions that may result in the event of attack, drawing on recent dog</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>attacks across Victoria as case examples.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Objective 5.2:
Decrease the time delay between when an attack occurs and reporting to council

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Evaluation</th>
<th>Measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increase community awareness on reporting all dog attacks immediately</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Recording mechanisms to ask and show time of attack to time of reporting, which can then be evaluated to show decrease of time from attack until reporting.</td>
<td>Reduction in number of serious dog attacks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>after they take place, including better reporting from police. Update</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the council website to provide advice for reporting of dog attacks,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>updated media and pamphlets.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6. Dangerous, menacing and restricted breeds

Section 68A(2)(c)(vii) of the Act outlines programs, services and strategies 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 - also addresses 68A(2)(a), (c)(i), (c)(ii), (d), (f).

Current situation

The level of compliance is high within the city of Wodonga and there is not a need to introduce any new activities in relation to this category of dogs. However, the council will continue to monitor any activity and carry out random inspections.

Council officers ensure the owners of these dogs are adhering to the requirements by:

- Maintaining the State Government’s Victorian Dangerous Dog (VDDR) database;
- Conducting inspections and random audits;
- Investigating complaints;
- Prosecution of non-compliant owners;
- Audits of industrial/residential areas for non-declared dogs; and
- Identify declared dogs which are impounded.

Education/promotional activities

- Information on the council website and links to the The Department of Economics Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources, Domestic Animals Branch (DEDJTR) website; and
- Information via pamphlets.

Current data

Wodonga Council has the following dogs listed as dangerous, menacing or restricted breed:

- Dangerous dogs (guard dogs) - two
- Menacing dogs - two
- Restricted breeds - two

Summary

Council officers conduct inspections of all existing restricted breed menacing dogs on an ongoing basis.

Future plans

- Information and microchipping at organized animal/pet events; and
- Continue to inform pet owners about responsible pet ownership including selecting the right pet for their circumstances and legal obligations, and;
- Ongoing review of council’s policy on refusing dangerous dogs to be registered in the municipality.

Current compliance activities

- Attend to all complaints in relation to suspected dangerous, restricted breed and menacing dogs;
- Inspect all “declared” dog’s enclosures and premises annually and on random audits;
- Examination of the council’s registration database to identify and follow up on suspected (non-declared) restricted breed dogs;
- Declaration included on all registration forms as to status of animal under restricted breed legislation;
- Update and maintain Agriculture Victoria database;
- Patrol industrial areas for non-registered guard dogs (dangerous dogs by definition); and
- Check signage and collars of all menacing and dangerous dogs.
**Objective 6.1:**
Continue to obtain a high level of compliance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Evaluation</th>
<th>Measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Continued inspections of all declared, menacing or restricted breed dogs with zero tolerance for non-compliance as detailed in the <em>Domestic Animals Regulations 2005.</em></td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>All premises and owners comply with the requirements.</td>
<td>Number of premises visited annually.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7. Overpopulation and high euthanasia rates

Section 68A(2)(c)(iv) of the Act outlines programs, services and strategies to address any over-population and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats – also addresses 68A(2)(a), (c)(i), (c)(ii), (d), (f).

Current situation

The council together with the assistance of its support partners such as the Wodonga Dog Rescue and Albury Animal Management Facility are achieving good rates of return of lost animals to owners and re-housing to new owners. Desexing of dogs and cats, microchipping and regulation of animal businesses and local laws all assist in reducing over population and high euthanasia rate of dogs and cats.

Current data

Rates of returning/re-housing of dogs.

Over the last four years, council staff annually impounded on average 456 dogs. In 2017, one in three dogs picked up by a ranger (26 per cent) go straight back home, 82 per cent of the dogs that go to the pound are collected by their owners and 10 per cent are rehomed. Eight per cent are deemed unsuitable for homing and were euthanised.

Rates of returning/re-housing of cats

Over the last four years, council staff annually impounded on average 191 cats. In 2017, 13 per cent were released back to their owners, 22 per cent were sold and 55 per c were euthanised. There has been an increase in the number of cats impounded and subsequently euthanised by council due to an increased number of feral cats trapped.

Based on a cat’s breeding cycle, the proportion of feral or wild cats across the city is high.

Current education/promotional activities

- Promotion of organizations that encourage responsible pet ownership such as The Department of Economics Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources, Domestic Animals Branch (DEDJTR), RSPCA Victoria, local veterinary practices and Wodonga Dog Rescue;
- Promotion of responsible pet ownership on the council’s website;
- Reduced registration fee for all cats that are desexed and microchipped;
- First year registration free for cats under six months of age;
- Placement of all found cats on the Albury Animal Management Facility website page; and
- Promote and provide registration and information at the organized animal / pet events.

Current compliance activities

- Investigate complaints of animal hoarding;
- Investigate reports of unauthorized backyard breeders;
- Provision of cat traps to community delivered by authorized officers; and
- All released pets to be desexed and microchipped.
Future plans

Objective 7.1:
Explore options to encourage cat owners to register their cats such as incentives, programs and other methods.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Evaluation</th>
<th>Measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Investigate programs, fee reductions and other methods to increase cat registrations.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Increase in cat registration numbers.</td>
<td>Report presented to council for consideration.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Semi-owned cats

Agriculture Victoria states the cat overpopulation problem is due to a number of factors, such as supply exceeding demand and the ability of cats to breed extremely quickly. Research has also found that a major contributing factor to this problem is people feeding unowned cats but not taking full ownership or responsibility for them.

A survey by Monash University found 22 per cent of people said they fed a cat that didn’t belong to them. People feed unowned cats because they genuinely care about them and feel sorry for them. However, many people don’t realise they are causing a bigger problem by feeding, but not owning (e.g. desexing and identifying) these cats.

Feeding unowned cats helps keep them alive and strong enough to reproduce. They keep breeding more and more kittens into a life of disease and neglect. This contributes to the tragic cat overpopulation problem in Australia.


Objective 7.2:
Increased activities to reduce feral cat population.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Evaluation</th>
<th>Measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hot spot trapping in residential, commercial, industrial and environmentally-sensitive areas.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Number of cats trapped</td>
<td>Decrease in the number of cats trapped.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Objective 7.3:
Increased activities to reduce feral cat population.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Evaluation</th>
<th>Measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Engage community through media and community survey to generate discussion and to highlight issues of roaming cats and views on various methods and programs to reduce roaming cats such as the implementation of a 24-hour cat curfew.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Survey results. Ongoing discussion with community. Number of cats impounded.</td>
<td>An overall reduction in the number of roaming cats.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consider future Trap, Neuter and Release (TNR) strategies.</td>
<td>June, 2020</td>
<td>Review to be conducted and researched whether a program such as TNR is a viable option to reduce cat nuisance complaints.</td>
<td>Report presented to council for consideration.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Your cat’s welfare needs

Do you know the five key things cats need for a happy and healthy life?

The five key welfare needs are summarised in this table.

Environment - The need for a suitable environment (place to live)

Diet - The need for a suitable diet

Behaviour - The need to express normal behavior

Companionship - The need for to live with, or apart from, other animals

Health - The need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease

8. Domestic animal businesses

Section 68A(2)(c)(ii) of the Act outlines programs, services and strategies which the council intends to pursue in its municipal district to ensure that people comply with this Act, and any other regulations and any related legislation – also addresses 68A(2)(a), (c)(i), (c)(ii), (d), (f).

Current situation

Numbers of registered domestic animal businesses remain low in the city but support our pet owner community well. As Wodonga is on the NSW / Victoria border, this plan does not take into account domestic animal businesses interstate in NSW.

In 2018 The Domestic Animals Act legislation is changing regarding the registration of Domestic Animals Business, including licensing of dog and cat breeders and pet adoption agencies, and new requirements for pet shops selling dogs and cats. A review of current practices is underway and legislation will be introduced requiring a permit and/or a licence system for breeders. Further information is not yet at hand, an education program will be introduced when the legislation has been approved and the guidelines have been finalized.

Current data

The City of Wodonga has the following registered animal businesses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domestic animal businesses</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registered domestic animal business</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of boarding establishments</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of pet shops</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of pounds / shelters</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Albury AMC)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Current education/promotional activities

- Visit facilities and provide information including mandatory code of practice to proprietors/staff of existing and any new domestic animal businesses;
- Ensure domestic animal businesses are advised of any review of the code of practice applicable for their business.

Current compliance activities

- Register all identified domestic animal businesses within the community
- Conduct annual inspections/audits of each premises
- Follow up any non-compliance
- Liaise with other units within the council to provide advice when planning applications for domestic animal businesses are received to ensure appropriate conditions are placed on construction, operation and so on
- Investigate and act on complaints received

The Act has altered the definition of domestic animal business:

- Investigate reported businesses advertising in local newspapers to determine if the business falls into the new definition under the Act, and their compliance with the legislation.
Future plans

**Objective 8.1:**
Identify and register all domestic animal business (DAB) in the municipality.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Evaluation</th>
<th>Measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identify all businesses that should be registered DABs in the municipality using phone directories or similar, including online sites. Identify businesses selling pets, pet products and services in the municipality. Follow up to determine whether they are and should be registered with the council.</td>
<td>Annually</td>
<td>Compare number of registered DABs before and after activity.</td>
<td>Number of DABs registered.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Objective 8.2:**
Identify and register all domestic animal business (DAB) in the municipality.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Evaluation</th>
<th>Measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conduct an annual inspection of each registered DAB for compliance.</td>
<td>Annually</td>
<td>100 per cent of all DAB’s inspected prior to renewal and action taken for any non-compliance.</td>
<td>Number of DABs inspected.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Objective 8.3:**
All domestic animal businesses meet their registration and mandatory codes of practice standards.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Evaluation</th>
<th>Measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Develop a program to deal with audit outcomes.</td>
<td>June 30, 2020</td>
<td>Program implemented. Number of non-compliances recorded and actioned.</td>
<td>Reduction in non-compliance of DABs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Objective 8.4:**
Promote the requirements for domestic animal businesses to the community and domestic animal businesses to increase awareness.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Evaluation</th>
<th>Measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Update the council’s website to include a domestic animal business section with links to relevant codes of practice.</td>
<td>June 30, 2019</td>
<td>Website updated.</td>
<td>Website page views.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conduct a forum/seminar with current and prospective domestic animal business proprietors to provide information relating to their requirements under the Act.</td>
<td>June 30, 2019</td>
<td>Forum/seminar conducted.</td>
<td>Workshop evaluation report.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
9. Other matters

68A (2)(e) 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.

Current situation

The City of Wodonga has again experienced substantial growth since the last plan cycle. The council relinquished pound services to the Albury Animal Management Facility in 2016. As Wodonga’s population grows, so does the rate of animal ownership. To meet this growth, the council will need to plan to take into account the increasing numbers of pet ownership as it grows with the population. Further investigation into more “off leash” and “gated dog parks” will need to be undertaken to ensure the right fit is made for not only pet owners, but all members of the community.

To achieve this, the council will need to consider additional facilities such as off-leash areas and dog-friendly public places and the ongoing education of the pet owner community in the areas of responsible pet ownership and ‘Deed, not Breed’ so that complacency does not grow among owners of everyday breeds of dogs for example.

The council will continue to investigate local law amendments to ensure sufficient powers are in place to ensure responsible pet ownership by all. The council will also need to match its compliance activities with the increased demand for services with an appropriate number of staff, and look at ways to not only increase its ability to respond more effectively to complaints, but to provide more of a visible presence within the community, which it has achieved over the last cycle of the plan.

During 2012, state laws were changed which allowed dogs to enter outdoor dining areas that can be entered by the public without passing through an enclosed area. The council will continue to ensure local laws effectively protect the community, especially when there are legislative changes that have the potential to impact on community safety. The introduction of the ‘Order for the Control of Dogs’ in 2014 was an example of how the council reacted not only to a change in legislation, but also heard the concerns of the community and pet owners alike.

Future plans

Objective 9.1:
Ensure the pound services meets the needs of the municipality into the future.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Evaluation</th>
<th>Measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ensure continued partnerships take into account that animal pound capacity will be sufficient to meet the needs of an increasing population across the city of Wodonga.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Ongoing contractual arrangements are met. Discussion with Albury Animal Management Facility on regular basis to ensure capacity.</td>
<td>Contractor management review completed and outcomes reported.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Objective 9.2:
Investigate staff options to meet the increased demand of services. Reconsider to prepare cost benefit analysis of having an additional officer within the unit based on:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Evaluation</th>
<th>Measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Increasing demand due to rise in pet numbers;</td>
<td>June 30, 2020</td>
<td></td>
<td>Report presented to council for consideration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Introduction of new local laws relating to effective control;</td>
<td></td>
<td>Business case prepared and developed.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Reintroduction of registration tags leading to more non-compliance detections; and</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Creating a senior ranger role to oversee the introduction and ongoing delivery of the outcomes produced in the Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP).</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Objective 9.3:
Determine the benefits of introducing new off-leash dog areas across the municipality.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Evaluation</th>
<th>Measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Investigate the establishment of on and off-leash areas across the municipality within existing parklands/reserves, based on input from planning staff and dog and cat survey feedback.</td>
<td>June 30, 2020</td>
<td>Other areas established.</td>
<td>Report presented to council for consideration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active enforcement of effective control local law to reinforce responsible pet ownership principles.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Number of infringements issued. Number of ‘Responsible Pet Ownership - Good Behaviour’ Certificates issued (trial during this period of DAMP).</td>
<td>Reduction in number of infringements issued.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigate feasibility of creating an ‘Active Dog’ or ‘Large Dog’ off-leash area adjacent to Wodonga Creek near the newly constructed stock bridge.</td>
<td>June 30, 2020</td>
<td>Stakeholders/agency engagement carried out Results of dog and cat survey feedback collated.</td>
<td>Report presented to council for consideration.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Objective 9.4:
Investigate the benefit of additional ranger vehicle with high visibility markings to increase public awareness.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Evaluation</th>
<th>Measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
## 10. Annual review of the plan and annual reporting

Section 68A (3) of the Act states every council must:

(a) Review its Domestic Animal Management Plan annually and, if appropriate, amend the plan;

(b) Provide the secretary with a copy of the plan and any amendments to the plan; and

(c) Publish an evaluation of its implementation of the plan in its annual report.

### Objective 10.1:
Reporting requirements complied with.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>When</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Review the Plan</td>
<td>June annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incorporate the annual evaluation in the council annual report</td>
<td>June annually</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Appendix A
Current local laws and orders of Council

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Order</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction of 12-hour cat curfew</td>
<td>January, 2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandatory desexing of all cats upon registration</td>
<td>June, 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Removal of declared dangerous dogs</td>
<td>January, 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Order for the Control of Dogs</td>
<td>April, 2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notice is hereby given that, at its meeting on 14 April 2014, Wodonga City Council resolved to make the following Order under section 26 of the Domestic Animals Act 1994.

**Order for the Control of Dogs**

A person must not bring or permit a dog to be brought into a public place unless the dog is under the person's effective control.

(1A) A dog is not regarded as being under effective control unless:

(a) the owner is physically able to bring the dog under effective control by the means of a leash, chain or cord in a public place or other areas as designated; or

(b) the owner remains in effective voice or hand control of the dog, so as to be able to promptly bring the dog under control by placing the dog on a chain, cord or leash if that becomes necessary;
iv. stock in council owned leased areas, which includes fire trails when stock are being used for fire prevention activities.

(b) within 3 metres of:
   i. a permanent barbecue or picnic area when in use.

(c) on other sites including:
   i. WRENS reserves;
   ii. Gateway Village precinct;
   iii. Public viewing areas at organised sporting events;
   iv. Any area or event designated by council, e.g. Children’s Fair, Chrysler Show, Australia Day Events, public concerts, etc.,
   v. Unless otherwise signposted.

(3) Dogs are prohibited from the following areas at all times:
   
   • All public gated and secured playgrounds;
   • Within three metres of open playgrounds with equipment and soft fall area;
   • On the playing field at any time during a scheduled event / game / match; or
   • Unless otherwise signposted areas.
Appendix B
About the Plan

Under Section 68A of the Domestic Animals Act 1994, every council must prepare a Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) as follows:

SECT 68A Councils to prepare domestic animal management plans

S. 68A (1) amended by No. 35/2009 s. 21.

1. Every Council must, in consultation with the Secretary, prepare at four-year intervals a domestic animal management plan.

2. A domestic animal management plan prepared by a Council must:

   a. 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

   b. 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

   c. outline programs, services and strategies which the Council intends to pursue in its municipal district:

      I. to promote and encourage the responsible ownership of dogs and cats; and

      II. to ensure that people comply with this Act, the regulations and any related legislation; and

      III. to minimise the risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals; and

   d. 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

   e. 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

   f. provide for the periodic evaluation of any program, service, strategy or review outlined under the plan.

3. Every Council must—

   a. review its domestic animal management plan annually and, if appropriate, amend the plan; and

   b. provide the Secretary with a copy of the plan and any amendments to the plan; and

   c. publish an evaluation of its implementation of the plan in its annual report.

IV. to address any over-population and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats; and

V. to encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats; and

VI. to minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance; and

VII. 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