

2017-2021 Domestic Animal Management Plan Review, Year One

Timelines of actions may be affected by changing Community, Council, State and Federal Government service priorities and the availability of both Council and external funding.

Action	Year of the Plan				Responsibility	Resourcing	Year One Evaluation Measures	
	1	2	3	4				
Service Management, Training and Awareness Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide an efficient, and effective service that responds to our legislated responsibilities, and the changing needs and expectations of our community. To ensure our staff are trained to enable them to safely and effectively manage the service, particularly in light of changing service demands 								
1	Animal management officers to undertake CRAF (Common Risk Assessment Framework) or similar training.	√	√	√	√	Int. CSA	Within operational budget	Council animal management officers have undertaken professional development and training in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular training provided by Council; including First Aid, Customer Service Levels, Occupational Health and Safety Animal Welfare Victoria; including legislation updates, animal handling and domestic animal businesses. Municipal Association of Victoria; including legal requirements around brief reporting and writing for dog attacks. Australia Industry Association Municipality; including networking across the industry and online training for stock control, and wildlife control.
2	Investigate the need for agreements with veterinary surgeries and other organisations that meet the Code of Practice to rehouse dogs and cats, and / or the need to review current arrangements		√			Int. CSA	Within operational budget	Council has commenced negotiations with local veterinary surgeries to enter into service agreements in accordance with the Code of Practice
3	Undertake a review of website, social media platforms and hard copy information provided to customers for the animal management service and update to improve customer awareness of and access to the service	√	√	√	√	Int. CSA	Within operational budget	Community Safety continues to work with Councils Communications Team to update information on our website. Social Media has also presented a key platform for communicating with the community, while SMS messaging is highly effective at communicating with registered pet owners.

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Registration and identification Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To increase pet registrations as a proportion of our resident population To maintain accurate animal registration records 								
4	Use the information currently being prepared by the AVA and the RSPCA to help residents understand the benefits and value of pet registration.		√	√	√	Int. CSA Ext. AVA, RSPCA, DV	Within operational budget	N/A
5	Cross-reference council database of registered animals with microchip registries to identify unregistered animals, animals with no permanent identification, and restricted breed dogs.	√		√		Int. CSA	Within operational budget	N/A
6	Ensure all impounded cats and dogs are registered and microchipped on release.	√	√	√	√	Int. CSA	Within operational budget	100% of all impounded cats and dogs have been registered and microchipped upon release.
7	Advocate for a single industry microchip registration database.		√			Int. CSA	Within operational budget	N/A

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Dealing with nuisance and amenity issues Objective: To minimise the number of complaints relation to pets, particularly in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barking dogs • Dogs off leash in on leash areas • Dog owners not collecting dog droppings and inappropriate disposal of dog litter bags • Cats trespassing 							
8	Adopt the location specific nuisance reporting data (e.g. barking dogs, cat trespass) in order to identify problematic areas and target strategies to address local needs.		√		Int. CSA, CC Ext. G2Z, AIAM, AVA, DV	Within operational budget	N/A
9	Liaise with animal behaviourists to consider options available to assist with the reduction of barking dog complaints.			√	Int. CSA, Env Ext. AIAM, AVA, DV	Additional funding required in 2019-2020 budget	N/A
10	Review cat trapping information and protocols.		√		Int. CSA, Env	Within operational budget	N/A
11	Investigate successful community-based awareness raising relating to dog owners that do not pick up dog droppings.			√	Int. CSA, Env Ext. AIAM, AVA, DV	Within operational budget	N/A

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Dog attacks Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reduce the number of dog rushes and dog attacks. To increase community understanding of the behaviour that constitutes a 'dog attack' To optimise the reporting of dog attacks To collect informative data on dog attacks that can better inform community awareness initiatives 								
12	Enhance the promotion / distribution of information that assists residents make appropriate pet selection, particularly in relation to dogs.	√				Int. CSA	Within operational budget	Council continues to provide information in relation to responsible pet ownership, which includes the selection of appropriate pets.
13	Improve community awareness of procedures for reporting a dog attack or rush.	√				Int. CSA	Within operational budget	Council continues to educate the community on how to report dog attacks and rushes, and is currently improving its website to make the submission of these incidents more streamlined.
Managing dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs Objective: To minimise the number of dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs in the community.								
14	Cross-reference microchip database information with current council registration database for potential restricted breed dogs.		√		√	Int. CSA	Within operational budget	N/A
15	Review and enhance information for dog owners to ensure there is a clear understanding as to a dog behaviour that will lead to their dog being 'declared'				√	Int. CSA	Within operational budget	N/A

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Overpopulation and abandonment of animals, (including euthanasia)								
Objectives:								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To minimise the number of stray, abandoned and unwanted pets To identify and manage the semi-owned cat population challenges 								
16	Work with the Cat Protection Society and animal rescue groups to develop strategies to enhance awareness of high re-homing rates for cats and encourage residents to contain and surrender semi-owned / unowned cats		√			Int. CSA Ext. CPS, vets, pet owners	Within operational budget	N/A
17	Work with Getting to Zero to: Improve information to the community about managing the semi-owned cat populations and residents to address the semi-owned cat population			√	√	Int. CSA Ext. G2Z	Within operational budget	N/A
Domestic Animal Businesses								
Objective: To ensure domestic animal businesses comply with their legislative responsibilities and relevant codes of practice.								
18	Identify opportunities to work with Domestic Animal Businesses to promote responsible pet ownership and initiatives that address the objectives of the DAMP.				√	Int. CSA	Within operational budget	

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Provision for dog off leash opportunities								
Objective: To effectively plan for use of parks by the dog owning and non-dog owning communities.								
19	Develop a policy / rationale for providing or expanding off leash areas for dog owners and their dogs and a provision strategy that considers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gaps in current provision and a review of the fenced dog parks • A rationale that underpins future provision including matters relating to dogs on sports fields • An evaluation of possible sites for consideration as off leash areas • Use of sportsgrounds by dog obedience groups 	√				Int. CSA, CC Ext. Dog obedience groups	Within operational budget	Council have commenced consultation on the location of a future dog park within Eltham, and continue to review the off leash areas throughout the Shire.
Community support and community building initiatives								
Objectives: To recognise and optimise the community building / strengthening benefits associated with pets, including those that support:								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older people to remain pet owners • Pet owners to make their pets safe in times of family violence 								
20	Work with Council's Connected Community Department to put in place relevant procedures for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring an integrated approach when dealing with families at risk of family violence • Investigating and promoting respite options for pets in situations of family violence. 		√	√	√	Int. CSA, CC Ext. local support groups, animal welfare orgs, vets, CPS, DHS	Within operational budget	N/A

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21	Encourage relevant Council departments to advocate for accommodation for victims of family violence that allows families and pets to stay together.	√	√	√	√	Int. CSA, CP	Within operational budget	Council provides care for pets at the pound when members of the community require welfare assistance due to family violence. Although this does not allow owners and pets to remain together, it provides a short term reprieve for pet owners who might be seeking emergency accommodation under difficult circumstances.
22	Work with relevant Council departments to encourage volunteers interested in supporting older and pet owners with disabilities retain their pets e.g. volunteer dog walkers, vet transport.				√	Int. CSA, CP	Within operational budget	N/A
Pet related tourism								
Objective: Understand the potential benefits associated with pet related tourism in Nillumbik.								
23	Recommend to the Economic Development Department that consideration be given to exploring and quantifying the potential benefits associated with pet tourism / visitation	√	√	√	√	Int. DBS, CSA, CP	Within operational budget	Council supports a range of Domestic Animal Businesses throughout the Shire. Council will continue to advocate for associated pet based tourism when opportunities arise. The 2018 Pet Expo attracted significant patronage from pet owners who reside outside of Nillumbik. In particular, pet owners from Banyule and Whittlesea were highly represented, which presents an opportunity to engage with these two Councils to participate in future Pet Expos.
24	Consider opportunities to work with partner councils and the tourism sector to investigate opportunities associated with pet tourism / visitation				√		Within operational budget	N/A