

Draft Dog and Cat Animal Management Plan 2024-2028

Consultation Document

January 2024



CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR.....	3
1. A GUIDE TO THIS PLAN	5
2. INTRODUCTION.....	6
3. HOW WE PREPARED THE PLAN	7
4. COMMUNITY PROFILE	8
5. THE PLANNING CONTEXT	11
6. EXISTING SERVICES.....	15
7. COMMUNITY FEEDBACK	17
8. ANIMAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY	19
8.1 PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE CAT AND DOG OWNERSHIP	19
8.2 ANIMALS AND OUR LOCAL ENVIRONMENT	22
8.3 ANIMAL WELFARE.....	25
8.4 PET OWNERSHIP AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	28
8.5 DOG AND CAT COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT	29
8.6 DELIVERING QUALITY SERVICES	32
9. OTHER ANIMAL MANAGEMENT ROLES	34
10. APPENDICES	35

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Dear Community,

We're so pleased to share this draft Dog and Cat Management Plan with you, which will guide Council on how we manage dogs and cats over the next five years.

It's clear that our residents love their animals, with 8,677 registered dogs and 1,376 registered cats Adelaide Hills Council area. And of those Border Collies are the most popular dogs and Domestic short hair cats are most popular.

We thank the community for their contribution to this plan.

The consultation we undertook in April and May 2023 had over 600 contributions. The comments we received have helped us shape this plan and we look forward to you reviewing it and letting us know what you think.

This part of the consultation is about asking you if we have missed anything and if the plan feels right to you.

We look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Warm regards

Dr Mayor Jan-Claire Wisdom

Adelaide Hills Council



Thank You

Council thanks *Healthy Environs* for developing this document and their work on the Animal Management Plan to date.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the first Stage of Consultation which was held from 29 March to 3 May 2023 – a copy of the Feedback Summary Report is available on our Engagement Hub via engage.ahc.sa.gov.au

Acknowledgement of Country

Council acknowledges that we conduct our business on the traditional lands and waters of the Peramangk and Kaurna people. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging as the Custodians of this ancient and beautiful land. Together we will care for this country for the generations to come

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1. A GUIDE TO THIS PLAN

This is the Adelaide Hills Council's Dog and Cat Animal Management Plan for 2024- 2028 ("Plan").

It includes strategies to manage dogs and cats and sets out how Council's responsibilities under the Act will be addressed.

- Section 3 describes the steps we took in preparing this Plan;
- Section 4 describes the community and geographic profiles of the Adelaide Hills Council area;
- Section 5 describes the context and background into developing the Plan. This includes:
 - The Council's plans and strategies that might have a bearing on the Plan;
 - A description of the legislation and by-laws required for animal management;
- Section 6 provides a description of existing animal management services by Council;
- Section 7 provides a summary of the community feedback received in response to the draft Plan; and
- Section 8 provides the objectives, strategies and key performance measures that make up our Plan.
- Section 9 describes the other laws exist that promote the welfare and/or management of animals

Appendix 1 contains a list of the parks and public reserves where dogs may be exercised off leash, those where they are required to be under effective control by means of physical restraint and the parks and public reserves in which dogs are prohibited from entering.

2. INTRODUCTION

This Dog and Cat Management Plan (DCMP) has been prepared to build on Council's 2018-2022 DCMP and provide a plan for activities, services and programs that Adelaide Hills Council will deliver to support and encourage responsible dog and cat ownership over the next five years.

Nationally, 69% of households have at least one pet – 48% owning a dog and 33% owning a cat. While this figure is on par with 2021 figures, it's an increase of 6.1% since 2019, indicating a substantial increase in pet ownership since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pets can be wonderful companions. The extended periods at home during the pandemic meant that pet owners had the time to strengthen the bond with their pets - and the opportunity for anyone considering adding a new pet to their household to do so. The academic research shows that pets provide significant psychological and physiological benefits including improvements to cardiovascular health, physical fitness, immune system development, psychological health and child development, as well as benefits of pets acting as social enablers.

In South Australia, the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* (the Act) provides for the management of dogs and cats in the community. The objectives of Act are to:

- Encourage responsible dog and cat ownership;
- Reduce public and environmental nuisance caused by dogs and cats; and
- Promote the effective management of dogs and cats.

Section 26A of the Act, require all Councils to produce a Plan of Management relating to dogs and cats within their local area. They are called Animal Management Plans and/or Dog and Cat Management Plans and are produced every five years.

The plan must include provisions for parks where dogs may be exercised off-leash and for parks where dogs must be under effective control by means of physical restraint and may include provisions for parks where dogs are prohibited.

The responsibilities delegated to Councils under the Act that are of relevance to this plan are to:

Dog registration:

- Maintain a register of dogs and make this available for inspection by members of the public;
- Appoint a suitable person to be registrar;
- Appoint at least one full-time authorised person or make other satisfactory arrangements for the exercise of the functions and powers of authorised persons; and
- Make satisfactory arrangements for the detention of dogs seized under this Act and may make such arrangements for cats seized under this Act.

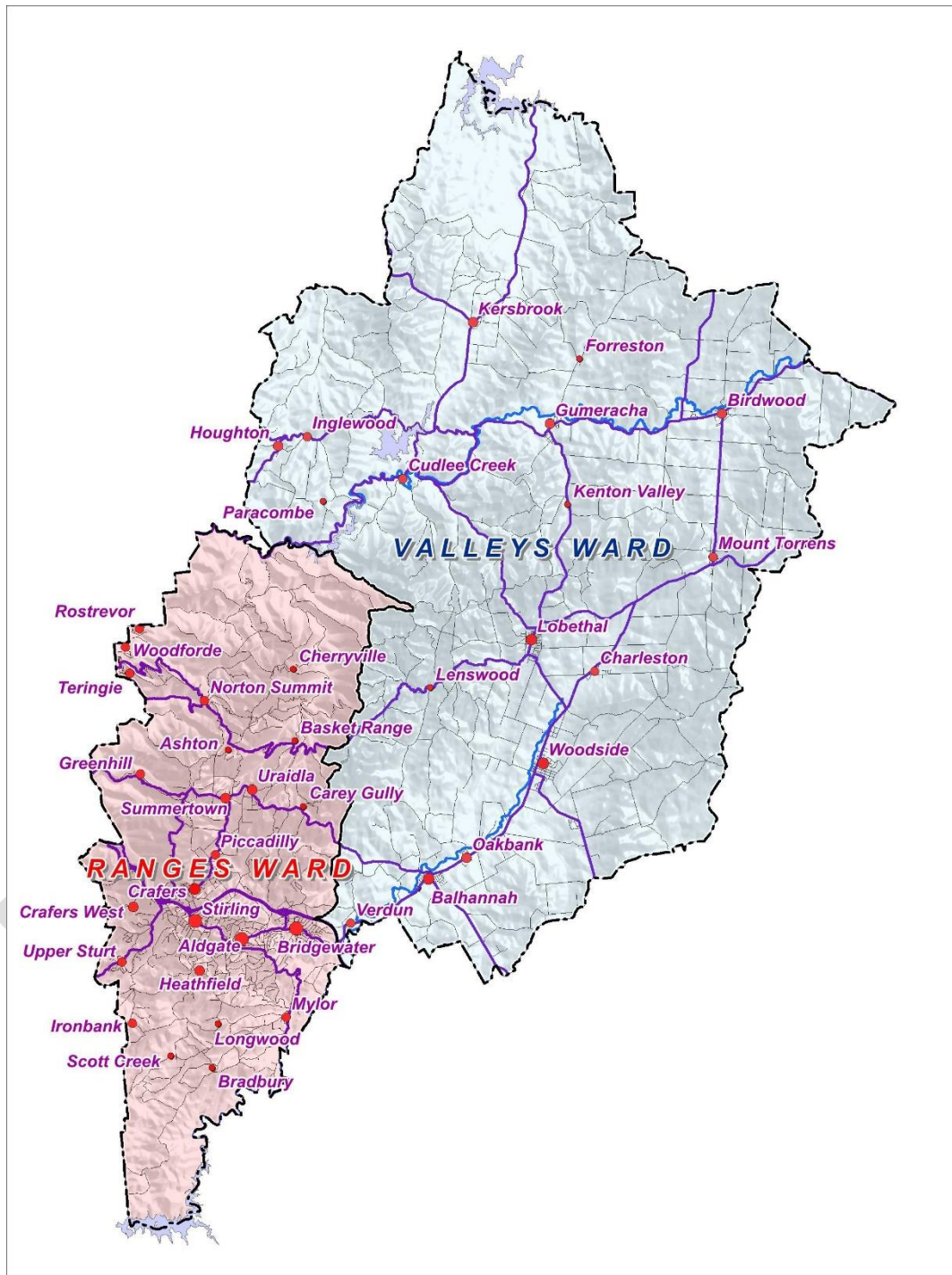
Dog and Cat responsibilities:

- Ensure that all dog and cat registrations are kept on a statewide database known as Dogs and Cats Online (DACO);
- Ensure that all newly registered dogs are issued with a lifetime registration number on a disc reducing the environmental impact of issuing annual plastic discs;
- Ensure the mandatory microchipping and desexing of dogs and cats, with exemptions for working dogs;
- Encourage all breeders of dogs and cats to adhere to the "South Australian Standards and Guidelines for Breeding and Trading Companion Animals":
 - Breeders must also register with the Dog and Cat Management Board if they are intending to sell a dog or cat they have bred; and
 - A dog or cat must not be sold unless it has been microchipped in accordance with the Act.
- Ensure that breeders and sellers include their contact details and breeder registration number in any advertisement placed for the sale of a dog or cat.

3. HOW WE PREPARED THE PLAN

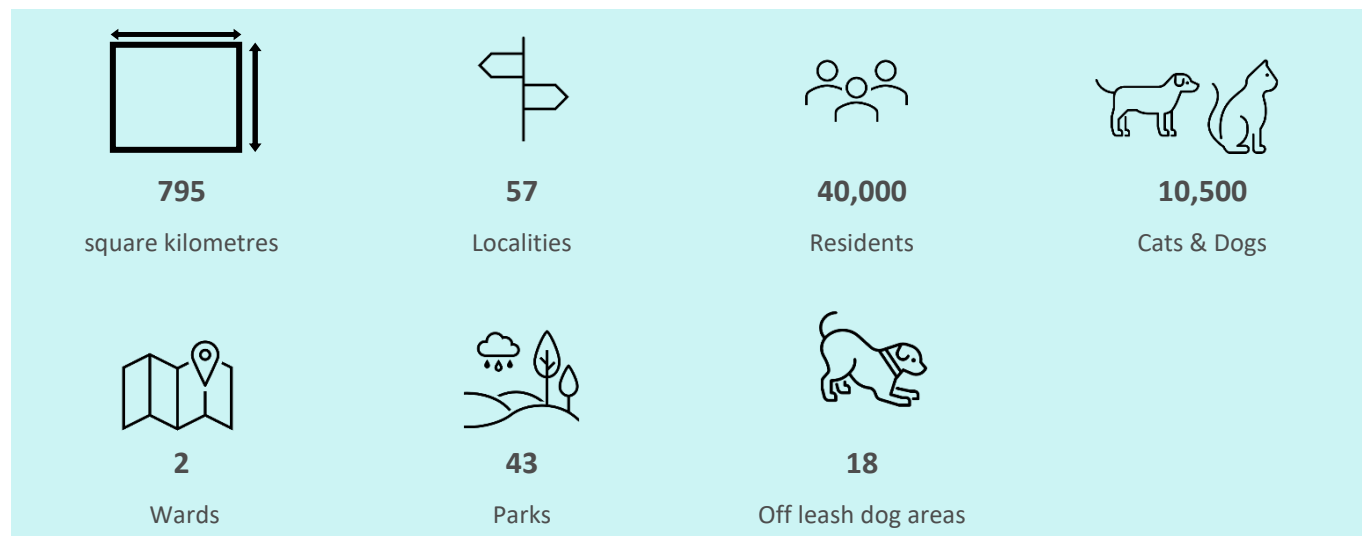
The steps we took in preparing the Plan	
Community and geographic profiles	An understanding of the community and geographic profiles will ensure the Plan reflects the special attributes of the Adelaide Hills Council district. This is described in Section 4
Relevant Strategies and Plans	We reviewed relevant Council plans and strategies and their implications for this Plan. This included (but was not limited to) the outgoing Animal Management Plan 2018-2022, the Council's Strategic Plan 2020-2024 and the Adelaide Hills Council Biodiversity Strategy 2019-2024. This is described in Section 5.1
Legislation	The <i>Dog and Cat Management Act 1995</i> is the foundation for Council's animal management service. Developing this Plan is an opportunity to review our animal management service to improve the outcomes achieved. The legislation is described in Section 5.2
By-laws	The Council has two animal management by-laws – one in relation to dogs and one in relation to cats. In preparing this Plan, we considered the requirements contained in these by-laws. The animal by-laws are described in Section 5.2.
Existing services	Preparing the Plan is an opportunity to reflect on the existing animal management service provided by the Council and consider possible improvements. The existing animal management service is described in Section 6
Community consultation	The community's views were a core element in preparing the Plan. Extensive feedback was obtained and this has been incorporated into the Plan where possible and appropriate. The community engagement process and feedback received is explained in Section 7.

4. COMMUNITY PROFILE



Adelaide Hills Council is the largest metropolitan council in South Australia spanning 795 square kilometres, encompassing 57 suburbs across 2 Wards. Pet ownership is woven into the fabric of the Council area. With over 40,000 residents and 10,000 known cats and dogs in our Council area and growing, it is understandable that Council takes responsible pet ownership and community safety very seriously.

The Plan will guide the Adelaide Hills Council's dog and cat management services and will be reviewed again in five years time. It will continue to evolve to align with any changes made to legislation including the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*. The Plan, developed through consultation with key stakeholders and the community, considers ongoing and emerging animal management trends and drives standards of pet ownership which uphold community safety and liveability.



As our residential population grows, so does the number of pets living in our Council area. The potential implications of urban development and population growth in the landscape of increased pet ownership include:

- increased risk to public health and safety;
- greater demand for animal management services and infrastructure;
- greater accountability in response to community expectations including zero-tolerance to repeated non-compliance, and animal keeping practices which impact public safety and animal welfare.

In order to meet the increasing demands, we need to ensure we are:

- periodically reviewing allocation of funding and resources to ensure it matches areas of public need;
- exploring the use of technological tools to support service delivery;
- delivering programs and initiatives which drive education and awareness.

Pets in the Council area

In the Adelaide Hills Council area there are 8,677 dogs registered with 57% of households having at least one registered dog.

The most popular dog breeds in the region are:

- Border Collies (652 registered).
- Labrador Retriever (520 registered).
- Kelpie (464 registered) and Kelpie Cross (454 registered).
- Golden Retriever (305 registered).
- The "Oodle". These made up 10% of all dogs registered. The most popular being a Cavoodle (287) and Labradoodle (185).

The top 3 localities with the highest number of dogs registered:

- Aldgate – 729.
- Bridgewater – 681.

- Stirling – 567.

The top 3 localities with highest percentage of dogs registered:

- Verdun – 66% of the suburb own a dog.
- Bradbury – 33% of the suburb own a dog.
- Kenton Valley – 32% of suburb own a dog.

There are 1,376 cats registered in the Council area and 9% of households having at least one registered cat.

The most popular cat breeds in the region are the “Domestic” breeds. These made up almost 75% of all registered cats. The most popular being Domestic Shorthair (718 registered) and Domestic medium hair (181).

The next most popular are:

- The Ragdoll (87 registered).
- The Burmese (60 registered).

The top 3 localities with the highest number of cats registered:

- Bridgewater – 137.
- Aldgate – 125.
- Stirling – 113.

The top 3 localities with highest percentage of cats registered:

- Marble Hill – 7% of the suburb have a registered cat.
- Castambul – 6% of the suburb have a registered cat.
- Chain of Ponds – 5% of the suburb have a registered cat.

5. THE PLANNING CONTEXT

5.1 Relevant Strategies and Plans

Council's plans and strategies were reviewed for their relevance to this Plan. The Adelaide Hills Strategic Plan 2020-2024 has particular relevance because it outlines the Council's key areas of focus for the coming years. Its goals are set out below along with their implications for the Council's animal management service.

Goal	Strategy	Relevance
B1: Our district is easily accessible for community, our businesses and visitors	B1.5 Provide accessibility for the full range of users by ensuring Council's road, footpath and trails network is adequately maintained and service levels for all users are developed and considered	Provide connectivity for dog walkers to move through the Council area and engage with others.
C2: A connected, engaged and supported community	C2.2 Support our ageing community to access services and continue to participate and contribute to community life	Consider ways to assist pet ownership amongst the elderly.
	C2.4 Increase participation from the broadest range of our community and engage with them to shape policies, places and decisions that affect them	Encourage the community to engage with Council on policies, plans and strategies around dog and cat management
C4: An active, healthy, thriving and resilient community	C4.2: Support the provision of formal and informal sport, recreation and play spaces for the community to enjoy	Recognise the role of dog walking in the promotion of active lifestyles.
	C4.5 Take an all hazards approach to emergency management so we can support the emergency services and the community before, during and after disaster events	Assist pet owners in planning for and recovering from emergencies and natural disasters.
E2: Provide local infrastructure to drive growth and productivity	E2.4 Manage and maintain Council assets to maximise their utilisation and benefit to the community	Provide facilities for dog walkers to engage with others.
N1: Conserve and enhance the regional natural landscape character and amenity values of our region	N1.2 Manage reserves and open space to support the community, whilst balancing biodiversity conservation, resource use and environmental impacts	Reduce the impact of domestic pets on the environment and public spaces.
N2: Recognise the benefits of ecosystem services and improve environmental resilience by reducing environmental impacts	N2.2 Explore opportunities and take appropriate actions to monitor current and emerging threats to biodiversity including feral cats and Phytophthora	Reduce the impact of domestic pets on the environment, townships and public spaces.

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5.2 Legislation

Dog and Cat Management Act 1995

The Act provides the foundation for the Council's animal management service. Key features of the Council's responsibilities under the Act are that:

- Dogs must be registered and identified.
- Dogs are not allowed to wander at large, attack a person or an owned animal, cause a nuisance or defecate in a public place (unless the owner immediately removes the faeces and disposes of them in a lawful and suitable manner). Dogs are required to be leashed on public roads and in public places (unless sign posted by Council to the contrary).
- Councils have the power to make a range of orders in relation to the keeping of dogs.
- Councils have the power to seize and detain dogs.
- There are specific requirements in relation to the detention/removal of cats from remote or fragile areas and in relation to unidentified cats in other areas. Cats are not required to be registered. This remains a Council By-law Council decision.

Other legislative requirements managed by Council include:

Microchipping

All dogs and cats over the age of 3 months will be required to be microchipped, which is to be enforced as part of the annual registration process.

Desexing of dogs and cats

Dog and cat owners are required to desex all new generations of dogs and cats born after the date of 1st July 2018 and by the age of 6 months. Mandatory desexing will help to reduce the large number of unowned and unwanted cats in the community.

Sale of dogs and cats

Sellers of dogs and cats are to give the new owner a written notice setting out the identity of the seller, the identity of the breeder, details of vaccinations and other treatments, information relating to the microchip, desexing and other relevant medical information and in the case of a dog subject to control orders, details of the order.

Dog and Cat breeders

Anyone who breeds a dog or cat for sale are required to register as a breeder.

By Laws

Council has several By-Laws relevant to the management of dogs and cats. By-Laws are legally enforceable and penalties can apply. Where complaints about dogs and cats are received, Council officers use a common sense approach involving education and encouragement to achieve satisfactory outcomes with enforcement only undertaken where necessary.

Dog By-Law

Under the *Local Government Act 1999* and the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*, Council adopted the Dogs By-Law No. 5 which became operational in 2011.

In summary, the By-Law provides for the following:

Limits on dog numbers	Prescribed limit: • Within townships in small dwelling - one dog • Within townships on premises other than small premises - two dogs • Outside a township on any premise (other than working dogs) - three dogs
Dog exercise areas	A person may enter any park, where council resolved it to apply, for the purpose of exercising a dog under their effective control
Dog off leash areas	Any local government land or in a public place to which Council has resolved it to be a Dog off Leash area.
Dog on leash areas	Any local government land or in a public place to which Council has resolved it to be a Dog On Leash area.
Dog prohibited areas	Any park where organised sport is being played; or On any children's playground on Local Government land; or On any other Local Government land or public place to which Council has determined to be prohibited to dogs.
Dog faeces	No Person is to allow a dog under their responsibility to be in a public place or on Local Government Land without a bag or other container for the collection and lawful disposal of any faeces their dog may deposit.

Cat Management and By-Laws

The *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* contains a scheme for managing cats. The cat management scheme is very different from the scheme for managing dogs. The dog management scheme requirements include prohibition on wandering at large, registration, and seize and detain provisions. The Act contains no such requirements for cats. Many aspects of cat management rely on a council making a by-law.

Since 1 January 2022, Adelaide Hills Council's Cat By-law has required all domestic cats to be kept on property at all times (unless on a leash or similar). This change helps to promote responsible cat ownership, allows Council staff and volunteers to separate out feral cat populations and reduces the incidence of public and environmental nuisance caused by cats.

In summary, the By-Law provides for the following:

Limits on cat numbers	Prescribed limit without permit – two cats
Cat confinement	As of 1 st January 2022, owner or person responsible for control of a cat must ensure the cat is confined <u>at all times</u> to the premise occupied by that person unless the cat is under effective control by means of physical restraint.
Cat registration	Cats must not be kept in Council's area for more than 14 days unless registered

6. EXISTING SERVICES

The Regulatory Services unit provides a broad range of services to ensure Council meets its legislative responsibilities regarding the management of cats and dogs within the City. The unit is also responsible for ensuring the needs of the wider community are reflected through Council's dog and cat management policies, procedures and practices. Council's existing dog and cat management services include:

Registration

All dogs and cats are required to be registered. Dog and cat registrations are managed by the statewide DACO. Whilst the Board will manage dog and cat registrations under the DACO system, Council still has a role to play in following up those that fail to [register their dog or cats](#).

Staffing

Council has five Authorised Persons who spend approximately 50% to 60% of their time working on dog and cat related matters. One or more rangers are on duty between 8.30am and 5.00pm seven days a week and on-call officers are available to handle emergencies outside these hours at all times.

Lost and unowned pets

A small dog pound has been constructed at Heathfield Depot. This provides for the temporary holding of lost and unowned dogs. The Council currently uses an external service to detain cats. Dogs and cats that cannot be re-united with their owner are handed to the an external service to re-home, where external suitable services are not able to take an animal, Council will consider direct rehoming if the animal is suitable

Dog attacks

Council currently receives approximately 80 reports of dog attacks each year. The majority of these attacks are on other dogs or animals. A Standard Operating Procedure exists for dealing with dog attacks to ensure the necessary steps are taken to investigate and respond to such incidents. Key measures to reduce the incidence of dog attacks include early socialisation and obedience training, confinement to prevent dogs from wandering and effective control of dogs in public places. Education, especially of children, in how to behave around dogs can reduce the risk. Research by the Board shows that undesexed dogs are 7 to 10 times more likely to attack than desexed dogs. The mandatory desexing requirement will help to reduce the risk. Rangers continue to review their processes for dealing with dog attacks.

Dog barking

Excessive barking is a problem that consume a considerable amount of Council resources. Ninety per cent of dog complaints are resolved within 14 days but the remaining 10% can become particularly difficult to resolve. A Standard Operating Procedure exists for dog barking to ensure that it reflects best practice and consistency of approach by the Authorised Person. Rangers continue to review their processes for dealing with dog barking problems.

Education in responsible pet ownership

The Ranger Services Team has a range of brochures and Council's website provides information to dog and cat owners on a range of relevant topics. The Dog and Cat Board provide information and education via its website. A primary focus of this education is to reduce dog attacks and obtain higher breeder compliance.

Dogs in public places

Council's Dog By-law provides for declared areas where dogs are allowed to be exercised off the leash and where they are prohibited from entering. In addition to the declared areas, dogs are also prohibited from playgrounds and are required to be on the leash on any reserve or park when organised sport is being played. Council's Wright Road Dog Park is about 0.8 hectare in area. Facilities include an off-street car park, agility equipment and a separate space for puppies and small dogs. *Appendix 1* lists the parks and reserves where dogs are prohibited from, where they are allowed off leash and where they are required to be leashed. Owners of dogs or the person responsible for the dog are required to remove any dog faeces left by their dog in a public place. Failure to do so is an offence under the Act. Council's By-law also makes it an offence to take a dog into a public place if the person in control of the dog is not carrying a dog bag or similar to remove the dog's faeces. Council

supplies approximately 40 dog bag dispensers across the Council area and spends in excess of \$12,000 per annum supplying bags and maintaining dispensers. Officer time is also required to replenish the bag dispensers.

Cat control and Management

Council's Cat By-Law controls the number of cats that are allowed on premises and requires all cats to remain on the owner's property. The Act provides for the detention/removal of cats from remote or fragile areas and in relation to unidentified cats in other areas. Council has cat traps that can be hired out to residents wishing to manage cats trespassing on their property.

Funding

All monies received from dog and cat registrations, expiations and fines must be spent on dog and cat management. Council runs at break even or as near as possible, with any funds not spent in a financial year carried forward into the next financial year to be spent on dog and cat management activities. Any deficit is of a minor amount. Council must pay 12% of funds received from dog registrations to the Board.

Other Animals

Council has powers under the *Local Government Act 1999* and the *Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016* to control nuisance on a property. This could include animals that are causing a hazard or nuisance. Council has from time to time used this legislation in relation to poultry/livestock kept on private property.

7. COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

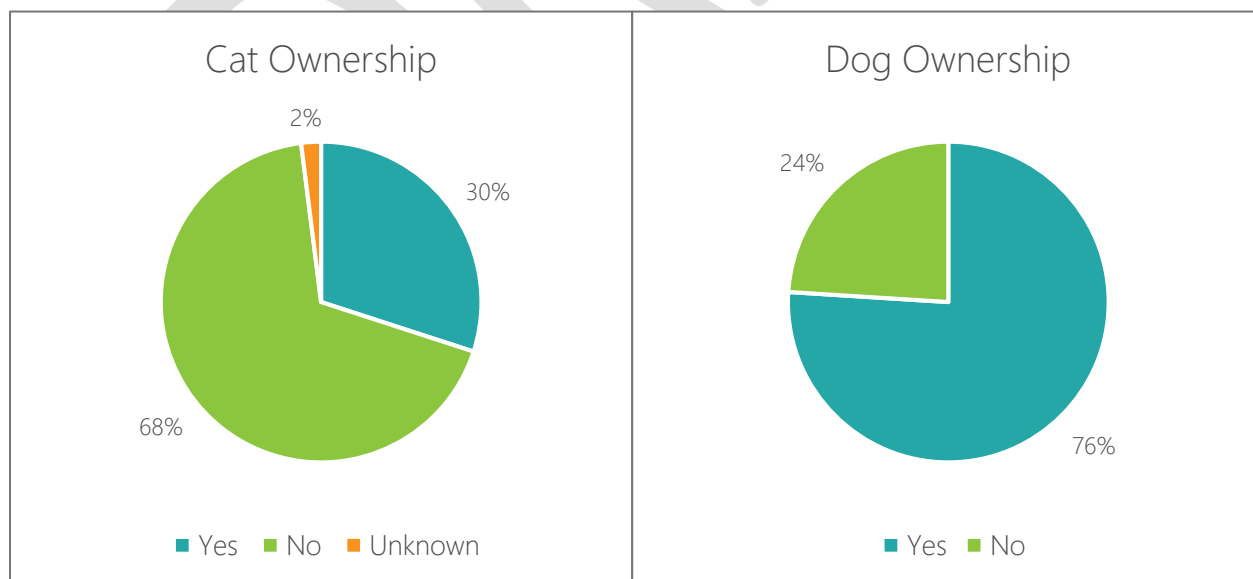
This Draft Dog and Cat Animal Management Plan builds on direct feedback from 609 people during the initial community engagement stages in early 2023.

The Plan has been developed in consultation with our community. A community engagement platform (Community Engagement Hub) was shared on Council's website encouraging feedback and comment from our residents. An online workshop was also held to gain feedback from the community.

To ensure the Plan does accurately reflect community views, it will be subject to further consultation before being finalised and adopted by Council.

Community members visited the Dog and Cat Management Plan consultation webpage	2,680
Community members completed the survey	548
Suburbs were represented in the survey results	66 (48 Adelaide Hills suburbs)
Community members who submitted a written response	19
Community members who visited the online mapping tool	14
Community members that attended the Webinar	12
Community members who submitted a phone response	4
Community members who provided social media comments	16

Of the participants who participated in the survey, 30% indicated they owned a cat, and of those most said they had one cat (57%), and 76% said they owned a dog with the majority having one dog (66%)



During this review, a significant investment in community engagement was undertaken to be certain that the Plan truly reflected the sentiment shared by the community. Our community said they wanted:



Stronger compliance and enforcement action for animal related breaches or offences to uphold public safety



Stronger focus on cat management



Better management of dog off-leash areas to promote safety and accessibility



Education around responsible pet ownership and community expectations



More focus on dog nuisance e.g. excessive barking, dog waste



More focus on protecting the environment and wildlife from dogs and cats

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8. ANIMAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

8.1 Promoting Responsible Cat and Dog Ownership

Dog and Cat Ownership

In the Adelaide Hills, all dogs and cats are required to be registered when they reach three months of age and desexed by six months. Whilst the Board will manage dog registrations under the DACO system, Council will have a role to play in following up those that fail to register their dog or cats.

The primary aim of the Council's animal management service is to educate the community about responsible dog and cat ownership and compliance with relevant legislation and Council By-laws. In most cases, where a minor breach occurs, officers will issue a warning if necessary. In more serious cases, or where there are repeated breaches for minor offences, enforcement action will be considered. Council will continue to provide a range of information on its website and in printed material. Some information will also be provided via SMS for those that have registered and through Council's social media platforms.

Education is a primary objective to ensure members of the community understand the requirements or at least know how to easily access the requirements that apply in the Adelaide Hills Council area.

Since 1 January 2022, Adelaide Hills Council's Cat By-law has required all domestic cats to be kept contained to the owner's property at all times (unless on a leash or similar). This change helps to promote responsible cat ownership, allows Council staff and volunteers to separate out feral cat populations and reduces the incidence of public and environmental nuisance caused by cats.

In the Adelaide Hills Council area 57% of households have at least one registered dog while 9% of households have at least one registered cat.

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Registered Dogs	7,972	8,658	8,715	8,826	9059
Registered Cats	260	415	434	1,300	1464

What does it mean to be a responsible pet owner?

Being a responsible pet owner means

- Your cat or dog is registered and microchipped by the time it is three months of age and desexed by six months.
- Keep a collar on your cat or dog with your registration tag, ideally a lifetime registration disc, and a contact number.
- Desexing your pet will prevent unwanted litters, roaming and other health benefits.
- Ensure your pet is appropriately vaccinated and is safe from ticks, worms and fleas.
- Take responsibility for your pets' behaviour at home and when you're out and about. This means keeping a check on things like barking, or other anti-social behaviour.
- Only take your dog off-leash when in a designated off-leash area. Whether your dog is on or off-leash, your dog is your responsibility and needs to be kept under effective control. Effective control means your dog is restrained on a leash, being held by a person physically able to control the dog or by command.
- Use dog off-leash areas appropriately as not all dogs are suitable or safe to be off leash. Cats are happiest and healthiest at home so in line with Council's cat by-laws, ensure your cat is kept on your property at all times. Check your pets' enclosure or fencing regularly to ensure it is suitable to safely contain your pet.

Did you know? Using a life-time disc will reduce up to 600kg of landfill waste each year generated by the replacement of annual plastic tags.

Stakeholders and Partners

- The Dog and Cat Management Board (the board)
- Neighbouring councils
- Animal welfare organisations
- Local government association
- Local government authorised persons association (APA)
- Microchip implanters and veterinarians
- Dog obedience clubs and trainers
- Emergency services organisations
- Community groups and volunteers
- Pet owners

Internal Stakeholders

- Council Rangers
- Sport and Recreation
- Waste Management
- Communications and Events Team

Objectives and Strategies

Objective	Strategy	Performance Measure	Resources
Educate the community in the broad range of responsible pet ownership requirements and community expectations.	Continue to provide education material on Council's website and in other promotional formats.	Website and other promotional formats kept up to date with appropriate education material	Current operations
	Implement various campaigns, such as wandering dog and cat campaigns and the benefits of identification to highlight various issues relating to responsible pet ownership.	Education campaigns implemented	Current operations
	Participate at community events to promote responsible dog and cat ownership and encourage	Community events attended and promoted at	Current operations

Objective	Strategy	Performance Measure	Resources
	positive behaviours of pets and their owners.		
Community has good knowledge and understanding of the dog and cat legislative provisions.	Promotion of legislation requiring all dogs and cats over three (3) months to be microchipped and six (6) months of age to be desexed for those born after 1 st July 2018.	Increase in the number of dogs and cats microchipped and desexed. Increase in understanding by the community of dog and cat legislation.	Current operations
	Promotion of legislation requiring all dogs and cats over three (3) months to be registered	Increase in the number of dogs and cats registered	Current operations
Dog owners to remove all faeces from public places when exercising their pets.	Ensure current dog bag dispensers remain active and promote use of bags to facilitate collection of faeces in public spaces by dog owners.	Number of reports received regarding dog waste	Current operations
	Investigate new locations for dog bag dispensers	New locations investigated	FTE for investigation support <i>FTE = Full-Time Equivalent is a unit of measurement used to calculate the number of full-time hours worked by employees in an organisation</i>
Educate residents about dog and cat breeder registration requirements	Promote the Dog and Cat Management Board's requirements for dog and cat breeders and sellers.	Decrease in number of unregistered breeders	Current operations
Keep your cat happy and safe at home	Continue to enforce cat by-law to reduce number of cats off property	Number of cats wandering off leash/off property reduced	Current operations
	Continue to educate community about the importance of keeping their cat on property		Current operations
Reduce the number of wandering dogs and cats.	Encourage the community to report dog and cat	Number of wandering dogs and cats, attacks, and harassments reported.	Current operations

Objective	Strategy	Performance Measure	Resources
	wandering, attack and harassments to Council.		
	Respond to complaints regarding wandering dogs to ensure safety of the public.	Complaints responded to in timely manner	Current operations

8.2 Animals and our Local Environment

Dog Parks and Cat Control in the Adelaide Hills

There are several ways that Dog and Cat Management can impact the environment. This includes dog waste or plastic waste bags polluting creeks and the surrounding environment, or damage of sensitive creek or bush areas by dogs. Cats, whether domestic, stray or feral, can all have a significant impact by hunting wildlife and have been shown to kill many birds and reptiles, whether hungry or not. Cats are particularly active at dawn, dusk and night.

Dogs and Council Parks and Reserves

On and off-leash activity spaces is vital to the success of animal management in our Council district as it provides dog owners with suitable areas to exercise their dogs safely. Equally, other members of the community must have the ability to use open space and recreation amenities without the fear of uncontrolled dogs, uncollected dog faeces and other nuisances.

Dogs must be on leash on all roads, streets and footways. There are a number of dog friendly parks in our district where owners can exercise their dogs off leash. Some reserves may have restricted off leash times to meet the needs of other users; please check for signs at each park or reserve to view restrictions, hours of operation, and your responsibilities as a dog owner.

Educating and encouraging owners about inappropriate behaviour of dogs, towards people, other dogs and wildlife is a vital role played by Council and community. Council promotes a range of strategies to the community to help minimise the risk of injury/nuisance from dogs.

The Council's Dog By-Law enables the Council to declare dog exercise areas (off-leash areas), dog on-leash areas and dog prohibited areas throughout the Council area. In addition to the declared areas, dogs are also prohibited from playgrounds and are required to be on the leash on any reserve or park when organised sport is being played.

Council currently has 1 dedicated dog park being the Wright Road Dog Park which was completed in 2011. It is approx. 0.8 hectare in area. Facilities include an off-street car park, agility equipment and a separate space for puppies and small dogs.

Appendix 1 lists the parks and reserves where dogs are prohibited from, where they are allowed off leash and where they are required to be leashed.

Owners of dogs or the person responsible for the dog are required to remove any dog faeces left by their dog in a public place. Failure to do so is an offence under the Act. Council's By-law also makes it an offence to take a dog into a public place if the person in control of the dog is not carrying a dog bag or similar to remove the dog's droppings.

Council supplies approximately 40 dog bag dispensers across the Council area and spends approx. \$12,000 per annum supplying bags and maintaining dispensers.

Cats Control

Cats can be valuable family members providing companionship and affection, but they can also cause a nuisance in the community. Cats can stray from their property, defecate in neighbouring properties and cause environmental damage by attacking and harassing wildlife.

Council's Cat By-Law controls the number of cats that can be kept per premises and requires all cats to remain on their owners premises or on a leash. The Act provides for the detention/removal of cats from remote or fragile areas and in relation to unidentified cats in other areas.

Council has cat traps that can be hired out to residents wishing to manage cats trespassing on their property.

"We are very supportive of council efforts to better protect wildlife from dogs and cats"

Survey Participant

"Education for pet owners who live near national parks or conservation areas about the impact that pets can have on the wildlife in the area."

Survey Participant

Stakeholders and Partners

- Animal welfare organisations
- Microchip implanters and veterinarians
- Emergency services organisations
- Community groups and volunteers
- Pet owners
- Department of Environment and Water
- National Parks and Wildlife Services SA

Internal Stakeholders

- Council Rangers
- Sport and Recreation
- Waste Management
- Communications and Events Team
- Planning Development and Policy

Objectives and Strategies

Objective	Strategy	Performance Measure	Resources
Highlight the potential impacts of domestic animals on natural resources	Develop an education campaign that highlights the potential environmental impact of feeding un-owned cats and allowing pets to roam.	Education campaign developed. Community understanding of impacts of wandering pets increase	FTE for Communication/Engagement Support <i>FTE = Full-Time Equivalent is a unit of measurement used to calculate the number of full-</i>

Objective	Strategy	Performance Measure	Resources
			<i>time hours worked by employees in an organisation</i>
Protect pet and wildlife welfare	Promote the benefits of containing cats to their owner's property and include resources as part of an information pack given with registrations	Resource pack developed and distributed.	Current operations
	Clearly define areas unsuitable for dog and cat recreation and exercise	Areas identified and defined through signage and information on website	Current operations
	Provide cat owners with resources and information to assist with transitioning their cat to a stay at home lifestyle	Resource pack developed and made available	FTE for Communication/Engagement Support
	Continue to deliver councils core animal management functions that protect biodiversity including: • Registration of animals - Managing off-leash areas and park patrols by animal management officers • Provision of bins in parks • Cat trapping functions	Animal management functions delivered	Current operations
Ensure dog owners comply with the requirements of on and off leash areas.	Continue to patrol Council's streets parks and reserves to ensure dog owners are complying with the requirements relating to leashing, effective control and disposing of dog faeces	Continued patrols Reduced non-compliance	Current operations
Audit the list of on and off leash areas in Adelaide Hills area	Undertake asset review of all dog parks as available in Appendix 1	Review of dog parks undertaken	FTE for park audit

Objective	Strategy	Performance Measure	Resources
	Investigate opportunity of new of upgrade existing dog parks	Investigation into new or upgrading existing dog parks undertaken	FTE for park audit

8.3 Animal Welfare

Current State of Animal Welfare

Lost and unowned pets

Wandering and unowned dogs and cats can be a threat to members of the public, native wildlife and themselves. The Act and Council's Dog and Cat By-laws do not allow dogs or cats to wander except where off-leash provisions allow. Council uses education, encouragement and enforcement to prevent wandering. When a pet dog or cat wanders, the priority is to return it home as safely and quickly as possible — provided it can be safely contained without risking its welfare. Council Officers work hard to reunite animals with their owners at first point, without taking them to their pound facility. The number of stray or unowned animals entering shelters is a function of unwanted litters, lack of identification and inadequate confinement. Some animals are required to be relinquished and not every animal can be returned to its owner or re-homed (for example, it may not be suitable for re-homing).

In 2022, Council reunited 100 dogs and 7 cats with their owners that would otherwise have been impounded. A quick return of a wandering pet causes less stress to the pet and the owner, making the process simpler and preventing the animal being impounded at an unfamiliar location. Council has a small pound at Heathfield Depot which provides for the temporary holding of lost and unowned dogs.

These facilities at Heathfield require upgrading and ongoing maintenance to allow the Council to continue to provide this service, as well as providing the same service for cats. A review of the Council's short and long term needs for both dogs and cats is required and has commenced. This will continue to be undertaken during the life of this Plan and if appropriate, a feasibility study will be undertaken of one or more options. When posed with the question on whether the Council should look into upgrading the animal pound or look into using an external service provider, approximately 60% of those surveyed preferring the pound be upgraded and continue to be Council operated.

Pets that cannot be re-united with their owner are re-homed with a suitable for re-homing organisation or re-homed directly by Council.

Dogs, cats, livestock and wildlife within the Council area are at risk in major emergencies, such as flood and fire, extreme weather or accidents. Under the State Emergency Management Plan, the Department of Primary Industries and Regions SA is the lead agency responsible for the coordination of animal relief services during major emergencies. Council plays a support role to those lead agencies in these situations.

"Greater messaging regarding free roaming cats - the initial campaign was fantastic, friendly but clear, and could be used more widely and continuously"

Survey Participant

Stakeholders and Partners

- Veterinarian
- Dog and Cat Management Board
- Animal Welfare League

- RSPCA
- PIRSA
- Local service providers
- Neighbouring Councils

Internal Stakeholders

- Council Rangers
- Open Space Team
- Communications and Events Team
- Property Team (project management)

Objectives and Strategies

Objective	Strategy	Performance Measure	Resources
Efficiently rehome animals	Develop a business case for a new or upgraded regional dog pound	Business case developed	Currently underdevelopment
	Pending outcome of the business case, develop plan for a new or upgraded regional dog pound	Plan for new or upgraded facility developed	New program-\$
	Ensure impounded animals are returned to owners as soon as practicable	Reduced time between when animals are brought to the pound and returned to owners	Current Program
		Impounded Dog Register updated	Current program
	Ensure all impounded animals have clean safe facilities	Impounding facility continues to be operated in accordance with the guidelines and advice from the Act and DCMB	Current Program
	Promote awareness campaigns and support to address unnecessary surrender and abandonment of cats and dogs	Targeted campaign developed and implemented.	FTE for Communication/Engagement support

Objective	Strategy	Performance Measure	Resources
		Information communicated via website and other formats.	Current program
Reduce the number of cats and dogs wandering at large in the community and entering shelters.	Continue to use the Council's standard operating procedures for dealing with complaints of animals wandering at large in timely manner.	Complaints regarding wandering cats and dogs dealt within appropriate timeframe	Current program
	Assess and target areas of known higher numbers of wandering dogs and cats	Increase patrols in areas with known higher numbers of wandering cats and dogs	FTE for increase ranger patrols
	Continue to provide educational material on the Council's website.	Information communicated via website and other formats.	Current program
To minimise the number of animals euthanised	Maintain partnerships with community organisations that promote the rescue/rehoming of dogs and cats. Undertake direct re-homing if another options are available.	Reduction in the number of dogs and cats euthanized.	Current program
Decrease the number of confirmed dog attacks in the community	Provide proactive and visible patrols at dog off-leash parks	Decrease in the number of dog attacks	FTE for increase ranger patrols
Advocate and support measures that protect the welfare and safety of dogs and cats.	Advocate to relevant stakeholders on behalf of Council to ensure animal safety and prevent cruelty to animals.	Welfare concerns actioned or reported.	Current program
	Consider animal welfare in the development of new council plans.	Animal welfare considered in relevant plans	Current program
Support pet owners in times of natural emergencies	Recognising and communicating PIRSA's lead role with animals in emergencies and the role of the SES	Increase in community understanding of PIRSA's, SES and Council's role	Current program

8.4 Pet Ownership and Community Development

Pet Ownership and Wellbeing

Pets can be wonderful companions and responsible pet ownership can be beneficial for personal health and social wellbeing. The Council seeks to encourage effective animal management and ownership.

Pet ownership has increased in popularity, with over 50% of households in our Council area with a registered pet (9% of households with a registered cat and 57% of households with a registered dog). There are many responsibilities and expenses associated with caring for a pet and Council aims to ensure community awareness of what's involved (Section 6.1).

The Adelaide Hills Council Ranger Services Team have a range of brochures and Council's website provides information to pet owners on a range of relevant topics. The Dog and Cat Management Board supports a primary school education program aimed at digs and safety.

Pets can be integral part of social engagement in our community with various parks, kennel clubs, training clubs and community and dog walking groups in our region. Council recognises the opportunity to build awareness of pet ownership and its positive impacts to community wellbeing in partnership with local groups. With over 9500 pet owners, there is opportunity to drive a community communications and positive education campaign to promote effective animal management, safety and the benefits of pet ownership to the wellbeing of our community.

"Wanted to say how thankful I am with the fabulous dog park at Balhannah. There are especially a lot of older people who can catch up with people as they walk around the park which is so healthy for their physical and mental health".

Survey Participant

"I'd like to see Council being more proactive around education for people who either let their cats roam, or those who neglect their animals by not walking their dogs or playing with them. Maybe this is something, a pamphlet for instance provided to residents when they register their animals"

Survey Participant

Stakeholders and Partners

- Dog Walking and Social Meet-up Groups
- Dog Training Groups
- Local Clubs – Kennel and Training Clubs
- Veterinarian
- Dog and Cat Management Board

Internal Stakeholders

- Council Rangers
- Communications and Events Team
- Community Development Officers

Objectives and Strategies

Objective	Strategy	Performance Measure	Resources
Promote understanding of the responsibilities of pet ownership in the community	Promote the Dog and Cat management Board's campaign regarding the new breeder requirements	Information on new breeder requirements launched	Current operations
Promote positive animal management strategies	Develop and implement a communication program for promotion of positive animal management tips and strategies via Council's social media platforms, SMS	Annual Communications Program for Animal Management established	FTE for Communication Support
Support community development through animal ownership	Maintain an awareness/register of cat and dog community groups operating in the region and support with educational/communications resources	Register maintained	Current operations

8.5 Dog and Cat Compliance and Enforcement

Current State of Compliance and Enforcement

Dog attacks

Council currently receives approximately 80 reports of dog attacks each year. The majority of these attacks are on other dogs or animals.

A Standard Operating Procedure exists for dealing with dog attacks to ensure the necessary steps are taken to investigate and respond to such incidents.

Key measures to reduce the incidence of dog attacks include early socialisation and obedience training, confinement to prevent dogs from wandering and effective control of dogs in public places.

Education, especially of children, in how to behave around dogs can reduce the risk.

Research by the Dog and Cat Management Board shows that un-desexed dogs are 7 to 10 times more likely to attack than desexed dogs. The forthcoming mandatory desexing requirement will help to reduce the risk.

Rangers continue to review their processes for dealing with dog attacks.

Dog Barking

Excessive barking is a problem that consumes a considerable amount of Council resources. Ninety per cent of dog complaints are resolved within 14 days but the remaining 10% can become particularly difficult to resolve.

A Standard Operating Procedure exists for dog barking to ensure that it reflects best practice and consistency of approach by the Authorised Person.

Rangers continue to review their processes for dealing with dog barking problems.

Providing pet owners with clear directions and time frames so they can comply with the Act and so that they are aware of best practice in terms of animal management techniques or where they can source further advice from trained professional

Cat Control

All cat owners in South Australia are required to microchip and desex their cats. Adelaide Hills Council has also established a by-law that requires all cats to be kept at home at all times in an effort to reduce impacts on the local environment.

Enforcement Approach

Council Rangers administer the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 and relevant By-Laws in accordance with Council's Enforcement Policy. Rangers seek to address community complaints in a timely, effective and fair way.

The Enforcement Policy provides a framework to promote consistency in enforcement action and to ensure that any action taken is proportionate to the alleged offence and, where applicable, the principles of natural justice are observed. Enforcement actions are taken within the context of both a legal and policy framework and council staff carry out their enforcement related duties with due regard to the principles of proportionality, consistency and transparency. Council adopts an education, encouragement and enforcement approach where appropriate (3E's philosophy) to secure legislative compliance.



"Please get effective strong cat and dog management and penalties asap".

Survey Participant

"Only that there are too many rules! More rules = less common sense. It is inherently impossible to write rules for every situation and, in any event, its not possible to enforce them all. Better to be encouraging common sense and rewarding it than imposing rules and fines on those who make mistakes".

Survey Participant

Stakeholders and Partners

- Dog and Cat Management Board
- Local Government Association

Internal Stakeholders

- Council Rangers
- Customer Experience
- Public Health

Objectives and Strategies

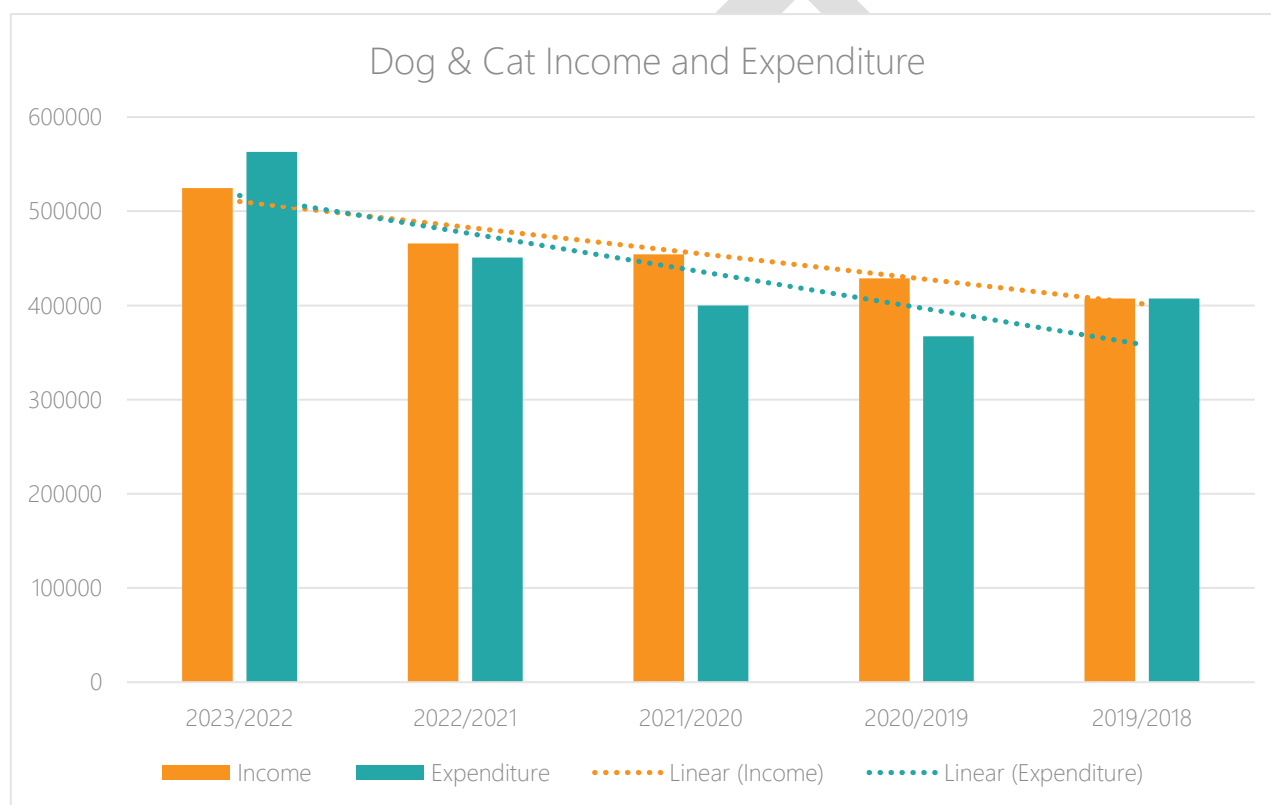
Objective	Strategy	Performance Measure	Resources
Adhere to the principles of good enforcement against the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995	Train all Council Rangers in Council's Enforcement Policy and peer review each case of non-compliance in accordance with the Policy.	Peer review process (according to level of risk) for all enforcement matters. Policy audits Policy Review	Current operations
Promote a high standard of professional practice for Authorised Officers	Maintain pro-active involvement with the Local Government Authorised Persons Association	LGAPA memberships Attendance at APA supported training	Current operations
	Support professional development of Council Officers in accordance with the Authorised Persons Association Professional Development Framework	APA PD Framework integrated into Council's PD process	Current operations
	Develop an Induction program for all new Council officers in accordance with the APA Professional Development Framework	Induction program for Council Rangers designed and implemented	Current operations

8.6 Delivering Quality Services

Council's Dog and Cat Management Resourcing

Various Council sections are involved in animal management. The predominant services are delivered through Council's Ranger Services Team which currently comprises 5 Authorised Persons under the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*. The Ranger Services Team also works with Council's planning, environmental health, open space, sport and recreation, customer services and communications teams on various animal management matters. Council has two or more rangers on duty between 8.30am and 5.00pm five days a week, one ranger on weekends and on-call officers are available to handle emergencies outside these hours at all times.

All monies received from dog and cat registrations, expiations and fines are spent on dog and cat management. Council runs at break even or as near as possible, whilst 12% of funds received from dog and cat registrations go to the Dog and Cat Management Board.



Community consultation on this Animal Management Plan has highlighted that the community value pro-active customer service and effective enforcement to promote effective animal management in the region. Many residents raised the importance of using fee structures to promote positive animal management outcomes.

"Please establish a cat trapping and collection service (similar to the collection of roaming dogs) that is free for those of us who wish to trap troublesome cats that come to our property".

Survey Participant

"I believe there is a significant under-registration of cats still, and I would like to see the Council running a campaign reminding residents that registration is in the best interest of the cat".

Survey Participant

Stakeholders and Partners

- Local Government Authorised Persons Association
- Local Government Association
- Dog and Cat Management Board

Internal Stakeholders

- Organisational Development Department
- Communications, Engagement and Events
- Financial Services

Objectives and Strategies

Objective	Strategy	Performance Measure	Resources
Achieve a high quality of service standards for animal management	Act in accordance with Council's Complaints Policy and service standards for animal management (during business and after hours)	Peer review process (according to level of risk) for all enforcement matters. Policy audits Policy Review Respond to reported dog attacks within 24 hours	Current operations (with team structure reviews as required)
Incentivise positive animal management approaches	Use Council's Fees and Charges Schedule to incentivise effective animal management in the community.	Fees and Charges Schedule reviewed for 2024/25	Current operations
Promote effective communication and education for positive animal management	Work with the community and engagement team to design a suite of educational collateral for promoting high standards of animal management	Audit educational resources against priority topics Library of educational resources and Council branded collateral developed.	FTE for Communication/Engagement Support
	Develop a social media calendar for animal management messaging	Social media calendar completed each financial year	FTE for Communication/Engagement Support
	Routinely undertake competitions to raise awareness on animal management (e.g. Happy Cat Competition)	Competition 2 yearly	FTE for Communication/Engagement Support

9. OTHER ANIMAL MANAGEMENT ROLES

Adelaide Hills has a wide variety of animals. Various laws and regulations exist in order to address the different impacts of animals in the community, be it barking, wandering, noise, or upon the general amenity of an area. Other laws exist that promote the welfare and/or management of animals, which Council interacts with these from time to time:

- The *Animal Welfare Act 1985*
- The *Impounding Act 1920* (which describes how stray livestock may be managed)
- *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* (conservation and protection of native animals)
- *Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016* (relevant where animals cause nuisance, such as excessive noise, on a property).
- *Emergency Management Act 2004* (incorporating animal management welfare into emergency planning and response)

Approaches to other animal management are summarised in below.

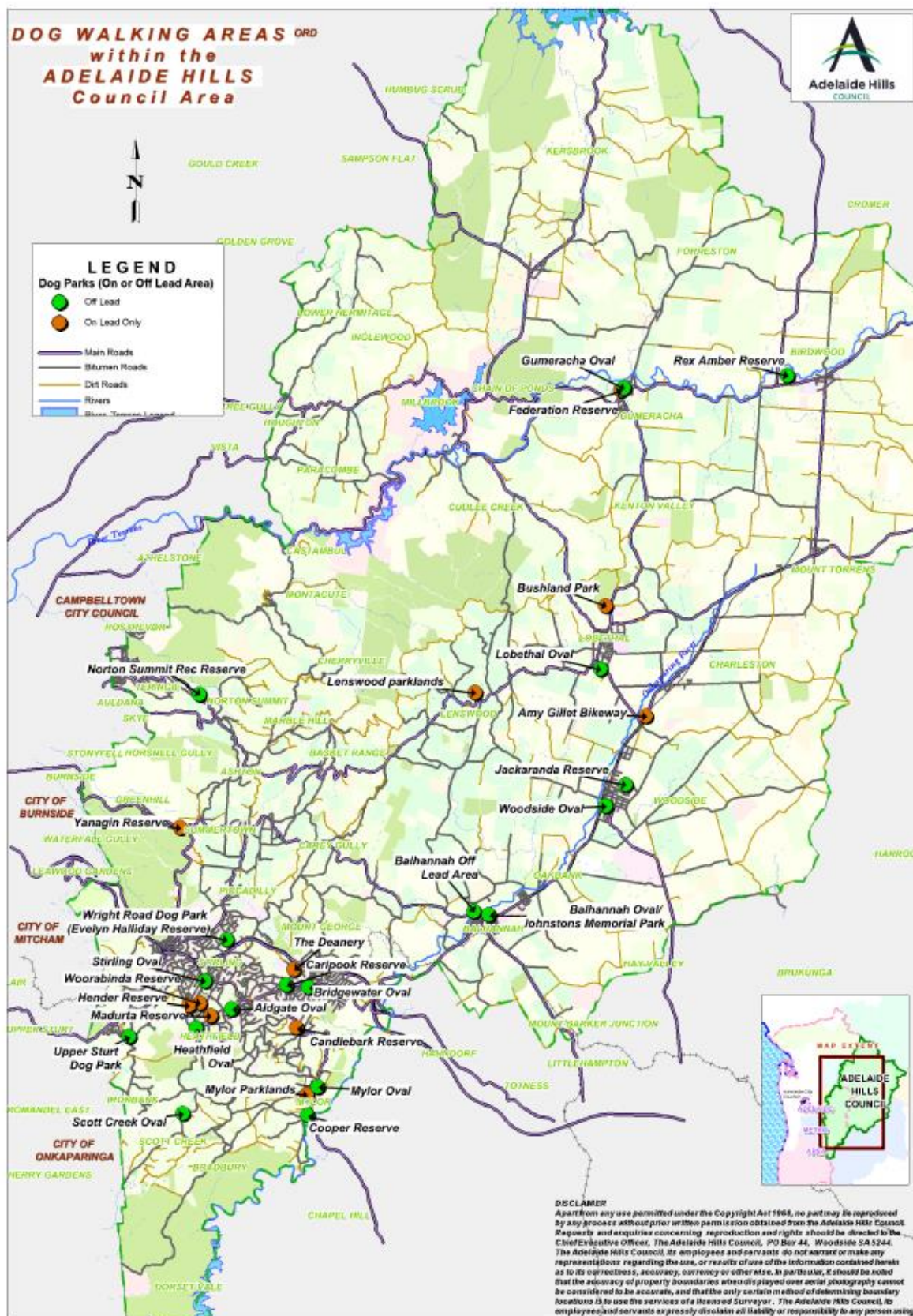
Other Animal Management

Objective	Strategy
Nuisance caused by animals	The Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act identifies an offence for causing a local nuisance, with a nuisance (amongst other things) being defined as having an adverse effect on an amenity value of an area that is caused by animals, whether dead or alive, that does or is likely to unreasonably interfere with the enjoyment of area.
Livestock	Council has powers under the Impounding Act 1920 and Council By-laws to manage stock wandering on public roads and the various other legislation to control excessive numbers of animals kept on a property that are causing a hazard or nuisance. The keeping of domestic animals for commercial purposes and the keeping of non-domestic animals (i.e. horses, sheep, cattle, pigs, goats or other livestock) requires development approval.
Other domestic animals	There are guidelines for keeping domestic poultry, including chickens, geese, turkeys, and ducks, including details of dwelling structure and position in relation to roads and other properties. Council recommends residents in townships refrain from keeping roosters due to their noise disruptions.
Pests	The Adelaide Hills region is home to a number of introduced pests. Unfortunately, these pests can spread disease and cause harm to humans and animals. Council provides guidance on a range of pest control matters relating to: European wasps, bats, problem bees, mosquitos, rats and mice, possums, termites.

10. APPENDICES

- Appendix 1: on leash parks, off leash parks, parks where dogs are prohibited and off leash parks identified that could be enhanced over the life of the plan in the Adelaide Hills Council
- Appendix 2: community feedback
- Appendix 3: animal management statistics
- Appendix 4: compilation of proposed actions
 - Mandatory microchipping
 - Mandatory desexing
 - Responsible dog and cat ownership
 - Breeder registration
 - Emergency management
 - Dog registration
 - Dogs by-law
 - Dog attacks
 - Excessive barking
 - Dogs and council parks and reserves
 - Cat management
 - Staffing the animal management service
 - Implementing the plan

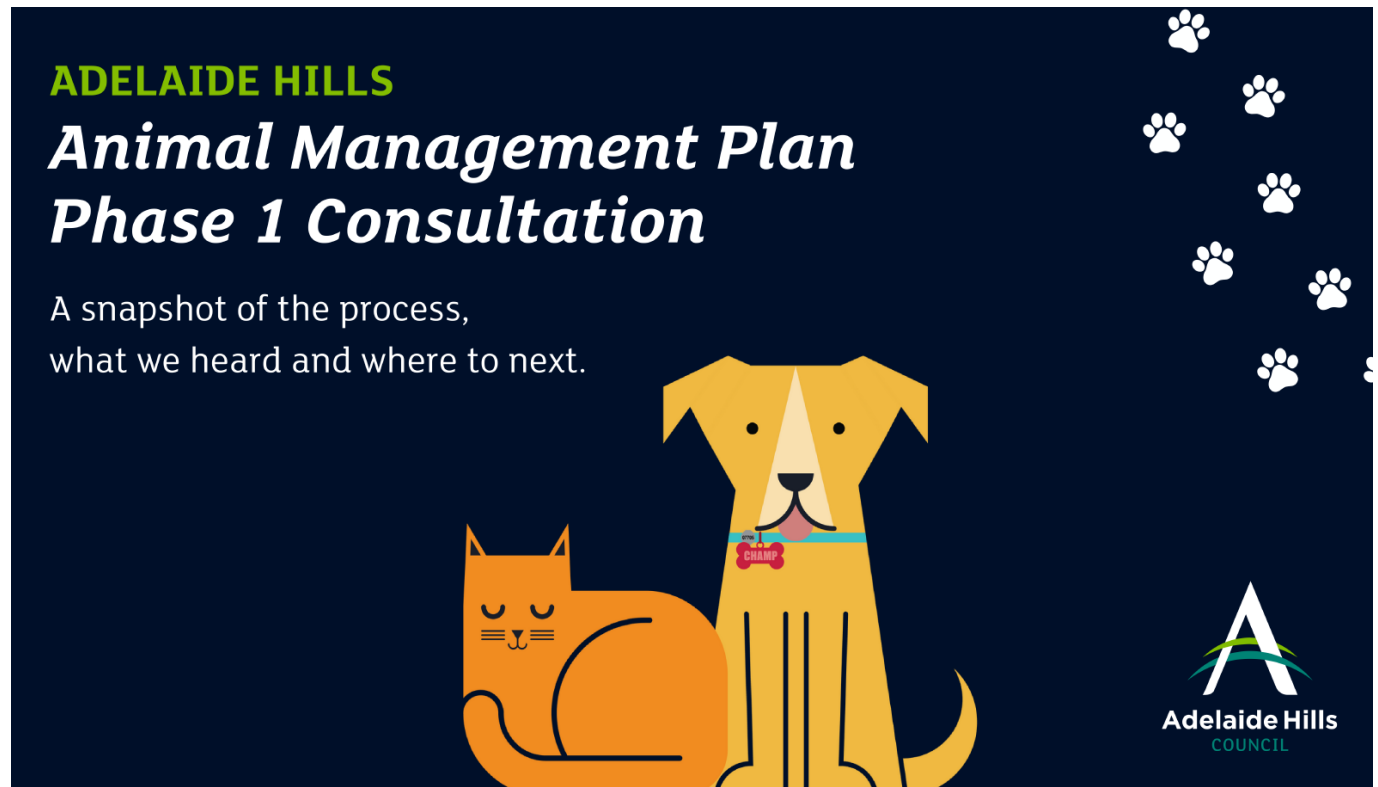
Appendix 1



Appendix 2 Community Feedback

The Consultation Outcomes Report is available here:

<https://engage.ahc.sa.gov.au/84273/widgets/399609/documents/269114>



Appendix 3: Animal Management Statistics

A comprehensive list of all dogs and cats registered in the hills was used to inform this plan. A summary of the data is included below.

Dog Statistics	Cat Statistics
What's the most popular dog breed? • Kelpie (464) and Kelpie Cross (454) • Border Collies (652) • Labrador Retriever (520) • Golden Retriever (305) • Cavoodle (287) • Labradoodle (185) Who are our biggest dog lovers? (Most dogs per township) • Verdun – 66% • Bradbury – 33% • Kenton Valley – 32% Where do most dogs live? • Aldgate (729) • Bridgewater (681) • Stirling (567)	What's the most popular cat breed? • Domestic short hair (718 registered) • Domestic medium hair (181) • Ragdoll (87 registered) • Burmese (60 registered) Who are our biggest cat lovers? (Most cats per township) • Marble Hill – 7% • Castambul– 6% • Chain of Ponds – 5% Where do most cats live? • Bridgewater (137) • Aldgate – (125) • Stirling – (113)

Appendix 4: compilation of proposed actions

FTE = Full-Time Equivalent is a unit of measurement used to calculate the number of full-time hours worked by employees in an organisation

Objective	Strategy	Performance Measure	Resources
1. Promoting Responsible Cat and Dog Ownership			
1.1. Educate the community in the broad range of responsible pet ownership requirements and community expectations.	Continue to provide education material on Council's website and in other promotional formats.	Website and other promotional formats kept up to date with appropriate education material	Current operations
	Implement various campaigns, such as wandering dog and cat campaigns and the benefits of identification to highlight various issues relating to responsible pet ownership.	Education campaigns implemented	Current operations
	Participate at community events to promote responsible dog and cat ownership and encourage positive behaviours of pets and their owners.	Community events attended and promoted at	Current operations
1.2. Community has good knowledge and understanding of the dog and cat legislative provisions.	Promotion of legislation requiring all dogs and cats over three (3) months to be microchipped and six (6) months of age to be desexed for those born after 1 st July 2018.	Increase in the number of dogs and cats microchipped and desexed. Increase in understanding by the community of dog and cat legislation.	Current operations

Objective	Strategy	Performance Measure	Resources
1.3. Dog owners to remove all faeces from public places when exercising their pets.	Ensure current dog bag dispensers remain active and promote use of bags to facilitate collection of faeces in public spaces by dog owners.	Number of reports received regarding dog waste	Current operations
	Investigate new locations for dog bag dispensers	New locations investigated	FTE for investigation support
1.4. Educate residents about dog and cat breeder registration requirements	Promote the Dog and Cat Management Board's requirements for dog and cat breeders and sellers.	Decrease in number of unregistered breeders	Current operations
1.5. Keep your cat happy and safe at home	Continue to enforce cat by-law to reduce number of cats off property	Number of cats wandering off leash/off property reduced	Current operations
	Continue to educate community about the importance of keeping their cat on property		Current operations
1.6. Reduce the number of wandering dogs and cats.	Encourage the community to report dog and cat wandering, attack and harassments to Council.	Number of wandering dogs and cats, attacks, and harassments reported.	Current operations
	Respond to complaints regarding wandering dogs to ensure safety of the public.	Complaints responded to in timely manner	Current operations

Objective	Strategy	Performance Measure	Resources
2. Animals and our Local Environment			
2.1. Highlight the potential impacts of domestic animals on natural resources	Develop an education campaign that highlights the potential environmental impact of feeding un-owned cats and allowing pets to roam.	Education campaign developed. Community understanding of impacts of wandering pets increase	FTE for Communication/Engagement Support
2.2. Protect pet and wildlife welfare	Promote the benefits of containing cats to their owner's property and include resources as part of an information pack given with registrations	Resource pack developed and distributed.	Current operations
	Clearly define areas unsuitable for dog and cat recreation and exercise	Areas identified and defined through signage and information on website	Current operations
	Provide cat owners with resources and information to assist with transitioning their cat to a stay at home lifestyle	Resource pack developed and made available	FTE for Communication/Engagement Support
2.3. Ensure dog owners comply with the requirements of on and off leash areas.	Continue to patrol Council's streets parks and reserves to ensure dog owners are complying with the requirements relating to leashing, effective control and disposing of dog faeces	Continued patrols Reduced non-compliance	Current operations

Objective	Strategy	Performance Measure	Resources
2.4. Audit the list of on and off leash areas in Adelaide Hills area	Undertake asset review of all dog parks as available in Appendix 1	Review of dog parks undertaken	FTE for park audit
	Investigate opportunity of new or upgrade existing dog parks	Investigation into new or upgrading existing dog parks undertaken	FTE for park audit
3. Animal Welfare			
3.1. Efficiently rehome animals	Develop a business case for a new or upgraded regional dog pound	Business case developed	Currently underdevelopment
	Pending outcome of the business case, develop plan for a new or upgraded regional dog pound	Plan for new or upgraded facility developed	New program-\$
	Ensure impounded animals are returned to owners as soon as practicable	Reduced time between when animals are brought to the pound and returned to owners	Current Program
	Ensure all impounded animals have clean safe facilities	Impounding facility continues to be operated in accordance with the guidelines and advice from the Act and DCMB	Current Program
	Promote awareness campaigns and support to address unnecessary surrender and abandonment of cats and dogs	Targeted campaign developed and implemented.	FTE for Communication/Engagement support
		Information communicated via website and other formats.	Current program

Objective	Strategy	Performance Measure	Resources
3.2. Reduce the number of cats and dogs wandering at large in the community and entering shelters.	Continue to use the Council's standard operating procedures for dealing with complaints of animals wandering at large in timely manner.	Complaints regarding wandering cats and dogs dealt within appropriate timeframe	Current program
	Assess and target areas of known higher numbers of wandering dogs and cats	Increase patrols in areas with known higher numbers of wandering cats and dogs	FTE for increase ranger patrols
	Continue to provide educational material on the Council's website.	Information communicated via website and other formats.	Current program
3.3. Decrease the number of confirmed dog attacks in the community	Provide proactive and visible patrols at dog off-leash parks	Decrease in the number of dog attacks	FTE for increase ranger patrols
3.4. Advocate and support measures that protect the welfare and safety of dogs and cats.	Advocate to relevant stakeholders on behalf of Council to ensure animal safety and prevent cruelty to animals.	Welfare concerns actioned or reported.	Current program
	Consider animal welfare in the development of new council plans.	Animal welfare considered in relevant plans	Current program
3.5. Support pet owners in times of natural emergencies	Recognising and communicating PIRSA's lead role with animals in emergencies and the role of the SES	Increase in community understanding of PIRSA's, SES and Council's role	Current program

Objective	Strategy	Performance Measure	Resources
4. Pet Ownership and Community Development			
4.1. Promote understanding of the responsibilities of pet ownership in the community	Promote the Dog and Cat management Board's campaign regarding the new breeder requirements	Information on new breeder requirements launched	Current operations
4.2. Promote positive animal management strategies	Develop and implement a communication program for promotion of positive animal management tips and strategies vis Council's social media platforms, SMS	Annual Communications Program for Animal Management established	FTE for Communication Support
4.3. Support community development through animal ownership	Maintain an awareness/register of cat and dog community groups operating in the region and support with educational/communications resources	Register maintained	Current operations
5. Dog and Cat Compliance and Enforcement			
5.1. Adhere to the principles of good enforcement against the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995	Train all Council Rangers in Council's Enforcement Policy and peer review each case of non-compliance in accordance with the Policy.	Peer review process (according to level of risk) for all enforcement matters. Policy audits Policy Review	Current operations

Objective	Strategy	Performance Measure	Resources
5.2. Promote a high standard of professional practice for Authorised Officers	Maintain pro-active involvement with the Local Government Authorised Persons Association	LGAPA memberships Attendance at APA supported training	Current operations
	Support professional development of Council Officers in accordance with the Authorised Persons Association Professional Development Framework	APA PD Framework integrated into Council's PD process	Current operations
	Develop an Induction program for all new Council officers in accordance with the APA Professional Development Framework	Induction program for Council Rangers designed and implemented	Current operations
5.3. Incentivise positive animal management approaches	Use Council's Fees and Charges Schedule to incentivise effective animal management in the community.	Fees and Charges Schedule reviewed for 2024/25	Current operations
5.4. Promote effective communication and education for positive animal management	Work with the community and engagement team to design a suite of educational collateral for promoting high standards of animal management	Audit educational resources against priority topics Library of educational resources and Council branded collateral developed.	FTE for Communication/Engagement Support
	Develop a social media calendar for animal management messaging	Social media calendar completed each financial year	FTE for Communication/Engagement Support
	Routinely undertake competitions to raise awareness on animal management (e.g. Happy Cat Competition)	Competition 2 yearly	FTE for Communication/Engagement Support

6. Other Animal Management

Objective	Strategy
6.1. Nuisance caused by animals	The Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act identifies an offence for causing a local nuisance, with a nuisance (amongst other things) being defined as having an adverse effect on an amenity value of an area that is caused by animals, whether dead or alive, that does or is likely to unreasonably interfere with the enjoyment of area
6.2. Livestock	Council has powers under the Impounding Act 1920 and Council By-laws to manage stock wandering on public roads and the various other legislation to control excessive numbers of animals kept on a property that are causing a hazard or nuisance. The keeping of domestic animals for commercial purposes and the keeping of non-domestic animals (i.e. horses, sheep, cattle, pigs, goats or other livestock) requires development approval.
6.3. Other domestic animals	There are guidelines for keeping domestic poultry, including chickens, geese, turkeys, and ducks, including details of dwelling structure and position in relation to roads and other properties. Council recommends residents in townships refrain from keeping roosters due to their noise disruptions
6.4. Pests	The Adelaide Hills region is home to a number of introduced pests. Unfortunately, these pests can spread disease and cause harm to humans and animals. Council provides guidance on a range of pest control matters relating to: European wasps, bats, problem bees, mosquitos, rats and mice, possums, termites.