



# **DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**2017-2021**



*Adopted by Council: 18 July 2017  
Reviewed and Updated: March 2019*

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# 1. LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

## 1.1 Domestic Animal Management Plans

Under Section 68A of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* (the Act), every Council must prepare a domestic animal management plan, as follows:

### 68A Councils to prepare domestic animal management plans

- (1) *Every Council must, in consultation with the Secretary (of the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions), prepare at 4 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*
    - (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*
  - (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.*

## 2. CONTEXT

### 2.1 Strathbogie Shire

Strathbogie Shire is located in north-central Victoria and incorporates a diverse rural community served by townships including Avenel, Euroa, Nagambie and Violet Town. The shire's population of around 10,274 people includes around 3,191 people in rural areas and smaller towns such as Graytown, Longwood, Ruffy and Strathbogie (2016 ABS Census).



The shire encompasses a total land area of 3,300 square kilometres, with land mainly used for agriculture, particularly wool, grain, cattle, horse studs and vineyards.

Major features and enterprises in the shire include the Strathbogie Ranges, Heathcote-Graytown National Park, Goulburn River, Goulburn Weir, Lake Nagambie, Nagambie Lakes Regatta Centre, Violet Town Community Market, Mangalore Airport, Mitchelton Winery, Fowles Wine, Tahbilk Winery, Lindsay Park Racing and horse studs.

Strathbogie Shire enjoys excellent transport linkages via the Goulburn Valley Freeway, Hume Freeway, Goulburn Valley Highway and the Melbourne-Shepparton and Melbourne-Wodonga railway lines.

Population growth in Strathbogie Shire is generally stronger in the south, with Nagambie's population, for example, having increased by around 22% between the 2011 and 2016 ABS censuses to 1,886 people. Overall, the shire is predicted to grow at a slower rate than Melbourne and neighbouring municipalities, and like most areas in Australia, the population is ageing, with some 28.4% of the total population over 65 years old, compared to 15.6% for Victoria as a whole.

The shire has a rural economic base of wool, grain and cattle production, extensive vineyards at Nagambie and throughout the Strathbogie Ranges and a wide range of intensive cool climate horticultural enterprises. The shire is home to a strong and growing equine industry and markets itself as the 'Horse Capital of Victoria'.

### 2.2 Strategic Planning Context

The purpose of the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2017-2021 is to guide Council's planning and decision-making in relation to regulatory controls and service provision that promote the values of responsible pet ownership and high standards of animal welfare.

This objective is underwritten in the Council Plan 2017-2021 through Council's Mission "*To support our community to grow through effective partnerships, engagement and equitable and efficient delivery of services.*"

Relevant Goals and Key Strategies in the Council Plan include:

Goal 1: *To enhance community health and wellbeing*

Key Strategies: *Plan for improved community health, wellbeing and liveability.*

### 3. TRAINING OF AUTHORISED OFFICERS

#### **Legislative requirement**

S68(A)(2)(b) of the Act requires that the Domestic Animals Management Plan (DAMP):

*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.*

#### 3.1 CURRENT SITUATION, LOCAL LAWS, COUNCIL POLICIES AND PRACTICE

The following table provides an overview of the number of domestic animals currently registered in our Shire, along with information about the staff available to ensure compliance with the Act, our Local Law and permit requirements.

Number of registered dogs 2017-18	1858
Number of registered cats 2017-18	385
Number of registered domestic animal businesses	2
Number of Authorised Officers	1 full time Ranger – Contract 2 Casual staff 1 Council Officer authorised to administer the provisions of the Domestic Animals Act that cannot be undertaken by contractors.

Strathbogie Shire Council has engaged 4Site Australia Pty Ltd to provide animal management / ranger services. 4SITE has twelve years' experience in undertaking similar work for other councils and state government departments. The contract is based on Key Performance Indicators, including requirements to implement the Act, set by Council for the supply of the service and these standards are reported against monthly by the contractor.

Rangers are based at Euroa, with emergency call outs monitored and actioned by the appropriate officer. Contract staff and/or Council staff respond to emergencies based on the specific issue and the location of the emergency.

Our Rangers are required to meet the minimum standards set by the *Domestic Animals Act* and provisions of the Act unable to be undertaken by contractors are undertaken by the Manager, Governance & Regulatory Services.

### 3.2 CURRENT AND PLANNED TRAINING

Who	Current Qualifications	Planned Authorised Officer Training	When
Mark Morey	Certificate 4 - Animal Control & Regulation	Public Relations / Conflict Resolution	November 2019
Lance Carroll		Public Relations / Conflict Resolution  Certificate 4 - Animal Control & Regulation	November 2019  Commenced by November 2019
Norm Hussell	Certificate 4 - Animal Control & Regulation	Public Relations / Conflict Resolution	November 2019
Manager, Governance & Regulatory Services (short term contract)	Bachelor of Applied Science in Planning	Nil	N/A

### 3.3 WHAT WE WILL DO

**Objective 1: Develop and maintain a training plan for all Authorised Officers.**

Activity	When	Evaluation
Develop and maintain a register of Authorised Officer training	June 2019	Register to be reviewed annually in line with the review of this Plan.
Officer attendance at industry training and networking sessions	Ongoing	Skills gained are utilised on the job by Rangers

**Objective 2: Ensure Authorised Officers maintain currency of skills and knowledge.**

Activity	When	Evaluation
Ensure all Authorised Officers maintain qualifications as required by legislation and the Ranger and Local Law Services contract.	Annually	Copies of certificates and completed training to be provided to Council.  Audit undertaken of training in annual contract review with 4Site.

## 4. REGISTRATION AND IDENTIFICATION

### **Legislative requirement**

Section 68(2)(c)(v) of the Act requires the DAMP to:

*Outline programs, services and strategies to encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats.*

This section also addresses clauses 68A(2)(a), (c)(i), (c)(ii), (d) and (f) of the Act.

### 4.1 CURRENT SITUATION, LOCAL LAWS, COUNCIL POLICIES AND PRACTICE

The *Domestic Animals Act 1994* outlines clear requirements and procedures for the registration of cats and dogs within the municipality. Registration of animals is important to help identification and return to owners of animals that are lost or wandering or causing a nuisance, potentially avoiding impounding of these animals. In recent years, there has been an overall trend in decrease in the number of registered animals.

This section outlines objectives and activities to encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats per the Act's provisions.

Year	Registered Dogs	Registered Cats
2012/13	2,136	405
2013/14	2,004	397
2014/15	2,036	405
2015/16	1,889	389
2016/17	1,943	382
2017/18	2055	436

Council's Community Local Law No. 6 2010 contains provisions around responsible pet ownership including:

- Restrictions on the number of domestic animals that can be kept without a local laws permit (cl 24) to five dogs and five cats in a Rural Zone and two dogs and two cats in any other zone.

### 4.2 CURRENT EDUCATION, PROMOTION AND COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

Ongoing Council programs and initiatives include:

- registration of domestic cats and dogs over 3 months of age
- setting concession and reduced fees for the registration of animals that are de-sexed, trained, over 10 years old and working dogs
- ensuring registration and microchipping of animals prior to release from the Council pound
- waiver of registration fee for the year of registration for animals rehomed through Council's service, the Lost Dogs Home, RSPCA or other registered service provider
- requiring the registration of all unregistered roaming dogs and cats and animals found to be unregistered that are subject to complaints.
- Inclusion of key performance indicators in the Ranger contract around maximising registrations.

## 4.3 WHAT WE WILL DO

### Objective 1: Strive to increase the number of registered dogs and cats.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Ensure all seized and impounded animals are registered to their owner prior to release.	Prior to every release	Analysis of the numbers of dogs and cats registered through this process.
Follow-up on non-renewals of dog and cat registrations.	Annually – May	Number of properties visited. Review movement in registration numbers between original renewal letter and reminder letter.
Offer a one month ‘amnesty’ where animals can be registered without prosecution prior to ‘Registration Blitz’.	Annually - June	Review movement in registration numbers at the end of the amnesty.
Targeted door knocking as part of ‘Registration Blitz’ in townships to check for unregistered and unidentified dogs and cats.  Audit to be widely advertised prior to commencement.	Annually – May	Record number of unregistered and unidentified animals identified during door knocks.  Analysis of success of the ‘Registration Blitz’ through the number of animals registered in response to the door knock.
Following ‘Registration Blitz’ ensure animal registrations, ensure each property with outstanding registrations is audited and infringements issued where relevant.	Annually – September to October	Number of registrations following enforcement.  Number of infringements issued.

### Objective 2: Education regarding awareness of requirement for Council registration.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Media coverage on value of registration and timing.	Annually - April	Record media used.
Consider media coverage to promote annual ‘Registration Blitz’.	Annually – March	Record media used.



## 5. NUISANCE

### **Legislative requirement**

Section 68A(2)(c)(vi) of the Act requires the DAMP to:

*Outline programs, services and strategies to minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance.*

This section also addresses clauses 68A(2)(a), (c)(i), (c)(ii), (d) and (f) of the Act.

### 5.1 CURRENT SITUATION, LOCAL LAWS, COUNCIL POLICIES AND PRACTICE

- ❖ No. of reports of domestic animals at large
 

2013/14:	162
2014/15:	158
2015/16:	139
2016/17:	155
2017/18:	167
  
- ❖ Animals impounded and returned to owners
 

2015/16:	56
2016/17:	34
2017/18:	41
  
- ❖ Number of feral cats captured
 

2017/18:	72
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- ❖ Number of nuisance complaints
 

2017/18:	5
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The *Domestic Animals Act 1994* outlines requirements for Council to manage domestic animal nuisance problems.

Strathbogie Shire has developed additional requirements through Community Local Law No 6 to assist with managing potential animal nuisance by:

- limiting the number of dogs and cats that can be kept on a premises without a permit, along with outlining decision making criteria for applications to increase the number of domestic animals on a property (cl 24);
- requiring the removal of animal excrement in public places (cl 30)
- requiring dogs to be on a leash in locations other than rural areas unless in a designated off leash area (cl 31 and 32)
- requiring the provision of adequate fencing for animals to prevent escape (cl 36).

## 5.2 CURRENT EDUCATION, PROMOTION AND COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

Ongoing Council programs and initiatives include:

- Community education on responsible ownership relating to how to keep cats and dogs secure on a property when a dog or cat has been reported and caught roaming
- Provision of information around how to report nuisance animal complaints to Council
- Providing information to animal owners on services and programs to assist with animal nuisance issues where complaints have been received
- Clear signage of areas in which dogs are required to be on-leash and areas in which dogs are prohibited.
- Responding to nuisance complaints and following up on compliance within 48 hours.
- Provision of cat cages for trapping nuisance or feral cats.
- Facilitation of mediated outcomes between parties for animal nuisance complaints where practicable.
- Providing the opportunity to return wandering registered animals to owners for first time occurrences and impounding unregistered animals or registered animals when repeat offences occur
- Inclusion of key performance indicators in the Ranger contract around response and resolution of barking complaints.

## 5.3 WHAT WE WILL DO

**Objective 1: Manage the incidents of wandering or feral cats.**

Activity	When	Evaluation
Provide Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (POCTA) compliant cat cages to local residents for trapping cats trespassing on their property.	Ongoing	Analysis of the number of animals trapped.
Media concerning issues of stray and feral cats.	Twice yearly	Record media.

**Objective 2: Manage dog nuisance complaints.**

Activity	When	Evaluation
Educate pet owners on measures such as stimulation, socialisation, effective confinement and the appropriate use of anti-bark collars when dealing with nuisance complaints.	Upon receipt of complaint	Record number of nuisance complaints.  Record number of complaints successfully resolved by Council intervention.
Media release around how to report nuisance animal complaints.	February 2019	Record media used.
Endeavour to resolve barking dog complaints within a 10 week timeframe.	Ongoing	Percentage of complaints resolved within timeframe.

**Objective 3: Dogs at large complaint resolution.**

Activity	When	Evaluation
Return stray animals to owners for first time occurrences, subject to compliance with Domestic Animals Act.	Ongoing	Analyse number of first time offences and if the offence is repeated within 12 months.
Educate pet owners on measures to successfully detain animals within property boundaries when dealing with animal at large complaints.	Upon receipt of complaint	Number of pet owners educated through face to face contact on an annual basis

**Objective 4: Provision of dog off leash area.**

Activity	When	Evaluation
Investigate the need to nominate a dog off leash area through community consultation.	November 2019	Completion of community consultation around the need for an off leash area.  Decision by Council as to whether to amend the Local Law to prescribe an off leash area.

## 6. DOG ATTACKS

### **Legislative requirement**

Section 68A(2)(c)(iii) of the act requires the DAMP to:

*Outline programs, services and strategies to minimise the risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals.*

This section also addresses section 68A(2)(a), (c)(i), (c)(ii), (d) and (f) of the Act.

### 6.1 CURRENT SITUATION, LOCAL LAWS, COUNCIL POLICIES AND PRACTICE

The *Domestic Animals Act 1994* provides Council with the power to minimise, respond to and manage issues related to dog attacks.

The experience at Strathbogie Shire has been that most dog attacks to people and other animals occur from dogs at large or dogs not being effectively controlled in public places. The general trend is that the number of attacks are decreasing.

#### ❖ No. of reported dog attacks:

2013/14:	24
2014/15:	24
2015/16:	16
2016/17:	18
2017/18:	21

Our Community Local Law No 6 contains a number of clauses to minimise dog attacks, namely:

- limiting the number of dogs and cats that can be kept on a premises without a permit, along with outlining decision making criteria for applications to increase the number of domestic animals on a property (cl 24);
- requiring dogs to be on a leash in locations other than rural areas unless in a designated off leash area (cl 31 and 32)
- requiring the provision of adequate fencing for animals to prevent escape (cl 36).

### 6.2 CURRENT EDUCATION, PROMOTION AND COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

Ongoing Council programs and initiatives include:

- Encouraging desexing of animals at registration to lower the likelihood of wandering animals.
- Ensuring responding to the notification of a dog attack is the Ranger's highest priority.
- Providing access to an after-hours service for reporting of, and response to, dog attacks
- Inclusion of key performance indicators in the Ranger contract around minimising the incidence of dog attacks.

## 6.3 WHAT WE WILL DO

### Objective 1: Educate the community to minimise dog attacks.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Ensure DJPR (Animal Welfare Victoria) guidelines regarding trespassing dog attacks on stock, in the home and in public places are available on Council's website.	June 2019	Information available on Shire website.
Assist in the promotion of awareness of Animal Welfare Victoria (AWV) programs via Council's website to help manage animal behaviour.	Annually	Information available on Shire website.
Ensure information about responsibilities of owning a declared dog is provided to owners.  Ensure information about owning a menacing dog is available on the Shire's website.	June 2019	Information available on Shire website.  Information packs provided to owners upon declaration.  Information available on Shire website.

### Objective 2: Effective responses to prevent and respond to dog attacks.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Actively patrol areas for roaming or unsecure dogs.	Ongoing	Increased visibility of Ranger vehicle and reduction of the number of dogs at large.
Provision of access to an after hours service for the report of dog attacks.	Ongoing	Analyse number of attacks reported via after hours service.
Prioritise investigation into dog attacks above other Ranger duties.	Ongoing	Analyse number of attacks investigated by Ranger and timeframes from report of incident to action by Ranger.
Completion of dog attack investigations within 6 weeks.	Ongoing	Percentage of dog attack investigations completed within timeframe.

## 7. DANGEROUS, MENACING AND RESTRICTED BREED DOGS

### **Legislative requirement**

Section 68A(2)(c)(vii) of the Act requires the DAMP to:

*Outline 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.*

This section also addresses section 68A(2)(a), (c)(i), (c)(ii), (d) and (f) of the Act.

### 7.1 CURRENT SITUATION, LOCAL LAWS, COUNCIL POLICIES AND PRACTICE

Dangerous, menacing and restricted breeds of dogs are all controlled by the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*.

There are few declared dogs within the municipality. Two dogs have been declared during 2018/19 following an unprovoked attack on fowl while the dogs were at large.

- ❖ Number of declared dangerous dogs 2018/19: 1
- ❖ No. of declared menacing dogs 2018/19: 8

Our Community Local Law No 6 supports the management of declared dogs through requiring the provision of adequate fencing for animals to prevent escape (cl 36).

### 7.2 CURRENT EDUCATION, PROMOTION AND COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

Ongoing Council programs and initiatives include:

- Providing links to information on the Animal Welfare Victoria website for the community on the types of declared dogs and how they are to be identified
- Providing information to the owners of newly declared dogs regarding their obligations under the Act and Regulations.

### 7.3 WHAT WE WILL DO

**Objective 1: Develop a procedure for declarations that complies with the Act and Regulations.**

Activity	When	Evaluation
Development of a procedure to identify roles and responsibilities, along with templates for correspondence regarding declarations.	June 2019	Completion of procedure via Promapp.

**Objective 2 Community awareness of dangerous and menacing dogs.**

Activity	When	Evaluation
Educate the community about what constitutes a declared dog via Council's web site.	Ongoing	Ensure information provided on website is always up to date and reflects new requirements and legislation.

**Objective 3 Effectively inspect and audit all declared dog premises annually to ensure they are compliant.**

Activity	When	Evaluation
Inspect and audit all declared dog premises annually to ensure compliance.	Annually	100% of premises inspected annually.  Identified breaches are communicated to dog owner and complied with within 28 days.
Assist all owners of declared dogs to be aware of their obligations under the Act regarding identification and keeping these dogs by providing them with relevant sections of the Act through education provided through the annual inspection.	Annually	Number of information kits provided to owners.  Reduction in breaches of Act requirements for declared dogs.

**Objective 4 Ensure guard dogs are appropriately registered and housed.**

Activity	When	Evaluation
Inspect industrial areas in the municipality for dogs housed or kept for guarding purposes.	Ongoing	Completion of proactive inspections.  Declared dog register updated within 7 days as per the Act.



## 8. OVERPOPULATION AND HIGH EUTHANASIA

### **Legislative requirement**

Section 68A(2)(c)(iv) of the Act requires the DAMP to:

*Outline programs, services and strategies to address any over-population and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats.*

This section also addresses section 68A(2)(a), (c)(i), (c)(ii), (d) and (f) of the Act.

### 8.1 CURRENT SITUATION, LOCAL LAWS, COUNCIL POLICIES AND PRACTICE

The *Domestic Animals Act 1994* provides guidance and procedures related to euthanasia of domestic animals. Strathbogie Shire aims to return lost animals to owners wherever possible, or rehome animals, with euthanasia being a last resort.

❖ No. of animals euthanased
2013/14: <b>12</b>
2014/15: <b>18</b>
2015/16: <b>15</b>
2016/17: <b>12</b>
2017/18: <b>81 including 72 feral cats</b>

Our Community Local Law No 6 contains a number of clauses to minimise overpopulation and euthanasia, namely:

- limiting the number of dogs and cats that can be kept on a premises without a permit, along with outlining decision making criteria for applications to increase the number of domestic animals on a property (cl 24);
- requiring the provision of adequate fencing for animals to prevent escape (cl 36).

### 8.2 CURRENT EDUCATION, PROMOTION AND COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

Ongoing Council programs and initiatives include:

- Promotion of registration and microchipping of domestic cats and dogs over 3 months of age to increase likelihood of return to owners via information on Council's website.
- Community education on responsible ownership relating to how to keep cats and dogs secure on a property when returning roaming animals.
- Community education on detrimental impacts from over population, particularly around the control of feral animals.
- Establishing Section 84Y agreements with appropriate animal agencies/shelters to facilitate rehousing programs. Council has Section 84Y agreements with Strathbogie Veterinary Clinic, Euroa Veterinary Clinic and Victorian Dog Rescue and Resource Group Inc.
- Promotion of rehousing/adoption programs, including waiver of registration fee for the year of registration where animals are rehomed through registered service providers.
- Providing information to the community concerning lost and found animals to promote return and/or rehousing via Council's Facebook Page.
- Provision of cat cages around Nagambie as a means of proactively reducing the number of feral cats in the locality.



## 8.3 WHAT WE WILL DO

### Objective 1: Reduce the number of unwanted animals.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Use media to encourage de-sexing of pets via social media and website.	Twice yearly	Record media used.
Proactively seek to enter S84Y agreements with other agencies to provide opportunities for re-housing and returns and promote via relevant media.	Ongoing	Analysis of data recording number of animals rehoused.
Provide and promote first registration free of charge (i.e. registration fee refunded) if animal adopted from pound or shelter.	Ongoing	Analysis of rehoming trends and take up of free first registration.

### Objective 2: Identify and enforce compliance with the Act for illegal breeding establishments within the municipality.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Undertake education campaign to promote awareness about definition of Domestic Animal Breeding establishments and Code Of Practice requirements for businesses via website and social media.	Ongoing	Record media used.
Audit every Domestic Animal Breeding business in line with the Code of Practice.	Annually	Number of audits conducted, and summary of compliance/non compliances.
Enforce compliance with minimum requirements.		Number of non compliances resolved or illegal businesses closed down.

### Objective 3: Encourage the reduction of the number of unwanted litters of cats.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Provide a link to "Who's for Cats?" website and promote other educational programs on Council's website and offices.	Ongoing	Availability of information.
Continue to provide cat traps to residents to trap feral or problem cats.	Ongoing	Analyse the number of feral and problem cats trapped and the locations of problem populations.

## 9. DOMESTIC ANIMAL BUSINESSES

### **Legislative requirement**

Section 68A(2)(c)(ii) of the Act requires the DAMP to:

*Outline programs, services and strategies which the Council intends to pursue in its municipal district to ensure that people comply with this Act, the regulations and any related legislation.*

This section also addresses section 68A(2)(a), (c)(i), (d) and (f) of the Act.

### 9.1 CURRENT EDUCATION, PROMOTION AND COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

Under the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*, Domestic Animal Businesses (DABs) include a council pound, dog and/or cat breeding business, dog training establishment, pet shop, animal shelter, an establishment boarding dogs or cats, or an establishment that is rearing dogs or cats.

The table below identifies the number and type of Domestic Animal Business registered in the municipality as at March 2019:

Type of domestic animal business	Number
Breeding facility	1*
Training facility	0
Boarding facility	1*
Pet shop	0
Council pound	1

Note: \* the breeding and boarding facility operates from the same premises, so essentially there is one registered domestic animal business within the municipality.

### 9.2 CURRENT EDUCATION, PROMOTION AND COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

Ongoing Council programs and initiatives include:

- Distribution and provision of information related to Domestic Animal Businesses and the relevant codes of practice to operators and owners upon application and renewal.
- Investigation of complaints concerning Domestic Animal Business or unregistered businesses and undertaking appropriate enforcement proceedings.
- Information about how to register a domestic animal business on Council's website
- Inclusion of key performance indicators in the Ranger contract around maximising compliance of domestic animal businesses with regulations and achieving compliance for any illegally operating businesses.

## 9.3 OUR PLANS

### Objective 1: Identify and register all Domestic Animal Businesses in the municipality.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Undertake an audit of previous applications for domestic animal businesses and confirm whether or not they are continuing to operate and require registration.	July 2019	Completion of audit and record number of registered and unregistered businesses.  Record and analyse number of registrations following audit.
Randomly audit domestic animal businesses to ensure ongoing compliance with the Act and Code of Practice.	Ongoing	Number of audits undertaken. Success of enforcement to ensure Act and Code of Practice are complied with.
Investigate advertisements for dog and cat sales.	Ongoing	Number of advertisements investigated. Number of unregistered domestic animal businesses identified. Number of businesses legalised through this process.

### Objective 2: Identify and manage all potential excess animal/Domestic Animal Businesses in the municipality.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Proactively identify excess animals and potentially unregistered DABs using animal register and door knocking.	May 2019	Compare number of registered DABs before and after the 'Registration Blitz'.
Monitor Council's registration database for owners with more than 3 fertile females.	Ongoing	Compliance with Local Law and related legislation.
Conduct searches for unregistered domestic animal businesses through internet, media and newspaper advertisements.	Ongoing	Number of unregistered domestic animal businesses identified.

**Objective 3: Annual audit of registered domestic animal businesses.**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Evaluation</b>
Conduct inspections as part of an annual audit of DABs.	Annually	Completion of annual audits.  Report to the Executive Management Team regarding action taken to ensure compliance with the Act and relevant codes of practice.
Ensure compliance with all relevant sections of the Act.	Annually or as required	Report to the Executive Management Team regarding action taken to ensure compliance with the Act and relevant codes of practice.

**Objective 4: Effectively ensure compliance of applicable organisation members operating within municipality.**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Evaluation</b>
Promptly forward welfare complaints received about members' operations to the relevant applicable organisation.	As required	Time taken to refer welfare complaints to relevant organisation.

## 10. OTHER MATTERS

### **Legislative requirement**

Section 68A(2)(e) of the Act requires the DAMP to:

*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.*

## Emergency Management and Animal Welfare

### 8.1 CURRENT SITUATION

The *Domestic Animals Act 1994* allows for the Domestic Animal Management Plan to consider any other matters that may be relevant to domestic animals in the Council's municipal district.

This section focusses specifically on domestic animals in relation to emergency management planning.

Ongoing Council programs and initiatives include:

- Inclusion of domestic animals as a consideration in the Municipal Emergency Response Plan.
- Community education around how to plan for the care of domestic animals in the case of an emergency or evacuation.
- Promotion of registration and micro-chipping of domestic cats and dogs over 3 months of age to increase likelihood of return to owners in case of an emergency.
- Working with other relevant animal welfare agencies to manage domestic animal issues during emergency events.

### 8.2 OUR PLANS

**Objective 1: Inclusion of Animal & Stock Emergency Welfare Plan in Municipal Emergency Response Planning.**

Activity	When	Evaluation
Include a Strathbogie Emergency Animal Welfare Plan as part of the Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP).	December 2019	Adoption of Plan as part of the reviewed MEMP
Provision of information on Council's website to assist pet owners plan for what to do with their domestic animals in an emergency.	Ongoing	Ensure content is up to date and comprehensive

## 11. ANNUAL REVIEW OF PLAN AND ANNUAL REPORTING

Under Section 68A(3) of the Act

*Every Council must—*

- a) *review its domestic animal management plan annually and, if appropriate, amend the plan*
- b) *provide the Secretary, Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions with a copy of the plan and any amendments to the plan*
- c) *publish an evaluation of its implementation of the plan in its annual report.*

As per this legislative requirement, Council will review its Domestic Animal Management Plan annually to assess whether any amendments are necessary in order to ensure the Plan is relevant and can be completed within the required timeframes.

The annual assessment will focus on:

- **Activities** – the extent to which the Activities were completed and successful
- **Objectives** – the extent to which the Objectives were met by carrying out the Activities.

In the final year of the Plan, Council will undertake a major review and commence drafting of the Domestic Animal Management Plan for 2021 - 2024.

