

## Strathbogie Shire Domestic Animal Management Plan Annual Review

	Action	Role of Council	Measure	Timeframe	Status	Progress 2022/2023	Progress 2023/2024
	Focus Area 1 - Authorised Officer Training						
1.1	Ensure Authorised Officers receive adequate training in line with operational requirements including attending industry conferences, regional professional meetings, participation in formal training and information workshops.	Deliver	Completion of training by Authorised Officers	Ongoing	Ongoing	Authorised Officers continue to undertake training as required and identified. In 2022/23, Officers attended aggressive dog training, first aid, traffic control and mosquito control courses to further their skills.	Authorised Officers continue to undertake training as required as identified. In 2023/24, Officers attended CPR first aid, Dealing with Difficult People, Respect at Work, microchipping training to further their skills. An audit of skills and training was also completed to support training identification.
1.2	Maintain accurate staff training register.	Deliver	Register maintained	Ongoing	Ongoing	A skills and training register has been developed in conjunction with the People and Culture Department to track training and required updates.	A skills and training register has been developed in conjunction with the People and Culture Department to track training and required updates.
1.3	Identify additional training requirements in response to service demands, legislative change, and emerging risks.	Develop	Training completed	Annually	Ongoing	Training options are identified as a part of Performance Development Plans and actioned during the relevant year.	Performance Development Reviews completed. Training options are identified as a part of Performance Development Plans for action for this year include bolt gun training, RSPCA training programs, infringement training and dog attack training.
	Focus Area 2 - Responsible Pet Ownership						
2.1	<p>Develop a communication program for responsible pet ownership, raising the profile and awareness of the scope of Council's animal management service. This may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•review information currently provided on Council's website</li> <li>•develop an annual communications program through a range of channels and different media, including social media, Council's website, hard copy, media releases</li> <li>•provide accessible information including languages other than English</li> <li>•addressing significant number of new and possibly first-time pet owners during COVID.</li> </ul> <p>Issues to build awareness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•dogs on leash</li> <li>•pick up after your dog</li> <li>•keeping children safe around pets</li> <li>•appropriate selection of pets</li> <li>•relevant pet care/welfare information</li> <li>•criteria that determine "having effective control" of their dog</li> <li>•benefits of preventing cats from wandering</li> </ul>	<p>Develop</p> <p>Deliver</p>	<p>Communication plan developed</p> <p>Communication plan implemented</p>	<p>Year 1</p> <p>Year 2 to 4</p>	Completed	A Communications plan has been developed and is being implemented via Council's communications platforms. Significant work has been undertaken to update information on Council's webpage.	The Communications plan has been developed and is being implemented via Council's communications platforms. Significant work has been undertaken to update information on Council's webpage for animal registrations, renewals and pet adoptions.
	Focus Area 2 - Responsible Pet Ownership (cont..)						
2.2	<p>Piloting a pet-friendly event with a focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•profiling the scope of the animal management service and other local businesses, community support groups and agencies</li> <li>•building community relationships to address key service issues e.g.: control of dogs in off leash areas</li> <li>•neighbourhood social connection and active participation</li> <li>•consider COVID Safe events such as online photo competition or informative webinars.</li> </ul>	Develop	<p>Event Scoped</p> <p>Event Completed</p>	<p>Year 2</p> <p>Year 3</p>	Not started		Council's Communications team to help develop a plan to implement.

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2.3	Deliver community awareness programs: •about the benefits of adopting from animal shelters •to dispel myths about animals that come from shelters	Deliver	Information researched in conjunction with relevant stakeholders Information prepared and promoted	Ongoing	Ongoing	Undertaken as part of the communications plan above	Undertaken as part of the communications plan above.
2.4	Actively encourage the adoption of animals from animal shelters and promote adoption opportunities available to Strathbogie residents	Deliver	Promotion undertaken as per the Communications Plan	Ongoing	Ongoing	Undertaken as part of the communications plan above	Councils Compliance Officers and Communications team have been actively working on promoting adoptions via Councils Facebook page and website.
	Focus Area 3 - Minimising the risk of dog attacks						
3.1	Review the data collected relating to dog attacks to identify if there are any patterns/trends that could be addressed via targeted strategies	Deliver	Data reviewed and additional data collected if required	Annually	Ongoing	Data has been collated and reviewed. No specific trends identified this year.	Data has been collated and reviewed. No specific trends identified this year.
3.2	Investigate the benefits of promoting Court outcomes of dog attack investigations as a way of raising awareness to prevent dog attacks	Deliver	Number of media stories released	Ongoing	Ongoing	Media stories regarding responsible dog ownership continue to be released	Media stories regarding responsible dog ownership continue to be released.
3.3	Timely and thorough investigation of all dog attacks and dog rushes and appropriate enforcement action undertaken	Deliver	Number of investigations Number of successful court outcomes	Ongoing	Ongoing	29 investigations were completed in 2022/23. No animal prosecutions in the 2022/23 reporting year.	20 investigations were completed in 2023/24. No animal prosecutions in the 2023/24 reporting year.
	Focus Area 4 - Animal registration and overpopulation						
4.1	Research successful strategies employed by other LGAs to increase compliance with registration requirements and consider how they might be applied in Strathbogie.  Consider strategies associated with: •targeted educational programs (e.g.: localised programs) •social media •newer technology and continuous improvement of registration/renewal processes	Facilitate	Strategies investigated and/or researched  Initiatives to increased rates of registration implemented	Annually	Ongoing	A social media campaign has been run this year around the benefits of registering your animals.	The social media campaign continues to run all year long around the benefits of registering and renewing your animals. The Comms and Engagement and Compliance initiative earlier this year introduced bright orange cat and dog images with QR codes placed around our communities as a reminder to register pets.
4.2	Ensure Council's registration database is maintained and accurate by: •cleansing records of all deceased / relocated pets etc. •cross referencing with microchip databases •annual registration door knock, SMS, and email reminders •cross referencing with State Government Pet Exchange Register to identify any Domestic Animal Breeders that require registration	Deliver	Updating of database undertaken  Annual renewal process more efficient	Annually	Ongoing	Staff continue to make the animal registration process more streamlined by cleansing the database, a social media campaign to promote registration and cross referencing all registrations with microchip databases	Staff continue to make the animal registration process more streamlined by cleansing the database, a social media campaign to promote registration and cross referencing all registrations with microchip databases.
4.3	Development of 'new owner' pet ownership information pack	Deliver	Pet ownership pack developed	Year 2 to 3	In Progress		Pet ownership information packs have been implemented and are being rolled out with pet adoptions at the animal shelter.
4.4	Assess if more appropriate cat registration tags would improve incidence of being worn as legislated	Deliver	Cat tags purchased	Year 3	Not started		

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4.5	Continue to advocate through Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) for the Federal Government or develop a single industry microchip and registration database, and funds to develop this data base	Advocate	Advocacy undertaken	Ongoing	Ongoing	Advocacy continues in this area through relevant channels.	Advocacy continues in this area through relevant channels.
4.6	Continue to advocate to the State Government requesting legislated options to reduce registration fees (for example) for dogs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•that have completed obedience training</li> <li>•adopted pets</li> <li>•adopted older pets.</li> </ul>	Develop	Improved record keeping within Council database to assist the collection of statistics for animal related matters	Annually	Ongoing	Advocacy continues in this area through relevant channels.	Advocacy continues in this area through relevant channels.
4.7	Monitor data for all impounded and surrendered animals captured through Council's pound provider, for trends that could assist in developing new projects, as well as understanding any impacts from COVID-19 (increase in pet ownership)	Develop	Improved record keeping within Council database to assist the collection of statistics for animal related matters	Annually	Ongoing	Council is updating the way we capture data to ensure that any trends are captured and can be analysed	Council is implementing improvements in the way data is captured to ensure that any trends can be analysed.
4.8	Consider opportunities that will reduce overpopulation through the three areas of microchipping, desexing initiatives and increasing registration rates. This could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•recognising good behaviour of pet owners</li> <li>•free microchipping day</li> <li>•desexing initiative</li> <li>•incentives for cat owners to register cats</li> <li>•further incentives for dog/cat owners to desex their animal.</li> </ul>	Deliver and support	Opportunities /benefits considered  Events /activities implemented (depending on funding) Available State and Federal Grants for desexing programs applied for	Year 2 to 4	Not started		Council to explore how to deliver this via funding through grants and involvement of Veterinary services.
	Focus Area 5 - Nuisance dogs and cats						
5.1	Review information resources for use by Council and pet owners in relation to barking dog complaints	Deliver	Information resources reviewed	Year 1	Completed	Clear information is available on Councils website	Clear information is available on Councils website.
5.2	Investigate partnership opportunities with community-based and dog training providers to develop initiatives and incentives that encourage dog owners to attend dog training and obedience classes	Facilitate	Promotion of providers/programs	Year 2 to 4	Not started		Currently no dog training providers within the Council.
5.3	Investigate provision and cost of litter bags, bins, and waste bin collections in specific public areas to reduce the impact of dog litter	Deliver	Benchmarking, cost analysis and consultation complete	Year 3 to 4	In progress		Council provides some bins within the shire with litter bags, further assessment of recreational areas to be undertaken.
5.4	Routine patrolling of public places such as reserves, residential areas and townships, trails etc., with a particular focus on addressing 'high complaint' areas	Deliver	Patrol schedule completed	Ongoing	Ongoing	Compliance Officers are undertaking routine proactive patrols daily. These include education for pet owners	Compliance Officers are undertaking routine proactive patrols daily. These include education for pet owners regarding their responsibility's, registration of animals, and dogs off leash.
5.5	Investigate successful industry/sector programs that have achieved reduced incidents of cat trespass/wandering	Facilitate	Investigation/research undertaken	Year 2	In Progress		This will be considered as a part of the review of Local Law 2.
			Initiatives considered for	Year 3 to 4	Not started		
5.6	Promote the benefits of preventing cats from wandering to reduce cat nuisance complaints	Deliver	Number of cat nuisance complaints reduced	Year 2 to 4	Not started		

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5.7	Promote the cat cage service provided by Council to assist dealing with nuisance complaints	Deliver	Cat traps acquired if demand warrants	Ongoing	Ongoing	Council continues to have cat cage service available to residents and last year 45 requests were made to Council for cages.	Council continues to have cat cage service available to residents and 46 requests for 2023/24 were made to Council for cages.
5.8	Gauge community sentiment for restrictions on cat curfew times	Deliver	Review/community consultation undertaken	Year 3 to 4	In Progress		This will be considered as a part of the review of Local Law 2.
5.9	Update information resources for cat owners whose cats are the subject of cat trespass complaints	Deliver	Information reviewed and made available	Year 2	Not started		
5.10	Consider incentives for cat owners who build in and secure their cats to their property 24/7	Deliver	Incentive program scoped	Year 3 to 4	Not started		
5.11	Work with Council's pound provider and our neighbouring Councils to:	Facilitate	Partnership established	Year 2 to 3	In Progress		Council reestablished the Animal Shelter, and will work to do this directly with owners and the local community
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>improve information to the community about managing and addressing the semi-owned cat population</li> </ul>						Council have reviewed existing promotions and information and will develop resources to complement the animal shelter for a range mediums, along with a dedicated page on the website
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>establish programs to address issues associated with the un-owned and semi-owned cat populations.</li> </ul>		Target programs established, including key performance measures				
5.12	Enhance promotion/distribution and/or develop information that assists residents to make appropriate pet selection, particularly in relation to dogs.	Deliver	Information more widely promoted in conjunction with promotional partners	Year 2 to 4	Ongoing		Council have reviewed existing promotions and information and will develop resources to complement the animal shelter for a range mediums, along with a dedicated page on the website
	Focus Area 6 - Dangerous dogs						
6.1	Review and enhance information for dog owners to ensure there is a clear understanding as to dog behaviour that may lead to their dog being 'declared' as a dangerous or menacing dog.	Deliver	Information reviewed and promoted more widely	Annual	Ongoing	Information available on Council's website and promoted as part of a social media/ communications campaign	Information available on Council's website and promoted as part of a social media/ communications campaign. Information available on pet renewal notice.
6.2	Review and distribute information to owners of dangerous, menacing, and restricted breed dogs, to ensure they are aware of current requirements and inspect premises to ensure compliance	Deliver	Information provided Inspections conducted	Annual	Ongoing	Information available on Council's website and promoted as part of a social media/ communications campaign	Information available on Council's website and promoted as part of a social media/ communications campaign. Information available on pet renewal notice.
6.3	Cross reference microchip details of all dogs reported as missing from the Victorian Declared Dog Registry.	Deliver	Cross referencing completed	Annual	Ongoing	All microchips are cross referenced	All microchips are cross referenced.

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6.4	Undertake planned patrols in industrial estates and other appropriate areas for guard dogs and following up on any compliance action required.	Deliver	Patrols completed Number of dogs found to be not registered	Annual	Ongoing	Proactive patrols are undertaken by Compliance Officers on a weekly basis and appropriate enforcement action is undertaken when required. At this stage no dogs have been found to be unregistered in industrial estates.	Proactive patrols are undertaken by Compliance Officers on a weekly basis and appropriate enforcement action is undertaken when required. At this stage no dogs have been found to be unregistered in industrial estates.
	Focus Area 7 - Off-leash areas						
7.1	Review and update Council's Local Order that stipulates any area in Strathbogie that has 'dog off-leash' areas, or "on-leash" only, and other restrictions within that public place.	Deliver	Community consultation completed	Year 1 to 2	Not started		
			Order is reviewed and adopted by Council				
7.2	Provide a new off-leash dog park at Nagambie based on community consultation and engagement.	Deliver	Dog Park completed	Year 3 to 4	In Progress		Following engagement with key stakeholders and review of existing assets, Council has been unable to find a suitable location. Further investigation required to determine if there is a suitable area for an off leash unfenced dog park. A dog park section has also been included in the draft Play and Open Space Strategy 2024-2034, setting the guiding principles for dog parks in the municipality.
7.3	Undertake an audit of all signage in reserves and public walking tracks to ensure clear understanding of any restrictions for dogs in that area, particularly around schools and sports fields.	Deliver	Signage audit completed	Year 1 to 2	On-going		Council has arranged for new signage to be installed within the communities.
7.4	Investigate use of QR scan codes at reserves to provide easy information. regarding any off-leash or on-leash areas	Deliver	Review completed Signage rollout	Year 2	Not started		Communications team to investigate further.
				Year 3 to 4			
7.5	Review Strathbogie's Community Local Laws relating to animal management and seek amendment to the current Community Local Law if any deficiencies are identified.	Deliver	New Strathbogie Community Local Law enacted	Year 4	Not started		
	Focus Area 8 - Pets and People						
8.1	In partnership with Council's pound provider, develop an animal emergency accommodation policy for vulnerable residents that is built on the foundations of the DVRCV family violence program:	Deliver	Policy developed Policy endorsed	Year 1	Ongoing	Council has investigated reopening its pound and officers are completing relevant training to support delivery of this action	Re-establishment of the Animal Shelter complete. Euroa Pound officially opened for operation on 22 January 2024. further work to be completed.
	• Compliance Officers complete appropriate training on emerging risks, including (but not limited to) domestic violence, homelessness, mental health, and drug use						Compliance Officers are completing relevant training to support delivery of this action.
	• Develop procedures to support victims and pets			Year 2 to 4	Not started		
8.2	Work with DVRCV to identify opportunities to better inform the community about the impact of domestic violence on pets and how to make them safe.	Deliver	Information updated	Year 1	Ongoing	Council is working with DVRCV to identify opportunities, this will then be feed into a communications plan	Council continues to work with DVRCV to identify opportunities, this will then feed into a communications plan.
			Project plan scoped	Year 2	Not started		
			Project implemented	Year 3 to 4	Not started		



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8.3	Work with Council's pound provider to identify strategies that address the root causes of animal abandonment.	Deliver	Opportunities identified and implemented	Annually	Ongoing	Ongoing	Council has commenced operating the Pound. Compliance Officers to identify Strategies.
8.4	Maintain emergency management plans that facilitate the safety of pets during emergencies.	Deliver	Plan reviewed	Annually	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing, reference and provisions made in appropriate Emergency Management Plans
8.5	Encourage other Council service areas to optimise health and wellbeing and community networking opportunities associated with pets in families.	Deliver	Activities included in relevant strategies	Annually	Ongoing	Ongoing, most recently in feedback contributed to the Open Spaces Strategy	Ongoing, most recently in feedback contributed to the Open Space Strategy.