

**Strathbogie Shire Council**  
**Domestic Animal Management Plan**  
**2025-2029**



*Strathbogie*  
SHIRE COUNCIL

# Acknowledgement of Country

Strathbogie Shire Council acknowledges the Taungurung and Yorta Yorta people as the Traditional Owners of the lands and waterways in the area now known as Strathbogie Shire.

We pay our respect to their rich cultures and to Elders, past and present, as well as other First Nations people who live, work and play in the area.

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# Overview of the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2025-29

Under the provisions of the [Domestic Animals Act 1994](#) all councils in Victoria must develop a domestic animal management plan which is renewed every four years.

This plan outlines the council's:

- services
- programs and policies established to address the administration of the Act
- management of dog and cat issues in their community.

Councils are responsible for developing a domestic animal management plan which:

- promotes responsible pet ownership and the welfare of dogs and cats in the community
- protects the community and the environment from nuisance dogs and cats
- identifies a method to evaluate whether the animal management services provided by them are adequate
- outlines the training programs for their Authorised Officers to ensure these Officers are capable in administering and enforcing the provisions of the Act.

The plan provides information on the daily operation of the Council, the current programs Council has in place and the policies the Council has adopted for the following standards of animal management to:

- promote and encourage the responsible ownership of dogs and cats
- ensure that people comply with this Act, the regulations and any related legislation
- minimise the risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals
- address any over-population and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats
- encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats
- minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance
- 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 the Act and the Regulations.

The plan identifies the current local laws and Orders made under the Act and reviews them for effectiveness.

The council must identify any other specific domestic animal management issues within the local area.

Council reviews the plan annually and publishes an evaluation of the implementation of their plan in the Council's annual report.

The plan, including new initiatives, is required to be fully reviewed every four years.

## Domestic Animal Ownership in Strathbogie Shire

Strathbogie Shire Council can see the popularity of dogs and cat as pets through the number of animal registrations council processes each year. As shown in Table 1, dog registration has increased by 25.83%, and cat registrations have grown by 34.43% between 2024 and 2025.

Table 1: Number of animal registrations in Strathbogie Shire.

Type of Animal	2024	2025	Change (%)
Dog	1947	2450	25.83%
Cat	427	574	34.43%

The increase in cat registrations may be attributable to council's previous DAMP initiatives to promote responsible pet ownerships that targeted unregistered cats and nuisance cats which included:

- Promoting and communicating responsible pet ownership
- Increase in cat trappings by the compliance team
- All animals reunited with owners or adopted out of the pound having to be microchipped and registered before leaving the premises, and in line with the Act.

## About our Domestic Animal Management Plan

Pets play an important role in the lives of many Strathbogie Shire residents. Our most recent animal registration data shows a total of 2450 dogs and 574 cats are actively registered in the Strathbogie Shire as of August 2025.

It is important that Strathbogie Shire Council's DAMP addresses the needs of our many pet owners, while also promoting responsible pet ownership and effectively managing the potential for domestic animals to have a negative impact on public amenities, our neighbours, and the environment.

Council reviews these activities annually and reports on our performance to the Victorian Government Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions.

Table 2: Domestic Animal Management Services Provided by Council 2024-2025

Animal Registrations	Service Level or Measure
Dog registrations	2450
Cat registrations	574
Domestic Animal Businesses in Strathbogie	2
Animals Brought into the Euroa Pound by Authorised Officers	
Dogs impounded	47
Dogs reunited with owner/ adopted	41
Cats impounded	112
Cats reunited with owner/ adopted	13
Customer Requests Responded to	
Dogs at large/ stray dogs collected	137
Dog attacks	12
Dogs rushing/ menacing	8
Dog barking complaints	38
Nuisance cats	17
Cats trapped/ contained for collection by Authorised Officer	110

# Process Applied in Developing the Plan

The Strathbogie Shires DAMP has been developed in consultation with councils Community Safety team, relevant internal departments, stakeholders and most importantly the community.

Key steps in the development include:

## Engagement Stage 1

- An online survey seeking feedback on animal management was made available via Strathbogie Shire council website - Share Strathbogie: Have your say [Home | Share Strathbogie](#)
- Community consultation
- Stakeholder consultation
- 'Meet the Local Laws Team': A series of six pop-ups in various locations across the municipality.

## Engagement Stage 2

Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan was provided to the Community for consultation and feedback. The draft DAMP was made available to the community between 19 September - 17 October 2025. Comments received during this period were also considered in the preparation of the draft DAMP.

The plan outlines the following areas of focus:

- A skilled and capable workforce
- Promoting registration and identification
- Promoting and encouraging responsible pet ownership of dogs and cats
- Minimising the potential for nuisance dogs and cats
- Minimising dog attacks
- Managing overpopulation and reducing euthanasia rates
- Working with domestic animal businesses
- Managing dangerous, menacing and restricted dog breeds
- Monitoring, reporting and continuous improvement.

## About the Shire of Strathbogie

The Shire of Strathbogie Shire spans an area of just over 3303 km<sup>2</sup> in the northeastern region of Victoria.



There is a diverse mix of housing types across these towns, from residential, rural residential and farming properties.

## Current Programs in Place

The following table 3 provides a summary of Domestic Animal Management Programs and services provided by Strathbogie Shire Council.

Table 3: Strathbogie Shire Council DAMP Programs

Program	Service Provided
Registration and identification	<p>New registrations are processed within one business day of the application being received</p> <p>Annual pet registration renewal notices mailed out</p> <p>Online application for new registrations in addition to hardcopy's as well</p> <p>Tags sent out with new registration. New tags about to be purchased if old tag is lost</p>
After hours service	<p>Emergency response 24/7</p> <p>Authorised officers are on call for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• dog attacks</li> <li>• to assist Victoria police if they need help with animals</li> </ul>
Dog attacks	<p>Authorised officers are on call 24/7 for all emergency or dangerous situations. They aim to assist the community as soon as possible.</p>
Wandering cat complaints	<p>Authorised officers will respond to reports of Cats wandering within two business days of report being received</p> <p>Community members can hire council cat traps and return trapped cats to Authorised Officers during business hours.</p>
Animal nuisance complaints	<p>Authorised officers will respond to complaints within two business days.</p> <p>Regarding barking dogs - officers will contact complainant to gather all details and then contact owner of dog and discuss and provide education/ guidance to reduce barking. Officers will then follow up with complainant two weeks after for an update. If not resolved complainant will need to keep a barking dog diary and further action may need to be taken.</p> <p>Other animal nuisance complaints will be followed up with authorised officers and they can assist with cat trapping for nuisance cats</p>
Municipal animal pound	<p>Strathbogie Shire pound (council owned and operated) is able to hold dogs and livestock</p> <p>All impounded animals are registered, microchipped, desexed and given parasite prevention before being released.</p>
Animal welfare matters	<p>Refers all animal welfare/ cruelty cases to RSPCA</p>
Domestic Animal Business registration	<p>New DAB application processed and inspected annually</p>
Declared dogs	<p>Annual inspection of properties and enclosure of declared dogs</p> <p>Check registrations at renewal time, 10 April</p>

## Focus Areas

### FOCUS 1 – A Skilled and Capable Workforce

Strathbogie Shire Council's Compliance team are a part of the Community Safety team. The team consist of a Manager of Community Safety, two full time Compliance Officers, one Community Safety Support Officer and two Administration Support Officers.

As well as animal management the Compliance officers are responsible for investigation and enforcement in several different areas. This includes parking enforcement, planning enforcement, local laws and fire prevention.

An after-hours emergency service is provided by rostered Authorised Officers.

The compliance team are responsible for providing animal management service which includes:

- Domestic animal registrations
- Responding to livestock out on roads
- Impounding domestic animals
- Rehoming surrendered and unclaimed stray animals
- Investigating nuisance complaints e.g. Barking dogs
- Investigating dog attacks
- Wandering dogs and cats
- Promoting responsible pet ownership
- Referring animal welfare cases to RSPCA
- Inspecting premises for both Domestic Animal Business and Excess Animal permits
- After-hours services

#### 1.1 Training Authorised Officers

Action	Measure	Timeframe / Frequency
A. Induction training for new staff. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Including induction of all relevant programs/systems and familiarisation of animal management tasks</li> </ul>	Staff training register	Year 1
B. OH&S, customer service training, conflict resolution and dealing with difficult customers/ situations training	All staff to attend training if required which is determined through reviews	Year 1
C. Maintain an accurate staff training register	Register maintained	Annually
D. Develop training programs for staff such as staff attendance at industry related seminars such as RSPCA training, Animal Welfare Victoria training and animal specific training as the opportunity arises	Attend identified training and register updated	Annually
E. Complete nationally accredited first aid and CPR training	Complete required training and register updated	As required
F. Attend Australian institute of Animal Management Conference in line with the register and agreed staff development program, subject to budget available	Attend conference and update Register	Biannually
G. Continue to review and update animal management processes	Process continually updated and reviewed	Annually

## 1.2 Additional Qualifications and Training for Authorised Officers

Qualification/Training	Frequency
Certification IV in Government Investigations or equivalent	Upon appointment or begin within 12 months
Certificate IV in Animal Control and Regulation	As required
Animal handling Behaviour and Animal Assessment	As required
Customer service/ OH&S training	As required
Breed identification (restricted)	As required

Council aims to ensure all Compliance Officers have the knowledge and skills to carry out their work safely for the officers, animals and community members.

## FOCUS 2 – Promoting Registration and Identification

The *Domestic Animals Act 1994* requires all dogs and cats to be registered with Council after three months of age. The first 12 months of the animal’s life is registered for free with Strathbogie Shire Council. After 12 months of age there is an annual renewal on 10<sup>th</sup> of April, this is also stipulated by the Act.

All animals registered must be microchipped and are provided with a council identified tag that is to be worn on the pets collar.

By registering a pet as part of the shire it increases opportunity for reunification. This further means less time for animals in the pound and the quicker they are returned home to their owner.

Registration fees help support:

- Animal management services delivered by the council’s Compliance Team
- Compliance audits of Domestic Animal Business such as breeders and boarding kennels
- Stray cat collections to reduce overpopulation across the shire
- Pet facilities such as the off-lead dog park and the Euroa council pound.
- Community education
- A set component of fees is also provided to the State Government

The rate of animals registered has increased significantly over the last financial year. This can be attributed to public education as well as the introduction of SMS, emails reminders and the use of other databases.

### 2.1 Our Plan to Improve Registration and Identification

Action	Measure	Timeframe/ Frequency
A. Ensure councils registration database is maintained and accurate	Increase in animals registered	Annually
B. Develop a ‘New Pet Owner’ information pack	Increase in packs posted and or downloaded from our website.	Year 1
C. Ensure the community are provided sufficient notice via social media, Website updates etc. on their obligation to Register their animal and renew annually	Increase in registrations being paid on time. Reduction in the volume of registrations that require following up.	Annually
D. Website content revised to ensure it provides all necessary information and downloadable forms for pet registration, supporting responsible pet ownership and compliance with local animal management laws.	Reduction in volume of registrations that require follow up.	Annually
E. Conduct quarterly cross-checks with microchip databases (e.g. Central Animal Records) to ensure registration accuracy and compliance.	Increase in the volume of new registrations	Ongoing
F. Investigate with the Customer Service team, improvements to pet owner registration platforms	Community Satisfaction, reduce the need for manual intervention for the benefit of the community.	Year 2

G. Ensure all impounded/ surrendered animals are registered before being released to their owners or before being rehomed/ adopted	100% Compliance with legislation.	Ongoing
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## FOCUS 3 – Promoting and Encouraging Responsible Pet Ownership of Dogs and Cats

Strathbogie Shire Council aims to promote and encourage responsible pet ownership to provide a positive environment for all members of the community. Responsible pet ownership encompasses a very broad range of issues to ensure that the welfare of the domestic animal is met whilst also ensuring that the community, environment and wildlife are protected.

Strathbogie Shire Council Local Law No.2 part Four (39)-Keeping Animals states that owners or occupiers of land must not without a permit keep more domestic animals than what is stated in the following table in residential areas.

Table 4: Maximum Domestic Animals in Residential Areas

Type of animal	Maximum allowed in residential areas
Dogs	2
Cats	2

(44) A person in charge of a dog must not allow any part of the animal's excrement to remain on a road or council land and must carry suitable receptacle for the removal of that animals' excrement from the road or council land.

(46) A person may unleash a dog in an area designated by council and sign posted

### 3.1 Our Plan to Promote Responsible Pet Ownership

Action	Measure	Timeframe / Frequency
A. Enhance community education and engagement through regular updates on Council's website and social media, including information on responsible pet ownership, legislative requirements, registration benefits, barking dog management, and promotion of impounded and surrendered animals to support rehoming and reunification Increase social media posts	Increase in the number of animal registrations Website statistics	Ongoing
B. Identify areas with high dog activity to determine opportunities for additional waste bag dispensers or signage, and action accordingly, subject to budget availability.	Identify new signage and infrastructure Deliver new signage and infrastructure	Year 3
C. Develop procedures and processes to support victims of domestic violence that have pets	Improved processes to assist victims	Year 1
D. Investigate the delivery of a Pet Expo, to encourage responsible pet ownership and Council's services, with local stakeholders, with delivery subject to budget availability.	Investigation completed Delivery subject to investigation and to budget availability	Year 4

## FOCUS 4 – Minimising The Potential for Nuisance Dogs and Cats

Council has been successful in dealing with nuisance complaints and promoting responsible pet ownership. This is an ongoing issue that is expected to grow as population grows, and the number of pets grow with that population. Council currently has procedures in place to deal with the many types of nuisances caused by dogs and cats.

Barking/ noisy dogs is an issue in the shire and can take significant time to resolve. Most owners are not aware of a barking issue as it normally occurs when owners are away from their property. Authorised officers have a process in place for dealing with barking/noise complaints. They try to work with the owner to resolve the issue by helping them take the appropriate steps to address the noise complaint.

Animals at large is an ongoing issue in Strathbogie Shire. When an animal is impounded, Authorised Officers will first check microchip/ registration details to try to identify owners and reunite animals with their owners. If the animal is not registered/ microchipped the animal will be taken to the Euroa pound, and attempts will be made to try to find owner via Council's website via the lost dog page and the Strathbogie Shire Facebook page. If no owner is found after eight days, and if appropriate, the animal is advertised for adoption.

Nuisance/ trespassing cats is a large issue. This plan proposes an investigation of ways to address this issue. This aims to help wildlife and the environment which is impacted by feral cats and aims to keep domestic animals safe from injury and diseases.

### 4.1 Nuisance Noise Complaints

Action	Measure	Timeframe/ Frequency
A. Review the noise complaint process to ensure current best practice	Reduction in time to resolve such complaints	Year 1
B. Work proactively with complainants and the relevant owner to implement strategies to reduce noise, monitor regularly, and resolve the issue.	- Number of complaints responded to. - Number of complaints resolved.	Ongoing
C. Provide education on reducing noise nuisance on website and other social media.	Increase quality of evidence for officers to use and reduce the need for officer intervention.	Ongoing

### 4.2 Encourage Owners to Pick Up Their Dog's Litter

Action	Measure	Timeframe/ Frequency
A. Promote responsible pet ownership through education and social media to promote carrying waste bags and picking up after their dog	Reduced number of complaints about dog litter	Ongoing
B. Investigate a way to promote picking up dogs' litter in the registration/ renewal process to advice owners on local laws surrounding pets and waste	Reduced number of complaints about dog litter	Year 3
C. Increase in routine patrols in public high dog presence areas or 'high complaint' areas	Reduced number of complaints about dog litter	Ongoing

### 4.3 Dogs Off Lead and at Large in the Community

Action	Measure	Timeframe/ Frequency
A. Promote responsible pet ownership through education signage and social media	- Reduction in number of complaints about dogs at large - Website statistics on responsible pet ownership page access	Annually
B. Investigate a way to promote dogs on leads in the registration/renewal process to advise owners of local laws surrounding pets	Reduction in number of dog attacks in public and complaints.	Year 3
C. Update and add signage around high dog presence areas regarding responsible pet ownership and Local Laws	Reduction in number of dog attacks in public.	Year 4
D. Investigate potential new off leash parks/ areas	Number of off leash area available.	Year 4

### 4.4 Nuisance Cat Complaints

Action	Measure	Timeframe/ Frequency
A. Investigate the viability of introducing a cat curfew to reduce nuisance cats.	Investigation complete, with a recommendation	Year 4
B. Provide community members with loan cat trap for trespassing nuisance cats	Reduction of cat nuisance complaints	As required
C. Provide community with education information on the website and other social media pages on how to keep cats contained to their own property to reduce cats being nuisances to neighbours	Reduction of cat nuisance complaints	Year 1
D. Promote the benefits of preventing cats from wandering	Reduction of cat nuisance complaints	Year 1

## FOCUS 5 – Minimising Dogs Attacks

Strathbogie Shire Council is committed to minimising the risk of attacks on people and animals within our community. As a result, Council’s Compliance Officers investigate all allegations of dog attacks and aggressive behavior displayed by dogs as quickly and efficiently as possible. Officers utilise their skills to investigate and remove the risk from the community.

There are a large range of reasons surrounding why dog attacks and reports are received from a range of different sources. That range of sources includes government agencies, other councils, veterinary clinics or the parties involved such as victims or the owner.

Table 5: Call Outs

Types of Call Outs	2024	2025
Dogs/cats at large	165	80
Minor attack/ rushing offence	9	4
Dog attacks	19	20

### 5.1 Minimise Risk of Dog Attacks in the Community

Action	Measure	Timeframe/ Frequency
A. Provide education through social media and website updates	Reduced number of dog attacks	Year 1
B. Updated processes and procedures to ensure all reports of dog attacks are investigated thoroughly and in a timely manner.	Improved processes and procedures	Ongoing
C. Providing after-hour services to respond to reports of aggressive dogs or dog attacks	Improve response times to reports	Ongoing
D. Proactive patrols around the shire for roaming, unsecured and unregistered dogs	Reduced number of dogs at large to reduce attacks	Ongoing
E. Actively enforce reoccurring instances of wandering at large.	Reduced number of dogs at large	Ongoing
F. Record accurate and complex data for all dog attack reports and investigations	Improved evidence available for authorised officers which will help if case needs to be taken further or dog needs to be classed as dangerous/ menacing	Ongoing

## FOCUS 6 – Managing Over Population and Reducing Euthanasia Rates

### 6.1 Excess animal permits

Excess animal permits are in place to help protect the health of pets and prevent inconvenience to neighbours. It also helps reduce overpopulation.

Strathbogie Shires Council's Local Law 2: Community states that a person must not, without a permit, have domestic pet or other animals on any property if the number of animals exceeds the permitted number in the table below.

Table 6: Keeping Animals

Type of Animal*	Land Less than 1,000m <sup>2</sup> *	Between 1,000-10,000m <sup>2</sup> and in a Residential Zone	Land Greater than 10,000m <sup>2</sup> *
Dogs	2	2	5
Cats	2	2	5
Poultry	5	5	Not Limited by this Local Law
Roosters**, Peacocks and Donkeys	Not Permitted	Not Permitted	Not Limited by this Local Law
Pigs	Not Permitted	Not Permitted	Not Limited by this Local Law
Other Large Birds (excluding peacocks, poultry and roosters)	5	5	Not Limited by this Local Law
Livestock	Not Permitted	Maximum Density of one Animal per every 2,000m <sup>2</sup> of Open Land (excluding buildings)	Not Limited by this Local Law
Maximum Total Number of Animals of any Kind	20	20	

\*The Planning Scheme may also affect a person's right to use land for the keeping of animals

\*\*Roosters are prohibited in a Residential Zone

Table 7: Number of Excess Animal Permit

	2024	2025
Number of excess animal permits	14	9

Table 8: Cats Impounded

	2023-2024	2024-2025
Impounded	23	112
Reclaimed	7	8
Rehomed	0	5

Euthanised	16	97
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Table 9: Dogs Impounded

	2023-2024	2024-2025
Impounded	72	47
Reclaimed	66	33
Rehomed	6	8
Euthanised	0	5

Cat overpopulation and high euthanasia is a major issue in the shire. The rise in impounded and euthanised cats has significantly increase from 2023-2024 as shown in table 8 compared to dogs in table 9. This plan proposes multiple ways to overcome this ongoing issue. As previously stated in Focus 4 on how to reduce nuisance cats that plan can also be used/ investigate to help reduce over population.

## 6.2 Reduce Overpopulation

Action	Measure	Timeframe/ Frequency
A. Ensure excess animal permits are being enforced to help reduce nuisance to neighbors and overpopulation in the shire	Reduced number of nuisance complaints	Ongoing
B. Promotes and raise awareness on social media and websites on the benefits of desexing	Reduction in surrender of animals and unplanned litters	Annually
C. Investigate desexing programs/grants	Reduction in surrender of animals and unplanned litters	Year 4
D. Investigate mandatory desexing of cats	Reduction in surrender of animals and unplanned litters	Year 4
E. All dogs adopted/ rehomed must be desexed before going to new homes	100% Compliance with the code of practice	Ongoing

## 6.3 Reduce High Euthanasia Rates

Action	Measure	Timeframe/ Frequency
A. Leverage Council's website and social media platforms to promote animals found at large, support the rehoming of surrendered animals, and highlight adoption success stories.	Reduced animals time spent impounded. Increase number of adoptions of surrendered animals	Ongoing
B. Promote the importance of up-to-date microchipping and registration to help reunite owners	Quick reunifications and reduce euthanasia rates	Annually

<p>C. Increase foster carers to help provide care before rehoming animals</p>	<p>Increase in the number of foster carers on Council's database  Reduced number of animals kept at the pound and increase chances of animals being rehomed</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>D. All animals impounded must be held for eight days for the owner to reclaim.</p>	<p>100% Compliance with code of practice</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

## FOCUS 7 – Working with Domestic Animal Businesses

In accordance with the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*, all Domestic Animal Businesses must be registered with local council. In 2025, council had two registered Domestic Animal Business. These include:

- one breeding and rearing establishment
- one boarding kennel

Registered Domestic Animal Businesses are inspected at time of registrations as well as inspected annually to ensure the business is compliant with all relevant codes of practices and legislations applicable to that business.

The five types of Domestic Animal Businesses that must be registered are:

- Pet shop
- Boarding kennel establishments
- Breeding and rearing establishments
- Shelters/ pounds
- Dog training establishments

### 7.1 Domestic Animal Businesses

Action	Measure	Timeframe/ Frequency
A. Identify all businesses that should be registered. Follow up to determine if they do need to be registered and ensure they do register if required	100% Compliance	Ongoing
B. Authorised officers to conduct inspections annually of DABs registered	100% Compliance	Annually
C. Promote and educate DAB definitions and code of practices that must be adhered to.	Increased awareness and education	Annually
D. Enforce action such as infringements for non-compliance	Increased compliance	Ongoing
E. Investigate advertisements of litters for sale	Increased compliance from Breeders within the shire	Ongoing
F. Investigate all reports of suspected backyard breeding	Increased compliance of illegal breeders	Ongoing

## FOCUS 8 – Managing Dangerous, Menacing and Restricted Dog Breeds

All councils must register all restricted/ dangerous/ menacing dogs with the Victorian Dangerous Dog register (VDDR). Any animal entered into the VDDR is declared for the life of that animal and cannot be revoked by the council.

The Act defines restricted breed dogs as any one of the following breeds:

- Japanese Tose
- Fila Brasileiro
- Dogo Argentino
- Perro de Prasa Canario
- American Pit Bull Terrier

Strathbogie Shire Council has no restricted breed dogs registered to date. To own a restricted breed dog owners must follow conditions specified in the Act, including:

- Must have implanted permanent identification
- Must notify the council if the dog goes missing; there is a change of ownership or address.
- Owners must notify the council if the municipal district where the dog is kept changes
- Must not consent to, arrange or recklessly allow the dog to breed
- Must ensure the dog cannot escape the dwelling and is kept in a prescribed enclosure
- Must display warning signs which comply with regulations at all entrances of the premises where the dog is kept warning people that a restricted breed dog is kept at the premises.
- Must wear a prescribed collar
- The dog must be muzzled and be on a leash when outside the premises
- When the dog is not inside the premises, the dog must be kept in a prescribed enclosure
- Minors must not enter the dwelling where the dog is kept without an adult
- Owners cannot own more the 2 restricted breed dogs unless that person has a permit from the council of that municipal district where the dogs are kept

Strathbogie Shire Council has no declared dangerous dogs registered to date. A dangerous dog is one that has been declared dangerous by the council or the courts, a guard dog kept for the purpose of guarding non-residential property or a dog that has been trained to attack or bite any person or anything when attached to or worn by a person. Owners of dangerous dogs must abide by conditions specified by the act, including:

- Dangerous dogs must be desexed unless they are kept as a guard dog or undergone protection training in accordance with any relevant business code of practice
- Must have implanted permanent identification
- Must notify the council if the dog goes missing, there is a change of ownership or address.
- Owners must notify the council if the municipal district where the dog is kept changes
- The dog must be confined to the dwelling and must ensure the dog cannot escape.
- Must display warning signs which comply with regulations at all entrances of the premises where the dog is kept warning people that a dangerous breed dog is kept at the premises.
- When the dog is not inside the premises, the dog must be kept in a prescribed enclosure
- Must wear a prescribed collar
- The dog must be muzzled and be on a leash when outside the premises
- Minors must not enter the dwelling where the dog is kept without an adult

Strathbogie Shire Council has no declared menacing dogs registered to date. A menacing dog is one that has been deemed/ declared menacing by council or the courts. Owners of menacing dogs must abide by conditions specified by the Act, including:

- Must have implanted permanent identification
- Must notify council if dog rushes or chases a person
- Must notify councils if the municipal districts where the dog is being kept changes
- The dog must be muzzled and be on a leash when taken outside the premises.

### 8.1 Helping Reduce/Control Dangerous, Menacing and Restricted Breed Dogs

Action	Measure	Timeframe/ Frequency
A. Promote and enhance information for dog owners to ensure there is a clear understanding of dog behaviours that may lead to dogs been declared as dangerous or menacing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote on social media and website</li> </ul>	Reduction in Dogs to be Declared Menacing/Dangerous	Year 2 and Year 4
B. Create a menacing and dangerous dog registry	Compliant with DAA 100%	Ongoing
C. Maintain the Victorian Declared Dog Registry	Compliant with DAA 100%	Ongoing
D. Complete random unannounced property inspections of all declared dogs to ensure owners are compliant with the <i>Domestic Animal Act 1994</i> and regulations	Completed audits and ensured full compliance with all requirements achieved	As required
E. Review all dog attack investigations upon completion to assess if anything needs to be changed to the procedures in place.	Improved process and outcomes for Victims	Ongoing
F. Proactive patrols around the shire for roaming, unsecured and unregistered dogs	Reduced number of reports of dogs at large and reduced complaints of attack	Ongoing
G. Prosecute repeat offenders or serious breaches of compliance	Prosecutions completed	As required

## FOCUS 9 – Monitoring, Reporting and Continuous Improvement

Council must:

1. Review its Domestic Animal Management Plan annually and if appropriate, amend the plan.
2. Provide the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions secretary with a copy of the plan and any amendments to the plan.
3. Publish and evaluation of its implementation of the plan in its annual report.

Council will review the plan annually with a full review being completed in year 4.

### 9.1 Monitoring, Review and Continuous Improvement

Action	Measure	Timeframe/ Frequency
A. Establish a timeline and program by reviewing objectives and if the plan has been implemented successfully	Ensure reporting requirements are met	Year 1
B. Establish as a set agenda item for the Community Safety Department to ensure ongoing reporting on actions and progress	Ensuring plan is being actioned	Ongoing
C. Complete an evaluation of the plan which needs to include any proposed changes	Evaluation completed annually	Annually
D. If amendments are made, submit a copy to the secretary.	Copy provided to secretary	Annually

Table 7: Evaluation of Implementation of the Domestic Animal Management Plan

Complete for each activity	
Was each activity completed?	Yes/ No
Describe any changes you will make if you do that activity again.	<i>Provide details</i>
Was an activity not done or is now not planned to be done?	If so, why?
If an activity was unsuccessful and you don't plan to do it again, outline insights you have into why it didn't work	<i>Provide details</i>
Are any amendments required for the DAMP, if so, please describe	<i>Provide details</i>
If the DAMP has been amended, has a copy been proved to the secretary?	Yes / No
Complete for each objective	
Did you meet your objective by carrying out the planned activities?	Yes/ No
Describe your level of success/ progress in meeting the objectives	<i>Provide details</i>

## Conclusion

The Strathbogie Shire Council Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) has been developed in line with legislative requirements that all councils must develop a DAMP every four years.

The DAMP must:

- Set out a method for evaluating whether animal control services provided by council are adequate to give effect to the requirements of the Act and Domestic Animal regulations
- Outline programs for the training of Authorised Officers to ensure they can properly administer and enforce the requirements of the Act
- Outline programs, services and strategies council intends to pursue to:
  - Promote and encourage responsible pet ownership of dogs and cats
  - Ensure that people comply with the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*, the regulations and any associated legislation
  - Minimise risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals
  - Address any over-population and high euthanasia rates in dogs and cats
  - Encourage registration and identification of dogs and cats
  - Minimise potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance
  - Effectively identify all dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs and ensure that those dogs are kept in compliance with the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*
- Provide for review of existing orders made under the Act and local laws
- Provide for review of any other matter related to management of dogs and cats
- Provide periodic monitoring and evaluation of any programs, services, strategy or review outlines under the DAMP plan.

Council is required to review and, if appropriate, amend the DAMP on an annual basis and to include an evaluation of the implementation of the plan in the Annual Report.

## Acknowledgements

The Strathbogie Shire Council would like to thank the many community members who participated in the consultation. Your participation was valuable in developing the plan.

Thank you to the councillors for providing their feedback. Thank you also to the community safety team who provided input towards the development of the plan.

## Tracking Our Progress

In accordance with the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* Council will:

- review the Domestic Animal Management Plan annually to ensure actions and priorities are still relevant and can be completed within available resources
- provide community with annual updates on the progress of actions in the plan
- undertake a major review of the plan in 2028-2029
- provide the Secretary with a copy of the plan
- provide the Secretary with an annual report highlighting progress against the actions and any amendments to priority actions.

## **Contact Strathbogie Shire Council**

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