

Cardinia Shire Council

Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021-25

Consultation Draft

CONTENTS

DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLANS	4
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	5
INTRODUCTION	6
Purpose of the Plan	6
Mission Statement	6
Link to Cardinia's Council Plan and Vision	6
Shire Profile	7
Council's Animal Management Service	8
Key Outcomes of DAM Plan 2017-2021	9
Consultation Process	10
Community Input	10
Structure of this Plan	12
STRATEGIC THEMES AND ACTION PLANS	13
1. TRAINING OF AUTHORISED OFFICERS	13
Current situation	13
Current and planned training table	14
2. REGISTRATION AND PERMANENT IDENTIFICATION	15
Current situation	15
Discussion	16
Action plan – Registration and Permanent Identification	16
3. NUISANCE DOGS AND CATS	18
Current situation	18
Discussion	19
Action plan – Nuisance Dogs and Cats	20
4. DOG ATTACKS	22
Current situation	22
Discussion	22
Action plan – Dog Attacks	24
5. DANGEROUS, MENACING & RESTRICTED BREED DOGS	26
Current situation	26
Discussion	26
Action plan – Dangerous, Menacing and Restricted Breed Dogs	27
6. PET OVERPOPULATION AND HIGH EUTHANASIA RATES	29
Current situation	29
Discussion	29
Action plan - Overpopulation and High Euthanasia Rates	30
7. DOMESTIC ANIMAL BUSINESSES	32
Current situation	32
Discussion	33

Action plan - Domestic Animal Businesses	33
8. OTHER MATTERS	34
Current situation	34
Discussion	34
Action plan – Other Matters	34
ANNUAL REVIEW OF PLAN AND REPORTING	36

DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLANS

Section 68A of the Domestic Animals Act 1994, requires every Council in Victoria to prepare, in consultation with the Secretary¹, a Domestic Animal Management Plan. A new Plan must be prepared every 4 years.

Each Domestic Animal Management Plan must:

- 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
- 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
- Outline programs, services and strategies which the Council intends to pursue in its municipal district 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 this Act and the regulations; and
- 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
- 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
- Provide for the periodic evaluation of any program, service, strategy or review outlined under the Plan.

Every Council must:

- Review its Domestic Animal Management Plan annually and, if appropriate, amend the Plan;
- Provide the Secretary with a copy of the Plan and any amendments to the Plan; and
- Publish an evaluation of its implementation of the Plan in its annual report.

¹ Secretary means the person who is, for the time being, the Department Head of the Department of Economic, Jobs, Training and Resources (s68A of the DAA)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *Domestic Animals Act 1994* requires all Councils in Victoria to prepare a Domestic Animal Management (DAM) Plan. Each Plan is required to be reviewed annually and renewed every 4 years. The Plans relate to Council's management of dogs and cats.

This is Cardinia Shire's DAM Plan for 2021-2025. It has been prepared following a review of Council's current services, programs and strategies together with feedback received from Councillors, Council staff and the community. It addresses Council's responsibilities under the DAA as well as the local laws and orders relating to dogs and cats.

The Plan is structured around the following 8 strategic themes:

- Training of Authorised Officers
- Registration and Identification
- Nuisance dogs and cats
- Dog Attacks
- Dangerous, Menacing and Restricted Breed Dogs
- Overpopulation and Euthanasia
- Domestic Animal Businesses
- Other matters

INTRODUCTION

The Domestic Animals Act 1994 (the DAA) provides the foundation for Cardinia Shire's animal management service. Its purpose is to promote animal welfare, the responsible ownership of dogs and cats and the protection of the environment.

Every Victorian Council is required to produce a Domestic Animal Management (DAM) Plan which is reviewed annually and renewed every 4 years. This is Cardinia Shire's Plan for 2021-2025.

Purpose of the Plan

The Plan will guide Cardinia Shire in its service to the community, increasing the likelihood of animals being reunited with their owners and reducing the number of dogs and cats in shelters and potentially being euthanased.

It will assist the Shire in minimising nuisance and possible danger created by some dogs and cats. It will also ensure that officers responsible for implementing the plan are skilled and trained to effectively deliver the service.

The plan sets out a method for evaluating whether the animal control services provided by Cardinia Shire Council is adequate to give effect to the requirements of the Act and the regulations; and outline programs for the training of authorised officers to ensure that they can properly administer and enforce the requirements of the Act in Cardinia Shire Council.

Mission Statement

To encourage and facilitate responsible pet ownership through education and innovative strategies that allows people and pets to integrate safely and harmoniously within Cardinia Shire.

Link to Cardinia's Council Plan and Vision

Cardinia's Council Plan 2021-2025 (June 2021) is Council's key strategic document that will that help to prepare for the challenges ahead. It will deliver Council's vision by focusing efforts on:

- **Strong communities**
- **Liveable places**
- **Thriving Environments**
- **Prosperous economies**

while also being **responsible leaders**

The Cardinia DAM Plan links with the Council Plan and will support achieving these keys directions by delivering the following:

Council Plan	Action delivered through the DAM Plan
Strong communities	<p>Conducting community engagement during key animal management projects or Local Law reviews to ensure residents are involved in the decision making when it comes to matters involving their cats and dogs.</p> <p>Responsible pet ownership can be a feature of strong communities.</p>
Liveable Places	<p>Provide places for people to exercise their dogs in line with community expectations. This includes monitoring the community's needs and actively patrolling and monitoring public spaces to ensure they are safe and can be enjoyed by all residents throughout the Shire.</p> <p>Educate the community and enforce the requirements of the Domestic Animals Act 1994 and Council's local laws relating to the keeping of dogs and cats.</p>
Thriving environments	The potential impacts of dogs and cats on the environment is considered in this Plan.

Shire Profile

Cardinia Shire is situated about 55 kilometres south-east of the Melbourne CBD and is one of eight 'interface Councils' forming the perimeter of metropolitan Melbourne, providing a transition between urban and rural areas.

The Shire's population is 112,000. This is up from approximately 99,000 in 2017. The population is forecast to grow to 162,000 by 2031². Currently, there are 3 new families moving to the Shire each day. It is one of the fastest growing municipalities in Victoria.

Neighbouring councils include Casey, Yarra Ranges, Baw Baw, South Gippsland and Bass Coast Councils.

It comprises 1,280 square kilometres of land – which is larger than Casey Council (395sqkm) and Bass Coast Council (866sqm) but smaller than Baw Baw Shire (4,027sqkm) and Yarra Ranges Shire (166,396sqkm³).

The Shire has 3 distinct geographic areas. Each presents different challenges for the domestic animal management service.

Our **urban areas** of Beaconsfield, Pakenham and Officer and our railway towns of Nar Nar Goon, Tynong, Garfield and Bunyip are a mix of traditional country towns and new metropolitan areas.

Our **hills area** sits at the Dandenong Ranges foothills and is home to country charm villages including Emerald, Gembrook, Cockatoo and Upper Beaconsfield.

Our **southern rural area** has rich, productive landscapes that support local farming, food production and rural living across our townships including Koo Wee Rup and Lang Lang. The area also includes internationally significant Ramsar wetlands which support migratory shorebirds and other waterbirds, fish and marine invertebrates.

² This growth will predominately be in Pakenham, Officer, Officer South, Beaconsfield and Nar Nar Goon North.

³ 68% of Yarra Ranges Shire is crown land.

Council's Animal Management Service

Cardinia Shire's Compliance Services department is primarily responsible for implementing and managing the Domestic Animal Management Plan. This department sits within the Regulatory Services Department of Cardinia Shire.

Compliance Services Officers are trained and dedicated to maintaining community safety and amenity. This is achieved by balancing enforcement activities with community education and compliance. The current staffing structure is provided on page 14.

In addition to administering the state-wide requirements of the DAA, Council has the following requirements that are also administered by the Compliance Services Department:

- *Cats are required to be desexed* - All cats over the age of 3 months must be desexed (Council Order pursuant to DAA and s46 of Local Law No 17).
- *Dogs are required to be leashed in public places except in dedicated dog off-leash areas* (Council Order pursuant to DAA and s46 of Local Law No 17).
- *Dog owners are required to carry a bag that is suitable to remove their dogs' faeces from public places* (Council Order pursuant to DAA and s46 of Local Law No 17).
- *24 hour Cat Curfew* - All cats are required to be confined to their owner's property (Council Order pursuant to DAA and s46 of Local Law No 17).
- *Keeping multiple animals* - A permit is required to keep more animals than the amount specified in the tables below (s40 of Local Law No 17).

	Land less than 1000m2	Land less than or equal to 4000m2	Land greater than 4000m2
Cats	2	2	4
Dogs	2	2	4

The following standard procedures and policies are used in the animal management service.

- Compliance Services – Picking up Cats Procedure
- Compliance Services – Picking up Dogs Procedure
- Compliance Services – After hours Procedure
- Compliance Services – Handling Domestic Animals procedure
- Compliance Service – Declared Dog and Destruction Procedure.
- Use of Bite Sticks Policy
- Declared Dog Audit policy
- Compliance Services – Dog Attack Prosecution Policy
- Seizure of Dogs During Investigation Policy (Draft)

Key Outcomes of DAM Plan 2017-2021

The table below lists the outcomes of the actions in the DAM Plan 2017-21

Sec	Program/service initiative	Action	Completed/outcome
9.1	Conduct Animal Management Officer Training.	Arrange attendance at all Animal Welfare Victoria Training Seminars. Animal management handling and training. Training programs with other Councils.	All staff attended Animal welfare Victoria training sessions including, additional specific animal training programs. Training provided by local dog training organisation which included dog and cat handling using live animals.
9.2	Promote and Encourage responsible Pet Ownership.	Distribute pet brochures throughout Cardinia. Introduce dog off-leash areas. Display pet educational material at Cardinia Civic Centre and maintain and update information on Council's website. Encourage re-housing practices, where pet owners are unable to care for their pet. Enforce Council Local Laws that require all cats over 3 months of age to be de-sexed.	Brochures have been produced and distributed from Civic Centre. Information listed on Council's website. Extensive media releases during life of Plan. Agreement with Lost Dogs Home to rehouse all unclaimed pets where possible.
9.3	Ensure compliance with Act and Regulations.	Conduct an annual doorknock to identify and register all dogs and cats. Provide 24 hour 7 day per week response service. Enforce microchip requirements for all new pet registrations. Monitor compliance of dogs on leash in public areas.	Doorknocks have been conducted each year to identify unregistered dogs and cats. After hours service has continued dealing with all pet related issues. Council will only accept dog and cat registrations that show proof of micro chipping. All off leash parks are regularly patrolled with no incidents reported to date at any off leash location.
9.4	Minimise the risk of dog attacks.	Monitor and review dog off-leash areas. Conduct regular patrols of all council parks and reserves. Ensure properties have suitable fencing to securely contain dogs.	All off leash parks have been regularly checked by staff. Since introduction of leash free areas there have been minimal reports of any animal behavioural issues at off leash parks. Notices have been issued to properties for failing to provide adequate fencing to secure dogs.
9.5	Address over population and high euthanasia of dogs and cats.	Encourage re-housing and adoption of unwanted dogs and cats. Hire of cat cages for trapping of feral cats.	Cat traps are readily available for hire. Unclaimed dogs and cats that pass assessments have been rehoused.

Sec	Program/service initiative	Action	Completed/outcome
9.6	Encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats.	Annual mail out of dog/cat registration renewal forms. Mail out reminder notices for unpaid animal registrations.	Registration renewal forms sent out mid-February each year. Final Reminder notices sent out mid-May each year. Regular media releases encouraging pet registration, web site notice referring to pet registration.
9.7	Minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance.	Encourage the use of cat enclosures. Hire of anti-barking collars. Pet owners to carry dog tidy bags when walking dogs.	In cases of cat wandering issues officers have promoted the installation of cat enclosures. Letter box drops of brochures for reports of wandering cats. Cat cage hire available. Anti-barking collars readily available for hire.
9.8	Dangerous Dogs, Menacing Dogs and Restricted Breed Dogs.	Programmed inspections of registered properties housing Restricted, Declared or Menacing Dogs. Ensure information is readily available that clearly outlines restrictions for the above dogs.	All properties housing RBDs, Dangerous/Menacing dogs are audited. Inspections carried out on registered American Staffs, all new registration applications for American Staff/ Staffs are inspected prior to registration approval.
9.9	Review existing orders made under the Act and Local Laws.	Restrict the number of dogs and cats permitted on a property without a permit. Review of dog off-leash zones.	2 dogs and 2 cats permitted, an excess animal permit is available to residents to keep more than above providing relevant conditions are accepted with appropriate housing

Consultation Process

The plan was developed in consultation with Cardinia Shire Councillors, Cardinia Shire Senior Leadership Team, Manager Regulatory Services, Coordinator Compliance Services, Compliance Services Team and the Cardinia community.

Community Input

Council sent a survey out to a subset of residents with a registered dog and cat. The survey was administered online and all registered dog and cat owners who had provided a valid email address were invited to participate. 6969 of the 10,846 households with a registered dog or cat had an email (64%) and were therefore sent an invitation to participate in the survey. 1,288 of these completed the survey (18% of those emailed, 12% of all households with a registered pet).

There were also 359 people identified from the Customer Relationship Management (CRM) database who had contacted Council in the previous 12 months, provided a valid email address and who had not already been sent the survey. These people were also invited to participate and 54 completed the survey (15%).

The survey was open from 12-18 January 2022 and was managed through the Lime survey surveying system. A total of 1,342 people completed the survey. The following is a summary of the findings.

Awareness of Council requirements relating to the type of pet you own:

- There is a very high (above 90% of respondents) level of awareness of Council requirements relating to i) the requirement for dogs and cats to be registered and microchipped, to carry a dog poo bag in public places, and for dogs to be on leash except in designated off leash areas
- There is a high (above 80%) level of awareness of Council's 24-hour cat curfew, that cats must be desexed before they are registered and that Council has dedicated off-leash parks.

Information deemed useful to help with owning a dog or cat:

- The most useful information relates to Council rules and regulations, finding a local and emergency veterinarian and how to know if a breeder is legitimate/reputable.
- 22% of respondents said they already know all they need to know.
- A high number of respondents trust Council to provide information on a wide range of topics.
- The 3 most popular methods to receive Council information included with registration renewals, on Council's website and in a new pet owner pack. Less popular methods included via rates notice, *Connect* magazine, social media and brochures/flyers in the mail.
- Most respondents indicated that they do not need any more information about responsible pet ownership (73%). 19% said they need some more information and only 1% said they need a lot more information.
- The most significant priorities for Council were nominated as cats roaming outside their property (43%), uncollected dog poo (36%) dog attacks (31%), nuisance barking (26%, dogs off-leash where or when they shouldn't be (36%) and dogs not confined to their property (21%).
- 23% of dog owners walk their dog in an off-leash area once or more a week. Half said they never walk their dog off-lead in designated off-leash area.
- The most important reasons influencing choice of off-leash park is that it is close to home (58%), it is a large space (46%), it is a secure/fenced space for dogs (37%), it has interesting areas for my dog to explore (36%) and it provides socialisation for my dog (31%).
- Awareness of off-leash areas is relatively low (37% overall). It is highest amongst the under-35s (51%).
- Those respondents who let their cat roam mostly do so due to a perception that it is too difficult to keep their cat contained. More than half of those who let their cat roam freely at night say that it is too difficult to keep their cat contained (57%) and a similar proportion say their cat doesn't like being contained (57%). Almost half of those who let their cat roam freely during the day and four in ten of those who let their cat roam freely at night believe that their cat does not catch wildlife because it has a bell (46% and 43% respectively).
- Allowing a cat to roam is significantly more common amongst households in the Hills region (32%, compared to 16% Growth). This suggests that the Hills region would be the best place to start with regards to improving adherence to containment rules.
- 14% of those who said they allow their cat to roam freely (n=83) indicated that they were not aware of the cat curfew, and 7% were unsure; meaning most of those who admit to letting their cat roam freely know they shouldn't. Of those who said their cat is too difficult to contain (n=48), 17% were unaware of the cat curfew, and a further 17% were not sure.

- Respondents were advised that their registration fees were used for off-leash parks, collecting and returning pets, following up complaints, investigation of dog attacks and cat trapping programs. 78% of respondents said this was excellent, good or acceptable value for money. 15% of respondents said this was poor or very poor value for money and 7% said they did not know if was good value or not.
- Of those who have made contact with Council in the last 12 months regarding an animal management issue, 48% said they were satisfied or very satisfied with the outcome of their enquiry. 32% said they were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied.
- The most significant issues experienced by respondents but not reported to Council included unretrieved dog poo (most common in the growth area i.e. 58%), seeing a dog off leash where it shouldn't be (38%) and neighbours dogs barking (25%). Those in the Hills region more commonly report having seen or picked up a lost dog (20%) and a high proportion of respondents from the eastern region (33%) report not seeing any domestic animal management issues.

Structure of this Plan

The Plan is structured on the following Strategic Themes:

1. Training of Authorised Officers
2. Registration and Identification
3. Nuisance dogs and cats
4. Dog Attacks
5. Dangerous, Menacing and Restricted Breed Dogs
6. Overpopulation and Euthanasia
7. Domestic Animal Businesses
8. Other matters

The mechanisms for conducting annual reviews and reporting and for making amendments to the Plan are contained at the end of the Plan. Local Law 17 is appended to the Plan.

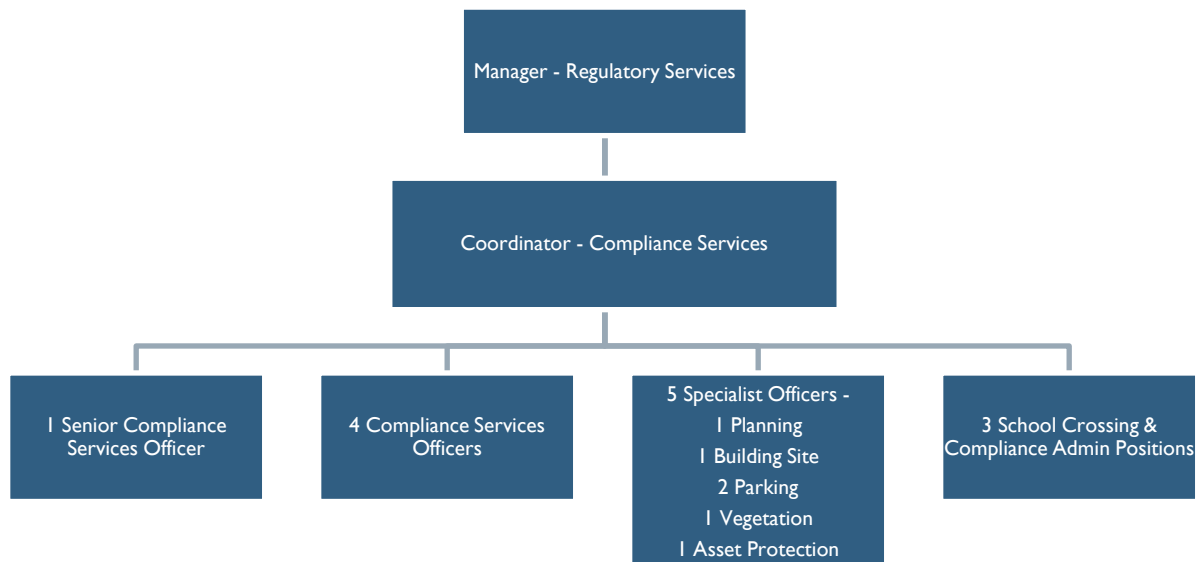
STRATEGIC THEMES AND ACTION PLANS

1. TRAINING OF AUTHORISED OFFICERS

The purpose of this section is to ensure all animal management officers are skilled and appropriately trained to deliver our services and programs under Section 68A(2)(b) of the DAA.

Current situation

There are ten field officers within the Compliance Services Unit, six of whom deal with animal management issues as part of their daily work activity. In addition to animal management, all officers also undertake planning enforcement, local laws and parking enforcement. The organisational structure is set out in the chart below.



The Compliance Services Unit works to detailed Standard Operating Procedures to ensure consistency of approach across the team. Staff are trained and experienced in conducting animal management investigations.

New officers are required to undertake a structured induction program focusing on the skills needed to be an effective authorised officer. Ongoing training is also undertaken.

Current and planned training table

Authorised Officer Training	Current (2017)	Planned
Industry training – animal handling, animal assessment, statement taking, prosecution, computer skills	Staff are routinely required to attend industry training.	Annually
OHS training – dealing with aggressive customers	Training is offered annually as internal training available to all council staff	Annually
Bureau of Animal Welfare – training and information days	All Compliance Staff attend these sessions on a rotating basis or as they become available	As listed by Animal Welfare Victoria
Induction program for new staff – animal handling	All staff as part of their induction process are taken through a training program that covers such issues as, manual handling, use of animal specific equipment, procedures, animal diseases, dog/cat behaviour, aggressive dogs, feral cats and body language.	All new staff
Authorised Officer Training	Council’s prosecution team is currently developing a comprehensive training program for new authorised officers to be completed within the first 6 months of starting	2022/2023
Internal Organisational Training	Staff attend in-house training over a range of case management principles	Annually
Animal handling training provided by Accredited Trainer	All staff attended “hands on” animal handling training that deals with, seizing dogs, aggressive dogs, behavioural issues, cat trapping, handling cats.	Training will be offered on a rotational basis depending on availability
DNA sample taking	Currently investigating training courses for AMO’s to be trained and authorised in DNA sample taking	Applicable trainer has not been offering course, will re-assess 2022/2023

2. REGISTRATION AND PERMANENT IDENTIFICATION

The purpose of this section is to identify services and strategies to encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats under Section 68A(2)(c)(v) of the DAA.

Current situation

All dogs and cats over the age of 3 months are required to be registered (s10(1) of the DAA). Animal registrations need to be renewed in April each year.

All dogs and cats are also required to be implanted with a prescribed permanent identification device (e.g. microchip) before it is registered with unless the animal is exempt pursuant to the exemptions listed in the DAA (s10C of the DAA).

In addition:

- Council requires evidence that cats over 3 months are desexed before it can be registered.
- Households with multiple pets must have a permit as required by Local Law 17.

Our current data 2021-22:

	Registered	Desexed (%)	Totals animals registered
Cats	3695	3400 (92%)	17239
Dogs	13,511	11,025 (82%)	

9,686 households in Cardinia Shire own a pet. This is approximately 18% of the Shire's total number of households.

Current Orders, Local Laws, Council Policies and Procedures

- Cat desexing: All cats over the age of 3 months must be desexed (Council Order pursuant to DAA and s46 of Local Law No 17).
- Animal numbers: A permit from Council is required to keep more animals than the amount specified in the tables below (s40 of Local Law No 17).
- Compulsory microchipping of dogs and cats for all registrations.

	Land less than 1000m2	Land less than or equal to 4000m2	Land greater than 4000m2
Cats	2	2	4
Dogs	2	2	4

Our Current Education/Promotion Activities

- Quarterly media releases promoting pet registration in all local newspapers, on Council's website and 'Connect' Magazine.
- Free registration of dogs and cats under the age of three months for first year of registration.
- Registration of pets readily available on Council's website.
- Annual mailout of dog and cat registration renewal forms, followed up with a reminder and final notice.
- Follow up of non-renewal of registrations and conduct cold-calling to for registrations which have not been renewed and SMS reminders.

- Free dog and cat transfer of registration when relocating to Cardinia Shire Council, if the animals are currently registered with another Council.
- Half price dog and cat registration when animal has been obtained from an approved shelter.

Discussion

Registration is important because it assists in the return of lost animals to their owner including in some circumstances direct return without the need for them enter the pound. It also funds the animal management service.

The number of registrations varies year to year. The variation is a function of new registrations and animals that are removed from the register because the animal has died, the owner has moved, the pet is no longer living with them or because the owner has not renewed the registration. There has been a recent increase in pet ownership associated with the COVID 19 pandemic. Many of these are first time pet owners.

Planning for a long-term significant increase in the number of registered dogs and cats accompanying significant population growth will need to be addressed in forward planning.

Community feedback suggests there is a high level of awareness of the requirement to both microchip and register dogs and cats. However with an average of 3 new households moving into the Shire each day, there is ongoing challenge to secure first registrations. Officers also report that some pet owners believe that a microchip means their pet is also registered.

Action plan – Registration and Permanent Identification

Objective 1: To ensure all dogs and cats are registered and permanently identified Council as required by the DAA.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Provide comprehensive information on Council's website about registration and identification requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ requirements to register and permanently identify their dog and cat ▪ benefits of registration and permanent identification ▪ when registration is due ▪ how and where to register ▪ fee structure ▪ information to provide (e.g. microchipping, desexing certificates) ▪ how to notify Council that they are no longer the owner, they have changed address or the pet is deceased ▪ highlight renewal period in March and April 	Ongoing	Promotes compliance.
Review information provided on Council's website relating to dog and cat registration and identification for its clarity and detail	2022/2023	Improves dissemination of information to the community Increases registered number of dogs/cats

Activity	When	Evaluation
Mail out registration renewal forms.	Annually (Feb)	Provides residents every opportunity to register they pets prior to 10 April.
Issue media releases through Council's Communication Department, published in the internal Council magazine notifying residents of the requirements relating to registration requirements, including renewal date and animals to which a reduced fee applies.	Annually (Feb)	Raises awareness relating to responsible ownership. Assists AMOs ensuring strays can be returned as soon as collected. Promotes compliance.
Mail out of final notices for registration renewals.	Annually (June)	Increases registered number of dogs/cats
Send out SMS reminder alerts to owners of animals who haven't paid for registration by the due date.	Annually (May)	Increases registered number of dogs/cats
Complete an annual audit of unpaid registrations by way of cold calling or systematic door knocking program	Annually (Oct)	Increases registered number of dogs/cats Cleanse data of pets that should be removed from the database.
Offer transfer of current registration from other municipalities	Ongoing	Encourages new residents to transfer registration
Provide online registration/renewal, and a range of registration payment methods – credit card, BPay, cheque.	Ongoing	Convenience for public.
Allow residents to view their registration details via Council's website and make minor changes.	Ongoing	Promotes accurate information and customer friendly access.
Pro rata rates for the yearly registration mid-year.	October, annually	Encourages greater uptake of registration throughout the year
Waive registration fees for adopted dogs or cats in the first year of registration	Ongoing	To reward residents who adopt animals through pounds or shelters.

3. NUISANCE DOGS AND CATS

The purpose of this section is to outline the programs, services and strategies to minimise the potential for dogs and cats to cause a nuisance under Section 68A(2)(c)(vi) of the DAA.

Cardinia Shire Council's Local Law 17 sets out laws which must be complied with by all residents and provides Compliance Services Officers the tools required to handle such complaints.

Current situation

Our current data:

Activity	2019/2020	2020/2021
Pick up contained dog	12	21
Dogs reported wandering at large	50	60
Barking dog complaints	248	238
Pick up contained cat	29	13
Cat nuisance	133	162

Our Current Orders, Local Laws, Council Policies and Procedures

- Compulsory de-sexing of all cats over the age of 3 months (Domestic Animals Act 1994 s.10A(1)).
- Dogs must be on leash at all times unless in designated off-leash zones (Cardinia Shire Council Local Law 17 s. 45.)
- All cats must be secured to the premises of the owner (Domestic Animals Act 1994 s.25(1)).

Our Current Procedures

- Handling 'aggressive dogs'
- Collection of dogs after hours
- Decision making of declaring dogs 'Dangerous, Restricted Breed, Menacing.'
- Manual Handling - lifting into and removing dogs from vehicles.
- Manual Handling – transferring feral cats from cages.
- Difficult Client Procedure
- Cardinia Shire Council's Local Law 17 (Refer Appendix A,B,C,D,E and F of the Local Law at Appendix 1)

Our Current Education/Promotion Activities

- Provide educational material through letterbox drops and advocate responsible ownership relating to confinement of cats and dogs and animal nuisance.
- Provide information on Council's website to report nuisance animal complaints.
- Media releases – Animal Nuisance.

Our Current Compliance Activities

Prosecute pet owners where applicable, relating to breaches of Council's Local Law and non-compliance with the Domestic Animals Act 1994.

Actively deal with barking dog complaints and take enforcement action where applicable;

- Issue 'Warning Notices' and 'Notices to Comply.'
- Issue Infringement Notices.
- Programmed patrols of areas.
- Provide cat and dog traps.
- Provide 24-hour service for the collection of dogs, nuisance animals, stray animals and dog attacks.
- Initial robust inspection and consideration of all excess animal permits, including consultation with potential affected residents
- Unscheduled inspections of all declared Dangerous, Menacing and Restricted Breeds dogs.

Discussion

Dogs cause a nuisance when they bark excessively, wander at large, are not kept under effective control by their owner in public places and when their faeces are not picked up in public places. Cats cause a nuisance when they wander at large including on to neighbouring properties.

Council receives many barking dog complaints. The number is expected to increase associated with the growth in population in general and the incidence development occurring on smaller lots sizes in particular. Many complaints are resolved quickly – by notifying the owner who may be unaware that there is problem. However many are not easily resolved and require time consuming investigation.

Council will investigate requiring prospective complainants to record the offensive barking in a diary format before lodging their formal complaint. The diaries are currently recorded after the formal complaint is made. This may streamline the assessment and resolution of the complaint.

The 24-hour cat curfew introduced in 2000 has helped to reduce the number of cats entering private properties along with reduction. Cat and dog traps are available for residents trap animals that are regularly present on their property.

Dogs are required to be leashed in public places except in a designated off leash park. Dogs are also required to be kept under effective control in an off-leash park. Dog owners are required to remove their dog's faeces from public places and are required to carry a bag suitable for removing dog faeces. These measures allow residents to comfortably enjoy public places throughout the Shire and ensures public safety. The information provided in relation to dogs in public places needs a detailed review and update.

Council's Local Law 17 will be reviewed in 2022.

Council's procedures relating to managing nuisance animals will be reviewed over the life of the Plan. The Barking Dog Procedure will be reviewed in 2022/2023.

Action plan – Nuisance Dogs and Cats

Objective 1: Provide readily accessible information to the public relating to animal nuisance

Activity	When	Evaluation
Review and update the online and paper-based information provided to residents about council's on and off leash areas making clear the location and boundaries of off-leash areas and the requirements applying in different spaces including the need to remove dog poo and carry a bag that is suitable for removing dog poo.	2022/2023	Comprehensive review undertaken.
Review and update signs in public places relating to leash and off leash requirements. Investigate a QR code link to council's website for more detailed information.	2023/2024	Review undertaken, signs updated. Further investigation into QR codes linking to website information
Promote and inform residents of the designated off-leash locations and the requirements in these areas.	Ongoing	Media releases, webpage and face to face contact in public places.
Provide information on Council's website with nuisance animal complaints including pet owner responsibilities, causes of excessive barking and suggestions for reducing a dogs' barking.	Ongoing	Easily accessible information available for the public.
Issue regular media releases on responsible ownership, dogs in public places, barking dogs and the need to contain dogs and cats to their property.	Quarterly	Informs and educates the public.
Ensure all eligible primary schools within the Shire are aware of the <i>Responsible Pet Ownership</i> primary school program that is offered to all primary schools each year by Animal Welfare Victoria	Annual	Maximise the number of schools within the Shire participating in the program each year

Objective 2: Ensure Council's policies and procedures are up to date and appropriate for Cardinia Shire

Activity	When	Evaluation
Review Local Law 17	2022	Review to be completed
Review Council's Off Leash Park Criteria and Designated Parks and Reserves	2022/2023	Extensive review of current off leash parks and criteria for designating new parks and reserves, including community consultation.
Review the Council Procedure in relation to the investigation of Barking Dog or nuisance noise complaints	2022/2023	Streamlined procedures and guidance for AMO's investigating complaints.
Conduct a review of all Council animal management procedures	2023/2024	Procedures reviewed and updated

4. DOG ATTACKS

The purpose of this section is to outline the programs, services and strategies to minimise the risk of injury to people and other animals resulting from dog attacks under Section 68A(2)(c)(iii) of the Domestic Animals Act 1994.

Current situation

Our current data:

Activity	2019/2020	2020/2021
Dog attack	46	43
Dog rush	21	21

All complaints of dog attacks are treated seriously and Council continually advocates that dog owners will be dealt with through enforcement if these breaches of law occur. These numbers are substantially lower than previous years, due to court closures and delays due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Cardinia Shire Council has a Dog Attack Policy to ensure that a consistent approach is taken by all Compliance Services Officers when investigating dog attack offences and when referring matters to the Magistrates Court.

Council on occasion exercises its discretionary power to impose a Dangerous Dog declaration, Menacing Dog declaration and to euthanize dogs in certain circumstances.

Our Current Orders, Local Laws, Council Policies and Procedures

- Leash requirement for dogs except in designated off-leash zones (Cardinia Shire Council Local Law 17 s. 45.)
- Effective control of dogs requirement in designated off-leash areas (Cardinia Shire Council Local Law 17 s. 45.)
- The After Hours Procedure which tightly monitors all requests that come in after hours.
- The Dealing with Difficult People procedure
- Cardinia Shire Council's Local Law 17
- Dog Control Decisions Policy
- Compliance and Enforcement Policy
- Dog Attack Policy

Our Current Education/Promotion Activities

- Quarterly media releases in all local newspapers, on Council's website and Cardinia 'Connect' Magazine advocating to the public to choose pets carefully.
- Media releases to inform the public of Council's prosecution results.
- Website information to report all dog attacks immediately.
- Designated off-leash parks

Discussion

Council is aware that not every dog attack is reported. This is why Council has a strong focus on encouraging people to report all dog attacks which occur.

Publication of Court outcomes is critical to keep the public informed and is used as a deterrent.

If a dog attack occurs, it is Council's responsibility to conduct a full investigation and bring the owner before the Court. The complaint is treated with the up most seriousness and is always followed up. Communication with the public is essential to give them every option to lodge a complaint. One dog attack is too many.

Most dog attacks and dog rushes occur in and around the family home (including on the footpath near the family home). Containing dogs to the property is a key measure to reduce dog attacks.

Dogs that have not been adequately socialised with humans and other dogs/animals are more likely to display aggressive tendencies. People should be encouraged to attend formal programs to socialise their dog and to expose their dog to a variety of situations.

It is important to ensure children know how to behave around dogs. This is especially important for children that don't live with or have experience with dogs. Animal Welfare Victoria's school and kindergarten programs are designed to reduce dog attacks on children. Council will encourage all schools and kindergartens to undertake the program.

Action plan – Dog Attacks

Objective 1: To provide readily accessible information to the public relating to the prevention of Dog Attacks (Education/Promotional Activities).

Activity	When	Evaluation
<p>Raise awareness of risk of dog attacks in the home, in the street and in parks and how to reduce these risks through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Distribution of brochures, factsheets and other material developed by the Bureau of Animal Welfare and/or Council, regarding dog attacks ▪ Information included with registration renewals ▪ Media releases in relation to successful prosecutions of dog attacks ▪ Actively promoting the Bureau of Animal Welfare Responsible Pet Ownership (RPO). ▪ Providing information to vets, pet shops, breeders, shelters, etc, to display and/or hand out ▪ Council's social media (Facebook, Twitter) 	Ongoing throughout each year.	<p>Reduction in the number of dog attacks</p> <p>Less dogs and cats at large</p> <p>Reduction in the number of nuisance animal complaints</p>
<p>Provide information on how to report dog attacks – if bitten or witness an attack on a person or animal.</p> <p>Promote and encourage the reporting of dog attacks whether on public or private property</p> <p>Provide information on the consequences of a dog attack.</p>	Ongoing throughout each year.	<p>Media releases</p> <p>Council website</p> <p>Council magazine</p>
Review signage in public places. Investigate a QR code link to Council's website with important information	2022	<p>Council's website</p> <p>On ground signage</p>
Actively encourage all eligible kindergartens within the Shire are aware of the Living Safely with Dogs program offered by Animal Welfare Victoria.	Annual	Maximise the number of kindergartens within the Shire participating in the program each year
Actively encourage all eligible primary schools within the Shire are aware of the Responsible Pet Ownership primary school program that is offered to all primary schools each year by Animal Welfare Victoria	Annual	Maximise the number of schools within the Shire participating in the program each year

Objective 2: To provide readily accessible information to the public relating to the prevention of Dog Attacks (Compliance Activities).

Activity	When	Evaluation
Maintain dog attack investigation and enforcement policy and procedures.	In place	Ensures consistency
Investigate all complaints regarding alleged dog attacks.	Ongoing	Audit carried out to ensure complaints have been investigated thoroughly
Respond to/attend dog attack reports as a matter of top priority for Animal Management Officers.	Ongoing	Ensures public safety
Conduct regular patrols to make sure dogs are confined to premises.	Ongoing	Day to day process Promotes compliance AMOs visible to public
Educate construction workers in new estate areas, etc, of the requirement to prevent their dogs from roaming.	Ongoing	Day to day patrols
Report outcomes of major dog attack prosecutions to local media to raise awareness in the community of the need to report dog attacks and Council's action in relation to attacks.	Ongoing	Public interest General deterrence
Provide an after-hours number to report dog attacks.	Ongoing	Through after hours' number Website Face to face
Dog control decision process is in place, and each prosecuted attack is considered in relation to this policy.	Ongoing	Provided to owners of attacking dogs and victims
Proactively patrol all designated off leash dog parks.	Ongoing	Ensures public safety

5. DANGEROUS, MENACING & RESTRICTED BREED DOGS

The purpose of this section is to outline the programs services and strategies to effectively identify all dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs in the Shire and to ensure that those dogs are kept in compliance with the DAA and its regulations.

Current situation

Declared	2016	2021
Dangerous Dogs	12	5
Restricted Breed Dogs	0	0
Menacing Dogs	37	19

Our Current Orders, Local Laws, Council Policies and Procedures

- Declared Dog Audit Policy
- Dog Attack Prosecution Policy
- Declared Dog and Destruction Procedure
- Seizure of dogs Under Investigation Procedure (draft at the time of writing)
- Dog Control Decisions Policy
- Compliance and Enforcement Policy
- Dog Attack Policy
- The Coordinator Compliance Services maintains and provides details of Dangerous Dogs, Restricted Breed Dogs and Menacing Dogs on the Victorian Declared Dog Registry (VDDR) (s.44AE).

Our Current Education/Promotion Activities

- Quarterly media releases in all local newspapers, on Council's website and Cardinia 'Connect' Magazine encouraging people to choose pets carefully.
- Media releases to inform the public of Council's prosecution results.
- Website information to report all dog attacks immediately
- Brochure sent to all dog owners "Things you should know about restricted breed dogs."

Our Current Compliance Activities

- Unscheduled audits of all properties housing declared dangerous and restricted breed.
- Coordinator – Compliance Services maintains and provides details of Dangerous Dogs, Restricted Breed Dogs and Menacing Dogs on the Victorian Declared Dog Registry (VDDR) (s.44AE).
- Investigations when the public reports possible restricted breed dogs.
- Strict monitoring of owners of declared dogs.
- All breaches are dealt with through enforcement, infringement notices or lodgement before a magistrate.

Discussion

The DAA has strict requirements for dealing with dogs that have been declared dangerous or menacing and dogs that are of a restricted breed. Council will continue to ensure such dogs are identified and their owners are aware of and comply with their responsibilities. Such dogs are strictly monitored with formal and on the spot inspections to ensure compliance and overall public safety.

All enquiries from the public regarding the possible incidence of a dangerous dog within the Shire are dealt with immediately. Council also seeks to identify any declared dogs that may be present in the municipality but are not present as such on Council records.

Action plan – Dangerous, Menacing and Restricted Breed Dogs

Objective 1: To provide readily accessible information to the public relating to Dangerous, Menacing and Restricted Breed Dogs (Education/Promotional Activities).

Activity	When	Evaluation
Provide residents with information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The types of declared dogs and how they are to be identified and kept in compliance with the Act and Regulations, including prescribed collars, signage at premises, housing requirements, muzzling, etc ▪ How to report menacing dogs, dog bites 	Ongoing	Website. Face to face. Media releases.
Ensure all owners of declared dogs are aware of their obligations under the Act regarding identification and keeping these dogs by providing them with relevant sections of the Act, brochures, fact sheets/develop information kit.	Annually (Feb)	Education. Gains compliance. Provides owners of declared dogs every opportunity to comply.
Patrol industrial sites or building sites that may have guard dogs to promote legislative requirements.	Ongoing	Education. Promotes public safety and compliance with the Act.

Objective 2: To provide readily accessible information to the public relating to Dangerous, Menacing and Restricted Breed Dogs (Compliance Activities).

Activity	When	Evaluation
Ensure that Council's declaration policies and procedures are sound and robust to support any appeals to VCAT. Ensure Council has specific declaration procedures for each of type of declaration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dangerous dogs ▪ Menacing dogs ▪ Restricted breed dogs 	Annually	Ensures consistency.
Ensure all declared dogs are accurately registered on the Victorian Declared Dog Registry and that details regarding change of owner/change of address/death of dog are updated as soon as possible.	Ongoing	Legislative requirement. Consistency. Accurate record keeping.
Respond to complaints regarding Menacing, Dangerous and Restricted Breed dogs as a matter of priority and urgency.	Ongoing	Promotes public safety. Public awareness.
Report outcomes of all prosecutions regarding non-compliance with declared dog identification. Promote compliance requirements through the media to raise awareness in the community about Dangerous, Menacing and Restricted Breed dogs.	Ongoing	Promotes compliance.
Conduct annual audits of the premises of all dangerous or restricted dogs	Annually	Ensures compliance
Follow-up non-compliance issues until owner complies.	Ongoing audits	Legislative requirement.
Use microchip registries to identify possible restricted breed dogs within the municipality.	Ongoing	Ensures compliance

6. PET OVERPOPULATION AND HIGH EUTHANASIA RATES

The purpose of this section is to outline the services, programs and strategies to address overpopulation and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats under Section 68A(2)(c)(iv) of the DAA.

Current situation

In 2020/2021 341 dogs and cats entered Council's pound. The breakdowns are provided below.

Our current data 2020/2021:

Status	Dog	Cat	Total
Euthanized	7	74	81
Adopted	5	43	48
Reclaimed	173	39	212
Total	185	156	341

Our current Orders, Local Laws, Council Policies and Procedure

- Compulsory de-sexing of all cats over the age of 3 months, Cardinia Local Law No 17 Section 46
- 24 hour cat curfew - All cats must be secured to the premises of the owner. In accordance with section 25 of Domestic Animals Act.
- Cardinia Shire Council's Local Law 17

Our Current Education/Promotion Activities

- Media releases promoting responsible pet ownership and issues relating to breeding in local newspapers, on Council's website and Cardinia 'Connect' Magazine.
- Free registration of dogs and cats under the age of 3 months for first year of registration.
- Readily accessible information through brochures and fact sheets from the DPI relating to animal keeping.
- Reduced rate for the first year of registration for any adopted dogs and cats

Our Current Compliance Activities

- Ensure all cats are de-sexed prior to registration.
- All cats must be secured to the premises of the owner
- Hire of cat traps
- Issue infringement notices for dogs and cats found at large

Discussion

Cardinia Shire Council currently has three (3) families moving into the Shire every day, there is need for education through new resident's packs, and media releases to ensure compliance relating to animal keeping.

The implementation of compulsory de-sexing of all cats over the age of 3 months and the requirements to secure all cats to the owner's premises are a few tools used by Council to curb overpopulation and therefore reduce the euthanasia rate. Council hires cat traps to the public, which is received well.

Many well intentioned people feed stray or feral cats without taking on the full legal responsibility. These cats are known as semi-owned cats and by and large they are not desexed. Cats breed extremely fast, which is why it is so important that cats are desexed to prevent unwanted numbers.

Feeding an unowned cat and not taking full responsibility can contribute to cat overpopulation issues because the cats are strong enough to reproduce and therefore more kittens are brought into a life of disease and neglect which can have significant impacts on local wildlife and create amenity issues for residents. The main initiatives for addressing semi-owned cats are to promote awareness and encourage ownership.

Action plan - Overpopulation and High Euthanasia Rates

Objective 1: To provide readily accessible information to the public relating to Overpopulation and High Euthanasia (Education/Promotion Activities).

Activity	When	Evaluation
Promote confinement of animals to owner's premises to prevent straying and possible euthanasia, if not registered.	Ongoing	Promotes compliance. Assist public. Convenience for public.
Promote 'saving a life' by adopting cats/dogs from pound or shelter and promote the benefits of adoption from pound or shelter – e.g. usually cheaper than buying from a pet shop, breeder or on-line (especially when taking micro chipping, registration and desexing costs into account).	Annually	Promotes compliance. Assist public. Convenience for public. Media releases. Website. Council magazine.
Offer free first year of registration if proof provided that animal was adopted from an approved pound or shelter.	Ongoing	Promotes compliance. Assist public. Convenience for public. Media releases. Website. Council magazine.
Endeavour to return animals to owners on the first offence, if applicable	Ongoing	Provides an education opportunity
Actively promote the updating of microchipping information	Ongoing	Face to Face Website Media releases

Objective 2: To provide readily accessible information to the public relating to Overpopulation and High Euthanasia (Compliance Activities).

Activity	When	Evaluation
Provide information to residents about the implications of feeding unowned cats.	Ongoing	Reduce the incidence of people feeding unowned cats without taking full responsibility for them.
Promote the benefits of desexing of dogs and cats including the requirement that all cats in the Shire are desexed.	Ongoing	Promotes compliance. Assist public. Convenience for public.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Promote confinement of animals to owner's premises to prevent straying and possible euthanasia, if not registered.	Ongoing	Promotes compliance. Assist public. Convenience for public.
Promote 'saving a life' by adopting cats/dogs from pound or shelter and promote the benefits of adoption I from pound or shelter – e.g. usually cheaper than buying from a pet shop, breeder or on-line (especially when taking micro chipping, registration and desexing costs into account).	Annually	Promotes compliance. Assist public. Convenience for public. Media releases. Website. Council magazine.
Offer half prince first registration half price if proof provided that animal was adopted from an approved pound or shelter.	Ongoing	Promotes compliance. Assist public. Convenience for public. Media releases – Connect. Website.
Return animals to their owners, before utilising the pound.	Ongoing	Encourages registration and microchipping of pets Reduces fees and charges for owners
Offer cat trap hire to residents to assist with overpopulation of cats	Ongoing	Promotes compliance Assists public Reduces feral population and wildlife being killed

7. DOMESTIC ANIMAL BUSINESSES

The purpose of this section is to outline the services, programs and strategies to ensure all domestic animal businesses are managed appropriately and comply with Section 68A (2)(c)(ii) of the DAA.

Current situation

A Domestic Animal Business (DAB) is defined in the DAA. It means:

- An animal shelter, Council pound or pet shop, or
- An enterprise which carries out the breeding of dogs (other than GRV greyhounds) to sell if the enterprise has 3 or more fertile dogs and the proprietor is not a recreational breeder, or
- An enterprise which carries out the breeding of cats to sell if the enterprise has 3 or more fertile cats and the proprietor is not a recreational breeder, or
- An enterprise which trains or boards dogs (other than GRV greyhounds) or cats for the purposes of profit, or
- An enterprise which rears or keeps dogs (other than GRV greyhounds) or cats for the purpose of profit or sale or for a fee or for exchange of services.

Cardinia Shire Council currently has 17 registered DABs. This includes:

- 8 animal boarding establishments
- 3 animal breeding establishments
- 2 pet shops
- 4 training establishments

Each DAB needs to be registered in April each year. The registration process includes an inspection to ensure the DAB complies with all relevant legislation and codes of practice.

Proactive action is also taken to ensure existing businesses that are not currently registered with Council apply for the appropriate permits and operate in accordance with relevant legislation and codes of practice.

Current Orders, Local Laws, Council Policies and Procedures

- Cardinia Shire Council currently has no orders in place relating to Domestic Animal Businesses. Council acts in accordance with the requirements set in the Act.

Current Education/Promotion Activities.

- Registrations can be made via Council's website.
- Support and advice is provided to DABs as necessary.
- Information relating to DABs and the requirements and process for registration is provided on Council's website.
- Animal Welfare Victoria fact sheets are available at the Council offices and distributed to DABs as required.

Current Compliance Activities

- Pre-permit inspections, prior to granting a permit.
- Annual and random audits of all DABs to ensure they comply with relevant codes of practice.
- Regular patrols of newly set up or unregistered Domestic Animal Businesses.
- Enforcement of breaches in relation to permit conditions, non-compliance and unregistered businesses.

Discussion

Council has a strong focus on ensuring that businesses are operating in accordance with the requirements set. Cardinia Shire Council's Animal Management Officers have kept up with their annual and random inspections of all Domestic Animal Businesses.

Action plan - Domestic Animal Businesses

Objective 1: Identify and register all Domestic Animal Businesses (DABs) in the Shire.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Ensure all registered DABs are inspected and audited annually.	Annually	All registered DABs comply with relevant legislation and codes of practice.
Review information on Council's website regarding the registration of DABs	2022/2023	The information provided is up to date and appropriate.
Conduct unscheduled spot inspections of all DABs at least once a year.	Annually	All registered DABs comply with relevant legislation and codes of practice.
Ensure any issues of non-compliance are identified and followed up with information of required actions and timeframes for resolution including further inspections and prosecution where necessary.	Ongoing	All registered DABs comply with relevant legislation and codes of practice.
Conduct media communications regarding DAB definitions, the requirements for registration and applicable codes of practice.	Annually	Promote DAB registration and compliance with relevant legislation and codes of practice.
Actively seek to identify illegal DABs and action accordingly.	Ongoing	All DABs are identified, registered and comply with relevant legislation and codes of practice.
Respond to complaints regarding unregistered DAB's as a priority	Ongoing	All DABs operating are identified, registered and comply with relevant legislation and codes of practice.
Ensure Compliance is notified of any Council Planning applications for animal keeping, breeding and boarding.	Ongoing	Proposed DABs will be registered and comply with relevant legislation and codes of practice.
Respond to complaints regarding advertisements being placed in local newspapers, vet clinics and the internet to detect any unregistered DABs within the municipal district.	Ongoing	All DABs operating are identified, registered and comply with relevant legislation and codes of practice.

8. OTHER MATTERS

The purpose of this section is to outline the services, programs and strategies to ensure any other matter that may arise is considered under Section 68A (2)(e) of the DAA.

Current situation

The municipal district of the Cardinia Shire Council is located within both a bushfire and flood prone area. There were significant events in the Shire or both during the life of the last Plan. The issues for the animal management service is how to cater for domestic animals during an emergency relating to fire or flood.

Council's Emergency Management Team has identified several locations within the Shire to assist animal owners in such emergencies. Council also has engaged several boarding facilities which would cater for animals during these emergencies.

Council will continue to provide advice/brochures/media releases on what to consider for pets in an emergency – include their needs as part of their emergency planning, e.g. food, water, bowls, bedding, cage, medication, registration and micro chipping to help reunite pets with their owners after emergencies, external identification – e.g. collar with registration tag.

Implementation of program providing assistance to people escaping family violence. Free temporary animal shelter offered for those Cardinia residents leaving situations of family violence.

Discussion

Council will continue to encourage residents to include their pets in their Emergency Fire and Flood Plans.

Action plan – Other Matters

Objective 1: To ensure the safety through management of all domestic animals in emergency situations (Education/Promotion Activities).

Activity	When	Evaluation
Provide support for Council's Emergency Management Team in the development, review and implementation of the Municipal Emergency Animal Management Plan (MEAMP)	Ongoing	Mock Run Throughs Real Life Scenarios Education of Community
Provide information on Council's website about the need to include pets in household emergency management plans.	Ongoing	Information provided.
Promote implementation of free short term emergency housing of pets for victims leaving family violence (FV) situations.	2022	Information to relevant agencies dealing with victims of family violence. Information to be provided by officers where situations of FV found.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Ensure the Council's Pound Services Contract caters for displaced animals	Ongoing	Provisions in place Education of Community

Objective 2: To ensure the safety through management of all domestic animals in emergency situations (Compliance Activities).

Activity	When	Evaluation
Provide support for Council's Emergency Management Team in the development, review and implementation of the Municipal Emergency Animal Management Plan (MEAMP)	Ongoing	Mock Run Throughs Real Life Scenarios Education of Community
Ensure all Domestic Animal Businesses have a current Emergency Management Plan	Ongoing	AMO's to assess each year as part of audits

ANNUAL REVIEW OF PLAN AND REPORTING

The DAA requires the Plan to be reviewed annually. Specifically, Sections 68A(3) states that

Every Council must:

- (a) review its domestic animal management plan annually and, if appropriate, amend the plan
- (b) provide the Department of Primary Industries' Secretary 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.

Council will monitor performance of the objectives that are detailed throughout the Plan by:

- Reporting on KPIs to the Manager Regulatory Services.
- Establishing an annual action plan for reviewing the Plan and evaluating its implementation.
- Reporting annually through Council's established reporting procedures in accordance with the requirements of the DAA and Local Government Performance Reporting Framework.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Establish a framework for recording longitudinal animal management data. This will need to be considered in the context of the total population and households due to rapid housing and population growth.	2022/2023	Allows for long term trends to be reviewed.
Conduct an annual review of the DAM PLAN	October/November each year	Ensures the Plan continues to meets the current needs of the community and any legislative changes.
Update DAM PLAN if required	October/November each year	Ensures the Plan continues to meets the current needs of the community and any legislative changes.
Provide the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning a copy of the plan including any amendments.	October/November each year	Copy submitted
Publish an evaluation of the implementation of the DAM PLAN in the annual report.	With the annual report.	Evaluation published

APPENDIX 1

Cardinia Shire Council's Local Law 17

Appendix A

43. Animal noise

43.1 An owner or occupier of any land must take all reasonable steps:

43.1.1 to prevent any animal making unreasonable noise on the land; or

43.1.2 to prevent any noise caused by an animal being emitted from the land which in the opinion an Authorized Officer is:

43.1.2.1 unreasonable or objectionable to a person on other land or premises or;

43.1.2.2 adversely affects the amenity of any person on other land or premises.

Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units

43.2 For the purposes of Clause 43.1, in determining whether noise is unreasonable, objectionable or adversely affecting the amenity, regard must be had to:

43.2.1 its volume, intensity or duration; and

43.2.2 the time, place and other circumstances in which it is emitted.

43.3 For the purposes of Clause 43.1, reasonable steps to prevent the noise include (but are not limited to):

43.3.1 identifying and modifying stimuli or conspicuous causes of the animal's behaviour, and

43.3.2 controlling or modifying the physical environment in which the animal is kept, and

43.3.3 (where the animal causing the noise is a dog) the owner and the dog participating in behavioural training, and

43.3.4 (where the animal causing the noise is a dog) using an anti-barking citronella collar, and

43.3.5 (where the animal causing the noise is a dog, and where veterinary approval has been obtained) using a shock collar, and

43.3.6 obtaining advice from a veterinarian or animal behaviourist and implementing that advice, and

43.3.7 securing the animal within a dwelling unless supervised by a person capable of preventing the animal from making unreasonable or objectionable noise, or noise adversely affecting the amenity of any person on other land or premises, and

43.3.8 considering removal of the animal from the land or dwelling, and

43.3.9 keeping records of any steps taken, including the dates and times that steps were taken and the effectiveness of such steps, and providing those records to the Council upon request by an Authorised Officer.

Appendix B

44. Animal Waste

44. An owner or person in charge of a dog must:

61.1 not allow any part of that dog's excrement to remain on any road or public place or any other property not occupied by that person; and

61.2 ensure that the means by which to collect and dispose of that dog's excrement are carried and used by any person in charge of the dog.

61.3 not allow any animal excrement to be moved (whether by washing, sweeping of otherwise) from any property on to a road.

Appendix C

57. Keeping Animals

- 57.1 Unless in accordance with a permit, an owner or occupier of any residential property having an area less than or equal to 4,000 m² must not keep or allow to be kept on any such property (not being a flat) more than 2 dogs or 2 cats.
- 57.2 Unless in accordance with a permit, an owner or occupier of any residential property having an area greater than 4,000 m² must not keep or allow to be kept on any such property more than 4 dogs or 4 cats.
- 57.3 Unless in accordance with a permit, an owner of a residential property having an area less than 1,000 m² must not keep or allow to be kept on any such property any livestock.
- 57.4 This Clause does not apply where a town planning permit under the Cardinia Planning Scheme has been issued for the keeping of animals.
- 57.5 Despite the provisions of this Clause an authorised officer may allow a greater number of animals to be kept on premises.

Penalty: 20 Penalty Units

Appendix D

42. Animal buildings and cleanliness

42. 42.1 A person must not:

42.1.1 erect or use, or

42.1.2 allow the erection or use,
of a kennel, poultry house or pigeon loft unless it is:

42.1.3 in the case of a kennel, at least 1 metre from the boundary of any adjoining land, and

42.1.4 in the case of a poultry house or a pigeon loft, at least 3 metres from any neighbouring dwelling.

Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units

42.2 A person must not keep: 42.2.1 any poultry other than in a poultry house; or

42.2.2 any pigeons other than in a pigeon loft.

Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units

42.3 An owner or occupier of any land on which an animal is kept must ensure that the part of the property in which the animal is kept or which is used by the animal is: 42.3.1 maintained in a clean, inoffensive and sanitary condition; and

42.3.2 maintained so as not to cause a nuisance to any person or to be offensive, injurious to health or dangerous; and

42.3.3 provided with adequate clean drinking water; and

42.3.4 provided with adequate sustenance to the satisfaction of an Authorised Officer.

Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units

42.4 An owner or occupier of land on which any stallion, colt, bull, stag or other large sexually entire male animal is kept must ensure that the animal is kept in a secure enclosure, to the satisfaction of an Authorised Officer.

Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units

42.5 An owner or occupier of land on which any animal is kept must ensure that all food for consumption by animals (except hay) is kept or stored in rodent-proof receptacles or rodent-proof buildings.

Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units

60. Animal Noise

60.1 An owner or occupier of any property shall take all reasonable steps necessary to prevent any:

60.1.1 animal making a noise; or

60.1.2 noise caused by an animal being emitted from the property which is in the opinion of an authorized officer deemed to be

60.1.2.1 unreasonable or objectionable to or;

60.1.2.2 adversely affect the amenity of a person on other premises

60.2 For the purposes of Clause 60.1, in assessing whether noise is unreasonable, objectionable or adversely affecting the amenity, regard must be had to

60.2.1 its volume, intensity or duration; and

60.2.2 the time, place and other circumstances in which it is emitted.

Appendix E

45. Dogs to be on leads

45. A person who owns or is in apparent control of a dog in a public place must keep the dog under control by a leash, chain or cord connecting that person to the dog unless the public place is designated by Council signage to be an 'off leash' area.

Appendix F

46. Cats to be de-sexed

46. The owner of a cat over the age of 6 months must not keep the cat unless it is desexed, without a permit.

Appendix G

13. Behaviour in municipal buildings

13. A person must not, without the written consent of the Council:

13.1 organise, conduct or hold any function or event in a municipal building;

13.2 bring any animal into, or allow any animal under his or her control to remain in, a municipal building, except for a service dog being used by a person with a disability;

13.3 bring any vehicle or toy vehicle into a municipal building,

13.4 smoke any tobacco product inside or within 10 metres of any Municipal building;

13.5 bring into a municipal building any substance, liquid or powder which may:

13.5.1 be dangerous or injurious to health, or

13.5.2 have the potential to foul, pollute or soil any part of the municipal building; or

13.5.3 cause discomfort to persons.

Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units

Current Procedures

- Handling 'aggressive dogs'
- Collection of dogs after hours
- Decision making of declaring dogs 'Dangerous, Restricted Breed, Menacing.'
- Manual Handling - lifting into and removing dogs from vehicles.
- Manual Handling – transferring feral cats from cages.
- Difficult Client Procedure