



Dog and Cat Management Plan

2007/08 - 2011/12



PREPARATION DETAILS

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Dog and Cat Management Board Endorsement Date	June 2007
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Executive Summary

This Dog and Cat Management Plan has been prepared by the City of Salisbury in response to legislative requirements and the need to adopt a planned approach to the responsibilities under the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 which will guide dog and cat management over the next 5 years.

The requirement to prepare a Dog and Cat Management Plan was introduced under the recent amendments to the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995. The requirements under Section 26A of the Act provide that the Plan must cover the following areas.

- (1) Each council must prepare a plan relating to the management of dogs and cats within its area.
- (2) A plan of management must include provisions for parks where dogs may be exercised on and off-leash
- (3) A plan of management must be prepared and presented to the Board
- (4) A plan of management must be approved by the Board before it takes effect.
- (5) A council may with the approval of the Board, amend a plan of management.

The Plan developed by the City of Salisbury identifies strategies and actions to implement the mission and objectives for dog and cat management, and it contains recommendations for a wide range of actions to be undertaken by the City of Salisbury.

The actions were identified from the feedback received from our community consultation which was undertaken as part of a survey of the Salisbury community. Additional issues were also identified from the operational activities undertaken in the area of Dog and Cat Management by the Inspectorial Services Division.

The Plan's Mission is "to promote and facilitate responsible ownership of dogs and cats, animal welfare and the benefits of animal companionship, focusing on the legitimate needs of pets and their owners while respecting the rights of other members of the community and protecting the environment."

The plan provides key objectives that will aim to:

- encourage responsible dog and cat ownership,
- increase public safety, and enhance the amenity and environment
- reduce public and environmental nuisances from dogs and cats
- harness the benefits of dog and cat ownership; and
- ensure Council delivers effective, efficient and innovative dog and cat management services

The Plan has also given consideration to the City's corporate direction as it aims to fulfil the following corporate goals and strategies:



GOAL	STRATEGIES
A safe, accessible and attractive City	11 Maximise the appeal and use of streetscapes and open spaces
	12 Support the health and safety of the community
	14 Ensure community resources are accessible
A vibrant, engaged and proud community	15 Actively support and promote the recreation and leisure needs of the community
	17 Promote community information and learning
A high performing organisation	19 Achieve a financially sustainable organisation
	20 Develop and maintain a great workforce
	21 Provide excellent customer service
	22 Ensure effective governance

The Dog and Cat Management Act was enacted in 1995 and brought in a new legal framework to South Australia covering both dogs and cats.

The objectives of the Act are to:

- Encourage responsible dog and cat ownership
- Reduce public and environmental nuisance caused by dogs and cats, and
- To promote the effective management of dogs and cats (including through the encouragement of de-sexing of dogs and cats)

Animal control has widened into a greater array of contexts following the introduction of the Act. Knowledge of both animal and human behaviour is now a requirement of working in the field. There is growing recognition that enforcement of laws will not, on its own, result in lasting, voluntary changes in behaviour. It needs to be supplemented by a range of non-regulatory approaches such as public education programs which include pamphlets, signage, press releases and school education programs.

There is now considerable evidence to support our understanding of the benefits of owning pets. This implies a potentially new role for Council in harnessing the benefits of pet ownership or at least maintaining the ability of the community to continue to own dogs and cats.

In this new environment, it is essential that Council take a strategic approach to managing domestic pets. This strategy will provide Council with a sound basis and direction from which it can plan, co-ordinate and make future decisions to meet the needs of the community over the next five years.



Mission Statement

To promote and facilitate responsible ownership of dogs and cats, animal welfare and the benefits of animal companionship focusing on the legitimate needs of pets and their owners while respecting the rights of other members of the community and protecting the environment.

Objectives

- encourage responsible dog and cat ownership,
- increase public safety, and enhance the amenity and environment
- reduce public and environmental nuisances from dogs and cats
- promote the benefits of dog and cat ownership; and
- ensure Council delivers effective, efficient and innovative dog and cat management services

Link between Dog and Cat Management Plan Objectives and Corporate Plan Strategies and Goals



Link between Dog and Cat Management Plan Objectives and Corporate Plan Strategies and Goals

Dog and Cat Management Plan Objective	City of Salisbury Corporate Plan Strategies	City of Salisbury Corporate Plan Goal
Encourage responsible dog and cat ownership	12 Support the health and safety of the community	A safe, accessible and attractive City
	17 Promote community information and learning	A vibrant, engaged and proud community
	19 Achieve a financially sustainable organisation	A high performing organisation
	22 Ensure effective governance	
Increase public safety, and enhance the amenity and environment	11 Maximise the appeal and use of streetscapes and open spaces	A safe, accessible and attractive City
	12 Support the health and safety of the community	
	14 Ensure community resources are accessible	
	15 Actively support and promote the recreation and leisure needs of the community	A vibrant, engaged and proud community
	17 Promote community information and learning	
Reduce public and environmental nuisances from dogs and cats	12 Support the health and safety of the community	A safe, accessible and attractive City
	17 Promote community information and learning	A vibrant, engaged and proud community
Promote the benefits of dog and cat ownership	12 Support the health and safety of the community	A safe, accessible and attractive City
	17 Promote community information and learning	A vibrant, engaged and proud community
Ensure Council delivers effective, efficient and innovative dog and cat management services	12 Support the health and safety of the community	A safe, accessible and attractive City
	17 Promote community information and learning	A vibrant, engaged and proud community
	19 Achieve a financially sustainable organisation	A high performing organisation
	20 Develop and maintain a great workforce	
	21 Provide excellent customer service	
	22 Ensure effective governance	



Dog and Cat Management Plan

Objective: Encourage responsible dog and cat ownership

There are three factors that contribute to responsible dog and cat ownership. They are the owner, the breed and the home environment.

The Owner

A pet owner has a vast range of legal, morale and humane responsibilities that they need to be aware of. They include the need to ensure that the dog or cat is registered (if required), identified, micro chipped, immunized, and desexed. Dog owners should also consider their responsibility to ensure that their dog is trained, and need to be aware of the dog's behaviour at all times, including when the owner is away from the home. The owner is responsible for supplying food, water and shelter and that their pet is regularly exercised.

The Breed

The breed, in particular for dogs, but also for cats determines the size, temperament and demands. When selecting a pet it is important to seek appropriate advice on the breed as their suitability is affected by the home / yard it will be kept in and the family that the pet will be joining, particularly if small children are involved, and if the pet fits in with your lifestyle.

The Home Environment

The Home environment is made up of the part of the home that the dog or cat will have access to. In most cases this will include an enclosed yard and possibly part of the house. Important factors for dogs are the size of the yard in relation to the breed of the dog, the adequacy of the fencing, closeness of neighbours and other dogs and access to on-leash and off-leash exercise areas. Considerations for cats and the home environment also include the ability to confine cats to yards so as not to wander onto neighbours yard and the wider environment.

Successful pet ownership has both financial and time commitments and it is therefore important that people contemplating pet ownership endeavour to match their choice of pet to their particular home and family circumstances.

Current Situation

The City of Salisbury currently has approximately 25000 registered dogs with an estimated 2000 to 3000 unregistered dogs in the community. Council undertakes an annual dog registration survey in an effort to identify unregistered dogs and encourage registration rates. The survey is accountable for directly and indirectly identifying approximately 2000 unregistered dogs. Increasing registration rates would enable Council to fund and deliver better services for dog owners in the community.

Council offer a variety of rebates for dog registration including micro-chipped, desexed and obedience trained dogs in an effort to encourage owners to undertake these activities. Micro chipping and training rates are currently low at 14% and 2% of all registered dogs and as a result Council will need to target the benefits of these actions to the pets and the pet owners in an effort to increase uptake, along with reviewing the



rebates currently offered.

Many concerns with dogs and cats occur as a result of people selecting the wrong breed for their lifestyle and or the home environment that they can offer the pet. Choosing the wrong pet can result in noise and nuisance complaints which can lead to fines or costs or the loss of pets. Council investigates over 250 noise and nuisance complaints, and over 1300 wandering dog incidents a year, most of which result from issues associated with the temperament of the breed, the home environment being unsuitable and or the owner not being aware of the dogs behaviours and needs. Ensuring that these areas are considered before becoming a pet owner will help prevent problems occurring in the future.

A control on pet numbers is a strategy implemented by Council in an effort to minimise nuisances and concerns. Council currently has a by law limiting dog numbers to 2, however no controls are currently in place for cats. The survey responses indicated that the majority of pet owners had 2 or fewer dogs and 2 or fewer cats, which seemed to indicate support for these limits. Additional pets can be introduced with exemptions under the by law and compliance with conditions.

The issue of cat identification and registration was considered in the resident survey. 80% of the respondents in the survey indicated that they would register their cat if registration was introduced. However the concern with cat registrations is the current level of partially owned cats and unidentified cats which would make registration enforcement difficult.

47% of respondents had their cat identified with a collar and only 22% had their cat micro chipped, which indicates that a large cat population is unidentified and that any controls associated with cats would rely on increasing the number of identified cats. Strategies to address cat identification would need to be considered.



Objective: Encourage responsible dog and cat ownership

CORPORATE STRATEGY	ACTION	TASK	0	0	0	1	1	TARGET DATE	RESPONSIBLE PERSONS	OTHER DEPTS	KPI's
			7	8	9	0	1				
			/	/	/	/	/				
			0	0	1	1	1				
			8	9	0	1	2				
22 Ensure effective governance 19 Achieve a financially sustainable organisation	Encourage and promote and the registration of dogs	Offer rebates for dog registrations for concession cards, desexing, microchipping and training	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Annually	MEHS TLGI CO		Increase in registration rates (unregistered dogs less than 10%)
12 Support the health and safety of the community		Undertake annual Dog Registration assessment to identify unregistered dogs and encourage registrations	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Annually (Sept to June)	DRAT		
17 Promote community information and learning		Investigate long term dog registrations in conjunction with the Dog and Cat Management Board	✓	✓				June 09		Dog & Cat Management Board	
	Encourage and promote responsible dog ownership	Promote the benefits of desexing of dogs	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Annually	MEHS TLGI Inspectorial Services	D&CM Board Vets	Increase in registration rates of dogs with rebates (desexed / micro chipped / trained)
		Promote the benefits of micro chipping and promote and provide micro chipping days for residents dogs	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Annually	As above	D&CM Board Vets	
		Promote the benefits of having an obedience trained dog	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Annually	As above	Local Obedience clubs	
	Encourage and promote suitable pet selection	Promote the Dog and Cat management web site for educational materials on dogs and cats	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Annually	TLGI Inspectorial Services	D&CM Board	Web site promoted and links established from CoS web site



CORPORATE STRATEGY	ACTION	TASK	0	0	0	1	1	TARGET DATE	RESPONSIBLE PERSONS	OTHER DEPTS	KPI's
			7	8	9	0	1				
			/	/	/	/	/				
			0	0	1	1	1				
			8	9	0	1	2				
		Promote www.selectapet.com.au for identifying suitable pets to suit lifestyle, home life and environment	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Annually	TLGI Inspectorial Services	D&CM Board	
		Promote Pet Pep education program in local schools	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Annually	TLGI Inspectorial Services	D&CM Board Pet Pep	Pet Pep conducted annually at schools
	Encourage and promote appropriate pet numbers	Promote and educate dog owners on the Council by law limiting dog numbers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Annually	Inspectorial Services		% of properties with 2 or fewer dogs
		Investigate a by law to limit cat numbers per property		✓	✓	✓		June 11	MEHS Inspectorial Services		By law reviewed and recommendation implemented by Council
		Investigate appropriate pet numbers and the type of pet for new style housing developments		✓	✓	✓		June 11	MEHS Inspectorial Services	Development Services	Planning Issues considered and implemented into by law for dogs and cats
	Encourage and promote responsible cat ownership	Investigate the registration of cats		✓	✓			June 10	MEHS	D&CM Board	Council position on registration established and implemented
		Promote the desexing of cats		✓	✓	✓	✓	Commence July 08, then Annually	MEHS Inspectorial Services	D&CM Board C.A.T.S Vets	Increase in desexing and microchipping rates (information form Vets)
		Promote the identification and micro chipping of cats		✓	✓	✓	✓	Commence July 08, then Annually	MEHS Inspectorial Services	D&CM Board Vets	

MEHS – Manager Environmental Health and Safety, TLGI – Team Leader General Inspectorate, CO – Compliance Officer, DRAT – Dog Registration Assessment Team, D&CMB – Dog and Cat Management Board, C.A.T.S. – Cats Assistance to Sterilise Incorporated



Objective: Increase public safety, and enhance the amenity and environment

Current Situation

Dogs and cats are an important part of the community and can have a direct impact on public safety and the amenity and the environment.

The public safety risks associated with dogs include wandering at large and harassing or attacking. Council investigates over 1300 wandering at large incidents and impounds approximately 1100 dogs annually, which is great demand on resources and can result in harassments and attacks. Over 120 dog attack/harassment incidents are reported with around 80 resulting in investigations every year.

The survey of residents identified that these two issues made up 47% of all concerns associated with dogs, and as a result strategies to address these issues would need to be considered.

The dog leashing laws imposed by the City of Salisbury which has deemed all parks and reserves as on lead areas has been introduced to ensure that members of the community can enjoy these areas without fear of attack or harassment from unrestrained dogs. The reduction in dog attack incidents since the introduction of these laws has been evidence of their success, and the awareness of these laws was high with 86% of respondents aware of the by law requirements. The provision of off lead areas is part of the strategy to ensure that owners have a suitable location to exercise their dogs off lead, however continual review of these laws and requirements must be undertaken to ensure Council effectively balances legislative controls with the needs of the community.

The major environmental impact from dogs was the effective disposal of faeces in public places which can pollute waters and create environmental nuisances. Concerns raised in the survey included the lack of bins and disposal bag dispensers along parks and reserves which will need to be addressed.

The major environmental impact associated with cats was identified as their opportunity to wander at large unrestrained and the impact that they have on native wildlife, along with damage to property, noise and spraying. The survey of residents identified that these issues were the major concerns associated with cats. A major source of cats that undertake these activities are the partially owned cats which are fed by many people however know one accepts responsibility for these cats. As a result strategies would need to address these concerns in an effort to reduce the environmental impact of cats.



Objective: Increase public safety, and enhance the amenity and environment

CORPORATE STRATEGY	ACTION	TASK	0	0	0	1	1	TARGET DATE	RESPONSIBLE PERSONS	OTHER DEPTS	KPI's
			7	8	9	0	1				
			/	/	/	/	/				
			0	0	1	1	1				
			8	9	0	1	2				
12 Support the health and safety of the community	Reduce the incidents of dogs wandering at large (WAL)	Enforce appropriate legislation under the Dog and Cat Management Act	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Annually	MEHS TLGI		Decrease in Wandering at large incidents
11 Maximise the appeal and use of streetscapes and open spaces		Develop and promote educational material to the community on preventing dogs wandering at large	✓					July 07	MEHS TLGI	Corporate Communications	Development of flyer and distribution occurring
14 Ensure community resources are accessible	Provide on and off leash exercise areas for dogs	Maintain and promote the City's dog friendly parks	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Annually	MEHS TLGI	Asset Services	Increase in resident satisfaction of Dog Friendly Parks
15 Actively support and promote the recreation and leisure needs of the community		Investigate the provision of additional dog friendly parks in un-serviced areas		✓	✓			June 10	MEHS TLGI		Review undertaken and recommendations implemented
17 Promote community information and learning		Investigate off lead remote area park to provide off leash exercise at all times		✓	✓			June 10	MEHS TLGI		Review undertaken and recommendations implemented
		Review current by law 6 requiring dogs on leads in all public places		✓				June 09	MEHS TLGI	Corporate Governance	Review undertaken and recommendations implemented
	Reduce the incidents of dog attacks	Promote the Delta dog safe program in schools	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Annually	MEHS TLGI Inspectorial Services	Delta Dog Safe	Decrease in dog attack rates per head of population
		Encourage the reporting of all attacks to ensure accurate information is gathered and further attacks can be prevented	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Annually	MEHS TLGI		
		Develop and promote educational material to the community on preventing dog attacks in and adjacent to the home		✓	✓	✓	✓	Develop by June 09 and then Annually	MEHS TLGI		



CORPORATE STRATEGY	ACTION	TASK	0	0	0	1	1	TARGET DATE	RESPONSIBLE PERSONS	OTHER DEPTS	KPI's
			7	8	9	0	1				
			/	/	/	/	/				
			0	0	1	1	1				
			8	9	0	1	2				
	Encourage responsible dog faeces disposals	Investigate by law requiring owners to carry dog faeces disposal bags when walking dogs		✓	✓			June 10	MEHS TLGI	Corporate Governance	By law review undertaken and recommendations implemented
		Provide additional dog faeces disposal bag dispensers and bins throughout the City's parks and reserves at strategically identified locations	✓					June 08	MEHS TLGI	Assets City Projects	Dispensers installed
		Develop and or promote educational material to the community on responsible dog faeces disposal		✓	✓	✓	✓	June09 then Annually	MEHS TLGI	Corporate Communications	Information developed and distributed
	Reduce the environmental impacts of cats	Encourage the use of wildlife warning collars on all cats		✓	✓	✓	✓	June09 then Annually	MEHS TLGI	D&CM Board	Decrease in incidents associated with cats wandering at large
		Encourage the use of cat runs and enclosures		✓	✓	✓	✓	June09 then Annually	MEHS TLGI		Increase in properties with cats runs (consider register to capture information)
		Develop and or promote educational material on the consequences of feeding partially owned cats and the effects of this practice			✓	✓	✓	June10 then Annually	MEHS TLGI	D&CM Board Corporate Communications	Information developed and distributed



Objective: Reduce public and environmental nuisances from dogs and cats

Current Situation

One of the major concerns with dogs is the noise and nuisance incidents. Council investigates over 250 noise and nuisance complaints per annum and the survey of residents identified that noise from dogs made up 45% of all concerns associated with dogs. Dog noise can be attributed to many factors including, environment, surroundings, temperament of the dog, boredom or anxiety, and the owner's commitment to the dog. As a result strategies to address these issues would need to be considered.

Public and environmental health nuisances associated with cats and dogs relate to the conditions of yards from inadequate faeces disposal. These conditions can provide a justifiable offence to neighbours and be the source of offensive odours and the breeding and harbourage of vermin. The wandering of cats onto other properties resulting in faeces and spraying also creates nuisances. Strategies to address these conditions need to be developed.

CORPORATE STRATEGY	ACTION	TASK	0	0	0	1	1	TARGET DATE	RESPONSIBLE PERSONS	OTHER DEPTS	KPI's
			7	8	9	0	1				
			/	/	/	/	/				
			0	0	1	1	1				
			8	9	0	1	2				
12 Support the health and safety of the community 17 Promote community information and learning	Reduce dog noise and nuisance incidents	Develop and or promote educational material to the community on identifying the causes and ways to reduce dog noise and nuisance issues	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Annually	MEHS TLGI	Corp Communi- cations D&CM Board	Decrease in dog noise incidents
		Develop and promote educational material to the community on identifying the impacts on dogs and neighbours when moving to new homes			✓			July 09	MEHS TLGI	Corp Communi- cations	Information developed and distributed
		Investigate opportunities of developing and promoting dog socialisation programs			✓	✓		June 11	MEHS TLGI	D&CM Board Vets Training Provider s	



CORPORATE STRATEGY	ACTION	TASK	0	0	0	1	1	TARGET DATE	RESPONSIBLE PERSONS	OTHER DEPTS	KPI's
			7	8	9	0	1				
			/	/	/	/	/				
			0	0	1	1	1				
			8	9	0	1	2				
		Promote long term noise nuisance abatement through dog behaviour training such as "Bark Busters"	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Annually	MEHS TLGI	Bark Busters	Increase in % of complaints utilising Bark Busters or similar programs
	Reduce public and environmental health nuisances from dogs and cats	Develop and promote educational material to dog and cat owners to regularly clean yards and runs to prevent any insanitary conditions		✓	✓			June 10	MEHS TLGI		Information developed and distributed
		Encourage the use of cat runs and enclosures to prevent cats from wandering and causing nuisances such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • noise, • defecating on others property and • spraying 		✓	✓	✓	✓	June 09 and then annually	MEHS TLGI		Increase in properties with cats runs (consider register to capture information)



Objective: Promote the benefits of dog and cat ownership

There is a wealth of scientific evidence to support the benefits of owning pets and their use in therapy. Evidence of a link between pet ownership and better health has been demonstrated by a range of different studies. Not all studies demonstrate a link between pet ownership and better health outcomes. However, as the evidence mounts, the public health profession is starting to take note, eg:

- The National Health and Medical Research Council’s Strategic Plan for the Prevention of Overweight and Obesity is considering dog walking as one key to getting overweight and obese people moving.
- A public health symposium was hosted by the National Centre for Health Promotion in Sydney in 1998 to generate a research agenda for dog ownership and public health.

Dogs encourage people to enjoy the outdoors. They have been shown to stimulate conversation between strangers in public places and they improve people’s sense of security - both in the home and with their owner in public places. Pets are also wonderful companions, helping combat loneliness and social alienation in some cases. These benefits are as important for the elderly and single person households as they are for households with children.

Part of the challenge involves removing barriers to owning pets. Local government has a role to play in harnessing these benefits - not to encourage people to buy a pet but to even up the balance in the consideration of domestic animals issues and by removing unnecessary barriers to pet ownership.

CORPORATE STRATEGY	ACTION	TASK	0	0	0	1	1	TARGET DATE	RESPONSIBLE PERSONS	OTHER DEPTS	KPI's
			7	8	9	0	1				
			/	/	/	/	/				
			0	0	1	1	1				
			8	9	0	1	2				
12 Support the health and safety of the community	Promote the benefits of dog and cat ownership	Develop and promote educational material to the community on the benefits to the community of pet ownership			✓	✓	✓	July 09 and then annually	MEHS TLGI	Corp Commu nications	Information developed and distributed
17 Promote community information and learning		Promote the PetPep school based educational program	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Annually	MEHS TLGI	Pet Pep	Pet Pep conducted at local schools
		Encourage and support pet friendly community events		✓	✓	✓	✓	July 09 and then annually	MEHS TLGI	Corp Commu nications	



Objective: Ensure Council delivers effective, efficient and innovative dog and cat management services

The Dog and Cat Management Act requires the Council to enforce the provisions of the Act. The approach by the City of Salisbury in the first instance will be to educate and then encourage people to accept their responsibilities of pet ownership before the need to enforce the provisions of the Act.

Public places are monitored to ensure that the provisions of the Act are complied with, and dog management officers are available to respond to concerns of the community and breaches of the Act. It is council's responsibility to make arrangements for the provision of these services that are efficient and effective and that employ Best Practice.

To ensure that the service delivery is efficient and effective Council develop annual business plans to guide and achieve operational activities and strategic directions

Maintaining best practice requires that staff and council are informed of all latest developments and up coming changes in legislation and practices. Maintaining representation at the relevant professional associations and undertaking continuous professional development ensures that Council and its staff are kept up to date with all latest developments.

The resident survey identified that only 30% of people with dog concerns and only 10% of people with cat concerns actually contacted Council to address their issues. This identified that there is a need to make the community aware of Council services and the controls that are available to address their concerns.

CORPORATE STRATEGY	ACTION	TASK	0	0	0	1	1	TARGET DATE	RESPONSIBLE PERSONS	OTHER DEPTS	KPI's
			7	8	9	0	1				
			/	/	/	/	/				
			0	0	1	1	1				
			8	9	0	1	2				
12 Support the health and safety of the community	Encourage and support the continuous professional development of staff	Attend relevant training and education packages suited to Animal Management Officers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Annually	MEHS TLGI		Council staff actively participating in training, meetings and seminars
17 Promote community information and learning		Network with other Councils to benchmark services and identify best practice techniques.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Annually	MEHS TLGI		
19 Achieve a financially sustainable organisation		Promote and encourage staff membership of relevant professional associations.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Annually	MEHS TLGI		



CORPORATE STRATEGY	ACTION	TASK	0	0	0	1	1	TARGET DATE	RESPONSIBLE PERSONS	OTHER DEPTS	KPI's
			7	8	9	0	1				
			/	/	/	/	/				
			0	0	1	1	1				
			8	9	0	1	2				
20 Develop and maintain a great workforce	Provide efficient and effective dog and cat management services	Develop annual business plan to guide and achieve operational activities and strategic directions	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Annually	MEHS TLGI		Business Plan Developed and implemented
21 Provide excellent customer service		Utilise effective IT solutions to improve processes and customer service	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Annually	MEHS TLGI		IT solutions and improvements identified and implemented
22 Ensure effective governance	Promote animal management services offered by Council	Develop and distribute educational material to the community, via available media channels, e.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pamphlets, print media, • Internet • Corporate on-hold message service 	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Annually	MEHS TLGI	Corporate Communications	Information developed and distributed



Dogs on and off leash areas

Unique Leashing Laws

As part of its drive to reduce the incidence of dog attacks in the Salisbury area, Council maintains and enforces a By Law requiring all dogs to be leashed in public places (including roads and footpaths) except for parks and open spaces marked with signs permitting unleashed exercise from 6.30 pm to 8 am daily.

Dog Friendly Parks

Council provides “dog friendly parks” where owners can exercise their dogs unleashed at any time. There are nine dog friendly parks within the City of Salisbury. These fenced parks have been designed to provide interesting recreational environments including obstacle courses, lawned areas and seating for owners. Doggy litter bags along with taps and bowls are provided on site.

The Dog Park locations within Salisbury Region:

- Baltimore Reserve, Oleander Drive, Parafield Gardens
- Bolivar Road Reserve, Bolivar Road, Bolivar
- Canterbury Reserve, Canterbury Drive Salisbury Heights
- Dry Creek Linear Park, Park Way, Mawson Lakes
- Golding Oval, Corner Redhill Road and Kalina Avenue, Para Vista
- Happy Home Reserve, Waterloo Corner Road Salisbury North
- Jenkins Reserve, Salisbury Park
- The Paddocks, Maxwell Road, Para Hills West
- Unity Park, South Terrace Pooraka

A copy of the flyer advertising the Dog Friendly Parks is attached.






Dog Friendly Parks within Salisbury Region

“Being a responsible dog owner starts with you. Get active and have fun in the City of Salisbury!”



Active
GET AN LIFE

www.salisbury.sa.gov.au

 For more information contact:
City of Salisbury, 12 James St Salisbury
T : 08 8406 8221



Bow - wow woof, arf arf yap grr-ruff!

(Let's go to the park and play)

Dog Friendly Parks
Council provides "dog friendly parks" where owners can exercise their dogs unleashed at any time. There are nine dog friendly parks within the City of Salisbury. These fenced parks have been designed to provide interesting recreational environments including obstacle courses, lawned areas and seating for owners and their dogs. Doggy litter bags, taps and bowls are provided on site. Council encourages all dog owners to enjoy these well designed and constructed facilities.
Dog owners, please remember that you must exercise effective control of your dogs while unleashed. Penalties apply for liable behaviour such as littering, harassment or attack.

Unique Leashing Laws
As part of its drive to reduce the incidence of dog attacks in the Salisbury area, Council maintains and enforces a By Law requiring all dogs to be leashed in public places (including roads and footpaths) except for dog friendly parks and open spaces marked with signs permitting unleashed exercise from 6.30pm to 6am the following day.

Dog Registrations
Dog registration is an important part of being a responsible pet owner and is mandatory in South Australia. All dogs must be registered with Council, by the end of August each year. Concession and discounts for desexed and/or microchipped pets apply. You can re-register your pet online at www.salisbury.sa.gov.au.

Dog Park Locations within Salisbury Region

- 1 Bolivar Road Reserve, Bolivar Road, Bolivar
- 2 Balkmore Reserve, Cleander Drive, Parafield Gardens
- 3 Unity Park, South Terrace, Pooraka
- 4 Golden Oval, Cnr Redhill Road and Kalina Avenue, Para Vista
- 5 The Paddock, Mawerik Road, Para Hills West
- 6 Dry Creek Linear Park, Park Way, Mawson Lakes
- 7 Canterbury Reserve, Canterbury Drive, Salisbury Heights
- 8 Jenkins Reserve, Saints Rd, Salisbury Park
- 9 Happy Home Reserve, Waterloo Corner Road, Salisbury North



Lost Dogs
If your dog is found to be wandering at large Council will contact the owner if the pet is wearing a current registration disc. A dog is considered "wandering at large" if it is called in a public or private place without the consent of the occupier and no one is seen to be exercising effective control of the dog. It will be held for three days and if not collected, will be taken to the Animal Welfare League. To report on a lost dog, please contact the Inspectorate Division at the City of Salisbury on 8406 8221.



The Law Applicable to Dogs and Cats

The City of Salisbury as with other authorities administers several laws and by laws applicable to dogs and cats. The applicable legislation includes the following:

Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 and Regulations

The objects of the Dog and Cat Management Act are—

- (a) to encourage responsible dog and cat ownership;
- (b) to reduce public and environmental nuisance caused by dogs and cats;
- (c) to promote the effective management of dogs and cats (including through encouragement of the desexing of dogs and cats).

The Act has prescriptive requirements for dog and cat owners, with Councils having the responsibility to enforce these requirements. Some of the areas of responsibility include:

- to register dogs
- to have dogs under effective control
- to prevent dogs from attacking/harassing
- to prevent noise nuisances from dogs
- to clean up after dogs in public places
- the ability to issue dog control orders

If breaches are detected owners could face penalties and or orders. A copy of the Act is available on line at <http://www.legislation.sa.gov.au>.

By laws

The City of Salisbury has developed 2 by laws under the Dog and Cat Management Act to address dog management issues. These include:

By law 5 – Number of dogs (this is to limit the number of dogs kept on premises)

By law 6 – Dogs (this is to control dogs in the area and require dogs to be effectively secured)

Copies of the by laws are available on line at www.salisbury.sa.gov.au.



Local Government Act 1999

Under the provisions of the Local Government Council has the ability to issue orders to require a person to do or refrain from doing a thing specified in the order in an effort to prevent animals, including dogs and cats, from being a nuisance or injurious to health.

A nuisance can be created from any of the following:

1. the numbers of animals or birds;
2. the noise, dust or odour generated by the presence of the animal or bird;
3. the attraction of flies, rats, mice or other vermin;
4. the aggressive nature of the animal or bird;
5. the nature and location of housing facilities for the animal or bird;
6. the animal or bird not being adequately contained on the land; or
7. the animal or bird being allowed to wander or fly from or to the land either alone or in numbers;
8. droppings emanating from animal or bird; or
9. for any other reason

Council has developed a policy for the implementation of the order making provisions and is available on line at www.salisbury.sa.gov.au.

Public and Environmental Health Act 1987

Under the requirements of the Public and Environmental Health Act it is the duty of a local Council:

- (a) to promote proper standards of public and environmental health in its area; and
- (b) to take adequate measures to ensure that the provisions of Part 3 are observed in its area; and
- (c) to take reasonable steps-
 - (i) to prevent the occurrence and spread of notifiable diseases within its area; and
 - (ii) to prevent any infestation or spread of vermin, rodents or other pests within its area.

The implications for dog and cat owners are the requirements to prevent the occurrence of insanitary conditions associated with the keeping of dogs and cats, which can result from excessive numbers, un-kept yards used to house pets, and improper faeces disposal. If breaches are detected owners could face penalties and or notices requiring them to amend the area of concern.

A copy of the Act is available on line at <http://www.legislation.sa.gov.au>.



Development Act

Schedule 3 of the Development Regulations - (Acts and activities which are not development) states amongst other things that the keeping of animals (includes dogs and cats), birds, or other livestock (other than horses, sheep, cattle, pigs, goats, donkeys and wild animals) solely for domestic needs and enjoyment of the occupants of a dwelling and land appurtenant to that dwelling is not development and as such does not require a Planning Approval.

This definition does not include the operation of a cattery or dog kennels from a residential property which is viewed as a change in the use of the land and as such would require a planning consent.



Corporate Goals and Strategies

City of Salisbury Goals and Strategies, 2006 - 2010

GOAL:	A prosperous and progressive City
Strategies	
1	Promote the benefits of living and working in Salisbury
2	Encourage quality, appropriate development
3	Attract and enhance business development
4	Facilitate partnerships between education, research and industry
5	Ensure infrastructure supports development
6	Facilitate the long term supply of future industrial and commercial land
7	Facilitate the delivery of an integrated transport network
GOAL:	An environmentally sustainable City
Strategies	
8	Conserve and promote biodiversity, natural habitats and open spaces
9	Minimise waste generation and effectively manage the collection, recycling and disposal of public waste
10	Develop opportunities and strategies that support the sustainable use of resources
GOAL:	A safe, accessible and attractive City
Strategies	
11	Maximise the appeal and use of streetscapes and open spaces
12	Support the health and safety of the community
13	Facilitate the provision of information and communication opportunities
14	Ensure community resources are accessible



GOAL:	A vibrant, engaged and proud community
Strategies	
15	Actively support and promote the recreation and leisure needs of the community
16	Celebrate community achievements
17	Promote community information and learning
18	Facilitate social and community programs and services
GOAL:	A high performing organisation
Strategies	
19	Achieve a financially sustainable organisation
20	Develop and maintain a great workforce
21	Provide excellent customer service
22	Ensure effective governance



Appendices

Appendix 1 – Dog and Cat Management Plan Survey







Dog and Cat Management Plan Survey



**Prepared by:
John Darzanos
Manager Environmental Health and Safety**

March 2006

Dog and Cat Management Plan Survey

Introduction

Under the requirements of Section 26A (1) of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 Council must prepare a plan relating to the management of dogs and cats within its area. In addition the plan must provide the following:

26A—Plans of management relating to dogs and cats

- (1) Each council must, in accordance with this section, prepare a plan relating to the management of dogs and cats within its area.
- (2) A plan of management must include provisions for parks where dogs may be exercised off-leash and for parks where dogs must be under effective control by means of physical restraint, and may include provisions for parks where dogs are prohibited.
- (3) A plan of management must be prepared and presented to the Board as follows:
 - (a) the first plan must cover a 5 year period and be prepared and presented within 3 years after the commencement of this section;
 - (b) subsequent plans must cover subsequent 5 year periods and each plan must be prepared and presented at least 6 months before it is to take effect.
- (4) A plan of management must be approved by the Board before it takes effect.
- (5) A council may, with the approval of the Board, amend a plan of management at any time during the course of the 5 year period covered by the plan.

As part of the development process of the Plan community consultation was undertaken to establish some underlying views and positions of residents in the City of Salisbury. Further consultation with key stakeholders will also be undertaken to establish Council's strategic direction for dog and cat management.

Survey methodology

The surveys were undertaken in person at local shopping centres and a Council recreation centre and were one on one interview style questions. The questions were targeting a variety of dog and cat management issues, including:

- Dog and cat ownership
- Concerns with dogs and cats
- Specific safety concerns from dogs
- Dog owner and cat owner specific questions
- Council service

Consultation

Public consultation was undertaken in person at 3 locations across the City to provide broad City coverage. The consultation was undertaken by staff who manned a display promoting Councils dog and cat management services. The stands were at the location for the full day. 288 people were surveyed at the following locations:

- Parabanks shopping centre
- Hollywood Plaza
- Ingle Farm Recreation centre.



Findings

Dog and Cat Ownership

The number of respondents who were dog or cat owners was asked in an effort to provide an indication of any bias towards dog and cat management issues. The respondents included the following:

- 83% of respondents were dog owners
- 49% of respondents were cat owners

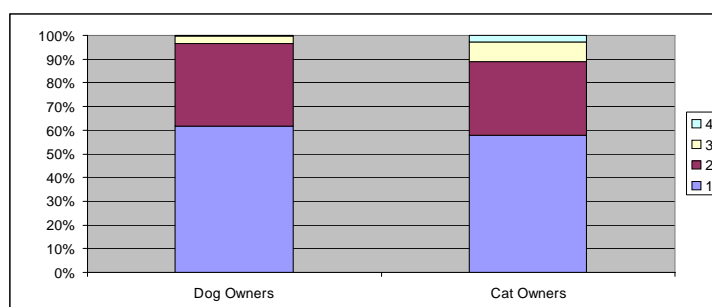
Conclusion

The survey replies indicated a good cross section of both dog and cat owners that would provide a reasonable indication of dog and cat management issues.

Dog and Cat numbers

The number of dogs and cats owned by the respondents was also established to determine average numbers of dogs per property. This would provide an indication of whether Councils 2 dog policy would require review and provide a basis for any consideration of cat number limits.

The respondents indicated that the majority of dog and cat owners had less than 2 dogs, as indicated in the following graph. 96% of dog owners had 2 or less dogs, and 89% of cat owners had 2 or less cats, with the majority of both being 1 dog or cat, with 61% owning 1 dog and 58% owning 1 cat.



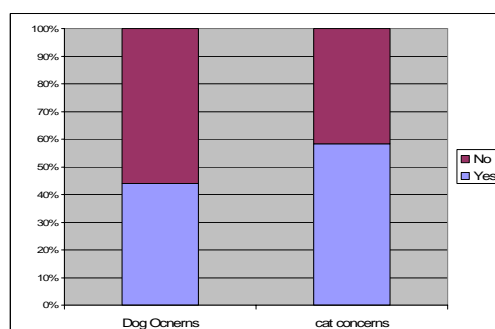
Conclusion

This outcome supports the current by law which only allows 2 dogs as the majority of people have 1 dog or less.

As there are no current controls on cats the findings indicate that any limitations on cat numbers could be in line with those on dogs and that the majority of residents would support these limits, with permits available to those wishing to exceed the numbers.

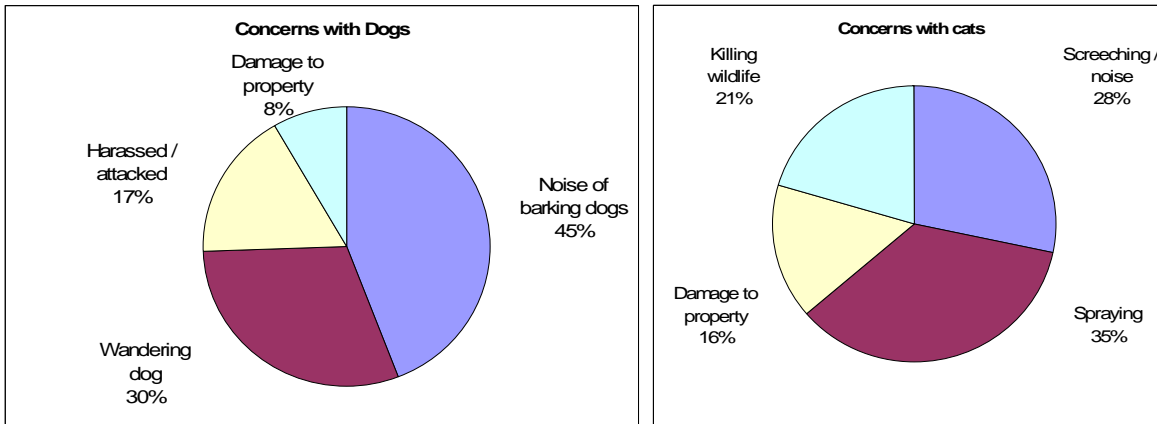
Dog and Cat Concerns

The respondents were asked if they have had any concerns with dogs and cats and if so what the issues were. This was aimed at identifying any future strategies to alleviate the problems.



44% of respondents had concerns with dogs, however 58% of respondents had concerns with cats.

The summary of main concerns is as follows:



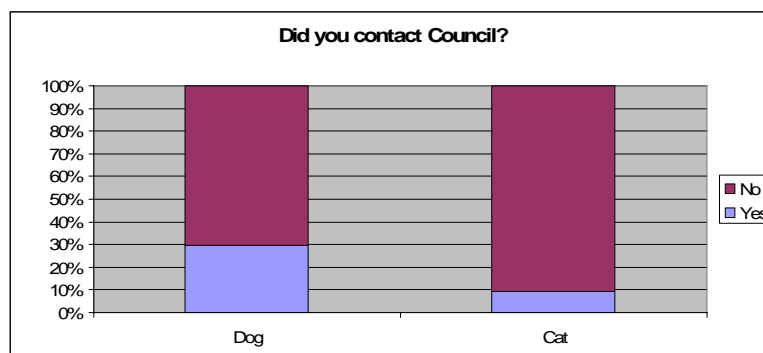
Conclusion

The above chart highlights that wandering dogs and noise are the main concern from dogs, and some targeted campaigns addressing these areas could be considered in future strategies.

Cat concerns were more even across several areas and this would indicate that future strategies in the area of cat management would need to cover a wider section of issues. The main concerns with cats also indicate that they occur as a result of the cats wandering and straying into other person’s property. Future strategies would need to address the issue of wandering cats.

Council Services

Respondents who had a concern with dog and or cats where asked if they contacted Council. Only 30% of respondents that had dog concerns contacted Council and less than 10% who had cat concerns.



It was expected that more people would contact Council over dog issues than cat issues, as Council has more controls and is more active in these areas, however it was also expected that more than 30% of respondents would contact Council.

Conclusion

This raises some concerns and indicates that future strategies would require that Council make the community aware of the controls that are available to address their concerns.

The respondents who replied “No” to the above question were also asked why they didn’t contact Council. Conclusions reached from the comments are provided below.

Dog Concerns

There were no conclusive comments or themes from the comments regarding why people did not contact Council. This did not provide any relevant feedback that could be utilised to judge Council service levels or to improve services.

Cat Concerns

The comments as to why cat concerns were not reported generated a common theme and the two most common comments included:

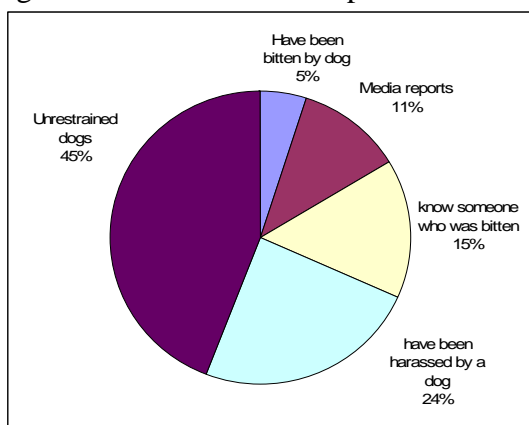
- “Didn’t think council could act or Council cant do anything about them”
- “Didn’t know who owned the cat”

Conclusion

This would indicate that any future strategies would need to incorporate community information to advise what controls the Council has regarding cats, and also strategies to identify cats that are causing the concerns.

Dog Safety

The respondents were asked about their perceptions of safety from dogs. 43% felt that dogs present a threat to safety when out in public. The main reasons are summarised in the following graph, with the main concern relating to unrestrained dogs. The other concerns relate to harassments and attacks, with media reports generating concerns for 11% of respondents.



Conclusion

This lends support to Council’s current leashing by law of all Council reserves and future strategies must support these controls, through education and enforcement, with better reporting of facts relating to the local area to combat any negative media campaigns.

Micro-chipped Dogs

The respondents who owned dogs were asked if their dog was Microchipped. Only 23% of the respondents had their dogs micro-chipped. The current dog registration rates show that there are only approximately



14% of all registered dogs micro-chipped.

There is obviously opportunities to increase micro-chipping rates, however the cost of the procedure does not necessarily equate to an equivalent reduction in registration rates. The current rebate is a 10% reduction in the registration fees.

Conclusion

The benefits of micro-chipping would need to outweigh the costs of the procedure along with the long term reduction in registration fees, and these need to be communicated to dog owners. Subsidised micro-chipping days may need to be considered.

Dog Leashing Laws

The respondents were asked if they were aware of Council's dog leashing laws, in an effort to gauge knowledge of these laws. 86% of the respondents were aware of the laws, which is indicative that the campaign has reached the target audience and areas such as signage must be maintained.

Dog Friendly Parks

The respondents were asked about Councils; dog friendly parks and their frequency of usage. 51% of respondents used the dog friendly parks, with an average frequency of usage being 3 times a week.

The feedback on the parks from the users was generally positive, with some criticism regarding dog faeces and the condition of the parks.

Conclusion

These areas have been addressed in the review of dog friendly parks with upgrades scheduled for all parks.

Of the 49% of respondents that do not use the parks the main reasons included:

- The parks are too far away
- Don't walk dog off lead
- Small dog owners concerned with larger dogs
- Dogs are home dogs and don't go out.

Conclusion

Strategies to address the distance of dog parks have been implemented with 4 new parks being constructed in 2006. Additional strategies to address concerns of park users and dog behaviour will need to be considered to ensure users feel their dogs will be safe at the parks.

Dog Faeces

The respondents were asked about faeces removal when exercising dogs and 87% indicated that they picked up the faeces.

Out of the 13% of respondents that did not pick up the faeces, the main reasons were the lack of bins and rubbish bags.

Conclusion



Future strategies would need to address the access to suitable disposal bags and bins for dog faeces at strategic locations along Council parks and reserves.

Obedience Training

Obedience training of dogs is undertaken for several reasons from the dog owner's perspective in an effort to manage dog behaviour and prevent problems in the future. This training in most circumstances will also prevent the dogs from becoming nuisance dogs and or being involved in attacks or harassments, and encourage their socialisation. Obedience training is recognised and rewarded with a 10% concession in dog registration fees.

The respondents were asked about obedience training for their dogs and 56% of respondents had considered obedience training. The main reasons for not undertaking the training included time and money.

There is obviously opportunities to increase obedience training, however the cost and time to do so does not necessarily equate to an equivalent reduction in registration rates. The current rebate is a 10% reduction in the registration fees.

Conclusion

The benefits of training would need to outweigh the costs along with the long term reduction in registration fees. Currently only 1.6% of all registered dogs are trained and eligible for the rebates.

Future strategies to increase obedience training would need to focus on the benefits to the dog owner and the prevention of problems such as attack, harassment, nuisance and noise issues.

Cat Identification and Micro-chipping

47% of the respondents who were cat owners indicated that their cat wears identification, and only 22% had their cat micro-chipped.

The main reasons for not having cats identified or micro-chipped included:

- Cat collars are dangerous
- Collar comes off
- Cat is de-sexed and doesn't roam
- Micro-chipping is too expensive
- Cat is tattooed

Conclusion

The findings are indicative that a large proportion of cats are unidentified and any future strategies should target cat identification.

Cat identification through collars and or micro-chipping is a significant factor for any control measures implemented for cats. Unidentified cats are the main reason that cat control laws could not work. Any strategies for cat controls must incorporate identification. Also the benefits of micro-chipping must be communicated to cat owners, along with consideration for subsidised micro chipping days.

Cat Registration

The Dog and Cat Management Act allows Councils to introduce cat registrations as a means to undertake cat control activities.



The respondents were asked if they would register their cat if registration was introduced. 80% of the respondents said they would register their cat.

This issue of semi-owned or stray cats is one that relates to the main concerns from cats, which as identified above relate to cats entering someone else's property.

The main reasons for objecting to cat registrations included:

- Costs
- Cats are not a safety risk

Conclusion

Although this finding is indicative of support for cat registrations, the benefits and practicality of cat registration is open to much debate and would need significant investigation and consultation before being considered as many cats are considered to be semi-owned, with no one accepting responsibility for them. Cat control strategies would also need to incorporate cat number controls through programs such as de-sexing, and cat identification such as micro-chipping.

