



The Coorong District Council
Animal Management Plan

- 1. Executive Summary**
- 2. Vision Statement**
- 3. Aims**
- 4. Definitions**
- 5. Objectives**
- 6. Policy Context**
- 7. The Law / Guidelines**
- 8. Animal Management Strategy**
 - 8.1 Dogs**
 - 8.2 Cats**
 - 8.3 Other Species**
- 9. Resources**
- 10. Internal Review**

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY;

This Animal Management Plan has been prepared by The Coorong District Council in response to the Council adopting a planned approach to undertake its responsibilities under the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995, Impounding Act 1920, The Coorong District Council Development Plan, Council By-Laws and Council's Order Making Policy. This document is an over arching document which will guide animal management by The Coorong District Council over the next 5 years. The Plan identifies strategies and actions to implement the mission, aims and objectives for animal management, and relates these back to the wider policy context. A Reference Group, that drew membership from a broad range of stakeholders, has prepared this document. The community was then asked to comment on the draft prior to its adoption by the Council.

This Plan contains recommendations for a wide range of actions to be undertaken by the Council in a programmed approach. These actions will enable Council to maintain a balance between competing interests and to reposition animal management to accommodate new requirements. Council's Strategic Plan 2005 and beyond requires Council to provide services that maximize the social, economic & environmental benefits to the people of the Coorong District Council.

Animal control has widened into a greater context, following the introduction of various Acts and Orders. Knowledge of both animal and human behaviours is now a requirement for those working in this 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 and improved signage.

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 animal and pet ownership or at least maintaining the ability of the community to continue to own animals or pets. In this new environment, it is essential that Council take a strategic approach to managing animals and pets in its community. 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.

2. VISION STATEMENT ;

“To recognize that animals are part of the community, contributing to its quality of life, and to ensure that the needs of animals and their owners are accommodated while recognising the differing needs of non animal owners of the community”

“To ensure that animals are managed responsibly and humanely at all times while being contained by Council”

3. AIMS ;

promote responsible animal ownership;

provide for the welfare and safety of animals;

ensure public safety and enhance the amenity and environment and provide for the needs of animals and animal owners;

harness the benefits of animal ownership.

4. DEFINITIONS;

For the purposes of this document the following definitions apply;

Animal	<i>a member of any species of the sub-phylum vertebrate except- (a) a human being; or (b) a fish and includes any prescribed animal</i>
Bovine	<i>means of or like an ox, of the genus of ruminants.</i>
Cat	<i>means an animal of the species felis catus</i>
Domestic Animal;	<i>Animals kept by or living with man.</i>
Dog	<i>means an animal of the species genus canis familiaris but does not include a dingo or cross of a dingo</i>
Enclosed	<i>means enclosed with a good and substantial fence</i>
Feral Animal;	<i>Wild, untamed, uncultivated in wild state after escape from captivity</i>
Identification;	<i>means having or displaying a brand, tattoo, tag, microchip, name tag or registration disc</i>
Ovine	<i>of or like sheep</i>
Public Pound;	<i>a public pound as determined in the Impounding Act 1920 as amended</i>
Poultry;	<i>Domestic Fowls, ducks, geese, turkey etc,</i>
Protected Species;	<i>Animals recognised by State Legislation</i>
Ungulates;	<i>having hoofs</i>
Veterinary Surgeon;	<i>a person who is registered as a veterinary surgeon under the Veterinary Surgeons Act, 1985.</i>
Stock Proof Fence;	<i>A fence that is constructed to a standard to contain the appropriate animal kept within.</i>

5. OBJECTIVES:

The following objectives should be observed with respect to animal management;

- Promote responsible animal ownership.
- Design and implement a publicity campaign to provide animal owners with information relating to responsible animal ownership.
- Establish and resource an education program in schools e.g. informative talks, lectures and responsible pet ownership.
- Support obedience and socialisation programs e.g. training programs.
- Establish a database of key stakeholders (e.g. veterinarians, animal welfare agencies, community groups, farmer groups) and actively encourage participation.
- Provide for the welfare and safety of animals.
- Encourage animal owners to undertake routine preventative measures such as vaccination, de-worming, heartworm protection and other forms of parasite control.
- Policing of provisions of Dog and Cat Management Act, Council By-Laws and Order Making Policy as directed under the Local Government Act.
- Policing of identification and registration of animals to enable reunion of lost animals with their owners and control of un-owned animals.
- Ensure the provision of prompt veterinary attention to sick or injured animals.
- Policing of regulations regarding standards of local companion animal businesses, breeding establishments and boarding facilities.
- Provide advice and facilities to deal with unwanted animals.
- Ensure public safety, enhance the amenity, the environment and provide for the needs of the animal and animal owner.
- Provide easy access to public open space areas for regular utilisation by animal owners as exercise areas.
- Establish a community consultation process designed to identify the needs of constituents in relation to public open space.
- Ensure that all areas are furnished with adequate signage.
- Harness the benefits of animal ownership.
- Inform the community of the social and economic benefits of animal ownership.
- By establishing links with and involving the cooperation, expertise and support of the key players in the Urban Animal Management (UAM) area.
- Assisting with training and educate children to be responsible animal owners.
- By encouraging the training and education of animals to facilitate their integration into the community.

6. POLICY CONTEXT ;

The Strategic plan for The Coorong District Council 2005 and beyond and is Council's principal strategic planning document. It sets the overall direction to be pursued by Council as well as more specific goals and key actions. It forms the backdrop for developing the vision, aims and objectives for domestic animal management, outlined in the previous section.

The development of this strategy is undertaken within the overall planning context having regard to the process for the development of strategies.

The key actions for animal management are to:

1. Complete and implement the Animal Management Plan
2. Investigate and develop a strategy for the introduction of a microchip program for domestic animals in conjunction with local veterinarians to improve the identification of domestic animals and facilitating better use of available resources.
3. If the investigation proves favourable in regards to micro chips, that a micro-chip program for domestic animals, be implemented in The Coorong District Council.

Open Space Strategy:

An Open Space Strategy will need to be formulated by Council to assist in achieving the aims of this Plan. Animal management should be included in the future planning, development, management and maintenance of open spaces within the district. The Strategy needs to identify a number of issues with respect to animals that will include the following:

1. The location of town commons and stock routes.
2. The use of the long paddock in drought situations.
3. The effect of dogs and cats on native wildlife;
4. Provision of facilities for dogs and dog walkers;
5. Health, safety and aesthetic impact of animal faeces within open space,
6. Dog controls within open space, i.e. off lead, on lead, prohibited etc, including adequate off-lead areas for dog exercise.
7. The management of protected species.
8. The management and treatment of feral animals.
9. The welfare of animals within The Coorong District Council.

The Council plans to have three designated areas that will become fenced off leash areas (currently named Coonalpyn, Meningie and Taillem Bend). The Coonalpyn Park is already established and the Council intends to improve this park in the near future. The two parks will be established as off leash in the next two years.

A Strategy that supports a range of animal management controls across the district, which recognise the primary function of each reserve and the rights of other park users. The Strategy also supports the development of some specific dog exercise and training areas and facilities across the district, the number and location of which will depend on:

1. The main function of a particular park or public land and its location;
2. Dog exercise requirements, i.e. suitable fencing, water, interesting activities/terrain for dogs, large enough area etc, and
3. Distribution of dog owners across the district, which may vary from time to time.

A Strategy that makes the following specific recommendations about domestic animals:

1. Support a range of dog controls across the district, which recognizes the primary function of each reserve and the needs of other park users.
2. Input of dog owners regarding the planning of open space development should be sought during the consultation with the general community as well as through umbrella groups.
3. Support the need for initiatives regarding the management of animal faeces in public places.
4. Consider the sources of funding for the implementation of faeces management (eg dog bag dispensers) provided at parks and facilities.
5. Support the results of investigations of the impact of cats on native wildlife and the need for cat curfews.

The policy context provides a clear agenda for attending to the effect of animals in the environment, open space and public health areas, in line with local government's traditional focus in animal control. Adjustments need to be made to account for the benefits of animal ownership, as enunciated in the Animal Management Plan's mission, aims and objectives.

7. THE LAW / GUIDELINES ;

The responsibilities for dog and cat management in South Australia are prescribed in the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995. Under the Act Councils are required to administer and enforce the provisions relating to dogs within its area. Prescribed responsibilities include the appointment of a Registrar, maintenance of a Dog Register, the appointment of a dog management officer and to make arrangements for dogs seized, and its other obligations under the Act. A Council is also able to make By-Laws relating to the management of dogs, cats and other animals within its area.

The Act also provides for the appointment of the Dog and Cat Management Board, which has responsibilities to plan, promote, and advise on effective management of dogs and cats in the State, to monitor Councils management of their responsibilities, to issue Guidelines for Councils, to advise and assist Councils to undertake their responsibilities. The Board also has a role to provide advice to the Minister, to keep the Act under review, to undertake research into companion animal management and to provide education programs for dog management officers and community awareness information.

The Act also provides that a Council may appoint an animal management officer or officers for its area and can make By-Laws relating to cats within its area. While these provisions provide the legal framework for the Councils responsibilities and the penalties that can be imposed on dog owners for non compliance, this Plan seeks to implement a balanced approach that caters to the communities needs that will not only benefit dogs, cats and their owners as a group with legitimate needs but also the wider community as well as those charged with the responsibility of animal management By-Laws. The role of Local Government in administering good governance places an onus to represent the interests of its community and the safety of its constituents.

The role in administering other legislation that protects the community from nuisance or damage caused by animals. Legislation like The Order Making provisions under the Local Government Act, By-laws under the Local Government Act and other Acts and the care and control of public lands.

8. ANIMAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY;

The Coorong District Council has identified that an animal management strategy needs to consider various species of animals and accordingly the following are described to embrace this strategy; Dog Management, identifying all animals of the genus canis familiaris, Cat Management, identifying all animals of the species felis catus and Other Species, identifying feral animals, protected animals, poultry, vermin, fish and ungulates.

8.1 Dog Management;

Responsibilities of the Owner or person responsible for the dog at the time;

1. The Owner/Custodian, who needs to be aware of the responsibilities of dog ownership, ensures that the pet is registered, immunized, and de-sexed. The Owner/Custodian is also responsible to ensure that the dog is trained, and to be aware of the dog's behaviour at all times, including when the owner is away from the home. The Custodian is also responsible to ensure that the dog has adequate food, water and shelter and that the dog is regularly exercised.

Determining the Breed;

2. The Breed determines the size, and often the temperament of the dog and its susceptibility to genetic defects. When selecting a dog it is important to seek appropriate advice on the soundness of animals being considered and their suitability to the home/yard that the dog will be kept in.

Home Environment;

3. The Home environment is made up of the part of the home that the dog will have access to. In most cases this will include an enclosed yard and possibly part of the house. Important factors are adequacy of the fencing, whether the dog can see out of the yard through a gate, adequacy of shelter, food/water and whether there are children, closeness of neighbours their pets and access to exercise areas are important factors.

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

Strategy:

That people contemplating obtaining a dog be encouraged to consider the factors affecting the suitability of successful pet ownership in their particular circumstances.

That source of this information includes;

- Advice being available from the Council Animal Management Officer.
- Advice that Online information regarding breeds and assistance in pet selection is available on:
 - Petcare Information and Advisory Service www.petnet.com.au
 - The Dog and Cat Management Board of SA www.dogsncats.asn.au
- That people contemplating obtaining a dog be encouraged to become familiar with the responsibilities under The Dog & Cat Management Act 1995 as amended, prior to obtaining a dog and be aware of the time that may need to spend with their dog.

8.1 (1) Wandering and Aggressive Dogs;

A dog is deemed to be 'wandering at large' when it is in a public place and is not under effective control of a person. The owner, or person who is responsible for the dog wandering at large, has committed an offence and is responsible for the prescribed penalties under the Act.

A dog wandering at large can be a threat to members of the public, particularly children and older people and Council is aware that serious attacks can arise in these circumstances. Council will therefore implement strategies to minimize its occurrence in the community.

The strategies are in two parts; the first to encourage owners to have adequate fencing and control over their dog and the second is the actions of the Council to the dogs 'at-large'

Strategy:

- 1 That owners be made aware of their responsibilities to:
 - a. Register their dog.
 - b. Adequately fence their property to control their dog or provide an enclosure within property boundaries.
 - c. To keep their dog under effective control when in a public place.
- 2 That a dog management officer, conduct random (day of the week, and times of day) patrols of all public areas and detain dogs wandering at large.
- 3 That Council respond to calls from the general public of a dog wandering at large.

- 4 The priority of the Council will be to return the dog to the owner.
- 5 Un-identified dogs will be impounded in accordance with the Act.
- 6 Unclaimed dogs that are suitable as pets will be eligible for distribution to persons seeking a pet. Dogs being re-homed under this program will be required to be de-sexed, immunized and registered.
- 7 Unclaimed dogs that are unsuitable as pets will be euthanased.

8.1 (2) Registration / Identification;

The cornerstone of successful dog management is identification and that includes registration. The purpose of registration includes;

- To fund dog management programs.
- To allow lost dogs to be reunited with their owners.
- To encourage responsible dog management through discounted registration fees.
- To ensure that dog owners interact with animal management staff at least once a year at the time of registration.
- To provide proof of ownership.

Council supports a registration door knock to ensure compliance with current legislation.

Microchip identification of dogs, is recommended and the consideration of microchip identification with the evolution of better micro-chips and scanners is supported.

Strategy:

Promote responsible dog ownership;

- 1 Enforce legal requirements such as identification and registration.
- 2 Educate dog owners about animal welfare issues such as food and shelter, exercise, disease prevention and parasite control.
- 3 Educate dog owners about community issues such as roaming, nuisance, noise, faeces disposal and environmental damage caused by dogs.
- 4 Promote and facilitate socialisation and training of dogs, especially puppies.
- 5 Promote de sexing, including contribution to concessional schemes.

8.1 (3) Faeces Management;

Dog owners are currently legally required to retrieve and dispose of their dog's faeces for health, environmental and amenity reasons. However, enforcement is complicated by the difficulty of identifying the offending dog (owner). Education is recognised as the key in the long term. However, to be effective, an education campaign needs to be carefully designed and targeted.

A lot of work has been done on changing public behaviour in comparable areas of public policy eg, littering. There are accordingly many lessons to be learned from use in developing an education campaign for faeces management.

In addition to education, dog owners need facilities to encourage them to retrieve their dogs' faeces. A range of options exist encompassing both Council provided and individual provided mechanisms (eg pooper scoopers, pooch pouch etc). The provision of such mechanisms would need to be prioritised by Council and the community.

Strategy:

- 1 Promote responsible dog ownership.
- 2 Provide community awareness that failing to remove faeces in a public place is an offence and a danger to public health.
- 3 Encourage dog owners to use the faeces bags/bins provided or to use their own plastic bags for faeces removal.
- 4 Develop a faeces strategy that prioritises and reflects the different uses of parks and open space within the community.

8.1 (4) Benefits of Dog Ownership;

A range of different studies has demonstrated evidence of a link between dog ownership and better health. More research needs to be done to determine whether this link is causal or merely co relational (i.e., do dog owners share some other factor which yields health benefits?), and 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.
- The National Centre hosted a public health symposium 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. Dogs are also wonderful companions. In some cases helping combat loneliness and social alienation. 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 dogs. Local government has a role to play in harnessing these benefits - not to encourage people to buy a dog, but to even up the balance in the consideration of domestic animals issues and by removing unnecessary barriers to responsible pet ownership.

Strategy:

Promote the benefits to the community of responsible dog ownership.

Assist the community in accepting to co-exist with animals within the community.

8.1 (5) Education / Promotion;

Education in the dog control area has many facets. It includes education of dog owners and their families as well as training of the dogs. Another focus receiving attention is educating other people about how to behave around dogs. Within each category there are further segments, eg dog owners may be adults or children; they may also be prospective owners.

Different programs cater for different needs; and Council needs to target its education activities based on a careful assessment of the needs of the whole community, bearing in mind the need to complement and avoid overlapping or duplication with education activities of the Dog and Cat Management Board.

Strategy:

- 1 Educate the community on the responsibilities of dog ownership
 - a. Mail out renewal notices to all registered dog owners in late June. Included with that notice information on the responsibilities of dog ownership.
 - b. Advertise dog registration requirements in the local media and in Council News Page/Paper.
 - c. Promote in the media dogs in public places, on-leash and off-leash areas policies and the need to exercise dogs for successful pet management.

- d. Provide information to the media on how members of the public should act around dogs. Provide information to educate non-pet owners of their rights and responsibilities.
 - e. Provide information to the media of dog training classes in the community.
 - f. Promotion of puppy preschool and dog obedience classes etc.
 - g. Undertake regular school education programs.
- 2 Advertise in the community when Council is planning dog registration door-knocks to encourage voluntary dog registration.
 - 3 Provide information to the media on the factors of successful pet ownership and where information is available to assist people to select the right pet for their circumstances.

8.1 (6) Enforcement;

The Dog and Cat Management Act requires the Council to enforce the provisions of the Act in the area of the Council. The approach of the Council in the first instance will be to encourage people to accept their responsibilities of pet ownership and comply with the provisions of the Act voluntarily.

However the community requires that public places are monitored to ensure that the provisions of the Act are complied with, and that a dog management officer is available to respond to concerns of the community and serious 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 ("Best Practice" refers to the way in which leading edge organisations are able to manage and organise their operations to deliver world class (the best) standards of performance in areas such as cost, quality and timeliness).

Council has found from past practice that these services are best provided by Council employees, who are able to represent all facets of Council's Animal Management Policies; and at the same time supplement other compliance responsibilities of the Council.

Strategy:

- 1 Council will enforce the provisions of the Dog and Cat Management Act in its Council area using the following as a guide.
 - a Council will appoint a Registrar and at least one dog management officer and will ensure that these officers are trained and equipped to undertake their respective duties.

- b Council will maintain a Dog Register which is current and represents the known ownership and dog details of all dogs in the community.
 - c Council will monitor all public places for compliance with the provisions of the Act.
 - d Council will respond to complaints from members of the public regarding possible non-compliance with the provisions of the Act.
 - e Council will develop an assessment process to determine when a dog is barking “to such a degree or extent that it unreasonably interferes with the peace, comfort or convenience of a person”.
- 2 Dog Management Officers will be encouraged to re-enforce examples of responsible dog ownership, particularly with children.
 - 3 Dog Management Officers will be required to enforce the provisions of the Act for second offences under the Act involving the same dog or owner.

8.1 (7) Dogs held by Council;

Along with the role of policing dog management comes the responsibility of the Council to care and manage facilities for impounding, injured, lost or abandoned dogs. An approved facility must be designed and constructed in accordance with the standards applying for dog keeping facilities.

A carer of Council’s pound facilities is responsible for the appropriate care and maintenance of dogs whilst under Council’s care and control. Regular cleaning and maintenance is undertaken to ensure best practice standards are implemented and dogs under this care are treated humanely with the health and welfare of the animal considered as the utmost importance.

Strategy:

- 1 Ensure that the facilities provided by Council for the keeping of dogs are;
 - (a) provided with veterinary treatment where required.
 - (b) fresh clean drinking water and suitable food is provided in accordance with relevant legislation.

- (c) maintained to a satisfactory standard to prevent disease transfer.
 - (d) bedding and housing from the elements is clean, dry and comfortable.
 - (e) segregation of individual dogs is undertaken for their protection, unless the specific dogs are compatible.
 - (f) dogs seized or retained by Council shall be managed in accordance with The Coorong District Council Standard Operating Procedures.
 - (g) Regular training and auditing of procedures for staff is undertaken to ensure best practice standards are maintained.
- 2 Appropriate facilities are in place for the humane euthanasia of dogs diseased or abandoned and the placement of their remains.

8.2 Cat Management;

Cat management is still in its infancy with South Australian Councils. Most still operate in a process of trial and error with different approaches, however, The Coorong District Council supports controls to ensure the protection of biodiversity within its area. The South Australian Dog and Cat Management Act did not introduce cat curfews because questions were raised about how they would be enforced. Since 40% of cats in South Australia, were confined already to some degree, the decision was that this percentage could be more easily raised by education than legislation. Instead cat management should focus on public education combined with trapping of feral cats within the Councils area.

Goals to be achieved in cat management should be;

- Protect the welfare of cats.
- Recognise the value of the cat to society.
- Reduce the predation by cats on native wildlife.
- Reduce the incidence of public nuisance by uncontrolled cats.
- Reduce the transfer of disease.

Strategy:

- 1 Promote responsible cat ownership in the community;
 - a. conduct regular education by;
 - (1) provision of pamphlets and advice on cat ownership.
 - (2) undertake school education programs to highlight responsible cat management.
 - (3) offer advice and assistance with respect to complaints or enquiries related to cat keeping.
 - b. Council supports the carrying of an identification collar or micro-chipping of cats within the district for identification purposes.
 - c. Encourage owners to ensure that their cat is de-sexed, immunized, kept free of parasites and is fed/watered and provided with adequate shelter (enclose adventure/exercise areas) and prevented from roaming at nights.

- d. Encourage owners to be responsible for their cats' behaviour and take positive timely action to avoid nuisance to neighbours, impacts on wildlife and damage to property.
- 2 Make traps available to the community to trap feral cats that are causing a nuisance.

8.3 Other Species;

The keeping of other species animals should not impair the health, amenity and living standards of the community and should be located so as to minimise any adverse impacts on the natural environment and existing, or proposed, land uses in the district.

Other species relates to the management of animals creating a nuisance or impact on the community or in the advent of a danger to the safety of that animal. Most Local Government Authorities located in rural areas face issues relating to the keeping of poultry and other issues. Animal owners are required to keep animals in such a way as not to cause a nuisance or a hazard.

The Local Government Act and provides powers to issue orders on animals owners where the animals are a nuisance or safety concern for the community. Specific matters pertaining to Other Species, identifying animals, feral animals, protected animals, poultry, vermin, fish and ungulates are identified in this plan.

8.3 (1) Identification;

Council supports the view that all animals should carry some form of identification where practical to enable their safe return to owners and provide identification in enforcement situations. Specific forms of identification seen as desirable are branding, tagging, tattooing or micro-chipping.

A district register should be maintained on all species (i.e national identification of cattle) to provide Council with a source of animal ownership.

8.3 (2) Other Species;

Feral animals;

Feral animals are referred to as introduced domesticated animals that have reverted to a wild state. Council recognises that populations of introduced animals can affect natural ecosystems, endanger natural plant and animal species, jeopardise agricultural production and can harbour pests and diseases. Any measures taken to reduce populations of feral animals must require the same level of consideration for their welfare as that given to domestic and native animals.

Protected Native Animals;

Council believes that Native animals derived from the wild should not be kept as pets unless the animals are clearly identified as being suitable for this purpose, have non-demanding husbandry, are adaptable to live and have their needs met

in the captive state and pose no health or public safety risk to humans or other animals. Any such animal should be identified and de-sexed.

Native Wildlife that is rescued by reason of sickness, injury or paternal loss should be promptly assessed (preferably by a veterinarian) and where the animal is found to be suffering significant pain or distress consideration should be given to its future.

Where rehabilitation and successful release is unlikely, or there are no exceptional conservation reasons, or needs to keep the animal in captivity assessment should be made on this basis.

Poultry and other birds:

Owners are required to keep poultry and other birds in such a way as to not cause a nuisance or a hazard to the community. The Local Government Act gives Council the power to issue an order or orders to require animal or bird owners to abate a nuisance or hazard caused by poultry and other birds.

Owners who keep poultry and other birds also have responsibilities under the Public and Environmental Health Act to ensure the property must be kept in a clean and sanitary condition.

Other domestic exotic animals:

Owners are required to keep animals in such a way as to not cause a nuisance or a hazard to the community. The Local Government Act gives Council the power to issue an order or orders to require animal owners to abate a nuisance or hazard caused by domestic exotic animals.

Owners who keep domestic exotic animals also have responsibilities under the Public and Environmental Health Act to ensure the property must be kept in a clean and sanitary condition.

Vermin:

Owners of properties infested by vermin, should ensure appropriate action is taken to control or eradicate any rat or mouse infestation to minimise the potential for disease or health impacts within the community.

Owners of properties have responsibilities under the Public and Environmental Health Act to ensure the property is kept in a clean and sanitary condition.

Wasps, bees and other insects:

Owners of properties who have problems with wasps, bees and other insects can contact councils, Public and Environmental Health Officer for assistance and advice in relation to the above.

Fish:

Council recognizes the issue of owners or commercial fish facilities losing their fish through escape or release into public ponds, dams or rivers and will promote the benefits of responsible ownership in encouraging the owners of these pets to have regard to the environment and prevent the transfer of disease.

Ungulates:

Animal owners are required to keep animals in such a way as not to cause a nuisance or a hazard. The Local Government Act provides the power to issue orders to abate a nuisance or hazard caused by animals. Animals kept in the district solely for the domestic needs, or the enjoyment of the occupants of a dwelling, or for farming, or for commercial needs have a responsibility to the community to ensure they do not become a nuisance or danger to the public.

Owners who keep animals also have responsibilities under the Public and Environmental Health Act to ensure the property must be kept in a clean and sanitary condition.

Strategy:

- 1 Promote responsible animal ownership in the community;
 - a. conduct regular education by;
 - (1) provision of pamphlets and advice on animal ownership.
 - (2) offer advice and assistance with respect to complaints or enquiries related to animal keeping.
 - b. Council supports the identification of animals within the district.
 - c. Encourage owners to ensure that their animals are managed, immunized, kept free of parasites and are fed/watered and provided with adequate shelter.
 - d. Encourage owners to be responsible for their animal's behaviour and take positive timely action to avoid nuisance to neighbours, impacts on wildlife and damage to property.

(9) RESOURCES;

The Dog & Cat Management Act requires that revenues raised from the provisions of the Act shall be applied to dog & cat management of the area. Legislation applying for the control and welfare of animals should also be utilised for the provisions of those Acts for the care and control of those animals.

Revenue is derived from two principle sources, from registrations and from administration charges, expiation fees and fines for breeches to the provisions of the appropriate Act.

Strategy:

1. Keep accurate and up to date records of dog registration, expiations issued under The Dog and Cat Management Act and the Local Government Act. Administration and fee for service charges accordingly.
2. All revenue raised for the purposes of animal management shall be used to fund and further develop strategies for there administration.

10. INTERNAL REVIEW;

A person who is dissatisfied with a decision which has been taken by the Council, a Council employee, or a person acting on behalf of the Council, may apply in writing the Chief Executive Officer to have that decision reviewed.

A request for review of a decision by Council, a Council employee or a person acting on behalf of the Council, will be formally acknowledged within 5 days of receipt, including advice to applicants about the expected timeframe for dealing with the matter. In most cases applications for review will be considered within 21 days, although in some circumstances it may take longer. However, in all cases, applicants will be kept informed about the progress of the review, and advised in writing of the outcome of the review procedure and process. If applications for review are not resolved satisfactorily, applicants will be advised of other options for review, such as the State Ombudsman, legal advice, and/or the courts.

Written complaints should be submitted within:

1. 28 days in the case of an Expiation Notice
2. 14 days in the case of an Reminder Notice
3. 14 days of incident that the complaint relates to.

Council or its officers will not normally investigate anonymous complaints from any person;

Where a complaint has been received from any person concerning another person and that person has asked that the complaint be confidential, then;

1. If the complaint is considered at a meeting of Council, the name of the complainant(s) is not to be shown on the agenda or in the minutes. However, the name(s) will be given, in confidence, to any Member who enquires;
2. No officer of Council investigating such complaint is to disclose the name of the complainant(s).

No fee is attached to the application for a matter to be reviewed.

10.1 Review of The Animal Management Plan

This document will be reviewed on an annual basis and in accordance with the Section 26a of the Dog & Cat Management Act 1995 as amended. A Council must produce a plan for every five year term.