



Strategic Urban Animal Management Plan

2007 - 2012

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
1.1	Background	3
1.2	Strategic Outline.....	3
1.3	Education, prevention, encouragement and enforcement	4
2.	MISSION STATEMENT	4
3.	AIMS	4
4.	OBJECTIVES	5
5.	THE LAW/GUIDELINES	6
6.	ANIMAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES.....	11
7.	COMMUNITY CONSULTATION	22
8.	POLICIES AND OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION	22
9.	IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES.....	22

1. Executive Summary

1.1 Background

As a result of the 2004 review of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995, the importance of urban animal management plans was formally recognised and it is now mandatory for all South Australian Councils to develop and implement 5 Year Urban Animal Management Plans (UAMP) by 2007.

Council is now preparing this 2007-2012 plan to set the direction for the management of urban animals within our community for the next 5 years as required under the Act.

The plan will be routinely reviewed, to ensure its alignment to Council's strategic directions over the life of the plan.

1.2 Strategic Outline

The Council's management of urban animal issues has an impact on the health, well-being and lives of the whole community and the welfare of animals in the Town. The 2007-2012 Strategic Urban Animal Management Plan is therefore designed for everyone in the Town of Walkerville, both animal owners and non-owners. The plan has a predominant focus on dogs and cats, however it also identifies other animals which are kept within our community. Dogs and cats represent by far the most significant number and type of animals and have the most significant impact on our community, our environment, our health and well being.

As a result of a review of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 several changes came into effect from 1 July 2004. Details of Council's legislative requirements and a summary of the relevant legislation are outlined in the Plan. The Council is required to administer and enforce the provisions of this Act.

The objectives of the Act are to:

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

The plan's mission is to build on the foundation established through the strategies currently used by the Council and create an environment which encourages responsible pet ownership, where people and pets integrate safely and harmoniously within our community.

This plan contains recommendations for a wide range of actions to be undertaken by the Council to achieve these objectives. It provides a sound basis and direction from which it can plan and make future decisions over the next five years. It identifies strategies and actions to implement the mission, aims and objectives, including:

- Educating and promoting responsible pet ownership
- Highlighting the importance of desexing of dogs and cats
- Obtaining the right pet and pet friendly housing
- Reducing dog attacks and bite avoidance
- Managing dog faeces in public places
- Developing dog 'off leash' and 'on leash' areas
- Reducing the numbers of dogs wandering at large
- Promoting the importance of dog socialisation and training
- Reducing dog barking and nuisance

- Encouraging responsible cat management
- Reviewing Officer image & staff training
- Meeting our Corporate Responsibilities
 - Risk Management
 - Service Levels
- Identifying Other Urban Animals*
 - Roosters, chickens, birds
 - Sheep, horses, goats, pigs
 - Rabbits, bees
 - Wasps, vermin
 - Reptiles

*These animals are sometimes considered pests by the community, while for others they form an important part of their lifestyle and culture. This conflict of opinions needs to be managed effectively in accordance with regulations, policies and by-laws.

1.3 Education, prevention, encouragement and enforcement

This plan emphasises the proactive combination of education, prevention, encouragement and enforcement to achieve Council's objectives. Education and promotion are key priorities in changing attitudes to result in an increase in responsible pet ownership in the future. At the same time Council must be proactive in investigating and implementing preventative measures where possible and by providing encouragement to members of our community to comply with our policies and regulations.

Although it is expected that there will be a progressive decline in complaints and less reliance on enforcement, this will occur over the medium to long term. At the same time there may be a counter balancing effect due to increasing community expectation, increased profile on the compliance department and its services, encouragement of reporting e.g. all dog attacks and variables such as impacts from proposed legislative amendments to the Act.

2. Mission Statement

To create an environment which encourages responsible pet ownership where people and pets integrate safely and harmoniously within the Walkerville community.

3. Aims

- To provide effective management and a suitable environment for all urban animals within the community.
- To develop innovative and proactive approaches to urban animal management.
- To encourage responsible animal ownership focusing predominately on dog and cat ownership.
- To increase public safety through the reduction of public and environmental nuisance caused by animals.

4. Objectives

This section outlines the objectives of the Urban Animal Management Plan and how these objectives will be implemented.

Provide effective management and a suitable environment for all urban animals within the community.

- Operate in accordance with the Dog and Cat Management Act.
- Continued change of emphasis from only enforcement to a proactive approach, of “education, prevention, encouragement and enforcement”.
- Effective use of local statistics and demographics where appropriate when making decisions and influencing policy directions.
- Review of Council policies / guidelines concerning all urban animals in our community.
- Implement new management practices as a result of amendments to the Dog and Cat Management Act.
- Establish, encourage and coordinate relationships with neighbouring Councils and community and environmental stakeholders and be aware of impacts on the Town of Walkerville.
- Improve community recognition and understanding of the role of Animal Management Officers.

Develop an innovative and proactive approach to urban animal management.

- Research ‘best practice’ methodology for dealing with urban animal management issues.
- Effective use of statistics when making decisions and influence policy directions.
- Summarise and present our data to other council departments for consideration when they are reviewing policies.
- Consider trialling new initiatives and different approaches to animal management.
- Continue where appropriate, Council’s Animal Management Reference Group to identify issues and make recommendations for effective animal management.

Encourage responsible dog and cat ownership

- Encourage and provide community education concerning pets in the environment in conjunction with other animal agencies.
- Encourage desexing, socialisation, training and microchipping.
- Obtain maximum registration and identification, re-uniting pets to owners where possible.
- Encourage keeping cats inside at night, desexing and identification and increase the awareness of the impacts of cat ownership on the community.
- Encourage selection of the right pet to suit lifestyle and circumstances and appropriate provisions for the keeping of pets eg. Fencing, adequate yard.
- Promote the welfare of dogs and cats in the community.
- Recognise and promote the large percentage of responsible pet owners within our community.

Increase public safety through the reduction of public and environmental nuisance caused by dogs and cats.

- Ensure adherence to the “dogs on leash on streets, roads and footpath” provisions in the Dog and Cat Management Act.
- Assist with advice for residents for nuisance caused by barking dogs, if appropriate.
- Reduce the number of dog attacks and harassments through bite avoidance education and encourage the reporting of all dog attacks.
- Reduce the number of dogs wandering at large to minimise public nuisance and increase public safety.

- Encourage dog owners to pick up dog faeces and carry dog waste bags to reduce the amount of dog faeces in the environment.
- Explore ways to address the nuisance/harassment issues of dogs frightening people from inside their properties, particularly in circumstances where a dog may be able to access the public through the fence or where the fence is not secure or effective.

5. The Law/Guidelines

State Government laws dictate some of the actions within the plan. The laws include:

- Dog & Cat Management Act 1995
- Local Government Act 1999
- Public and Environmental Health Act 1987
- Development Regulations 1993 - Schedule 3

Objectives and Aims

The Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 (Section 3) reads:

The objectives of this Act include –

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

The aim of the Act is to provide a balanced range of options for the management of dogs and cats within Council areas.

Council responsibility for management of dogs:

Section 26 of the Act reads as follows:-

- Each Council is required to administer and enforce the provisions of this Act relating to dogs within its area and for that purpose must:
 - maintain a register of dogs containing the information required by the Board (which may be kept in the form of a computer record) that is to be readily available for public inspection; and
 - ensure that the Board is provided with information contained in the register as required by the Board from time to time; and
 - appoint a suitable person to be Registrar; and
 - make satisfactory arrangements for issuing and replacing certificates of registration and registration discs; and
 - appoint at least one full time animal management officer or make other arrangements for the exercise of the function and powers of animal management officers; and
 - make satisfactory arrangements for the detention of dogs seized under this Act; and
 - make satisfactory arrangements for fulfilling other obligations under this Act.
- The arrangements made by a Council under this section must be satisfactory to the Board.

- (3) Money received by a Council under this Act must be expended in the administration and enforcement of the provisions of this Act relating to dogs.
- (4) Each council must keep separate accounts of money received under this Act and of money expended in the administration and enforcement of the provisions of this Act relating to dogs.
- (5) A Council must pay into the Fund the percentage fixed by regulation of the dog registration fees received by the Council.
- (6) Councils may charge –
 - (a) fees for the provision of extracts from registers kept under this Act; and
 - (b) fees (which may be differential) approved by the Minister –
 - (i) for the registration of dogs or businesses under Part 5; and
 - (ii) for late payment of registration fees; and
 - (iii) for meeting any other requirement imposed on councils under this Act.
- (7) Without limiting the matters that may be taken into account when setting fees to be approved by the Minister, council's must provide for a percentage rebate of the fee that would otherwise be charged for the registration of a dog in the following cases:
 - (a) if the dog is desexed;
 - (b) if,
 - (i) the dog has been implanted with a microchip for the purposes of identification; and
 - (ii) the information contained in the microchip is up-to-date;

If the dog has passed a specified training program accredited by the Board, (and, if more than one rebate applies in respect of a particular dog, the rebates are to be aggregated and deducted from the registration fee that would otherwise be charged)

Plans of management relating to dogs and cats

Section 26A of the Act reads as follows:-

- (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 members 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; (1 July 2004)
 - (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.

By-laws

Councils have the ability to make By-laws for the control or management of dogs or cats in their area however by-laws must be consistent with the aims and objectives of the Act.

Section 90 (1) of the existing Act reads as follows:-

- (1) A district or municipal council may make by-laws for the control or management of dogs or cats within its area.

In the event the Council decides to make areas on leash for dogs on parks and reserves, a by-law would have to be made by the Council.

Legislative Requirements – Dog and Cat Management Act 1995

In 2001 a review of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 was initiated by the State Government. In 2004 the Amendment Bill was passed by Parliament and changes to legislation came into effect from 1 July 2004. A major amendment to the Review was the requirement for council to develop an urban Animal Management Plan.

Key provisions of the Act

Under the Act a council has responsibility for the management of dogs in its area.

A summary of the key provisions are listed below:

Legal age to register a dog.

Dog owners can lawfully register their dog if the dog owner is 16 years of age. Every dog three months of age or older must be registered and wear a collar with a registration disc attached. Registration expires on 30 June each year and must be renewed by 31 August in the same year.

Dogs on leash

All dogs must be on a leash (no longer than 2 metres in length) when on a street, road or public place (except parks unless otherwise specified by Council). Further detail is provided in item 6.6 Dog “on leash – off leash”.

Fines

Fines and maximum penalties for offences are provided for in the Act. Where offences continue and are considered by a Magistrate to be of a serious enough nature, Council can seek the removal and disposal of the dog in a manner specified by the court and the recovery of costs and/or compensation.

Animal Management Plans

Council is required to introduce a 5 Year Animal Management Plan and have 3 years to do so. Refer to Section 26A, of the Dog & Cat Management Act 1995.

Report of dog attacks by Medical Practitioners

The Act requires the mandatory reporting by Medical Practitioners of certain dog attacks to the Board.

Concessions / Rebates for dog registration

Concessions for dog registration include – Pensioners, self-funded retirees, desexing, microchipping and accredited trained.

Dogs on utes and tray tops

Dogs travelling in the back of utilities, trucks or similar vehicles are required to be harnessed so that any part of the dog cannot extend itself beyond the tray. Working dogs are exempt under certain conditions.

Prescribed breeds

Prescribed breeds include the American Pit Bull Terrier, Fila Brasileiro, Japanese Tosa, Dogo Argentina and Presa Canario. Owners of a prescribed breed are required by the Act to securely fix a muzzle on the dog when in public and must be on a leash at all times when in public. The breed must be desexed, and not sold or be given away.

Attack trained, guard dogs and patrol dogs

Provisions relating to attack trained dogs, guard dogs and patrol dogs including micro chipping, branding, collars and signage are contained in Section 45D of the Act.

Dog Control Orders

Dog Control Orders include a Destruction Order, a Dangerous Order, a Menacing Dog Order, a Nuisance Order and Barking Order.

- A Destruction Order requires the dog to be destroyed within the period specified in the order, but not less than one month after the date the order takes effect.
- A Dangerous Dog Order requires the dog to be desexed, microchipped and wear a collar that complies with the requirements of the Board, be muzzled when in public, have warning signs displayed at all entrances to the premises where the dog is usually kept, and be on a leash at all times when out in public.
- A Menacing Dog Order must be microchipped, wear a collar that complies with the requirements of the Board, and be muzzled and on a leash when in public.
- A Nuisance Dog Order and a Barking Dog Order requires all reasonable steps be taken by the owner to prevent the dog repeating the behaviour that gave rise to the order.

Council can issue directions from time to time about how the order may be complied with.

Prohibition Orders

The Order prohibits the person from acquiring or becoming responsible for the control of any dog for the period specified in the order. A Council may make a prohibition order against a person who owns or is responsible for a dog, where that dog has attacked or harassed a person or animal and the dog is already subject to a destruction order or a Control (Dangerous Dog) Order. Orders can be applied also in respect to previous history involving another dog(s) no longer the responsibility of that person.

Greyhounds

Greyhounds must remain muzzled and controlled on a leash when being exercised in a public place. In addition the Dog and Cat Management Board have determined that all GAP (Greyhound Adoption Program) accredited and trained dogs are exempt from wearing muzzles and will be required to wear a GAP collar only, which is a black material collar with the wording GAP in the weaving.

Guide Dogs and Hearing Dogs

Any application received for guide dog and hearing dog status will require proof to Council in the first instance. In the event that Council is not satisfied with such proof the dog owner is to be referred to the Dog and Cat Management Board for assessment and accreditation eligibility.

Disability dogs

A dog will be eligible for free dog registration as a disability dog subject to meeting conditions set down by the Board and receiving appropriate accreditation prior to endorsement by Council's Registrar of Dogs.

Dogs wandering at large

A dog will be taken to be wandering at large while no person is exercising effective control of the dog either by means of physical restraint or by command. The owner must be in close proximity and must be able to see the dog at all times.

Dogs attacking, harassing, chasing a person, animal or bird

A person is guilty of an offence if the owner of a dog sets or urges a dog to attack, harass or chase a person or an animal or bird whether or not actual injury has occurred. A person who owns or is responsible for a dog is guilty of an offence if the dog attacks or harasses or otherwise endangers the health of a person or animal.

Dogs cause injury to a person lawfully entering premises

A person who owns or is responsible for the control of a dog is guilty of an offence if the dog is on premises and cause injury to a person or property of a person lawfully entering those premises.

Dogs entering the grounds of a school, kindergarten, child care or pre-school centre with the permission of the person in charge

A person who owns or is responsible for a dog is guilty of an offence if the dog is on premises as stated above without the permission of the person in charge of that place

Dogs enter any shop unless it is a pet shop, grooming parlour or premises associated with a registered veterinary surgery

A person who owns or is responsible for a dog is guilty of an offence if the dog enters a shop not described above without the permission of the shopkeeper.

Dogs rushing or chasing vehicles in public places

It is an offence for dogs to chase or rush vehicles in a public place.

Dogs causing nuisance, in particular barking nuisance

A person who owns a dog or is responsible for the control of a dog is guilty of an offence if the dog creates a noise by barking or otherwise which persistently occurs or continues to such a

degree or extent that it unreasonably interferes with the peace, comfort or convenience of a person.

Seizure of dogs

Council's Animal Management Officers have powers to seize and detain dogs under the following circumstances:

- Dogs wandering at large in private or public places.
- To prevent a dog attacking, harassing or chasing a person or an owned animal or bird.
- To carry out an Order.
- Where urgent action is required.

Council's Animal Management Officers have the power to subdue a dog by any means necessary, which cannot be seized or detained because of its savagery or other sufficient cause.

Cat Management

At present the Act relates only to unidentified cats. No amendments have been made as a result of the review of the Act however it is the intention of this plan to identify research and prepare recommendations for consideration by Council to address any identified cat issues within our community.

6. Animal Management Strategies

There are a series of fundamental principals which underline all our animal management strategies:

1. The Council believes the strategies should encourage the Walkerville community to take ownership of issues and the Council should wherever possible facilitate self help strategies for the community.
2. The Council acknowledges the potential to build significant social capital within our community by implementing the strategies and will take every opportunity to maximise this.
3. Council recognises the importance of community consultation and will seek feedback wherever possible. Council acknowledges the benefits of educating the younger members of the community and engaging them in a campaign towards willing compliance.
4. Council aims to continually seek out innovations and technological advancements that will assist in achieving the aims and objectives.
5. Council will look for opportunities to work collaboratively with our neighbouring Councils and stakeholders to maximise the effectiveness of the strategies.

Education and Promotion of responsible pet ownership

A strategy to encourage and provide community education concerning pets in our environment.

A combination of education, encouragement and enforcement is seen to be a successful method of animal management. The Dog and Cat Management Board promotes this method and has developed many educational initiatives and regular media advertising campaigns which promote key issues. A singular method of enforcement may not provide a total solution to dog owner and dog related problems.

Educate our community and promote the following issues:

- Responsible pet ownership, costs and benefits.
- Desexing, registration and identification of dogs.
- Selecting an appropriate pet to suit lifestyle and circumstances and appropriate fencing and housing.
- Dog attack, bite avoidance and reporting of all dog attacks in public places and private property.
- Faeces management and environmental and social effects.
- Dogs 'off leash' and 'on leash' provisions.
- Dogs wandering at large & effective control.
- Socialising and training.
- Dog barking and nuisances.
- Cat management including desexing and identification
- Animal Management Officer image
- Corporate responsibilities
- Other urban animals

Proposed Activity

1. Investigate using Council brochures, website, pet information kits, newsletters, local newspaper and other promotional avenues.
2. Investigate distribution of educational material to Veterinary Clinics, and Pet Shops.
3. Review educational and promotional publications, including Dog & Cat Management Board material.
4. Investigate links on Council's website to other appropriate websites, including the Dog and Cat Management Board, Pet care, Animal Welfare League, Select a pet and newsletters from Dog Association and Obedience Clubs.
5. Consideration of free 'Responsible Pet Ownership' education sessions.
6. Review and monitor resource material available at Council Library.
7. Investigate talking to Service Clubs and community groups.
8. Investigate targeting Shopping Centres, Career Expo's, LGA Raise the Roof etc to promote responsible pet ownership including dog registration, dog obedience, bite avoidance etc.
9. Investigate working across departments within Council and neighbouring Council's to jointly address animal management issues
10. Investigate active involvement in school education with the State-wide 'Delta Dog Safe' program initiated by the Dog and Cat Management Board and other opportunities with animal related organisations such as Animal Welfare League's "Responsible Pet Ownership" program, and the Australian Veterinary Association 'PetPep' programme.
11. All staff to take ownership of an education and promotion approach to their day to day interactions with the community.

Desexing, registration and identification of dogs and cats

A strategy to increase identification of dogs through an increase in dog registration, (so more pets will be reunited with owners and less dogs placed in shelters) and promotion of the benefits of desexing of both dogs and cats.

Desexing

Dog and cat owners should be encouraged to have their pets desexed, irrespective of whether it is a male or female animal. Desexing animals has the following benefits:

1. Reduction of excessive, unnecessary and unplanned breeding.
2. Reduction of the likelihood of aggressive behaviour, predominantly in male undesexed dogs.
3. Reduction of dogs wandering at large.
4. Improved temperament and significant reduction of life threatening diseases in both male and female dogs.
5. Statistics indicate that in the Town of Walkerville 78% of registered dogs are desexed. Council will aim to increase this percentage. The Council currently provides a 40%

concession on registration fees for desexed dogs. Consideration over the course of the plan should be given to provide greater incentive and reward for desexing of dogs.

Proposed Activity:

1. Investigate seeking opportunities where possible to assist with low price desexing and microchipping of dogs and cats through selected vets.
2. Investigate sending a questionnaire (non-judgemental) with their dog registration renewal notices to all owners of un-desexed dogs seeking information as to why they have not desexed their dog / s.
3. Promote year round low price desexing of cats through opportunities such as C.A.T.S Inc. (Cats Assistance to Sterilise) or alternative organisations.
4. Consideration for continued strategies and negotiations with C.A.T.S. (Cats Assistance to Sterilise) or alternative organisations regarding desexing community cats.
5. Review current control of cats policy and establish education program.
6. Encourage all Veterinary Surgeries in the area to promote the benefits of pet desexing.
7. Seek further consultation with the State Government, the Dog and Cat Management Board and residents regarding amendments to legislation relating to cat control.
8. Promote a united campaign by all dog & cat stakeholders to consider the possibility of offering low price desexing to the general public.
9. Gain support for the identification and promotion of dog expiation fees to be directed towards specific dog related education and encouragement programs.

Registration

Legislation in SA requires all dogs over 3 months of age to be registered.

Council cannot expect to sustain an acceptable level of animal management services without obtaining maximum dog registrations as the registration fees received pays for the service provided by Council. This can therefore be a very important issue and is a key factor controlling all other effective and successful animal management strategies.

Dog registration ensures that:

- Owners are registered as well as their dogs.
- Adequate funding is available for Council to carry out responsibilities under the Act.
- Responsible dog owners and the rest of the community do not have to financially support irresponsible dog owners.

Proposed Activity:

1. Investigate the implementation of a dog registration door knock program to maximise dog registration and assist with maintaining accurate data.
2. Investigate use of a mobile dog registration booth along Linear Park or other highly used dog exercise areas.
3. Consider registration fees for dogs 3-6 months of age to be at the desexed rate, with that changing if they have not had their dog desexed by the next registration date.
4. Consider the introduction of free 'Responsible Pet Owner' information sessions, to cover issues like prevention versus cure. These sessions should be conducted in partnership where appropriate with other animal related stakeholders.
5. Consider rewarding responsible dog owners with incentives/rewards for pets.
6. Consider rewarding mature dogs (eg over 10 years) who have no infringements or offence history with life time registration.
7. Pursue an active involvement with the Dog and Cat Management Board particularly relating to the setting of Registration Fees.
8. Lobby the Dog and Cat Management Board to advocate for a review of annual dog registrations with consideration of three or five year registrations terms and an increased differential to provide a greater incentive for dog owners to desex their dogs.

9. Encourage Animal Management Officers to continue to use their professional discretion and issue cautionary expiations where appropriate. No monetary fee would apply in this situation, however it allows Council to record the information against the dog and its owner for future reference.

Dog and Cat Identification

Legislation in South Australia requires dogs to be identified by means of a collar and registration disc. The Dog and Cat Management Board endorses the micro chipping of dogs and cats as a support identification method to the collar and disc. Identification tags are also regarded as a support method of identification.

Identification results in:

- Significant likelihood of pets being re-united with their owners.
- Dog owner being contacted in the event of the dog being involved in an accident which may result in veterinary treatment.
- Reduced likelihood of dog being re-homed at an animal shelter if not claimed.

Proposed Activity:

1. Maximise registration of dogs through the renewal process and possible dog registration doorknock programs.
2. Ensure regular use of microchip scanner at point of dog pick up where possible and attempt to identify and return dog to its owner.
3. Promote identification tags for dogs and cats, supplementary to registration discs.
4. Promote microchipping of dogs and cats and consider microchipping days and/or incentives.
5. Promote information on Councils Strategic Urban Animal Management Plan and legislative requirements concerning dog registration to the community.

Selecting an appropriate pet and planning for pet friendly housing.

Encourage responsible attitudes towards pet ownership and selection of a suitable pet to suit lifestyle and circumstances while encouraging an appropriate environment and housing.

Selecting an appropriate pet

The decision to acquire a pet is a very important one for the owners, animals and the community in general. Often unwanted dogs and cats become statistics, being given away, turned loose or relinquished to animal shelters. Other types of pets may be a better option for some people within the community.

Proposed Activity:

1. Promotion of 'Select a Pet' website to assist in selecting an appropriate breed.
2. Encourage/promote residents to use resources (books/videos) available at libraries and to promote appropriate arrangements are made for pets while owners are on holidays.
3. Promote the benefits and costs of pet ownership.
4. Promotion of other appropriate pets, the keeping of, desexing etc.
5. Encourage Pet Shop Code of Conduct promoting appropriate selection of pet to suit lifestyle and circumstances.
6. Encourage pet shops (if applicable) to provide registration forms and information kits.
7. Lobby the Dog and Cat Management Board to develop regulations relating to back yard breeding.
8. Encourage and promote alternative options to persons not able or willing to care for their pets.

Planning For Pet Friendly Housing

Many pet behavioural problems can be attributed to inappropriate housing and inappropriate pet/breed selection. This strategy is designed to create a safer and happier environment for pets.

Proposed Activity:

Provide advice on appropriate design for the keeping of pets taking into account the following principles:

- Maximise space available to pets.
- Environment enrichment.
- View of the outside world.
- Confinement, ensure fencing secure & gates closed at all times eg appropriate fencing.
- Acoustic separation.
- A safe and comfortable environment.
- Amount of time available to spend with pet.

Dog Attack, Bite Avoidance and reporting of Dog Attacks

A strategy to reduce the number of dog attacks and harassments and encourage the reporting of all dog attacks and harassments.

The issue of dog attacks and harassment is concerning to the community, particularly in relation to children and the elderly. A concern for Council is the number of unreported attacks and the fact that the majority of attacks occur on private property.

While a minority of dogs are involved in attacks and harassment, all dogs have the potential to bite, regardless of size, age, breed or temperament, particularly in situations where they are frightened, dominant, protective or possessive.

Proposed Activity:

1. Promote information on Council's Strategic Urban Animal Management Plan and legislative requirements concerning dog attacks to the community.
2. Continue to lobby, support and assist in facilitation of the Dog and Cat Management Board's 'Delta Dog Safe' Program through South Australia schools.
3. Collate statistics and examine the types and breeds of dog involved in attacks.
4. Promote and encourage the reporting of all dog attacks whether in public places or on private property.
5. Review current education material and methods on bite avoidance, and seek opportunities to emphasise the importance of adult supervision of children at all times.
6. Promote the level of risk relating to litigation and public safety.

Faeces Management

A strategy to encourage dog owners to pick up dog faeces from public places in order to reduce the amount of dog faeces harming our environment and spoiling the enjoyment of others.

Faeces Management

The management of dog faeces is an important environmental and community issue. Tonnes of dog faeces pollute waterways and public places each year and degrade our waterways and land based ecosystems while also posing a risk for animals.

While the Council provides some dog waste dispensers, installation and ongoing maintenance are significant and the duty of refilling and supplying courtesy bags is ongoing.

Proposed Activity:

1. Investigate engaging community volunteers to encourage compliance.
2. Guidelines to be referred to when considering installation of additional dispensers and dog tidy bags in reserves and off leash areas.
3. Continue to promote individual packs of degradable dog waste bags and 'pooch pouches'.
4. Consider providing dog 'pooch pouches' at time of registration as incentive to pick up after your dog.
5. Consider dog waste dispensers in Parks, Gardens and Reserves
6. Educate dog owners on the impact of dog waste on the environment
7. Investigate appropriate signage regarding responsible collection / disposal of dog faeces being installed throughout Council area.

Dog 'On Leash' - 'Off Leash'

A strategy to address the human/dog relationship to ensure coexistence and safety.

Dogs on leash - streets, roads and footpaths.

All dogs must to be on a leash when in a public place "means a place to which the public has access". This means places such as streets, roads, footpaths, shopping centre car parks etc but does not include parks and reserves.

All Councils have until July 2007 to determine what is appropriate use and provisions for dogs on leash/off leash in other open spaces such as parks, reserves and gardens in their own Council area.

Parks and Reserves

Council reserves and parks remain off leash areas until community consultation has been undertaken on the issue. Dog owners are encouraged to provide their dogs with off leash exercise while demonstrating effective control at all times.

Proposed Activity:

1. Strategic Urban Animal Management Plan Reference Group to identify issues and make recommendations relating to 'on /off leash areas'.
2. Develop criteria/guidelines to select "Dog on Leash" areas including playgrounds.
3. Conduct community consultation where appropriate.
4. Strategic Urban Animal Management Plan considerations to be built into the Community Land Management Plan as required under the Local Government Act 1999.

Dogs Wandering At Large & Effective Control

A strategy to reduce the number of dogs wandering at large to reduce public nuisance and increase public safety.

Dogs wandering at large can be a threat to the dog and to the community.

During fireworks and intense storm conditions dog owners should be encouraged to securely confine their pets.

A combination of education, encouragement and enforcement and by maximising dog registration and identification will ensure more impounded dogs are returned to owners with less risk to the animal and to the community.

Effective control is described in the Act as the dog is in control by means of a chain, cord or leash that does not exceed 2 metres in length, or by command, the dog being in close proximity to the person and the person being able to see the dog at all times.

Proposed Activity:

1. Encourage pet owners to confine their pets during fireworks events and thunderstorm warnings.
2. Investigate promoting Councils contact details for a dog that is lost / found. .
3. Ensure officers have access to dog registration details to enable return of the dog to the owner.
4. Investigate establishing a Council's Lost & Found web site with links to other similar sites.
5. Promote lawful requirement of identification.
6. Build into Animal Management Officer's work procedures all possible options for attempting to return wandering dogs back to their owners before they are impounded.
7. Promote the consequences of dogs wandering at large.
8. Educate community and promote the meaning of 'effective control'.

Dog Socialisation and Training

A strategy to encourage dog owners to socialise and train their dogs to an acceptable level within the community.

Dog socialisation and training has the potential to overcome most behavioural problems and should be promoted as a part of responsible ownership along with education. In conjunction with training the dog, the handler is also an important part of continued reinforcement and training. Dog owners may acquire training for their dogs through:

- ***Puppy pre-school through participating Veterinary Clinics.***
- ***Local dog obedience clubs.***
- ***Animal behaviour and training organisations.***

Proposed Activity:

1. Promote Puppy Pre-School programs and Canine Good Citizens Course.
2. Support and promote initiatives of Obedience Clubs and Vets.

Dog Barking Nuisance

A strategy to manage nuisance caused by barking.

Barking complaints make up a significant percentage of complaints received by council's compliance department and are often complex and very difficult to deal with effectively.

Proposed Activity:

1. Review Dog Barking Procedures and investigate methods to monitor barking nuisance.
2. Investigate options that encourage and allow neighbours to attempt to resolve this issue before Council is involved.
3. In situations where specialist expertise is required, Council provide information regarding different options including animal behaviourists and trainers who can assist dog owners with solving problems.
4. Promote the keeping of cats inside at night to assist in reducing barking nuisance.

Management of Cats

A strategy to encourage responsible cat ownership and support the desexing and identification of cats as a means of cat control.

The Council receives relatively few complaints regarding cat problems.

Council's current involvement in cat management is as follows:

- ***hire of cat cages (refundable deposit applies)***
- ***referral to C.A.T.S. (Cats Assistance to Sterilise).***
- ***provision of education/promotional information on responsible cat ownership***

Under the provisions of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 if a member of the public finds an unidentified cat (no collar with identification tag with contact details to determine the owner of the cat, or no microchip tattoo in the inside of the cat's ear) then they may trap this cat only if it is found on their property. A person is not authorised to enter another person's property without the consent of the occupier or owner (in the case of Council or Crown land). If the cat is identified then it must be released. Where it is alleged that insanitary conditions result from excessive cats on a property Council may investigate and take the necessary steps to have the owner or occupier of the property address the insanitary conditions.

The State Government has consulted Councils on their views regarding cats in the community with a survey distributed to all South Australian Councils. It was indicated that legislation relating to dogs would be completed before the issue of cats is seriously considered. Before a direction is proposed a more detailed consultation process will be instigated by the Government on the issue of effective cat management.

Resources, costs, staffing and enforcement to provide additional cat management services will need to be considered seriously and consultation with the community is anticipated.

Proposed Activity:

1. Investigate possibility of Council using CATS Inc.
2. Educate and encourage responsible cat ownership through various methods, including mediation.
3. Encourage cat enclosures.
4. In the event cat related complaints increase, examine the success or failures/problems of the other Councils including interstate models who have attempted to implement cat By-Laws for consideration.

Animal Management Officer Image & Staff Training

A strategy to improve community recognition and understanding of the role and services provided by Animal Management Officers, including the provision of adequate training to respond to all aspects of animal management in the community.

Officer Image

The Town of Walkerville through its Animal Management Officers offer education, encouragement and enforcement of the various Acts and Legislation relating to Animal Management. Animal Management Officers will act with courtesy and professionalism while at the same time providing the opportunity for educational, promotional and proactive initiatives.

Proposed Activity:

1. Animal Management Officers to attend Community, Council and Conference events where possible.
2. Increased networking with key stakeholders.
3. Promotion of Animal Management Officers and their role.

Staff Training

Animal Management Officers attend training on the various components of their roles through a variety of means.

Proposed Activity:

- Staff training on procedures, standard responses and educational material, recognition of opportunities to reach dog and cat owners and dispensing accurate information and referral.
- Identify training needs through staff personal development programs.
- Registrar of Dogs to receive necessary training, guidance and assistance to carry out obligations under the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995.
- Attendance at Urban Animal Management conferences by animal management officers to keep updated with the latest trends in urban animal management.
- Participation from animal management officers taking partial ownership and involvement in the implementation and monitoring of initiatives and recommendations in the plan.
- Develop and maintain standard operating procedures for animal management.
- Continue to focus on customer service training
- Encourage mediation skill development for all officers.
- Adequate training of officers in OHS & W.

Corporate Responsibilities

Risk Management

A strategy to maintain a risk management plan about animal management in the community.

Risk management is a fundamental subject in Council operations and has also been identified by the Dog and Cat Management Board as an important issue.

Proposed Activity:

1. Obtain legal advice where necessary for example in relation to dog on/off leash provisions.
2. Undertake risk management analysis where appropriate and address risks.
3. Continual development and training of officers to ensure appropriate investigation and action is facilitated.

Service Levels

A strategy to ensure appropriate levels of service for the management of pets to meet the needs of the community.

The Town of Walkerville covers an area of approx 350 hectares, with a residential population of 6763 (2001 statistics). In the 2005/06 financial year 967 dogs were registered.

An authorised officer is available 24 hours for picking up dogs wandering at large and other urgent situations.

Proposed Activity:

1. Review and adjust service levels where necessary in line with adopted recommendations of the Strategic Urban Animal Management Plan.
2. Investigate options to address communication difficulties in our community.

Other urban animals

While this plan mostly incorporates animal management relating to dogs and cats animals such as horses, sheep, goats, cattle, pigs, roosters, chickens, birds, and bees impact on the community and therefore have been incorporated into the plan as supplementary items to reflect current legislation, policies and/or by-laws along with the relevant service provisions.

Roosters, chickens, birds, bees and other animals

Animal owners are required to keep animals in such a way as not to cause a nuisance or a hazard. Section 254 of the Local Government Act 1999 gives Councils the power to issue orders to require animal owners to abate a nuisance or hazard caused by animals. Examples of some circumstances include:

- Keeping an excessive number of insects, birds or other animals.
- Keeping bees in close proximity to another property.
- Keeping animals so as to generate excessive noise, dust or odours, or to attract pests or vermin.
- Failing to deal with a European wasp nest.

Owners who keep animals also have responsibilities under the Public and Environmental Health Act 1987 to ensure the property is kept in a clean and sanitary condition. Council can issue Notices where the keeping of animals is causing an insanitary condition to occur. Examples of insanitary conditions include:

- Offensive odours caused by an accumulation of animal faeces on the property.
- Infestation of rodents as a result of failing to construct and maintain an adequate poultry enclosure.

Horses, sheep, cattle, pigs, goats or other livestock

Under Schedule 3 of the Development Regulations 1993, the keeping of domestic animals is not considered as development. However the keeping of domestic animals for commercial purposes and the keeping of non-domestic animals i.e.; horses, sheep, cattle, pigs, goats or other livestock, requires a development application to Council. Public consultation may be sought, taking into consideration any impacts which the proposed development may have beyond the boundaries of a property. Consideration is given to representations received under the public consultation process in determining the appropriateness of the application by Council prior to making a decision.

During the application process consultation may be required with other Council departments to identify issues and recommend conditions that may be applied in relation to the keeping of the animal or animals. Approval of the application may as a result be subject to conditions determined by Council, under the development process.

Where an application is not approved by Council the applicant has the right of appeal to the Environment, Resources and Development Court.

It should be noted that Council is generally reluctant to grant approval for the keeping of non-domestic animals and commercial breeders within metropolitan residential areas.

In the event of concerns relating to insanitary conditions, the Eastern Health Authority may investigate and take appropriate action under the Public and Environmental Health Act 1987.

Vermin

Council provides a number of services to assist residents with vermin control. Residents are able to discuss vermin control with Council via the Eastern health Authority who can advise on basic measures for rat control. Part of this information provision may be a recommendation to seek professional pest control services.

Information sheets on rat control are also available and these can be posted out to residents or viewed on the Council's website. Where residents have concerns about insanitary conditions the Eastern Health Authority may investigate the concerns under the Public and Environmental Health Act and provide feedback to residents. To complement these services, small quantities of bait are available the Council.

Bait is provided as assistance only, recognising that residents are responsible for vermin control on their own properties. The quantities provided are controlled and are sufficient for minor problems only. Residents experiencing ongoing or complex problems are advised to seek professional pest control services.

Reptiles

All reptiles are protected in South Australia and cannot be taken from the wild without an appropriate permit. A person requires a permit under Section 58 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972 to keep a reptile.

Residents requiring assistance with reptiles on their properties are to contact a Snake catcher / removal service.

European wasps

Where a resident is experiencing an infestation of European wasps, Animal Management Officers obtain details from the resident and provide the details to a wasp eradication contractor who then deals with the resident directly. Council pays for this service in the first instance and receives funding contributions through the State Governments Equalisation Scheme. The provision of funding is not guaranteed for each year and is reviewed at such a time accordingly.

7. Community Consultation

Elected Members, stakeholders, members of the Strategic Urban Animal Management Plan reference group, local residents and staff are invited to provide feedback on the draft plan which will be considered for the final 2007-2012 Corporation of the Town of Walkerville Strategic Urban Animal Management Plan.

8. Policies and other relevant information

This Strategic Urban Animal Management Plan is in line with Council's Strategic Plan. It is about creating and maintaining a community which is socially, environmentally and economically sustainable in the long term by focussing on responsible animal ownership. The Plan clearly outlines the direction to be pursued by Council as well as more specific goals and key actions.

Other Council policies which impact on the area of animal management are:

- Trapping and destruction of possums
- Control of cats
- Community & Public Consultation Policy

These policies should be read in conjunction with this Plan.

9. Implementation Strategies

Reporting Structure

Performance on achievement of the Strategies and Key Performance Indicators set in the plan may be reported annually to Council.

Resources

The funding of this Plan will be in accordance with the Annual Budget of the Council.

Section 26 (3) of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 requires that *"money received by a Council under this Act must be expended in the administration or enforcement of the provisions of this Act relating to dogs"*.

Council's income from the administration and enforcement of the Act is presently derived from four principal sources, i.e. general rate revenue, dog registration, expiation fees and fines for breaches of the Act. Expiation fees are applied by Regulation under the Dog & Cat Management Act, whilst fines are applied as a result of court action. Dog Registration Fees are set by Council, with approval of the Minister.

Partnerships

To achieve optimum outcomes, partnerships with stakeholders within the community will be pursued.

Stakeholders can make a significant contribution to the success of Council's aims and objectives within this plan and we should continue to work with and assist them to grow and develop.