



Animal Management Plan

2006-2011

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1. Introductory

1.1 Background

The development of an Animal Management Plan for the management of dogs and cats within the Council area is a requirement under the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995.

Council advertised seeking expressions of interest from members of the community with special interest in responsible animal ownership and management to nominate to participate in an advisory group to assist Regulatory Services in developing a 'City of West Torrens Animal Management Plan'. An Advisory Group was formed to work with Consultants, the group comprises of the following representatives:-

Councillor Rosalie Haese	Elected Member
Lyle Strachan	Dog Club/Trainer
Craig Ellis	Community Representative (Dogs)
Linda Mundy	Community Representative (Dogs)
Sue Williams	Community Representative (Dogs)
Hilary Lambourn	Community Representative (Cats)
Robyn Butterfield	Council Staff
Peter Richardson	Council Staff
Andy Gourlay	Council Staff

A comprehensive background paper was prepared incorporating Council's current policies and procedures, which provided the Advisory Group with the necessary background information, in relation to animal management in the City of West Torrens, to begin the project.

The Advisory Group met on several occasions to develop a Draft Plan for community comment and Council endorsement.

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 City. This Plan is therefore designed for everyone in the City of West Torrens from dog and cat owners to those who have no pets and sets the direction for the Council in animal management for the next 5 years.

Details of Council's legislative requirements and a summary of the relevant legislation being the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 are outlined in the Plan. The Council is required to administer and enforce the provisions of this Act. The Objects of the Act are to:

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

This Plan contains recommendations for a wide range of actions to be undertaken by the Council to achieve the aims. It provides a sound basis and direction for Council which it can plan and make future decisions and relates back to the wider Council policy context. The Plan will be subject to ongoing review in line with any legislative changes to requirements. It identifies strategies and actions to implement the mission, aims and objectives, including:-

- Responsible Dog and Cat Ownership Education and Promotion
- Desexing of Dogs and Cats
- Dog Registration
- Dog Attacks and Bite Avoidance
- Benefits of Pet Ownership
- Faeces Management
- Dog "Off Leash" and "On Leash" Areas
- Permanent Dog and Cat Identification
- Dogs Wandering at Large
- Dog Obedience Training and Puppy Socialisation
- Dog Management Officer Image
- Dog Barking Nuisance
- Management of Domestic Cats

This Plan is for a more proactive approach to animal management.

2. Mission Statement

To create an environment in the City of West Torrens in which all members of the community are well informed about the benefits and responsibilities of dog and cat ownership.

3. Aims

1. To increase education and improve community understanding of the benefits and responsibilities of dog and cat ownership.
2. To increase public safety and reduce environmental nuisance caused by dogs and cats through a reduction in the number of dog attacks, dogs wandering at large and stray cats.
3. To provide effective dog and cat management.

4. Objectives

4.1 Increase education and improve community understanding of the benefits and responsibilities of dog and cat ownership

- Introduce school and community education programs including Child & Youth Health Centre
- Promote existing education programs, including Delta Society of Australia -Delta Dog Safe Program, Australian Veterinarian Association (AVA) -PetPep
- Obtain maximum dog registration
- Encourage dog owners to socialise and train their dogs in accordance with levels to be set and reviewed by the Dog & Cat Management Board
- Continue the development and distribution of relevant Information Sheets
- Encourage permanent identification of dogs and cats
- Encourage keeping cats inside at night
- Encourage the selection of the right pet to suit lifestyle and circumstances

4.2 To increase public safety through the reduction of dog attacks, dogs wandering at large and stray cats

- Manage nuisance caused by barking dogs and problems associated with stray cats
- Reduce the number of dog attacks and harassments 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 owner responsibility regarding picking up dog faeces in order to reduce the risk of health problems and reduce environmental pollution.

4.3 Provide effective dog and cat management and a safe environment for dogs and cats

- Operate in accordance with the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995
- Monitor and reduce the number of dog attacks and harassments on other animals and encourage the reporting of all dog attacks and harassments
- Monitor and reduce the number of dogs wandering at large
- Increase number of impounded dogs being returned to owner
- Adopt a proactive approach to dog and cat management

5. The Law/Guidelines

South Australia Legislation - Dog & Cat Management Act 1995

5.1 Objects and Aims

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

Objects:

The objects of this Act are -

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

The aim of the Act is to provide a balanced range of options for the management of dogs and cats within Council areas, whereby problems can be managed to a solution in the best interests of the community.

5.2 Legislative Requirements

Section 26 of the Act reads as follows:-

Council responsibility for management of dogs

- (1) Each Council is required to administer and enforce the provisions of this Act relating to dogs within its area and for that purpose must -*
 - (a) maintain a register of dogs (containing the information required by the Board and kept readily available for public inspection); and*
 - (b) appoint a suitable person to be Registrar; and*
 - (c) make satisfactory arrangements for issuing and replacing certificates of registration and registration discs; and*
 - (d) appoint at least one full time dog management officer or make other arrangements for the exercise of the function and powers of dog management officers; and*
 - (e) make satisfactory arrangements for the detention of dogs seized under this Act; and*
 - (f) make satisfactory arrangements for fulfilling other obligations under this Act.*
- (2) 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 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) *A Council may charge a fee for provision of an extract from a register kept under this Act.*

5.3 Summary in Brief

Under the Act a Council has responsibility for the management of dogs in its area. Every dog of, or over, three months of age 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.

Dog Registration fees and other fees in relation to the management of dogs are set by Council and submitted to the Minister for approval.

There is provision for business registration where the owner or operator of a business which consists of or involving a kennel at which dogs are bred or trained or the provision of security or other services involving the use of dogs.

The following organisations are exempted from registering for dogs held in their custody.

- Royal Society Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA),
- Animal Welfare League (AWL),
- Guide Dogs Association, Lions Hearing Dogs
- Member of the Police Force
- Registered Veterinarian

Dogs are required to be under effective control in public places i.e roads and footpaths (other than a park). Effective control means that the dog is either:

- Controlled on a chain, cord or leash not exceeding 2m in length restraining the dog
- Placed in a cage, vehicle or other object or structure
- By tethering to a fixed object by means of a chain, cord or leash not exceeding 2 m in length

Under general offences, dogs are not allowed to:

- Wander at large
- Attack or harass persons or owned animals, whether or not actual injury is caused
- Be transported unrestrained in vehicles (open tray of utility, truck or similar)
- Cause injury to a person lawfully entering premises
- Enter the grounds of a school, kindergarten, child care or pre-school centre, except with the permission of the person in charge

- Enter any shop unless it is a pet shop, grooming parlour or premises associated with a registered veterinary surgery
- Rush at or chase vehicles in public places
- Cause nuisance, in particular barking nuisance

Dog owners must pick up and lawfully dispose of dog faeces in public places. Greyhounds must be muzzled and controlled on a leash when being exercised in public places.

Attack trained dogs, guard dogs and patrol dogs must be microchipped and branded in an approved manner, must wear a specific collar and be under the effective control of a person by means of physical restraint in any public place.

Councils may issue Destruction and Control Orders in certain circumstances whether on the Council's own initiative or on complaint. Council's dog management officers have powers to seize and detain dogs under certain circumstances:

- 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
- If considered unduly dangerous

Council's dog management officers have the power to injure or destroy a dog, which cannot be seized or detained because of its savagery or other sufficient cause.

Accredited Guide dogs, Disability and Hearing Dogs must be registered but no fee is applicable. These dogs have certain exemptions under the Act.

The Act does not apply to dogs owned by or on behalf of the Crown (in the right of the Commonwealth or the State) and used for security, emergency or law enforcement purposes. e.g Police Dogs, Armed Forces Dogs

Councils have the ability to make bylaws for the control or management of dogs or cats in their area.

There are 5 prescribed breeds of dog which can only be kept under certain conditions. These dogs are the American Pit Bull Terrier, Fila Brasileiro, Japanese Tosa, Dogo Argentina and Presa Canario.

In circumstances where it is reasonable and necessary for the protection of life or property, a person may lawfully injure or destroy a dog.

The Regulations specify –

- Metropolitan Councils are required to pay 20% of their dog registration fees into the Dog and Cat Management Fund each year.
- the conditions under which guard dogs may be kept
- guidelines for the identification of cats

Each Council is required to administer and enforce the provisions of the a

Act relating to dogs within its area and appoint a suitable person to be Registrar. The Registrar has specific responsibilities under the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 as follows:-

Registration of Dogs

- Dogs must be registered
- Registration procedure for individual dogs
- Registration procedure for businesses involving dogs
- Duration and renewal of registration
- Notifications to ensure accuracy of registers
- Transfer of ownership of dog
- Rectification of register
- Applications and fees.

The Registrar must ensure that all staff involved in the registration of dogs are trained sufficiently and have the knowledge to deal with dog owners and members of the public on behalf of the Registrar. The Registrar may also delegate powers to appropriate persons.

Arrangements made by Council under the Act must be to the satisfaction of the Dog and Cat Management Board.

It is the role of the Dog and Cat Management Board to oversee and administer the provisions of the Act related to dogs and it is essential that the Council and the Board work in close co-operation.

The Board require statistics to be supplied to them by all Councils annually in order to carry out its responsibilities in terms of research and general management of dogs and cats throughout South Australia. These statistics can also be extremely helpful to the Council with its planning and management processes.

Councils are provided with freedom of choice as to whether or not they have an active involvement in cat management. The Act relates mainly to unidentified cats.

6: Animal Management Strategies

6.1 Responsible Dog and Cat Ownership Education And Promotion

A strategy to provide community education on responsible dog and cat ownership.

A community education process is recommended as part of a proactive approach to dog and cat management.

Council will:

1. Educate and promote benefits and responsibilities of dog and cat ownership including the following:

- Responsibilities of dog and cat ownership
 - Children should be supervised at all times around dogs
 - The importance of reporting all dog attacks in public places or on private property
 - Failure to pick up after your dog is not socially acceptable or environmentally friendly
 - The importance to adequately fence their property or provide an enclosure within the property to ensure the safety of their pets
 - Allowing dogs to wander at large and bark unnecessarily is not socially acceptable
 - The reasons for and importance of dog registration (and relevant concessions)
 - The reasons why cats should be kept inside at night
 - The benefits of dog and cat desexing (and dog registration concession)
 - The benefits of microchipping dogs and cats
 - The benefits of dog training and puppy socialisation
 - The benefits of purchasing pets from recognised breeders
 - Selection of the right pet to suit lifestyle and circumstances and how to make well informed choices by obtaining pet information from the following organisations:-
 - Petcare Information and Advisory Service www.petnet.com.au
 - Dog & Cat Management Board of SA www.dogsncats.asn.au
 - South Australian Canine Association www.saca.caninenet.com
 - Promote the making of suitable holiday care arrangements for dogs and cats and distribute relevant information
 - Promote an awareness of the potential danger to dogs and cats from storms and fireworks
- Health benefits of dog and cat ownership
- Tolerance of dogs and cats by all members of the community

2. Educate and promote the benefits and responsibilities of dog and cat ownership using the following methods:

- Utilise all media opportunities, in particular “Talking Points” (the Council’s newspaper)
- Develop relevant Information Sheets for distribution, including publishing in other languages
- Ensure that Council Customer Service staff are familiar with all material available
- Supply all Council Library outlets, Community Centres, Dog Obedience Clubs and Veterinary Clinics in the Council area with relevant educational material
- Educational visits to Schools, Pre-Schools

6.2 Desexing Of Dogs And Cats

A strategy to achieve a decrease in the number of undesexed dogs and cats in the community.

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:

- Females do not over breed, interact with stray animals and become involved in unplanned mating
- Males exhibit a significant reduction in aggressive, dominant, and territorial behaviour and become much easier to control
- Wandering is significantly reduced
- Less spread of feline diseases
- Desexed dogs are much easier to control and general problems are more easily overcome

In the City of West Torrens, 66.68% of registered dogs are desexed (figures as at 31/1/06). Council should aim to increase this percentage. Legislation currently provides a concession for desexed dogs, being 40% of the maximum registration fee. Other initiatives to encourage the desexing of dogs and cats should be pursued.

The number of desexed cats within the Council area is unknown.

Council will:

1. **Produce an Information Sheet highlighting the benefits of desexing cats and dogs and services available through Veterinary Surgeries, CATS Incorporated, RSPCA, Animal Welfare League and other agencies.**
2. **Liase with CATS Inc regarding desexing community cats.**
3. **Promote the low cost subsidised scheme for cat desexing through CATS Incorporated.**
4. **Encourage all Veterinary Surgeries in the Council area to promote the benefits of pet desexing.**
5. **Encourage desexing of cats prior to sexual maturity.**
6. **Liase with the Dog & Cat Management Board regarding avenues for 'means tested' dog desexing programs.**

6.3 Dog Registration

A strategy to obtain maximum registration of dogs

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

Maximising dog registration is a key factor in effective dog management. Dog registration ensures that:

- Owners are identified 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

It has been estimated that there may be more than 400 unregistered dogs in the City of West Torrens and it is imperative that this situation be addressed.

Council will:

- 1. Continue regular district surveys for unregistered dogs.**
- 2. Promote the responsibility of dog owners to register their dogs under the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995.**
- 3. Introduce a registration and new resident information pack.**
- 4. Promote and provide information on the importance of dog registration to the community.**
- 5. Utilise the Council website to promote dog registration.**

6.4 Dog Attacks And Bite Avoidance

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 of great concern to the general community, particularly in relation to children and the elderly. Also of great concern is the number of unreported attacks and the fact that the majority of attacks occur on private property.

It is mandatory under legislation for the medical profession to report dog attacks to the Council and the Dog and Cat Management Board in accordance with guidelines set by the Board.

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. How to avoid being bitten or how to read a dog's body language are important issues on which to educate.

Council's procedures are in accordance with legislative requirements.

Council will:

- 1. Promote the supervision of all children around dogs.**
- 2. Promote the need to report all dog attacks to the Council whether in public places or on private property.**
- 3. Promote skills on how to avoid being bitten and how to read a dog's body language.**
- 4. Promote increased awareness to dog owners of the legal ramifications associated with dog attacks.**

6.5 Benefits of Pet Ownership

A strategy to address the promotion of the benefits of owning a dog or cat.

There are significant known social and health benefits in owning a pet and these benefits should be promoted.

Council will:

- 1. Promote pet ownership health statistics.**
- 2. Promote 'good news' stories highlighting the positive aspects of pet ownership.**

6.6 Faeces Management

A strategy to encourage dog owner responsibility regarding picking up dog faeces in order to reduce the amount of dog faeces in the environment and promote public health

The management of dog faeces is an important environmental and health issue. Tonnes of dog faeces pollute our waterways and public places each year and it is an issue on which the community has strong feelings.

The City of West Torrens currently provides dispensers and dog waste bags at 78 locations within the City. See list of locations - Appendices 9.1

Council will:

- 1. Advise the community of responsibilities under the Dog & Cat Management Act.**
- 2. Continue the provision of dog waste bags and bag dispensers in parks and reserves.**
- 3. Promote the location of bags and dispensers to the community.**
- 4. Ensure placement of sufficient receptacle bins at dispenser locations.**
- 5. Ensure dispensers are frequently refilled and consider the use of larger bag rolls at high usage locations.**
- 6. Highlight the positive environmental impacts of picking up dog faeces.**
- 7. Include complimentary dog waste bags in resident information packs.**
- 8. Consider having Council's logo and promotional message on dog waste bags.**
- 9. Consider developing an advertising campaign using a cartoon character to promote the need to pick up after dogs.**

6.7 Dog 'On Leash' and 'Off Leash' Areas

A strategy to identify community needs in relation to the development of 'on leash' and 'off leash' areas.

Council parks form a class of community land that are characterised by the following features and properties. Council Parks:

- Are strategically important local or regional open space
- Are generally used for passive and informal recreation
- Enhance local amenity
- May have a strategic role in conservation of biodiversity

The current situation with park usage in the City of West Torrens is:-

- Dogs must be under effective control in all parks/reserves, ie
 - physical restraint by means of a chain, cord or leash that does not exceed 2 metres in length; or
 - off leash, respond to commands, the dog being in close proximity to the person and the person being able to see the dog at all times.

City of West Torrens has two parks/reserves playground areas that are currently designated 'Dog Free Areas' (no dogs permitted):-

- Dove Street, Thebarton
- Rex Jones Reserve, North Plympton.

City of West Torrens is working in partnership with the City of Charles Sturt in constructing a fenced dog park on the River Torrens Linear Park adjacent to Findon Road Flinders Park (Appendices 9.2). This location is considered appropriate for a fenced dog park as it has adjacent parking, toilet facilities and is part of an extensive network of pathways along the River Torrens used by Charles Sturt and West Torrens residents. The network already has a mix of established landscaping and enriched areas that dogs would find interesting. The location is approximately 0.69 ha (or approx. 1.7 acres) in size and will be fully fenced to encompass the area. Playground equipment for dogs will be installed in various locations within the fenced area.

Council will:

- 1. Identify a list of parks that would be suitable for fenced dog parks.**
- 2. Develop dog parks.**
- 3. Develop a code of Conduct for operation of the dog parks.**
- 4. Amend By-Law 5 to include banning of dogs within fenced children's playgrounds or when not fenced dogs must be on leash within 20 metres of a children's playground equipment.**
- 5. Amend By-Law 5 to include dogs must be on leash at all times whilst horse training is being undertaken on Weigall Oval.**

6.8 Permanent Dog and Cat Identification

A strategy to encourage the permanent identification of dogs and cats so more pets will be reunited with owners and less dogs and cats placed in pounds.

There is a registration fee concession for microchipped dogs which is 10% of the maximum registration fee. Other initiatives should be promoted to encourage permanent identification of dogs and cats.

Identification of dogs and cats ensures:

- That pets are re-united with their owners
- The safety of pets if impounded

Council will:

1. **Promote microchipping of dogs and cats in Information Sheets.**
2. **Hold community ‘Microchipping Days’.**
3. **Highlight the number of dogs and cats returned to owner as a percentage of impounded dogs in the City of West Torrens.**

6.9 Dogs Wandering At Large

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

In 2004/2005, Council impounded 237 dogs which were wandering at large and 182 were returned to owner (76.79%). Dogs wandering at large can be a threat to the public and the cause of accidents. Council should aim to reduce the number of dogs wandering at large.

There are many dog owners who let their dogs out for a run at a time in the morning or evening they consider suitable and when the likelihood of the dog being impounded is minimal. An increasing number of dog owners do not take precautionary measures to cover the safety and welfare of their dogs during fireworks and intense storm conditions.

Taking a proactive approach to changing the attitude of dog owners to one of responsibility and understanding the consequences of dogs wandering at large is important. Maximising dog registration and identification will ensure that more impounded dogs are returned to owners. Returning dogs to owners should continue to be a priority.

Council's procedures are in accordance with legislative requirements.

Council will:

1. **Promote information to the community on Council's policies and operational procedures on dogs wandering at large.**
2. **Educate and inform the community regarding potential dangers to dogs and cats including fireworks, storm conditions and certain events.**

- 3. Promote the availability of ‘desensitisation’ training computer disc**

6.10 Dog Obedience Training and Puppy Socialisation

A strategy to encourage dog owners to socialise and train their dogs to a level to be determined by the Dog and Cat Management Board.

Dog socialisation and training has the potential to overcome most behavioural problems and should be promoted as a part of responsible ownership. Dog owners in the City of West Torrens can acquire training for their dogs through:

- Dog obedience clubs
- Animal behaviour experts
- Socialisation in the form of puppy pre-school

It is ideal to train dogs from an early age, however dogs of all ages respond to proper training. Costs are relatively low, however a consistent effort is required by owners.

Council will:

- 1. Promote Puppy Pre-School programs.**
- 2. Promote Dog Obedience training.**

6.11 Animal Management Officer Role

A strategy to improve community recognition of the role of Animal Management Officers in the management of dogs and cats.

The public perception of Animal Management Officers in the community can be improved by the promotion of the role played by Officers. The importance of good communication and public relations skills should be emphasized. The multiplicity of duties often means that Officers perform a reactive role only, with no provision for promotional or proactive initiatives. This situation should be rectified.

Council will:

- 1. Promote the role of Animal Management Officers.**
- 2. Ensure that Animal Management Officers are friendly and approachable.**
- 3. Promote the theme “Aim to Reunite”**
- 4. Continue the initiative of handing out rewards dog owners**
- 5. Encourage staff to complete an accredited authorised persons and/or animal management course**
- 6. Attendances at Conferences on Animal Management to keep updated with the latest trends in urban animal management.**
- 7. Continue to focus on customer service training for all officers**

6.12 Dog Barking Nuisance

A strategy to manage and reduce nuisance caused by barking.

Nuisance caused by dog barking is an issue of great concern to many members of the community. Dogs bark for a variety of reasons including:

- separation anxiety
- communication
- boredom
- teasing/hostile neighbours
- changes to life or lifestyle
- possible health problems
- distractions (including vermin, possums etc)

The Council's procedures to manage dog barking nuisance problems to a successful conclusion are in accordance with legislative guidelines.

Council will:

- 1. Promote information on Council's dog barking nuisance policies and operational procedures to the community.**
- 2. Provide a list of animal behaviourists who can assist dog owners with solving problems.**
- 3. Promote the keeping of cats inside at night to assist in reducing barking nuisance.**

6.13 Management Of Domestic Cats

A strategy to encourage responsible cat ownership.

Under the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995, Councils are provided with freedom of choice as to whether or not they have an active involvement in cat management.

The City of West Torrens receives relatively few complaints regarding domestic cats.

Council will:

- 1. Promote the desexing and permanent identification of cats.**
- 2. Promote the keeping of cats inside at night.**
- 3. Promote the use of cat enclosures.**

7: Community Consultation Process

In accordance with Council's Public Consultation Policy, number A.17-1 the opinions of the community were sought by means of a survey which was advertised in the Guardian & Weekly Times Messenger papers, Council's Website. Copies of the draft plan and survey were made available from:-

- Customer Service Centre, City of West Torrens, 165 Sir Donald Bradman Drive, Hilton
- City of West Torrens Library, 1 Brooker Terrace, Hilton
- Council's website – www.wtcc.sa.gov.au

A reply paid address was given to enable responses to the survey to be posted at no charge to the community or the option of hand deliver the response to the Civic Centre.

8: Implementation Strategies

8.1 Service Levels

The City of West Torrens covers 36.5 square kilometres, with a residential population of 52,600 and 24,900 dwellings. There were approximately 7,000 dogs registered in the City in 2005/06 financial year, and it is estimated that the number of unregistered dogs was approximately 400.

Council's Animal Management area is part of the Compliance Department of the Regulatory Services Business Unit of West Torrens. The Council's Customer Service Centre handles general enquiries during normal office hours and our after hour service provider managed all other out of office enquiries, Current staffing levels include:

- Manager Regulatory Services
- Team Leader Compliance
- Senior Compliance Officer
- 1 fulltime Compliance Officer
- 1 Administration Officer
- 1 on-call outsourced after hour officer

On road coverage is as follows

- Monday to Friday - 8.30am to 4.30pm
- All other times - On-Call for dog emergencies

8.2 Implementation Strategies

8.2.1 Reporting Structure

Performance on achievement of the Strategies and Key performance Indicators set in this Plan will be reported quarterly to Council via the Business Unit Report and at the completion of the plan.

8.2.2 Action Plan

An award Action Plan based on Council's strategies to achieve our objectives forms part of the Regulatory Services Business Plan.

8.2.3 Resources

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

Section 26 (3) of the Dog & 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”*.

8.2.4 Partnerships

To achieve optimum outcomes, partnerships with existing stakeholders within the community and with adjoining Councils will be pursued.

8.3 Action Plan

The Plan's recommendations have been prioritised and scheduled over 5 year implementation period:-

- On-going
- Short Term – 1 year
- Medium Term – 2 to 3 years
- Long Term – 4 to 5 years

Desexing Of Dogs And Cats

Actions	Priority	Responsibility	Budget Implications
Produce an Information Sheet highlighting the benefits of desexing cats and dogs and services available through Veterinary Surgeries, CATS Incorporated, RSPCA, Animal Welfare League and other agencies	Ongoing	Manager Regulatory Services	Within budget allocations
Liaise with CATS Inc regarding desexing community cats	Ongoing	Manager Regulatory Services	Within budget allocations
Promote the low cost subsidised scheme for cat desexing through CATS Incorporated	Short Term	Manager Regulatory Services	Within budget allocations
Encourage all Veterinary Surgeries in the Council area to promote the benefits of pet desexing	Medium Term	Manager Regulatory Services	Within budget allocations
Encourage desexing of cats prior to sexual maturity	Short Term	Manager Regulatory Services	Within budget allocations
Liaise with the Dog & Cat Management Board regarding avenues for 'means tested' dog desexing programs	Long Term	Manager Regulatory Services	Within budget allocations

Dog Registration

Actions	Priority	Responsibility	Budget Implications
Continue regular district surveys for unregistered dogs	Ongoing	Manager Regulatory Services	Within budget allocations
Promote the responsibility of dog owners to register their dogs under the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995	Ongoing	Manager Regulatory Services	Within budget allocations
Introduce a registration and new resident information pack	Ongoing	Manager Regulatory Services	Within budget allocations

Dog Registration Cont.

Actions	Priority	Responsibility	Budget Implications
Promote and provide information on the importance of dog registration to the community	Ongoing	Manager Regulatory Services	Within budget allocations
Utilise the Council website to promote dog registration	Ongoing	Manager Regulatory Services	Within budget allocations

Dog Attacks And Bite Avoidance

Actions	Priority	Responsibility	Budget Implications
Promote the supervision of all children around dogs	Ongoing	Manager Regulatory Services	Within budget allocations
Promote the need to report all dog attacks to the Council whether in public places or on private property	Ongoing	Manager Regulatory Services	Within budget allocations
Promote skills on how to avoid being bitten and how to read a dog's body language	Medium Term	Manager Regulatory Services	Within budget allocations
Promote increased awareness to dog owners of the legal ramifications associated with dog attacks	Medium Term	Manager Regulatory Services	Within budget allocations

Benefits of Pet Ownership

Actions	Priority	Responsibility	Budget Implications
Promote pet ownership health statistics	Ongoing	Manager Regulatory Services	Within budget allocations
Promote 'good news' stories highlighting the positive aspects of pet ownership	Short Term	Manager Regulatory Services	Within budget allocations

Faeces Management

Actions	Priority	Responsibility	Budget Implications
Advise the community of responsibilities under the Dog & Cat Management Act	Ongoing	Manager Regulatory Services	Within budget allocations
Continue the provision of dog waste bags and bag dispensers in parks and reserves	Ongoing	Manager Regulatory Services	Within budget allocations
Promote the location of bags and dispensers to the community	Short Term	Manager Regulatory Services	Within budget allocations

Faeces Management Cont.

Actions	Priority	Responsibility	Budget Implications
Ensure placement of sufficient receptacle bins at dispenser locations	Medium Term	Manager Regulatory Services	Within budget allocations
Ensure dispensers are frequently refilled and consider the use of larger bag rolls at high usage locations	Ongoing	Manager Regulatory Services	Within budget allocations
Highlight the positive environmental impacts of picking up dog faeces.	Short Term	Manager Regulatory Services	Within budget allocations
Include complimentary dog waste bags in resident information packs	Ongoing	Manager Regulatory Services	Within budget allocations
Consider having Council's logo and promotional message on dog waste bags	Ongoing	Manager Regulatory Services	Within budget allocations
Consider developing an advertising campaign using a cartoon character to promote the need to pick up after dogs	Long Term	Manager Regulatory Services	Within budget allocations

Dog 'On Leash' and 'Off Leash' Areas

Actions	Priority	Responsibility	Budget Implications
Identify a list of parks that would be suitable for Dog Parks	Short Term	Manager Regulatory Services	Within budget allocations
Develop a code of Conduct for operation of the Dog Parks	Short Term	Manager Regulatory Services	Within budget allocations
Develop Dog Parks	Medium Term	Manager Regulatory Services	Within budget allocations
Develop a plan identifying Dog Parks, No Dogs permitted and leashed areas and any time restrictions that may apply	Medium Term	Manager Regulatory Services	Within budget allocations
Amend By-Law 5 to include banning of dogs within fenced children's playgrounds or when fenced dogs must be on leash within 5 metres of a children's playground equipment	Short Term	Manager Regulatory Services	Within budget allocations
Amend By-Law 5 to include dogs must be on leash at all times whilst horse training is being undertaken	Short Term	Manager Regulatory Services	Within budget allocations

Permanent Dog and Cat Identification

Actions	Priority	Responsibility	Budget Implications
Promote microchipping of dogs and cats in Information Sheets	Ongoing	Manager Regulatory Services	Within budget allocations
Hold community 'Microchipping Days'	Ongoing	Manager Regulatory Services	Within budget allocations
Highlight the number of dogs and cats returned to owner as a percentage of impounded dogs in the City of West Torrens	Medium Term	Manager Regulatory Services	Within budget allocations

Dogs Wandering At Large

Actions	Priority	Responsibility	Budget Implications
Promote information to the community on Council's policies and operational procedures on dogs wandering at large	Medium Term	Manager Regulatory Services	Within budget allocations
Educate and inform the community regarding potential dangers to dogs and cats including fireworks, storm conditions and certain events	Ongoing	Manager Regulatory Services	Within budget allocations
Promote the availability of 'desensitisation' training computer disc	Short Term	Manager Regulatory Services	Within budget allocations

Dog Obedience Training and Puppy Socialisation

Actions	Priority	Responsibility	Budget Implications
Promote Puppy Pre-School programs	Ongoing	Manager Regulatory Services	Within budget allocations
Promote Dog Obedience training	Ongoing	Manager Regulatory Services	Within budget allocations

Animal Management Officer Role

Actions	Priority	Responsibility	Budget Implications
Promote the role of Animal Management Officers	Long Term	Manager Regulatory Services	Within budget allocations
Ensure that Animal Management Officers are friendly and approachable	Ongoing	Manager Regulatory Services	Within budget allocations

Animal Management Officer Role Cont.

Actions	Priority	Responsibility	Budget Implications
Promote the theme “Aim to Reunite”	Ongoing	Manager Regulatory Services	Within budget allocations
Continue the initiative of handing out rewards dog owners	Ongoing	Manager Regulatory Services	Within budget allocations

Dog Barking Nuisance

Actions	Priority	Responsibility	Budget Implications
Promote information on Council’s dog barking nuisance policies and operational procedures to the community	Medium Term	Manager Regulatory Services	Within budget allocations
Provide a list of animal behaviourists who can assist dog owners with solving problems	Short Term	Manager Regulatory Services	Within budget allocations
Promote the keeping of cats inside at night to assist in reducing barking nuisance	Long Term	Manager Regulatory Services	Within budget allocations

Management Of Domestic Cats

Actions	Priority	Responsibility	Budget Implications
Promote the desexing and permanent identification of cats	Long Term	Manager Regulatory Services	Within budget allocations
Promote the keeping of cats inside at night	Long Term	Manager Regulatory Services	Within budget allocations
Promote the use of cat enclosures	Long Term	Manager Regulatory Services	Within budget allocations

9: Appendices

9.1 Doggy Bags Dispenser Location

RESERVE NAME	Number of Dispensers
Apex Park Reserve	4
Baroda Ave Reserve	1
Camden Oval and surrounds inc Birkalla	4
Clifford Street Reserve	2
Coral Sea Reserve	1
Cummins House Reserve	1
Dove St Reserve	2
East Parkway Reserve	1
Errington Reserve	1
Frank Norton Reserve	2
Gaza Strip / Saratoga Easement Reserve	1
Golflands Reserve	2
Graham Crescent Reserve	1
Kings Park Reserve	6
Kitt St Reserve	1
Lindfield Reserve	2
Linear Park	6
Linear Pk	2
Lockley Oval & Surrounds	8
Mellor Park Reserve	4
Memorial Gardens & Civic	2
Mile End Common Reserve	4
Mountbatten Grove Reserve	1
Oakmont Reserve	1
Pacific Ave Reserve	1
Rex Jones Reserve	1
Sandison Reserve	1
Sandringham Reserve / Raymond Ave Reserve	1
St Andrews Reserve	1
Swan Ave Reserve	1
Watson and Lew Reserve	1
Weigall Oval and Surrounds	1
West Side Bikeway Marion - Stonehouse	2
West Side Bikeway Oval Tce - Marion	2
West Side Bikeway Richmond - Tennyson	1
West Side Bikeway Stonehouse - Morphett	2
West Side Bikeway Tennyson - Oval Tce	1
Western Youth Reserve	2
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9.2 Fenced Dog Park Location

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10: References & Stakeholders

10.1 References

- The Dog & Cat Management Act
- Local Government Act 1999
- Council's By-Laws No 1 – Permit and Penalties
- Council's By-Laws No 3 – Local Government Land,
- Council's By-Laws No 4 – Roads
- Council's By-Laws No 5 – Dogs
- Councils Policies & Procedures
- Council's Animal Management Plan Background Paper
- Environmental Health Act 1986
- Development Regulations 1993 – Section 3
- Public Consultation Policy – No A.17-1
- Community Land Management Plans

10.2 Stakeholders

- The Dog & Cat Management Board
- Animal Welfare League (AWL)
- Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SA) Inc. (RSPCA)
- Delta Society – Delta Dog Safe Program
- Australian Veterinarian Association (AVA) – PetPep Program
- South Australian Canine Association (SACA)
- Local Animal Clubs
- Animal Owners