



Domestic Animal Management Plan 2017-2021

Review of Year 2 Actions

Issue	Objective	Activity	When	Evaluation	Update
Registration and Identification	Increase the number of registered dogs and cats in Bass Coast each year	Investigate potential lifetime or three year animal registrations	2018/19	Investigation completed and proposal presented to Council	Ongoing - Council is currently implementing OneCouncil, a new enterprise software solution. We will better understand the capabilities of the system to support this process during 2019/20.
Registration and Identification	Increase the percentage of desexed animals in Council's database each year	Survey owners of registered non-desexed cats to determine why cats are not desexed	2018/19	Survey completed and results considered in review of hardship policy	Completed – Data reviewed and almost all non-desexed cats in our system are registered with Domestic Animal Businesses or with applicable breeding organisation.
Registration and Identification	Increase the percentage of desexed animals in Council's database each year	Review hardship procedures in relation to providing support to animal desexing	2018/19	Procedures reviewed	Completed - Hardship review process supports Authorised Officers reducing pound release costs which allows them to be re-directed to desexing of impounded animals. Council offers refunds to animal owners who desex their pet within 6 months of registering.

Issue	Objective	Activity	When	Evaluation	Update
Registration and Identification	Improve the opportunities for animals to be registered with Council	Review and seek to increase registration payment options and consider pro-rata registration payments and late fees for late payment of renewals.	2018/19	Payment options reviewed and increased, pro rata fee identified and late fee introduced if systems allow.	Ongoing - Council is currently implementing OneCouncil, a new enterprise software solution. We will better understand the capabilities of the system to support this process during 2019/20.
Registration and Identification	Improve the opportunities for animals to be registered with Council	Investigate online registration and animal maintenance process	2018/19	Online registration investigated and proposal to implement developed	Ongoing - Council is currently implementing OneCouncil, a new enterprise software solution. We will better understand the capabilities of the system to support this process during 2019/20.
Registration and Identification	Improve the opportunities for animals to be registered with Council	Investigate restructure of registration model to reflect differences between dog and cat registration benefits	2018/19	Benchmark against like Councils regarding registration fees and advice from DEDJTR	Completed – Gippsland Councils do not provide a different rate for cat registration. The state government levy of \$4 for dog registration and \$4 for cat registration is primarily used to fund responsible pet ownership educational programs for both dogs and cats. No change recommended at this time however consideration should be given to how to get more cats registered.

Issue	Objective	Activity	When	Evaluation	Update
Nuisance	Increase off leash areas on beaches and on the mainland	Complete place based consultation in relation to off leash beach areas on Phillip Island using online surveying and pop ups in relevant townships during summer 2018.	2018/19	Discussions with relevant stakeholders/land managers. Consultation complete. Council report providing options. Possible Orders introduced.	Completed – Consultation completed and off leash areas identified and Council report provided for decision at October 2019 meeting. Orders in place from 1 December 2019 regarding off-leash areas in San Remo, Cape Woolamai and Cowes West. Ventnor now 24/7 off-leash area.
Nuisance	Identify inland off leash areas and consider requirements for fencing	Complete online and pop up consultation with surrounding property owners in relation to declaration of inland off leash areas	2018/19	Discussions with relevant stakeholders/land managers. Consultation complete. Council report providing options. Possible Orders introduced.	Ongoing – Further consultation in line with Active Bass Coast Plan, further consultation to be completed as part of Blue Gum master plan implementation. No new Orders required at this time.

Issue	Objective	Activity	When	Evaluation	Update
Nuisance	Improve understanding in the community of sunrise to sunset cat curfew and investigate the pros and cons of 24 hour cat containment and present a report to Councillors for decision	<p>Community education plan developed in relation to current cat containment policy and its benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education regarding benefits of cats being contained • Communicate directly with registered cat owners regarding containment and sunset to sunrise laws • Information on cat enclosures on Council's website • Provide education material about cat enclosures and nuisance issues to registered cat owners • Provide cat enclosure and cat proof fencing booklets to repeat offenders 	2017/2018 and 2018/2019	Community education completed in relation to identified target areas. Numerical data collected where possible. Feedback collated.	Completed – Ongoing education provided.

Issue	Objective	Activity	When	Evaluation	Update
Nuisance	Improve understanding in the community of sunrise to sunset cat curfew and investigate the pros and cons of 24 hour cat containment and present a report to Councillors for decision	Support Phillip Island Nature Parks cat tracking program and request for information gained to be shared with Council	2017/2018 and 2018/2019	Support provided to the program and confirmation provided by Council Officer of exemptions for cats/owners participating in the trial. Information from trial is included in Council report for potential 24hr cat containment	Completed – Support provided to PINP as required. Results to date are being analysed by PINP and will be shared with Council when available.
Nuisance	Improve understanding in the community of sunrise to sunset cat curfew and investigate the pros and cons of 24 hour cat containment and present a report to Councillors for decision	Survey current registered cat owners in relation to responsible pet ownership including potential 24 hour cat containment	2018/2019	Survey completed and information fed in to Council report	Ongoing – Survey not completed. Council Officers have reviewed some local survey data collected by Zoos Victoria to understand opinions on cat containment. Council Officers worked Phillip Island Nature Park on an unsuccessful application for funding in relation to a social science study that would provide more detailed information and evidence to influence behaviour change of current and future cat owners. This will become a action in year 3 of the plan.

Issue	Objective	Activity	When	Evaluation	Update
Nuisance	Improve understanding in the community of sunrise to sunset cat curfew and investigate the pros and cons of 24 hour cat containment and present a report to Councillors for decision	Prepare Council report in relation to pros and cons of potential 24 hour cat containment	2018/2019	Council report prepared and presented to Council	<p>Ongoing – report will be provided in 2020. This will enable further investigation in to pros and cons of potential 24 hour cat containment. Registered cat owner survey to be completed.</p> <p>Council Officers will continue to work with Phillip Island Nature Park regarding the issue to develop a paper for 2020.</p>

Issue	Objective	Activity	When	Evaluation	Update
Nuisance	Improve community understanding of nuisance provisions relating to animals in Domestic Animals Act and Council Local Law	Develop engagement plan for general nuisance issues that occur in Bass Coast considering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pop ups at markets in Bass Coast – education regarding responsible pet ownership (face to face) • Recognising and providing good behaviour incentives (face to face) • Regular media release for animal compliance issues that have been taken to court • Helping the community log issues online • Provide information on responsible pet ownership to all animals that come through our pound 	2017/2018 and 2018/2019	Community engagement completed in relation to identified target areas. Numerical data collected and provided where possible	Completed – Ongoing education provided.

Issue	Objective	Activity	When	Evaluation	Update
Nuisance	Improve community understanding of nuisance provisions relating to animals in Domestic Animals Act and Council Local Law	Review barking dog processes at other Councils and identify potential improvement opportunities with current process considering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barking Dog Collars • Barking dog kit and online recording • Good behaviour incentives 	2018/19	Review barking dog processes at three other like Councils and consider improvement opportunities.	Completed – Barking dog processes reviewed. More emphasis on Council Officers providing face to face advice to ongoing barking dog complaints to identify changes to the dog’s environment, exercise, stimulation and training to help reduce nuisance barking.
Dog Attacks	Review Council processes in relation to investigation and follow up of dog attacks and rushes	Review written procedure associated with seizure and impounding of dogs after a dog attack	2018/19	Review of current written procedures completed	Completed - Dog attack/ dog rush process completed - ED19/124340
Dog Attacks	Review Council processes in relation to investigation and follow up of dog attacks and rushes	Develop procedure associated with destruction of dogs - when to exercise power of immediate destruction of dogs & after Court order or exercising Council power to destroy a dog	2018/19	Procedures developed and relevant staff trained	Completed - Dog attack/ dog rush process completed - ED19/124340

Issue	Objective	Activity	When	Evaluation	Update
Dangerous, Menacing and Restricted Breed Dogs	Review Council procedures in relation to dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs	Review procedure associated with seizure and impounding of dangerous and restricted breed dogs	2018/19	Procedure developed relevant staff trained	Completed - 2019 Menacing, Dangerous & Restricted Breed Dogs Procedure completed - ED19/57220
Dangerous, Menacing and Restricted Breed Dogs	Review Council procedures in relation to dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs	Review procedure associated with when a dog is declared menacing	2018/19	Procedure developed relevant staff trained	Completed - 2019 Menacing, Dangerous & Restricted Breed Dogs Procedure completed - ED19/57220
Overpopulation and High Euthanasia	Increase numbers of desexed cats registered with Council and reduce the number of unwanted cats surrendered to Council's Shelter	Implement discount desexing days/weeks in conjunction with Phillip Island Nature Parks and RSPCA	2018/19	Roll out of sessions with Phillip Island Nature Parks and RSPCA Increase in registered desexed cats	Completed - Session scheduled for November 2019 In Wonthaggi.

Issue	Objective	Activity	When	Evaluation	Update
Overpopulation and High Euthanasia	Increase numbers of desexed cats registered with Council and reduce the number of unwanted cats surrendered to Council's Shelter	Review hardship procedures in relation to providing support to animal desexing	2018/19	Procedures reviewed	Completed - Hardship review process supports Authorised Officers reducing pound release costs to be directed to desexing of impounded animals. Offering refunds to animal owners who desex their pet within 6 months of registering.
Overpopulation and High Euthanasia	Identify ways to improve support to s84y (registered rescue group) agreement holders	Review written agreements with animal shelters or community foster care networks to provide impounding or rehoming services	2018/19	Review current arrangements	Completed - We have one agreement at this point in time with the RSPCA. They take all of our unclaimed animals that are suitable for rehoming. The current s84y and rescue group process is being reviewed and we will wait and see the outcome of this and consider changes into the future.



Domestic Animal Management Plan 2017-2021

Proposed Year 3 Actions

Issue	Objective	Activity	When	Evaluation
Registration and Identification	Improve the opportunities for animals to be registered with Council	Review and seek to increase registration payment options and consider pro-rata registration payments and late fees for late payment of renewals.	2019/20	Payment options reviewed and increased, pro rata fee identified and late fee introduced if systems allow.
Registration and Identification	Improve the opportunities for animals to be registered with Council	Investigate online registration and animal maintenance process	2019/20	Online registration investigated and proposal to implement developed
Registration and Identification	Improve the opportunities for animals to be registered with Council	Investigate opportunities to increase cat registration numbers including cat registration amnesty, reduced fee registration for 1 year and microchipping days.	2019/20	Options considered and rolled out as appropriate

Issue	Objective	Activity	When	Evaluation
Nuisance	Increase off leash areas on beaches and on the mainland	Complete place based consultation in relation to off leash beach areas at Rhyll and Cowes East using online surveying and pop up sessions in relevant townships during summer 2019/20.	2019/20	Discussions with relevant stakeholders/land managers Consultation complete Council report providing options Possible Orders introduced
Nuisance	Identify inland off leash areas and consider requirements for fencing	Complete consultation in relation to a fenced inland off- leash area at Blue Gum Reserve	2019/20	Discussions with relevant stakeholders/land managers Possible implementation of fenced off-leash area
Nuisance	Improve understanding in the community of sunrise to sunset cat curfew and investigate the pros and cons of 24 hour cat containment and present a report to Councillors for decision	Survey current registered cat owners in relation to responsible pet ownership including potential 24 hour cat containment	2019/20	Survey completed and information fed in to Council report in relation to pros and cons of potential 24 hour cat containment

Issue	Objective	Activity	When	Evaluation
Nuisance	Improve understanding in the community of sunrise to sunset cat curfew and investigate the pros and cons of 24 hour cat containment and present a report to Councillors for decision	Prepare Council report in relation to pros and cons of potential 24 hour cat containment	2019/20	Council report prepared and presented to Council for decision in 2020.
Domestic Animal Businesses	All domestic animal businesses in municipality will be identified and registered	Review fee structure in relation to Domestic Animal Businesses to ensure all costs are recovered for providing service	2019/20	Review completed and where appropriate new fees provided to Council for consideration.
Domestic Animal Businesses	All registered businesses are compliant with current legislation and relevant code of practice	Update documentation in relation to annual inspection of domestic animal businesses in Bass Coast for compliance	2019/20	Review current documentation and include new or updated changes to legislation Annual inspections completed to test documents
Domestic Animal Businesses	All domestic animal businesses in municipality will be identified and registered	Education to current DAB's, pet shops and Vet clinics on the Pet Exchange Register requirements and provide support to the community in relation to queries relating to Pet Exchange Register.	2019/20	Provided information sheets from Animal Welfare Vic, refer people to Animal Welfare Vic website Record phone calls from community with questions / concerns. Issues referred to Animal Welfare where Council cannot assist

Issue	Objective	Activity	When	Evaluation
Overpopulation and High Euthanasia	Identify ways to improve support to 84y (registered rescue group) agreement holders	Monitor the current review of s84y and community foster care networks and animal rescue groups in Victoria by DEDJTR	2019/20	Review of current arrangements based on outcomes of review
Overpopulation and High Euthanasia	Increase numbers of desexed cats registered with Council and reduce the number of unwanted cats surrendered to Council's Shelter	Identify ways of supporting pension/concession card holders to access reduced-fee desexing for cats Discuss options with local vets and seek support for implementation of local program for reduce fee cat desexing	2019/20	Local program implemented if suitable and achievable