

**District Council of Loxton Waikerie
Animal Management Plan:
2019-2024
July 2019**



Acknowledgements

This report was prepared by

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Executive Summary

“At 62%, Australia continues to have one of the highest household rates of pet ownership in the world” (Animal Medicines Australia, 2016: p. 9).

Why we need this Plan?

This Plan has been prepared to guide the direction of the District Council of Loxton Waikerie's management of dogs and cats.

All Council's in South Australia are required under section 26A of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 (the Act) to prepare a plan of management relating to dogs and cats every five years.

This new Plan provides Council with an opportunity to address dog and cat management issues at a strategic level and implement initiatives to address the recent changes to the Act.

Besides Council's statutory obligations under the Act, this Plan also supports Council's strategic plan, the LW Future 2015-2020 Strategic Plan in the area - Our Community, actively enhancing the quality of life of our communities by encouraging health, wellbeing and safety.

What's in this Plan?

Most of this Plan focuses on the management of dogs and cats. However, Council also deals with a range of other animals and pests.

This Animal Management Plan includes the following:

Sections 1-4 provides an introduction and contextual information about Council, current legislation and reforms. It also provides a summary of Council's dog and cat data and current animal management services.

Section 5 identifies the key focus areas and actions for Council over the next five years including:

- dog registration
- desexing and microchipping of dogs
- wandering dogs
- nuisance barking
- pets in the community
- community education
- cat management
- breeder registration.

Each focus area includes an objective, actions and performance measures. This Plan incorporates ongoing issues from the previous animal management plan and introduces new actions to address the recent changes to the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995.

Section 6 highlights other animals and pests managed by Council including chickens, roosters and birds.

Section 7 provides a list of resources to assist Council in educating the community on dog behaviours dog body language, and good dog etiquette for public spaces.

How was this Plan developed?

This Plan was developed with input from Elected Members, Council staff and the local community. The Plan was released for public consultation from 13 May to 7 June 2019.

Introduction

Purpose

The purpose of this Plan is to guide the strategic direction of the District Council of Loxton Waikerie's management of dogs and cats for the next five years (2019-2024).

This Plan has been prepared in accordance with Section 26A of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 and replaces the current Animal Management Plan 2012-2017.

The majority of this plan focuses on the management of dogs and cats. However, Council also deals with a range of other animals and pests.

Approach

Preparation of this Plan included a review of:

- the existing animal management plan and incorporated key initiatives that remain current into this new Plan
- current dog and cat management services
- dog and cat data
- recent changes to the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995
- current research and industry best practices regarding companion dogs and cats, animal management and welfare

Community consultation was undertaken from 13 May to 7 June 2019. Over this period, the draft Plan was available in the following ways:

- council website
- hard copy of the plan was available from Council's office and library.

Working with community

Council recognises the value of working with a wide range of external stakeholders to build partnerships with individuals, community groups and organisations for the management of dogs and cats within the District Council of Loxton Waikerie.

Stakeholders identified as potentially having an interest in the planning, management and education of dogs and cats in the Council area include:

- dog and cat owners
- public
- local veterinary clinics
- animal businesses
- Animal Welfare League (AWL)
- Dog and Cat Management Board (DCMB)
- local media
- dog training schools/clubs
- sports clubs
- local schools
- Chipblitz.

Legislation and Reforms

The objectives of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 are to:

- encourage responsible dog and cat ownership
- reduce public and environmental nuisance caused by dogs and cats
- promote the effective management of dogs and cats.

Council's Responsibility for Dog and Cat Management

The responsibilities delegated to Councils under the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* s26 that are relevant to the preparation of this Plan include:

Dog registration

- maintain a register of dogs (26(1)(a))
- appoint a suitable person to be the Registrar (26b)
- make satisfactory arrangements for issuing and replacing certificates of registration and registration discs (c)
- appoint at least one full-time authorised person or make other satisfactory arrangements for the exercise of the functions and powers of authorised persons (26d)
- make satisfactory arrangements for the detention of dogs seized under this Act; (and may make such arrangements for cats seized under this Act) (26e)
- make satisfactory arrangements for fulfilling other obligations under this Act (26f).

Money received

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 and cats (26(3))

Payment into Fund

A council must pay into the Fund the percentage fixed by regulation of the dog registration fees received by the council (26 (5))

Setting of fees

Council has the ability to set registration fees

Establishing By-laws

Councils can pass a by-law for the control and management of dog and cats within their area (section 90). The District Council of Loxton Waikerie has introduced Dog By-law No. 5 of 2017 and Cats By-Law No. 6 of 2017 (gazetted on 8 August 2017)

Plans of Management

Under the Act, each Council must prepare a plan relating to the management of dogs and cats within its area (26A 1). These plans 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 (section 26A 2). The Board must approve the plan of management before it can take effect.

Changes to Dog and Cat Law from 1 July 2018

The Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 has undergone a major review with significant changes taking effect from 1 July 2018. The changes that impact on Council, dog and cat owners and dog and cat breeders and sellers include:

All dogs and cats must be microchipped

Owners must microchip their dogs and cats by 12 weeks of age or at the point of sale, whichever occurs first. Microchipping details must be entered onto the state-wide register at dogsandcatsonline.com.au

Desexing of dogs and cats

All dogs and cats born after 1 July 2018 must be de-sexed by a registered veterinary surgeon:

- before it is 6 months of age; or
- within 28 days after the owner takes possession of the dog or cat; or
- if the owner of a dog or cat is granted an extension of time, before the day specified in the exemption. De-sexing [exemptions](#) apply such as 'Working Livestock Dogs'.

Breeding, selling and buying

As of 1 July 2018, breeders and sellers who breed dogs and cats for sale must register with the Dog and Cat Management Board of South Australia as a breeder. Any person who breeds or trades companion animals must also abide by the [South Australian Standards and Guidelines for Breeding and Trading Companion Animals](#)¹ which took effect from August 2017.

A new requirement for dog and cat sellers is to provide a breeder registration number in advertisements and provide the buyer with specific information.

Dog and Cat Online (DACO)

As of 1 July 2018, a new state-wide registration system known as Dogs and Cats Online or DACO, was introduced. This system replaces the dog registration system used by individual Council's with a centralised system which is managed by the Dog and Cat Management Board (DCMB) of South Australia.

Councils are now responsible for issuing dog and cat registration reminder notices. The Dog and Cat Management Board issue the registration discs.

New dog registration categories

As of 1 July 2017, the dog registration categories in South Australia were simplified to two categories:

- Standard Dog (a dog that is both microchipped and desexed)
- Non-standard Dog (all other dogs).

¹ The Department for Environment and Water (DEW) Animal Welfare Unit administer the Guidelines, regulated under the Animal Welfare Regulations 2012 and is enforced by the RSPCA.



**62% OF AUSTRALIAN
HOUSEHOLDS OWN A PET:
38% OWN A DOG
29% OWN A CAT**

Big Picture – Planning for Pets

Australia has one of the highest pet ownership rates in the world with 38% of households owning a dog and 29% owning a cat (Animal Health Alliance, 2016). Research shows that companion animals such as dogs and cats play a significant role in the lives of many Australians.

Benefits of Pets

Pets can enrich our lives, provide physical and mental health benefits and companionship, and help facilitate social interactions within the community.

There is research (ACAC, 2009 and PIAS, 2010) that demonstrates the benefits of pet ownership including:

Pets are good for our general health and well being

- people with dogs and cats make fewer visits to the doctor
- people with pets are at lower risk of cardiovascular disease than non-pet owners

Pets are good for an ageing population

- pets can boost activity levels in older people, helping to improve overall health
- pets provide companionship for elderly people living alone.

Pets are good for children

- young children with pets are more likely to exercise
- children or adolescents with pets have shown to have higher self-esteem.

Pets are good for the community

- pets can help people build social bridges in communities
- people with pets are more likely to have conversations with other people.

Planning for Pets

As block sizes get smaller and dwellings extend closer to fence lines and property boundaries, there is less private outdoor space available for companion animals, leading to a greater demand for dog access to public open spaces.

“Between 1991 and 2001 the number of separate houses in Australia increased by 18% while the number of higher density dwellings increased by 37%” (PIAS, 2010:5).

Almost one quarter of Australians live in medium to high-density housing. With this trend expected to continue, there will be new challenges as we learn to live in smaller spaces and compete for valuable public open space, whilst accommodating the needs of dogs and their owners in the planning and design of communities.

Planning for pets (particularly dogs in public places) is a key consideration for local Councils given dogs are the most popular pet in Australia. The quote below draws attention to the importance of planning for pets.

“a higher proportion of us live in households with a dog and/or cat than a child. 50% of Aussies live in a household with at least one cat or/and dog in it, whereas 35% share their household with a least one child aged under 16.” (Roy Morgan, 2015, article 6272, n.p.)

Dogs in Public Places

Research shows there is a trend towards casual, unstructured activities with dog walking being in the top 10 activities.

“Adults are moving away from structured sports to casual activities, with dog walking being number three of the top 10 activities in Australia” (One Eighty Degree, n.d.; p. 23).

A key consideration in taking dogs out into public places is for dogs to be under effective control and not cause a nuisance to other people and other animals. It is important for dogs and their owners to be trained in how to cope with everyday experiences such as walking down a street with their dog, visiting a local cafe or exercising a dog at a park.

Dog training that teaches real-life skills is fundamental if dogs are to be taken out and about with their owners in public places. Basic social etiquette and respect for all users sharing a space (i.e. people, dogs and wildlife) is an important part of being a responsible dog owner.

Best Practice in Animal Management and Welfare

The Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) recommends the use of positive reinforcement dog training methods as the preferred method of training.

“the use of positive reinforcement is the most humane and effective training method as it avoids undesirable behavioural side effects. Positive reinforcement makes training more enjoyable and helps improve the bond between the trainer and the pet” (AVA website).

The Dog and Cat Management Board also *“believes a commitment to positive reinforcement training is an aspect of being a responsible dog owner. The Board does not condone training methods that cause a dog to feel pain, fear, aggression or anxiety” (DCMB 2017).*

The Animal Welfare League also promotes the use of positive reinforcement methods for dog training. The RSPCA (SA) promotes the use of Force-Free dog training methods and have developed a list of [Force-Free Dog Trainers](#) in South Australia (RSPCA, website, 2019).

Local Picture – Pets in Loxton Waikerie

The District Council of Loxton Waikerie is located in the Riverland Region of South Australia, about 250 kilometres north-east of the Adelaide CBD.

The Council covers an area of 7,767 km² incorporating the townships of Loxton and Waikerie and smaller settlements such as Moorook, Kingston on Murray, Sunlands, Golden Heights, Ramco, Wunkar and Paruna.

The Council area consists of urban living, semi-rural and rural properties. In this context there are a range of animals including urban domestic dogs and cats, feral cats, working livestock dogs, and other domestic animals such as birds, poultry, rabbits and guinea pigs.

Loxton Waikerie is bounded by the Local Government areas of the Berri Barmera Council, Renmark Paringa Council, Southern Mallee District Council, District Council of Karoonda East Murray, Mid Murray Council and the Mildura City Rural Council (Victoria), and Gerard.

Overview of Dogs

The District Council of Loxton Waikerie has an estimated resident population of 11,745 and a dog population of 2,763 (2017/18 dog registrations). The townships with higher numbers of registered dogs are listed below.

Townships	No. of registered dogs
Loxton	1100
Waikerie	575
Moorook	111
Sunlands	102
Kingston on Murray	77
Golden Heights	68
Ramco	66
Paruna	28
Pyap	53
Wunkar	21

Table 1 - Registered Dogs (as of October 2018)

Registered dogs	2016/17	2017/18
Total number of registered dogs	2768	2763

The number of registered dogs has remained relatively stable over the last two years. However, the number of dogs is likely to increase over the peak holiday periods when people are travelling with their pets.

Table 2 - Registered Businesses with Dogs and Cats

Registered businesses	2016/17	2017/18
Total number of registered dog businesses e.g. dog boarding kennels	5	6
Total number of registered cat businesses e.g. cat boarding kennels	0	0

Table 3 - Dog Complaints

Complaints	2016/17	2017/18
Wandering dogs	153	127
Barking (nuisance)	16	8
Reports of <u>dog attacks</u> to humans ²	4	15
Reports of dog attacks to other animals (i.e. dogs and cats)	5	12
Reports of dog harassment to humans ³	7	1
Reports of dog harassment to other animals (i.e. dogs and cats)	9	3
Total	194	166

In 2017/18, there were 166 registered complaints with Council. This is a reduction of 28 or 15% from the previous year.

Over the last two years, the top complaint has been wandering dogs. In 2017/18, wandering dogs accounted for 76% of all complaints.

² Dog attack refers to a dog acting with force or harmfully resulting in physical injury such as bruising, punctures wounds or lacerations (Dog and Cat Management Board website, 2018).

³ Dog harassment refers to a dog troubling or annoying a person without being the primary cause of physical injury i.e. the dog may chase, rush at people or animal but not bite them (Dog and Cat Management Board website, 2018).

Table 4: Dogs Impounded

Dogs Impounded	2016/17	2017/18
Number of dogs collected and returned to owner before impounded	42	37
Total number of dogs impounded	89	62
Total number of dogs impounded and subsequently returned to owner from Animal Welfare League	60	46

During hot weather, extra provisions are put in place in Council's pounds to meet the dogs needs including:

- minimum of two visits daily
- refreshing of drinking water
- cooling down of facility
- where possible transport of dogs to the Animal Welfare League (Edinburgh North site).

Reuniting Lost Dogs

Council makes every effort to reunite lost dogs as soon as possible with the owner provided the animal can be identified (i.e. by a registration disc or microchip). Dogs that cannot be returned to their owner/s are transferred to the Animal Welfare League at Edinburgh North.

Current Dog and Cat Management Services

The responsibility for the management of dogs and cats rests with Council's Environmental Services Team. The Director of Corporate and Community Services is the appointed Registrar as per the requirement under the Dog and Cat Management 1995 Act (section 26).

As of 2018, there is the equivalent of one full-time authorised persons.

Council's dog management services are funded by a combination of general rate revenue, dog registrations, expiation fees and fines for breaches of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995.

Dog Registration Fees

Dog registration fees collected in 2017/18 totalled \$85,533. 12% of these fees are allocated to DACO, and the remaining funds are used for a range of Council dog management services including:

- reuniting lost dogs with their owners
- providing after-hours callout services
- investigating incidences of dog attacks and harassment
- investigating nuisance barking complaints through mediation and formal investigations
- educating and liaising with pet owners about responsible pet ownership.

Dog By-Law No.5

In 2017, the District Council of Loxton Waikerie passed Dog By-Law No. 5 for the management and control of dogs within the council area including:

- dog controls regarding on-leash, off-leash and dog prohibited areas
- limit on the number of dogs per property such as:
 - in a township, one dog in a small dwelling unless permission granted by Council or
 - in a township, two dogs in any premises other than a small dwelling
 - outside of a township, two dogs on any premises other than working dogs
- management of dog faeces (i.e. carry a bag or other object to pick up and dispose of any faeces from their dog).

Council's Dog Holding Facilities

Council's dog holding facilities are located at Waikerie and Loxton.

On-leash, Off-leash and Dog Prohibited Areas

Council provides a range of public open space for dogs and their owners including two fenced dog parks at Loxton and Waikerie and off-leash areas along most sections of the riverfront.

Refer to Appendix B for a list of dog on-leash, off-leash and dog prohibited areas in the District Council of Loxton Waikerie area.

Overview of Cats

The number of owned cats in the Council area is unknown as cats are not required at this time to be registered with the District Council of Loxton Waikerie.

In 2017/18, there was a total of 12 cat complaints relating to spraying, stray or feral cats, noise, cats wandering into neighbouring properties and too many cats on one property.

Cat (and dog) details including the microchip number should be entered into DACO.

Table 4: Cat Complaints

Year	Cat complaints
2016/17	0
2017/18	12

Cat Bylaw No.6

In 2017, Council passed Cat By-Law No.6 for the management and control of cats in the council area including the following provisions:

- limit on the number of cats per property i.e. two cats per property or permission from council to keep more than two
- cats not to be a nuisance
- enforcement of orders.

Objectives, Actions and Performance Indicators

There are eight focus areas to guide the direction of the dog and cat management approaches over the next five years:

1. Dog registration
2. Desexing and microchipping of dogs
3. Wandering dogs
4. Nuisance barking
5. Pets in the community
6. Community education
7. Cat management
8. Breeder registration.

Each focus area is made up of an:

- objective
- actions
- performance measures.

Performance measures have been developed in this Plan to track progress against the objectives and actions. Addressing these priority areas will involve regular monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the actions identified in this Plan. Refer to page 24 for more information on implementing the Plan.

This Plan includes a combination of qualitative and quantitative performance measures. The key quantitative performance measures are outlined below.

Performance measures

Areas	Performance measures (over the life of this Plan)
Cats	Increase percentage of microchipped cats Increase percentage of desexed cats
Dog registration	Increase percentage of registered dogs Decrease number of expiations issued annually for unregistered dogs
Microchipping and desexing of dogs	Increase percentage of microchipped and desexed dogs
Dog wandering	Increase percentage of dogs collected by Council and returned to owner before impounding
Dog attacks	Decrease percentage of dog attacks to other animals Decrease percentage of dog attacks to humans
Dog barking	Increase percentage of nuisance dog barking complaints resolved through mediation, education and awareness Decrease percentage of dog barking complaints

Focus Area 1 - Dog Registration

Did you know? All dogs aged three months or over must be registered with Council each year.

Overview

In 2017/18, the total number of registered dogs in the District Council of Loxton Waikerie was 2,763.

Dogs are valued family members, so when they go missing it can be a stressful time for both the pet and the owner. If a dog is registered and microchipped, Council can easily identify a lost dog, ensuring a quicker return to the owner.

Dog registration provides Council with a better understanding of the level and distribution of dogs in the area which is helpful in planning for off-leash areas.

Happening now

Council's current initiatives to promote dog registration include:

- registration concessions
- follow up of unregistered dogs
- web-based information on dog registration.

Objective - Increase the percentage of registered dogs

No.	Actions	Performance measures
1	Continue to identify unregistered dogs and undertake follow-ups	Number of registration uptakes
2	Establish a session to support dog owners register/renew their dogs online (DACO) This could include a ½ day support session in the Loxton and Waikerie libraries to help dog owners register their dogs on DACO	Support session implemented as needed Session promoted on Council's website, social media and other formats ⁴
3	Promote the benefits of dog registration and the implications of having an unregistered dog	Promotional information posted on Council's website, social media and other formats
4	Promote the Dog and Cat Management Board's (DCMB) information around the new state-wide dog registration system - Dogs and Cats Online 'DACO'	Promotional information posted on Council's website, social media and other formats
5	Continue to display dog registration signs in prominent locations to advertise due date for dog registrations and renewals	Signage displayed in prominent locations
6	Review dog registration fees annually	Review completed, and new fees promoted to community in a range of formats
7	Investigate first-year discounted registration for puppies registered less than 6 months of age	Investigation completed, and actions implemented or Number of puppy registration uptakes

⁴ Other formats may include: rolling banner on Council's website, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, on-hold phone messages, print, online, video, mail-outs and Council displays.

Focus Area 2 – Desexing and Microchipping of Dogs

Did you know? From 1 July 2018, all dogs (and cats) must be desexed by 6 months of age.

Overview

The desexing of all dogs (and cats) by six months of age is a key change under the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 which came into effect on 1 July 2018. There is a statutory exemption from desexing of working livestock dogs, and these are granted by the Dog and Cat Management Board.

According to the DCMB (2017) there are many benefits of desexing a dog including:

- reducing the tendency for aggressive behaviours towards people and other dogs
- reducing dogs to wander, and anti-social behaviours like leg mounting and urine marking
- increasing the likelihood of a dog living a longer life
- eliminates unwanted litters of puppies.

All dogs and cats before 12 weeks of age must also be microchipped.

Happening now

Councils current initiatives to encourage microchipping and desexing of dogs include:

- registration concession for microchipped and desexed dogs
- web-based information on microchipping
- support for discounted microchipping events e.g. Chipblitz.

Objective - Increase the percentage of microchipped and desexed dogs

No.	Actions	Performance measures
8	Promote the Dog and Cat Management Board's information on mandatory microchipping and desexing of dogs (and cats)	Promotional information posted on Council's website, social media and other formats
9	Support discounted microchipping events for dog (and cat) owners These events could be undertaken in collaboration with ChipBlitz, veterinary clinics and adjoining councils	Number of dogs (and cats) microchipped at each event
10	Promote the benefits of microchipping and desexing of dogs (and cats) and the implications of having un-desexed and un-microchipped dogs and (cats)	Promotional information posted on Council's website, social media and other formats
11	Promote the National Desexing Network (NDS) including National Desexing month (i.e. July) for low cost desexing of dogs and cats	Provide a related link to NDS on Council's website
12	Provide a related link on Council's website to Dogs and Cats Online (DACO) to help pet owners with entering and updating microchipping details	Promotional information posted on Council's website, social media and other formats

Focus Area 3 - Wandering Dogs

Did you know? In 2017/18, Council 37 lost dogs to their owner avoiding impoundment.

Overview

Wandering dogs was the top complaint with Council in 2017/18, accounting for 76% of all dog complaints.

Dogs wandering without an owner can “cause a nuisance, are often distressed and may attack or harass people or other animals. In some cases, they cause road accidents resulting in injury to the dog and on occasion to vehicle occupants and may cause property damage – all of which becomes the responsibility of the owner of the dog” (DCMB, 2019).

Dogs can escape from their yards for a variety of reasons including:

- poorly maintained or inappropriate fencing to contain a dog (i.e. dogs can escape under, over and through fencing)
- gates left open or not properly secured
- dogs getting under the roller door when the owner is going in/out
- dogs being spooked by loud noises such as thunder, storms and fireworks.

Happening now

Council’s current initiatives to manage wandering dogs include:

- list pf impounded dogs on Council’s [website](#)
- pick up of wandering dogs.

Objective - Decrease the percentage of dogs wandering in the community

No.	Actions	Performance measures
13	Promote owner responsibilities and consequences of dogs wandering	Promotional information posted on Council website, social media and other formats
14	Inform dog owners about weather and environmental conditions that may cause dogs to escape i.e. thunderstorms, strong winds, dust storms	Information posted on Council website, social media and other formats
15	Establish a separate Facebook page for Dogs This page could include information such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dogs lost and found • fencing considerations • responsible dog ownership • how council can help find your dog • how to develop a management plan if your dog goes missing • what to do if you find a lost dog • dogs wandering near livestock 	Separate Facebook page established, and internal procedure developed for automatic updating
16	Undertake an audit of Council’s existing pound facilities and recommend improvements including costings	Audit completed, costings determined, and actions implemented

Focus Area 4 - Nuisance Barking

Did you know? “Barking is a normal behaviour for dogs and makes up part of the way dogs communicate vocally, along with yipping, yelping, howling, growling and whining.” (AVA, n.d.)

Overview

Although barking is a natural behaviour for dogs, persistent or excessive barking can be annoying to the owners and surrounding neighbours. The causes of dogs barking can range from boredom or frustration, being left alone, physical discomfort or pain, to reacting to an external stimulus such as a bird, someone passing by the fence or a cat in the yard.

If persistent barking is to be managed effectively, the trigger for the barking needs to be identified.

“... Dogs bark for a variety of reasons and it is important to work out why your dog is barking excessively. Once the underlying cause and 'triggers' for the barking are identified, training techniques can be used to treat the excessive barking.” (RSPCA, 2015a online)

Sometimes, dog owners don't know their dog is barking excessively or know where to go for help. For owners who need help with their dog's behaviour the RSPCA [Force-Free Dog Trainers](#) and the Association of Pet Dog Trainers ([APDT](#)) listing is a good resource to find a qualified dog trainer.

Happening now

Council's current initiatives to manage excessive barking include compliance staff facilitated negotiations between dog owner and neighbour.

Objective: Reduce the impact of persistent barking on the community

No.	Actions	Performance measures
17	Provide educational information to the community on strategies to manage persistent barking This may include information from the DCMB on why dogs bark and strategies to modify the dog's behaviour (excessive barking)	Promotional information posted on Council website, social media and other formats.
18	Promote the RSPCA List of Force-Free Dog trainers and the APDT Dog Trainers list as a resource for dog behaviour issues such as excessive barking	Provide a related link to the RSPCA Force-Free Dog Trainers and APDT listing on Council's website.

Focus Area 5 - Pets in the Community

Did you know? Council provides a range of off-leash areas for dogs including two dog parks.

Overview

The District Council of Loxton Waikerie provides a range of public open space for dogs and their owners including on-leash and off-leash areas including fenced dog parks at Waikerie and Loxton.

Refer to Appendix B for a list of on-leash, off-leash and dog prohibited areas within the Council area.

Council provides dog bags and dispensers in some parks and along the River Foreshore. Refer to page 33 for a list of dog bag locations.

Happening now

Council's current initiatives for dogs in the community include:

- designated on-leash, off-leash and dog prohibited areas
- provision of dog bags and dispensers at various parks and reserves.

Objective: Facilitate the planning and inclusion of pets in the community

No.	Actions	Performance measures
19	Promote on-leash, off-leash and dog prohibited areas to local dog owners and dog-friendly travellers This could include an online brochure suitable for download	Information posted on Council's website, social media and other formats
20	Review the provision of dog bag dispensers and need for additional amenities	Review completed and determined: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • need for additional dispensers • location of dog bags and dispensers • required costings
21	Encourage the community to report dog attacks and harassment incidents to Council	Number of dog attacks and harassment incidents reported
22	Promote information on how to prevent dog attacks and harassment in the home and in public spaces	Information posted on Council's website, social media and other formats
23	Prepare a report on the existing two fenced dog parks to identify areas for improvements This could include improvements such as additional shade near seating, more seating, dog equipment, better signage and advertising of park locations	Report and budget completed, and actions implemented
24	Investigate a greyhound off-leash trial. This investigation may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of the number of greyhounds in the Council area • Obtaining a copy of the Town of Alexandrina Council's Greyhound Hour Off-leash Trial report • Liaising with the Dog and Cat Management Board regarding an exemption 	Investigation completed and actions implemented
25	Investigate the provision of additional signs, bins and dog bag dispensers at Ramco Oval	Investigation completed and actions implemented

Focus Area 6 - Community Education

Did you know? Dogs are required to be on-leash on all streets, roads, and footpaths in the Council area.

Overview

Community education supported by the enforcement of legislation plays a key role in the effective management of pets in the community.

There are a several agencies in South Australia who offer educational programs and resources on dogs and cats including:

- Dog and Cat Management Board of SA - Living Safely with Pets
- RSPCA SA - Empathy Education Program
- Animal Welfare League - Community Education Programs
- Australian Veterinary Association - Pets and People (online resource only).

There are a range of topics that could be addressed through education programs including⁵:

- selecting the right pet for your family and lifestyle
- procuring a pet from responsible and ethical sources
- value of puppy pre-school, socialisation and dog training
- dog bite prevention
- environmental enrichment for dogs and cats
- safe interactions around dogs in the home and public places
- dog etiquette in public places
- changes to the dog and cat law.

Happening now

Council's current education initiatives include:

- web-based information
- Good Dog and Good Cat fact sheets on Council's website.

Objective: Promote responsible pet ownership through community education

No.	Actions	Performance measures
26	Collaborate with other organisations and individuals to develop and deliver community education programs tailored for the community needs This could include use of the fenced dog parks to education the community on responsible dog ownership	Opportunities investigated, and programs delivered
27	Develop a series of messages to promote responsible pet ownership This could include messages on the topics listed above	Information developed and posted regularly on social media, and other formats
28	Review Council's website relating to dog and cat information	Council's website reviewed and updated

⁵ Community education programs could take the form of school-based programs, online information, practical demonstrations and information sessions.

Focus Area 7 - Cat Management

Did you know? As of 1 July 2018, all cats are required to be microchipped by 12 weeks of age.

Overview

Cats are companion animals for an estimated 29% of Australian households. Cats can be valuable family members providing companionship and affection, but they can also be perceived as causing a nuisance in the community. Cats can stray from their property, defecate in neighbouring properties and cause environmental damage by attacking and harassing wildlife.

In South Australia, there are around half a million unowned cats with thousands of stray cats and kittens euthanized in animal shelters every year (DCMB 2017, website).

The number of owned cats in the Council area is unknown as they are not required to be registered with the District Council of Loxton Waikerie.

In 2017/18, there were 12 cat complaints recorded with Council relating to spraying, noise, stray or feral cats, cats wandering into neighbouring properties and too many cats.

Happening now

Council's current initiatives for cat management include:

- hire of humane cat traps
- assistance with cat nuisance complaints.

Objective: Encourage responsible cat ownership

No.	Actions	Performance measures
29	Promote the Dog and Cat Management Board's information on mandatory desexing and microchipping requirements for cats	Information posted on Council's website, social media and other formats
30	Continue to promote the hire of humane cat traps, pick up locations and collection process for delivery of captured, unidentified cats.	Information posted on Council's website, social media and other formats
31	Provide easy to read information on responsible cat ownership including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cat selection • Environmental enrichment for cats • Appropriate cat enclosures, cat runs and other containment solutions and cat welfare • Feeding of un-owned cats 	Information posted on Council's website, social media and other formats
32	Promote the benefits of cats being identified including microchipping	Promotional material posted on Council's website, social media and other formats
33	Monitor the impacts of mandatory desexing and microchipping of cats	Analyse data over the life of this Plan

Focus Area 8 - Breeder Registration

Did you know? As of 1 July 2018, breeders and sellers who breed dogs and cats for sale must register with the Dog and Cat Management Board of South Australia as a breeder.

Overview

The Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 has undergone a major review with significant changes which took effect from 1 July 2018:

- a person who sells a dog or cat they have bred must register as a breeder with the Dog and Cat Management Board
- sellers of dogs and cats are to give the new owner a written notice outlining the identity of the seller, identity of the breeder, details of vaccinations and other treatments, information relating to microchipping, desexing and any details regarding dog control orders
- Any person who breeds or trades companion animals must also abide by the *South Australian Standards and Guidelines for Breeding and Trading Companion Animals Standards*. These Guidelines are administered by the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, Animal Welfare Unit and enforced by the RSPCA.

Happening now

The new breeder registration requirement was introduced in 1 July 2018.

Objective: Educate and enforce compliance with breeder registration requirements

No.	Actions	Performance measures
34	Promote the Dog and Cat Management Board's new requirements for dog and cat breeders/sellers to register with the Dog and Cat Management Board of South Australia	Promotional material posted on Council's website, social media and other formats
35	Promote Dogs and Cats Online (DACO) to the community as a tool to check the authenticity of the breeder/seller information i.e. breeder number	Promotional material posted on Council's website, social media and other formats
36	Monitor local papers, community notice boards for dog and cat breeding and respond to public enquires relating to dog and cat breeding	Ongoing monitoring and follow up actions as required
37	Advise all registered dog and cat businesses that they must register with the Dog and Cat Management Board if breeding or selling animals	Mail out completed

Implementation and Review of the Plan

Implementing the dog and cat initiatives will involve regular monitoring, and reporting on the actions and performance measures. The key implementation actions are outlined below.

Actions	Performance measures
Assign staff responsibilities for the implementation of the actions	Responsibilities assigned
Submit this Plan to the Dog and Cat Management Board (DCMB) for final approval	Plan submitted and approved by the DCMB
Collect and record relevant dog and cat data to monitor the actions and performance measures in this Plan	System established to record and collate data
Conduct an annual review on the progress of actions and performance measures contained in this Plan	Regular reports submitted to Council about regulatory staff activity
Undertake continuous professional development of staff This may include attendance at conferences, seminars, training sessions, induction programs and enrolment in courses for a relevant qualification	Staff attended professional development

Other Animals and Pests

The District of Council of Loxton Waikerie deals mainly with the management of domestic dogs and cats, although at times staff are required to respond to and address other animals including:

- poultry including rosters
- birds
- snakes
- kangaroos
- little corellas.

Council has developed fact sheets for the following animals:

- [Audible bird scaring device](#)
- [Keeping chickens and roosters.](#)

Further information on other animals is available from the organisations listed below. This information could be turned into a resource sheet for customer relations staff but would need to be updated on a regular basis.

Animal	Responsible Organisation	Phone	Website
Bees	Primary Industries and Regions SA	8226 0995	http://pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/animal_health/bees
Birds (other than poultry)	Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources	8204 1910	http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/Plants_Animals/Permits_licences/Native_animals_in_captivity/Keep_Sell_Permits/Keep_Sell_Permit_Basic
Bats	SA Health	8226 6000	http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/Public+Content/SA+Health+Internet/Health+topics/Health+conditions+prevention+and+treatment/Bites+burns+cuts+and+pests/Bats+and+staying+safe+around+them/Bats+and+staying+safe+around+them
Bed Bugs	SA Health	8226 6000	http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/Public+Content/SA+Health+Internet/Health+topics/Health+conditions+prevention+and+treatment/Bites+burns+cuts+and+pests/Bed+bugs/Bed+bugs+-+Prevention+and+treatment
Foxes	Primary Industries and Regions SA Natural Resources SA Murray _Darling Basin	8226 0995	http://pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/weeds_and_pest_animals/animal_pests_in_south_australia/established_pest_animals/european_red_fox https://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/samurraydarlingbasin/home
Farm Animals	Department of Primary Industries and Regions SA	8226 0995	http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/
Fruit Fly	Department of Primary Industries and Regions SA	Hotline 1300 666 010	http://pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/fruit_fly
Horses	Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure	1300 872 677 (transport)	Towards Zero Together: Horses and Road Rules

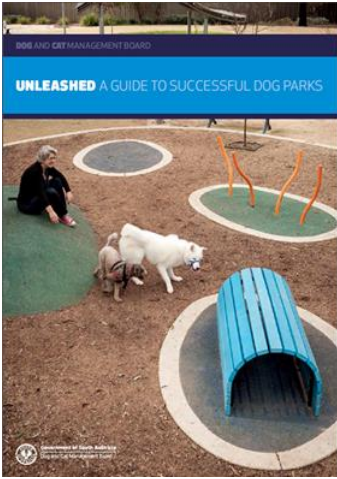
Animal	Responsible Organisation	Phone	Website
Little Corellas	Department of Environment and Water and Council		https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/plants-and-animals/Abundant_species/little-corellas
Mosquitoes	SA Health	8226 6000	http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public+content/sa+health+internet/home
Pigeons (feral)	SA Health	8226 6000	http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public+content/sa+health+internet/home
Possums	Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources	8204 1910	http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/Plants_Animals/Living_with_wildlife/Possums/Trapping_possums
Rats and Mice	SA Health	8226 6000	http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public+content/sa+health+internet/health+topics/health+conditions+prevention+and+treatment/bites+burns+cuts+and+pests/rats+and+mice
Snakes	Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources	8204 1910	http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/plants-and-animals/Living_with_wildlife/Snakes

Resources

Dog Park Guidelines 'Unleashed: a guide to successful dog parks'

Dog and Cat Management Board of South Australia (2013)

<http://www.dogandcatboard.com.au/publications>



Dog Park Etiquette: Rules to help dogs get along

Blue Cattle Dog Productions

<http://info.drSophiaYin.com/dog-park-etiquette-poster>

Dog Park Etiquette

Rules to Help Dogs Get Along

You Wouldn't Want Kids To:	You Wouldn't Want Dogs To:	What Your Dog Should Do:
<p>You wouldn't want one or more untrained people running up to you.</p>	<p>Dogs don't like groups or crowded areas rubbing up.</p>	<p>Train your dog to focus on and respond to games with you instead of getting into trouble with dogs or people at the park.</p>
<p>It's not right to let kids abuse toys.</p>	<p>Beating toys is also improper at the dog park.</p>	<p>Train your pooch to come when called so you can call him back to get into problem situations.</p>
<p>It's not right to harass others into letting you play.</p>	<p>Dogs get irritated with this type of behavior too.</p>	<p>Sometimes kids can play too roughly.</p>
<p>You wouldn't want others to interfere with your play.</p>	<p>And so can dogs.</p>	<p>Once your dog is with you, keep him engaged with you, then release him to play again.</p>
<p>You wouldn't want your kid to get into everyone's personal space.</p>	<p>So you shouldn't let your dog jump on or body slam people at the park.</p>	<p>Your dog should learn that it's fun to focus on you and play with you instead of needing to always play with other dogs. Use it as a choice to play with other dogs, as long as both dogs are relaxed and having fun.</p>
<p>You wouldn't ignore your kid at the park.</p>	<p>You shouldn't ignore your dog either.</p>	<p>©2012 Dr. Sophia Yin, DVM, MS</p>

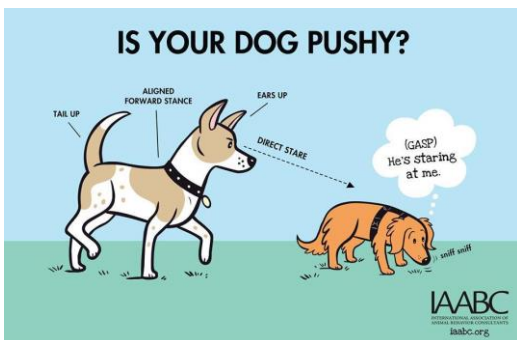
Dr. Sophia Yin, DVM, MS
The Art and Science of Animal Behavior
The world's most famous behaviorist is now on the web! Visit her website at www.drSophiaYin.com

Dog Park Safety Project

The International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants (IAABC)

<https://m.iaabc.org/resources/dog-posters/>

The Dog Park Safety Project provides a series of posters to promote safety in dog parks and in dog play. The posters (JPEG format) can be downloaded for free from the IAABC website.



iSpeak Dog

Tracy Krulik

This site provides information on dog behaviours and dog body language in a simple to read format. It's a good resource for the community to better understand what their dog is saying.

<http://www.ispeakdog.org/>

 iSpeakDog.org



Learn to speak
DOG.
Your pup will
love you for it.

Appendix A – Survey Findings

169 Completed online surveys

Dogs

60% respondents with a dog

92% dogs registered

76% dogs desexed

92% dogs microchipped

1-3 range of dogs per person

Reasons for not desexing a dog

- too expensive
- breeding or intend to breed
- dog too old, still a puppy, in a secure yard and doesn't meet other dogs, better for dog's health after 12 months.

Reasons for not microchipping a dog

- too expensive, missed appointment, dog too old.

Suggested improvements to Council's Off-leash parks (Dog Parks)

- shade over seating, split park into large and small dog areas, more seating, dog equipment, better advertising, and maintenance (water lawns more often to keep green).

Top 3 issues

- noise from barking dogs
- dogs wandering in streets and reserves
- harassed or scared by dogs

Cats

45% respondents with a cat

96% cats desexed

75% cats microchipped

1-15 range of cats per person

Reasons for not desexing a cat

- too expensive, local costs high so travel to Mildura

Reasons for not microchipping a cat

- don't have time, missed appointment, indoor cats, old cat

Top 3 issues

- cats wandering into neighbouring properties
- spraying/urinating on property
- faeces in yard and attacking wildlife

Appendix B - On-Leash, Off-leash, and Dog Prohibited Areas

The District Council of Loxton and Waikerie has three (3) types of provisions or controls for dogs in public places:

- dog on-leash areas (at all times)
- dog off-leash areas (at all times)
- dog prohibited areas (at all times)

On-leash Area

On-leash means a dog must be restrained/secured by a leash no more than 2 metres in length. This is a requirement under the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 and Council's Dog By-Law No. 5.

A dog must be on-leash in the following areas or situations:

- on all public roads, footpaths, and carparks. This is a requirement under the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995
- when organised sport is being conducted. This is a requirement under Council's Dog By-law No.5
- within 3 metres of children's playground equipment i.e. an unfenced children's play area. This is a requirement under Council's Dog By-law No.5

Off-leash Area

Off-leash means the owner or handler must have the dog under effective control at all times.

Effective control means:

- dogs must respond to a command [or cue] from the owner or handler e.g. come (recall), wait, stop
- dogs must be in close proximity of the owner or handler, and
- the owner or handler must be able to see the dog at all times.

Effective control is a requirement under the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995.

Dogs Prohibited Area

A dog prohibited area means a dog is not allowed in a public place at any time including:

- a children's playground
- other areas determined by Council.

Refer to pages 28-29 for a list of the current on-leash, off-leash and dog prohibited areas in the Council area.

Current On-leash, Off-leash and Dog Prohibited Areas

No.	Park/Reserve	Address	Township	On-leash, off-leash and dog prohibited areas
1	Anzac Crescent Playground	Anzac Crescent	Loxton	Prohibited
2	Apex Park	Marks Tce	Waikerie	Prohibited
3	Civic Centre Grounds	Strangman Rd	Waikerie	Off-leash
4	Heppner Park	Peake Tce	Waikerie	Off-leash
5	Hilbig Street Playground	Hilbig St	Loxton	Prohibited
6	Ifould Park	McCutcheon St	Waikerie	Off-leash
7	John Jennings Park	Spencer St	Waikerie	Off-leash
8	Kaesler Street Playground	Kaesler St	Loxton	Prohibited
9	Kingston Riverfront	River Tce	Kingston-on-Murray	Off-leash
10	Lions Riverfront Playground	Leonard Norman Drive	Waikerie	Prohibited
11	Loxton Apex Park	Pioneer Walk	Loxton	Off-leash
12	Loxton Aquatic Club	Grant Schubert Drive	Loxton	Off-leash
13	Loxton Cemetery	Tobruk Tce	Loxton	On-leash
14	Loxton Lions Park	Grant Schubert Drive	Loxton	Off-leash
15	Loxton North Recreation Grounds	Balfour Ogilvy Ave	Loxton	On-leash
16	Loxton Off-leash Fenced Dog Park	Bookpurnong Tce (near Loxton Tennis Club)	Loxton	Off-leash at all times
17	Loxton Riverfront	Grant Schubert Drive	Loxton	Off-leash
18	Loxton Sporting Precinct	Bookpurnong Tce	Loxton	On-leash
19	Moorook Cemetery	Gogel Rd	Moorook	On-leash
20	Moorook Oval	Curtis St	Moorook	On-leash
21	Moorook Riverfront	Kingston Rd	Moorook	On leash
22	Paisley Riverfront	River Drive	Paisley	Off-leash
23	Paruna Oval	Railway Tce	Paruna	On-leash
24	Ramco Oval	Ramco Road	Ramco	On-leash
25	Sturt Street Playground	Sturt St	Loxton	Prohibited
26	Waikerie Memorial Gardens	Lawrie Tce	Waikerie	Off-leash

No.	Park/Reserve	Address	Township	On-leash, off-leash and dog prohibited areas
27	Waikerie Off-leash Fenced Dog Park	Sichler St (near Bowling Club)	Waikerie	Off-leash at all times
28	Waikerie Oval	Peake Tce	Waikerie	On-leash
29	Waikerie Water Play and Nature Park – Waikerie Riverfront	Peake Tce	Waikerie	Prohibited
30	Waikerie Recreation Centre and surrounds	Lawrie Tce	Waikerie	On-leash
31	Waikerie Riverfront	Leonard Norman Drive	Waikerie	Off-leash
32	Wunkar Oval	Snodgrass Rd	Wunkar	On-leash

Location of Dog Bag Dispensers

Dog bags and dispensers are distributed across the District Council of Loxton Waikerie at a range of parks and along the riverfront including:

Loxton

- Loxton North Oval x 2
- Loxton Riverfront x 2
- Loxton Riverfront walking trail x 1
- Loxton Oval (Sports Precinct) x 3
- Loxton Heritage Park (Bookpurnong Terrace) x 1
- Loxton Dog Park x 2

Waikerie

- Waikerie Riverfront x 2
- Waikerie Riverfront second boat ramp x 1
- Waikerie Dog Park x 2
- Waikerie Recreation Centre/Hockey Oval x1
- Apex Playground

Other areas

- Paisley Riverfront x 1
- Apex Park Ramco-Riverfront x 1
- Kingston on Murray Riverfront x 2
- Moorook Campground x 1
- Ramco Oval x 1



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