

2017-2021 Domestic Animal Management Plan Review, Year Three

Timelines of actions may be affected by changing Community, Council, State and Federal Government service priorities and the availability of both Council and external funding.

Action	Year of the Plan				Responsibility	Resourcing	Year Three Evaluation Measures
	1	2	3	4			
Service Management, Training and Awareness Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide an efficient, and effective service that responds to our legislated responsibilities, and the changing needs and expectations of our community. To ensure our staff are trained to enable them to safely and effectively manage the service, particularly in light of changing service demands 							
1	Animal management officers to undertake CRAF (Common Risk Assessment Framework) or similar training.	√	√	√	√	Int. CSA	Within operational budget Council animal management officers have undertaken professional development and training in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular training provided by Council: First Aid, Customer Service, Occupational Health and Safety & Dealing with difficult situations Animal Welfare Victoria: Legislation updates, DAB, canine anatomy and identification training Preparation of brief reporting for dog attacks and barking dogs investigations Agriculture Victoria: Stock control requirements and tagging process of livestock SSAA: Practical Firearm Training Officers who hold Cert IV in Government and Animal Control & Regulations are currently booked to attend to the Implementation of Microchipping training (June 2020)
2	Investigate the need for agreements with veterinary surgeries and other organisations that meet the Code of Practice to rehouse dogs and cats, and / or the need to review current arrangements		√			Int. CSA	Within operational budget Council has a service agreement in place with Yarrambat Veterinary Hospital in accordance with the Code of Practice for the Operation of Breeding and Rearing Business (2014)

3	Undertake a review of website, social media platforms and hard copy information provided to customers for the animal management service and update to improve customer awareness of and access to the service	√	√	√	√	Int. CSA	Within operational budget	<p>Community Safety works with Councils Communications Team to regular update information on our website. General information regarding registration requirements and other responsible pet ownership requirements are available on Councils websites.</p> <p>Social Media has also presented a key platform for communicating with the community, while SMS messaging is highly effective at communicating Registration reminders & firework activities.</p> <p>Council also offers an animal lost and found page on its web site which is updated daily to assists owners to be reunited with their animals. Facebook is also utilised when a dog is nearing its 8 day stay and clearly comes from a loving home.</p>
---	---	---	---	---	---	----------	---------------------------	---

Action	Year of the Plan				Responsibility	Resourcing	Year Three Evaluation Measures
	1	2	3	4			
Registration and identification Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To increase pet registrations as a proportion of our resident population To maintain accurate animal registration records 							
4	Use the information currently being prepared by the AVA and the RSPCA to help residents understand the benefits and value of pet registration.		√	√	√	Int. CSA Ext. AVA, RSPCA, DV	Within operational budget Council purchases brochures from Animal Welfare Victoria to issue to pet owners so they have a better understanding of the benefits of having their pets registered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Are you the owner” (information about the benefits and responsibilities of dog/cat ownership) “Pet Registration” factsheet
5	Cross-reference council database of registered animals with microchip registries to identify unregistered animals, animals with no permanent identification, and restricted breed dogs.	√		√		Int. CSA	Within operational budget Community Safety Officers have process mapped a process to increased cross referencing of Councils and other available databases (Pathway/Share Point/ Microchip Registries/Victoria Declared Dog Registry) in all animal management interactions in order to expedite current and future investigations, identify non-compliance issues and analyse trends.
6	Ensure all impounded cats and dogs are registered and microchipped on release.	√	√	√	√	Int. CSA	Within operational budget Council ensures that all dogs over the age of three months are microchipped & Registered upon release. Yarrambat Veterinary Hospital provide prompt microchip for dogs to be released when required. Cats trapped as part of the cat trapping Programm are desexed, microchipped and registered upon release. This is a legal requirement under <i>Domestic Animal Act 1994</i>
7	Advocate for a single industry microchip registration database.		√			Int. CSA	Within operational budget Animal Welfare Victoria are currently considering this option. Councils will be notified when they are ready to begin consultation with Stakeholders and will continue to advocate for a centralised database.

Action	Year of the Plan				Responsibility	Resourcing	Year Three Evaluation Measures
	1	2	3	4			
Dealing with nuisance and amenity issues Objective: To minimise the number of complaints relation to pets, particularly in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barking dogs • Dogs off leash in on leash areas • Dog owners not collecting dog droppings and inappropriate disposal of dog litter bags • Cats trespassing 							
8	Adopt the location specific nuisance reporting data (e.g. barking dogs, cat trespass) in order to identify problematic areas and target strategies to address local needs.		√		Int. CSA, CC Ext. G2Z, AIAM, AVA, DV	Within operational budget	Regular reporting is utilised to establish patterns in the occurrence nuisance incidents. This data is used to focus on pet owners in these location to improve community outcomes. Letters are generated to problematic areas in relation to Cat Curfew and Barking dogs.
9	Liaise with animal behaviourists to consider options available to assist with the reduction of barking dog complaints.			√	Int. CSA, Env Ext. AIAM, AVA, DV	Additional funding required in 2019-2020 budget	Council Officers seek the advice from Yarrambat vets and their nurses. They also seek information provided on line from Animal Welfare Victoria.
10	Review cat trapping information and protocols.		√		Int. CSA, Env	Within operational budget	CS have reviewed its process of Cat Trapping with the emphasis on educating community members in particular cat hoarders. Information is provided to cat owners includes, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Are you a Cat owner” • “Humane cage trapping of Domestic, Unowned and Wild Cats” As part of cat complaint process, officers liaise with complainants and their neighbours, many who are not aware of cat restrictions and Legislation
11	Investigate successful community-based awareness raising relating to dog owners that do not pick up dog droppings.			√	Int. CSA, Env Ext. AIAM, AVA, DV	Within operational budget	N/A

Action	Year of the Plan				Responsibility	Resourcing	Year Three Evaluation Measures	
	1	2	3	4				
Dog attacks Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reduce the number of dog rushes and dog attacks. To increase community understanding of the behaviour that constitutes a 'dog attack' To optimise the reporting of dog attacks To collect informative data on dog attacks that can better inform community awareness initiatives 								
12	Enhance the promotion / distribution of information that assists residents make appropriate pet selection, particularly in relation to dogs.	√				Int. CSA	Within operational budget	Council continues to provide information in relation to responsible pet ownership, which includes the selection of appropriate pets.
13	Improve community awareness of procedures for reporting a dog attack or rush.	√				Int. CSA	Within operational budget	Council continues to educate the community on how to report dog attacks and rushes, and is currently improving its website to make the submission of these incidents more streamlined.
Managing dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs Objective: To minimise the number of dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs in the community.								
14	Cross-reference microchip database information with current council registration database for potential restricted breed dogs.		√		√	Int. CSA	Within operational budget	Inspection for RDB/DD are conducted once a year by Community Safety Officers. CS Administration Team run a report on pathways to check for any RBD/DD. There are no current RDB registered within Nillumbik Shire Council.
15	Review and enhance information for dog owners to ensure there is a clear understanding as to a dog behaviour that will lead to their dog being 'declared'				√	Int. CSA	Within operational budget	N/A

Action	Year of the Plan				Responsibility	Resourcing	Year Three Evaluation Measures	
	1	2	3	4				
Overpopulation and abandonment of animals, (including euthanasia) Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To minimise the number of stray, abandoned and unwanted pets To identify and manage the semi-owned cat population challenges 								
16	Work with the Cat Protection Society and animal rescue groups to develop strategies to enhance awareness of high re-homing rates to cats and surrender semi owned-owned cats/unwanted cats.		√			Int. CSA Ext. CPS, vets, pet owners	Within operational budget	Council continues to work CPS to rehome abandoned cats, actively encouraging and promoting the desexing of cats via community engagement and awareness activities.
17	Work with Getting to Zero to: Improve information to the community about managing the semi-owned cat populations and residents to address the semi-owned cat population			√	√	Int. CSA Ext. G2Z	Within operational budget	We have a highly successful cat trap program that works alongside the Cat Protection Society. Within the past financial year we have provided 56 cats traps and educated each resident about using a cat trap to successfully contain a cat.
Domestic Animal Businesses Objective: To ensure domestic animal businesses comply with their legislative responsibilities and relevant codes of practice.								
18	Identify opportunities to work with Domestic Animal Businesses to promote responsible pet ownership and initiatives that address the objectives of the DAMP.				√	Int. CSA	Within operational budget	N/A

Action	Year of the Plan				Responsibility	Resourcing	Year One Evaluation Measures	
	1	2	3	4				
Provision for dog off leash opportunities								
Objective: To effectively plan for use of parks by the dog owning and non-dog owning communities.								
19	Develop a policy / rationale for providing or expanding off leash areas for dog owners and their dogs and a provision strategy that considers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gaps in current provision and a review of the fenced dog parks A rationale that underpins future provision including matters relating to dogs on sports fields An evaluation of possible sites for consideration as off leash areas Use of sportsgrounds by dog obedience groups 	√				Int. CSA, CC Ext. Dog obedience groups	Within operational budget	Council have commenced consultation on the location of a future dog park in Eltham North, and continue to review the off leash areas throughout the Shire.
Community support and community building initiatives								
Objectives: To recognise and optimise the community building / strengthening benefits associated with pets, including those that support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Older people to remain pet owners Pet owners to make their pets safe in times of family violence 								
20	Work with Council's Connected Community Department to put in place relevant procedures for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring an integrated approach when dealing with families at risk of family violence Investigating and promoting respite options for pets in situations of family violence. 		√	√	√	Int. CSA, CC Ext. local support groups, animal welfare orgs, vets, CPS, DHS	Within operational budget	Community Safety is committed to providing temporary care of domestic animals (pets) owned by NSC & BCC residents of or in a crisis due to family violence or mental health issues. This is achieved by providing temporary free care for domestic animals until the owner and their pet can be reunited. Temporary care is provided for up to 2 weeks, extended time frames will be considered on a case to case basis. Animals that require veterinary care a taken to Yarrambat Veterinary Hospital and a care pack is given to owners upon release of their pet.

Action		Year of the Plan				Responsibility	Resourcing	Year One Evaluation Measures
		1	2	3	4			
21	Encourage relevant Council departments to advocate for accommodation for victims of family violence that allows families and pets to stay together.	√	√	√	√	Int. CSA, CP	Within operational budget	Council provides care for pets at the pound when members of the community require welfare assistance due to family violence. Although this does not allow owners and pets to remain together, it provides a short term reprieve for pet owners who might be seeking emergency accommodation under difficult circumstances.
22	Work with relevant Council departments to encourage volunteers interested in supporting older and pet owners with disabilities retain their pets e.g. volunteer dog walkers, vet transport.				√	Int. CSA, CP	Within operational budget	N/A
Pet related tourism								
Objective: Understand the potential benefits associated with pet related tourism in Nillumbik.								
23	Recommend to the Economic Development Department that consideration be given to exploring and quantifying the potential benefits associated with pet tourism / visitation	√	√	√	√	Int. DBS, CSA, CP	Within operational budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NSC Pet Expo is the perfect opportunity for organisations to showcase what Nillumbik can offer to not only its residents but also visitors. Each year there are more than 5000 people in attendance. Community Safety Officers support DAB with advice to provide high standard of service that complies with legislative requirements in order to attract pet owners to Nillumbik Council continues to provide and promote off leash facilities within NSC to attract pet owners to visit NSC.
24	Consider opportunities to work with partner councils and the tourism sector to investigate opportunities associated with pet tourism / visitation				√		Within operational budget	N/A