



Domestic Animal Management Plan 2017–21

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Mayor's message

As Moonee Valley's population increases, so does the number of pets residing in our city. Our objective is to ensure our city is a safe and enjoyable place for these animals to live and play, maintaining Moonee Valley's pet-friendly reputation.

Moonee Valley residents are adoring pet owners who take their ownership obligations seriously. Council will continue to support these residents by maintaining fair requirements regarding responsible pet ownership as well as educating the community on animal safety.

One of the main objectives of the Domestic Animal Management Plan is to reunite lost dogs and cats with their owners to reduce the number of pets that are impounded in animal shelters or pounds. Furthermore, we aim to minimise the nuisance and danger which can be created by stray dogs and cats.

Council is committed to a proactive enforcement and educational focus to animal management. This plan also addresses issues relating to the training of authorised officers, registration and identification, nuisance, dog attacks, dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs, overpopulation and high euthanasia rates, and domestic animal businesses.

I am confident this plan will help us achieve our goal of ensuring a safe and enjoyable environment for all pets and residents.

Cr Andrea Surace
Moonee Valley Mayor



Introduction

This Domestic Animal Management Plan will guide decision making in relation to dogs and cats within Moonee Valley for the next four year period.

It has been developed as a requirement set out in the Domestic Animals Act 1994. The Act stipulates that every Victorian council must prepare a plan every four years. Council has developed this plan in accordance with the template provided by the State Government.

The plan builds on Council's previous plan and provides the framework for the planning, development and evaluation of animal management services and educational programs delivered by Council's city compliance service while complying with the requirements set out in the Domestic Animals Act 1994.

Developed by Moonee Valley City Council's city compliance department in consultation with reference groups and the community, all feedback obtained through the consultation process has been considered.

It is important to note, the plan relates only to the keeping of dogs and cats – other domestic animals kept as pets are not addressed in this plan. Furthermore, the plan presents information on animal related statistics, animal management staffing and current programs and services.

The key issues arising from the previous four year period include:

- desire for increased management of aggressive dogs
- concerns with the rate of euthanasia of domestic animals
- non-compliance regarding dog faeces in Council reserves and parks

- increased demand for enforcement from authorised officers in designated 'off-leash' parks
- increased demand for enforcement from authorised officers in reserves and parks where dogs are required to be on-lead
- desire to confirm a fenced 'off-leash' park
- concerns with trespassing cats

For the 2016 registration period, Moonee Valley had 10,426 dogs registered and 3,537 cats registered. For the same period there were a total of 635 animal related complaints investigated within the city.

This document outlines the scheduled programs and initiatives relating to animal management. Each key issue area has objectives and action plans that detail the new actions to be undertaken by Council over the next four years. The plan will be reviewed annually and evaluated against its targets.





Legislative requirements: domestic animal management plans

Pursuant to section 68A of the Domestic Animals Act 1994 (the Act), every Victorian council must prepare a Domestic Animal Management Plan. The below listed section states the following:

68A Councils to prepare domestic animal management plans

- (1) Every Council must, in consultation with the Secretary, prepare at 4 year intervals a domestic animal management plan.
- (2) A domestic animal management plan prepared by a Council must—
 - (a) set out a method for evaluating whether the animal control services provided by the Council in its municipal district are adequate to give effect to the requirements of this Act and the regulations; and
 - (b) outline programs for the training of authorised officers to ensure that they can properly administer and enforce the requirements of this Act in the Council's municipal district; and
 - (c) outline programs, services and strategies which the Council intends to pursue in its municipal district—
 - (i) to promote and encourage the responsible ownership of dogs and cats; and
 - (ii) to ensure that people comply with this Act, the regulations and any related legislation; and
 - (iii) to minimise the risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals; and
 - (iv) to address any over-population and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats; and
 - (v) to encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats; and
 - (vi) to minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance; and
 - (vii) to effectively identify all dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs in that district and to ensure that those dogs are kept in compliance with this Act and the regulations; and
 - (d) provide for the review of existing orders made under this Act and local laws that relate to the Council's municipal district with a view to determining whether further orders or local laws dealing with the management of dogs and cats in the municipal district are desirable; and
 - (e) provide for the review of any other matters related to the management of dogs and cats in the Council's municipal district that it thinks necessary; and
 - (f) provide for the periodic evaluation of any program, service, strategy or review outlined under the plan.
- (3) Every Council must—
 - (a) review its domestic animal management plan annually and, if appropriate, amend the plan; and
 - (b) provide the Secretary with a copy of the plan and any amendments to the plan; and
 - (c) publish an evaluation of its implementation of the plan in its annual report.



Moonee Valley at a glance

The City of Moonee Valley is located in Melbourne's north-west suburbs. The city covers 43 square kilometres, located between four and 13 kilometres from Melbourne's central business district.

Approximately 119,583 residents of 51,427 households call Moonee Valley home. With more than a quarter of our residents born abroad, our community is culturally and linguistically diverse.

The city consists of the following suburbs:

- Aberfeldie
- Airport West
- Ascot Vale
- Avondale Heights
- Essendon
- Essendon North
- Essendon West
- Flemington
- Keilor East
- Moonee Ponds
- Niddrie
- Strathmore
- Strathmore Heights
- Travancore

Throughout the city, there is a mixture of lot sizes and residential density, including a high concentration of flats and units.

Open space is prominent within the city, consisting of 1,987,049 square metres, incorporating 166 parks, gardens and reserves, with waterways that connect major parks and open space across the city.

The open spaces across the city are used by members of the Moonee Valley community, including pet owners. Council currently has in place nine parks or reserves which are designated off-leash areas. In addition, Council endorsed a design for Alf Pearce Reserve to install a permanent fenced area for all dogs to exercise and play off-lead. The dog park opened in July 2017.

Domestic animal statistics

Dog statistics	2012	2016
Number of registered dogs	10,356	10,426
Number of registered declared dangerous dogs as a result of an attack	4	3
Number of registered declared dangerous dogs kept as guard dogs	4	3
Number of registered declared restricted breed dogs	2	1
Number of registered declared menacing dogs	4	3
Number of impounded dogs	419	389
Number of impounded dogs which were returned to owner	299	342
Number of dogs rehoused	53	11
Number of dogs euthanised	42	7
Cat statistics	2012	2016
Number of registered cats	3,776	3,537
Number of impounded cats	426	213
Number of cats which were impounded and returned to owner	28	33
Number of cats euthanised	361	109
Number of cats rehoused	18	18
Request for service statistics	2012	2016
Reported dog attack (rush person or bite an animal or person)	105	71
Barking dog complaints	215	54
Dog excrement in public place complaints	14	19
Dog wandering at large or not securely confined to property complaints	419	119
Dogs seized by an authorised officer as a result of a dog attack incident	11	2
Total number of dogs and cats collected by Council pound agency outside of business hours	445	249
Animal nuisance complaints	19	28
Infringement notices issued pursuant to the Domestic Animals Act 1994	473	496
Domestic animal businesses	2012	2016
Pet shops	3	1
Day care centres	1	1
Veterinary clinics	0	2
Training organisations	0	1





Department overview

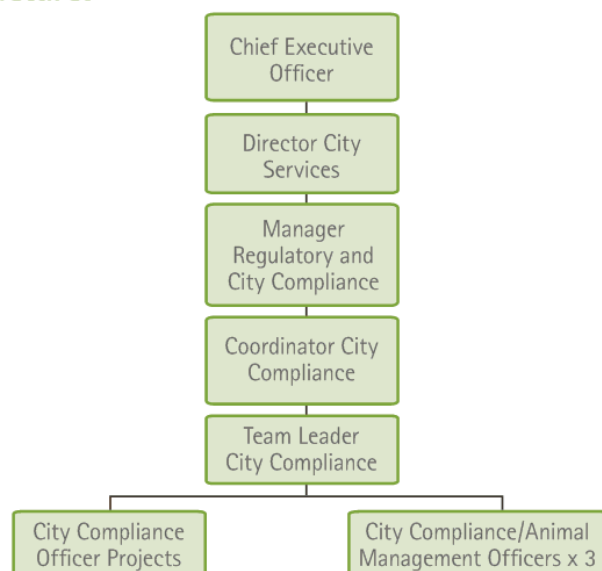
Council's city compliance department comprises of a Manager Regulatory and City Compliance, Coordinator City Compliance, Team Leader City Compliance, City Compliance Officer (Projects) and three City Compliance Officers. All officers are known as authorised officers appointed under the Local Government Act 1989.

The department is responsible for the management of services and enforcement relating to domestic animals, Council's General Purposes Local Law 2008, and administering other related Victorian legislation.

The authorised officers perform a number of duties which include:

- providing information to pet owners and the wider community in relation to animal management
- management of the animal registration process including renewals
- inspections of domestic animal businesses
- management of prohibited activities relating to dogs and cats in public places
- investigation of complaints relating to dogs and cats
- education campaigns through mobile customer service sessions
- investigations relating to dog attack instances
- seizure of dogs involved in alleged dog attack incidents
- cat and dog collections

Department structure:



Part 1: Current and planned training activities for authorised officers

Council has a strong focus on identifying professional development opportunities and building individual and team capabilities to enhance service delivery. Council offers many training opportunities through its corporate training program that offers a diverse range of developmental opportunities for authorised officers.

It is acknowledged that the duties of an authorised officer are complex in terms of managing often-divergent community demands, views and expectations in relation to domestic pets. The Act stipulates that Council must outline the programs for the training of all authorised officers to ensure those officers can properly administer and enforce the requirements of the Act.

The minimum requirement is a Certificate IV in Animal Control and Regulation or equivalent. Council's objective is to ensure that all staff involved in animal management has the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively carry out their work.

The table on the following page provides an overview of current training activities which are offered to authorised officers by Council and external providers.



Current training activities

Officer title	Description	Provider
Team Leader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workplace behaviours • Managing difficult customers (Level 2) • Animal handling • Interpreting breed standards • Animal welfare seminars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate program • Corporate program • The Lost Dogs Home • Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources • Bureau of Animal Welfare
Authorised Officers	As above and in addition, as below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRIM (electronic management system) • Business writing workshop • Certificate IV in Animal Control and Regulation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate program • Corporate program • Warner Institute

Planned training activities for authorised officers

Activity	When	Evaluation
Develop an induction program which is suitable for authorised officers.	Year two of plan	Review of standard induction process once a new officer is appointed.
Provide a minimum of one authorised officer with an opportunity to become an accredited microchip implanter.	Year two of plan	To be reviewed after second year of plan.
Review the current number of full-time authorised officers who fulfil animal management field duties and bench mark with similar councils to determine if we require additional staff.	End of year three of plan	To be reviewed after third year of plan.





Part 2: Registration and identification

Over the next four year period, Council's focus in relation to pet registration is to increase and maintain a high level of registration and identification. We intend on doing so by encouraging responsible pet ownership through programs, services and education campaigns.

Council will introduce strategies to improve the statistics in relation to reuniting lost pets with their owners and improve reclaim rates.

Currently all cats and dogs over the age of three months must be implanted with a microchip and registered with Council and pet registration must be renewed by 10 April annually.

In relation to our intention to increase registration, Council will build on relationships with veterinary clinics and domestic animal businesses within the city, provide a greater presence in parks and reserves to provide registration forms on the spot for unregistered pets, and promote registration documentation in

presentations to local schools. These strategies are in addition to Council's annual 'door knock' enforcement activities, resulting from complaints and education at mobile customer service sessions throughout any one year period.

Registration fees 2017-2018		
Dog	Regular	Pensioner
Full fee (microchipped, not desexed, under 10 years old)	\$117	\$58.50
Microchipped and desexed	\$39	\$19.50
Dogs over 10 years old (proof required)	\$33	\$16.50
Declared dangerous dogs or menacing dogs or restricted breeds	\$190	\$190
Service dogs (guide, customs, police dogs)	No charge	No charge
Cats	Regular	Pensioner
Full fee (microchipped, not desexed, under 10 years old)	\$94	\$47
Microchipped and desexed	\$24	\$12
Cats over 10 years old (proof required)	\$22	\$11

Our orders, local laws, council policies and procedures

Council proactively provides verbal advice by city compliance officers in the field, provides information on Council's website and issues information packs with a registration form to owners who have adopted a pet.

In terms of enforcement, city compliance officers issue verbal warnings, Notice to Comply notices, infringement notices and occasionally court prosecution. It is important to note, Council does provide owners of unregistered animals with a reasonable timeframe to apply for registration after detection.

In addition, section 51 of Council's General Purposes Local Laws 2008 deals with the keeping and housing of animals and specifies the maximum number of dogs and cats permitted on a property or in a flat.

Current education/promotion activities

Activity	Schedule
Articles in Council's Valley View newsletter	As required
Half price registrations for new applications from 10 October each year until 9 April	Annually
Follow-up by authorised officers of registrations for dogs and cats purchased from pet shops	Monthly
Free transfer of registration for dogs and cats for residents moving into the municipality	Ongoing throughout any year
Annual mail out to remind pet owners to re-register their pets.	March annually
Responsible pet ownership pamphlets distributed by authorised officers while in the field	Ongoing throughout any year
Website links to the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources to current fact sheets relating to domestic animals	Biannually
Registration application forms provided online for download and submitting; hard copy information provided to residents upon request	Ongoing throughout any year
Responsible pet ownership brochures provided at multiple Council buildings	Ongoing
Use of microchip scanners by all operational authorised officers	Ongoing

Planned education/promotion activities over the next four year period

Activity	When	Evaluation
Participate in the Moonee Valley Festival to promote registrations	February annually	To be reviewed in May annually
Corporate advertising in local newspapers and media releases prior to the registration renewal period	February annually	To be reviewed in June annually
Provide all domestic animal businesses and veterinary clinics within the municipality with registration application forms to distribute to clients	March annually	To be reviewed in July annually
Introduction of BPay option for animal registration renewal notices	April first year of plan	To be reviewed in April annually
Implement a proactive park schedule in an effort to identify unregistered animals	Quarterly	End of first year
Investigate the possibility to alter registration details online	Second year of plan	End of second year
Investigate the possibility of introducing metal registration tags for an additional fee	Third year of plan	End of third year
Provide a dedicated annual session for the public to attend Council and have their pet microchipped and desexed by an authorised officer at a discount rate	Fourth year of plan	End of fourth year



Part 3: Nuisance

Council is committed to reducing the amount of complaints received over the next four-year period relating to animal nuisance. The Act specifies that this plan must outline programs, services and strategies to minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance.

Our orders, local laws, council policies and procedures

Council has in place an order made pursuant to section 26(2) of the Act requiring dogs to be under effective control while in a designated 'off-leash' area.

A dog shall be deemed under effective control whether on or off leash if:

- it returns to its owner or person in charge of the dog upon immediate command
- the owner or person in charge of the dog retains a clear and unobstructed view of the dog and the dog is securely tethered
- it does not bother, attack, worry or interfere with other peoples or animals peace and enjoyment

Additionally, section 54 of Council's General Purposes Local Law 2008 requires a person in charge of an animal to collect and dispose of any excrement from that animal on any road, street, nature strip, reserve or public or Council land. They must also carry a litter device.

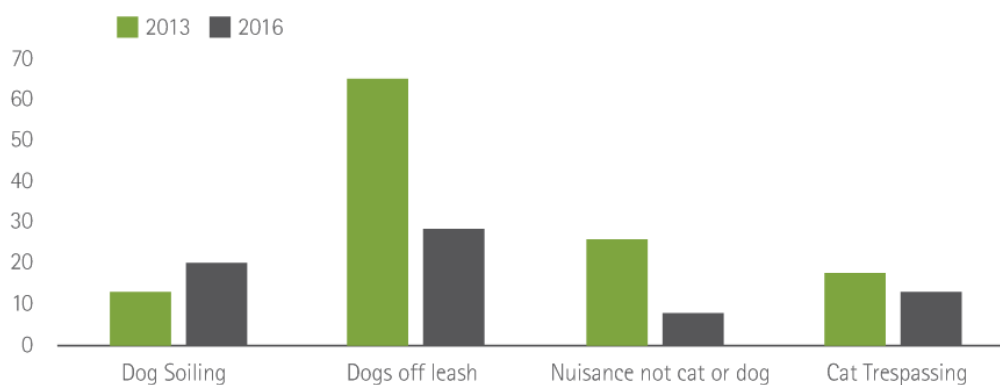


Current strategies, programs and services

Activity	Schedule
Manage the 'keeping of animals,' 'animal shelters,' 'dog excrement,' and 'animal noise' pursuant to Sections, 51, 53 and 54 of Council's local law	Ongoing
Enforcement of 'effective control' order under the Act	Ongoing
Free 'cat trapping' program to Moonee Valley residents	Ongoing
Information regarding 'barking dogs' circulated to residents	Ongoing
Investigations into all nuisance complaints received	Ongoing
Proactive patrols during and outside of business hours of Council reserves and parks	Ongoing
Targeted patrols of 'hot spots' for dogs off leash	Ongoing
Liaise with Council's sport and recreation team regarding issues pertaining to dogs in shared parks	As required
Issuing of verbal and official warnings, Notice to Comply notices and infringement notices associated with animal nuisance	As required
Installation and weekly filling of 'dog poo bag' dispensers at all designated 'off-leash' locations	Ongoing



Nuisance complaints



Planned strategies, programs and services over the next four year period

Activity	When	Evaluation
Review the provision of 'dog poo bags' and dispensers in current locations to determine their effectiveness and if additional dispensers are required	End of year two of plan	Reduce the number of complaints received
Administer a community education program to reinforce the requirement for dogs to be under 'effective control' to owners or people in charge of dogs	Year two of plan	Reduce the number of associated complaints
Administer a community education program to reinforce the requirements for owners or people walking dogs to pick up dog excrement and carry a litter device	Year two of plan	Reduce the number of associated complaints
Implement a pro-active enforcement program of parks where dogs are required to be on-lead	Year three of plan and ongoing	Reduce the number of associated complaints
Install conditions of use Signage relating to dogs being under 'effective control' in all 'off-leash' parks	Year one of plan	Improve compliance with 'effective control' requirements set out in order under the Act
Consider programs to address the population of unowned cats which trespass on premises without permission	Year four of plan	Reduce the number of associated complaints
Review shared 'off-leash' areas to determine if the conditions of use are appropriate	End of year two of plan	To determine if allocations (i.e. obedience training, sporting events) are appropriately separated



Part 4: Dog attacks

Council receives numerous complaints of dog attack incidents annually. Our statistics depict a decrease in the total number of dog attack complaints received, however an increase in reported dogs found wandering at large. Council is committed to reducing the figure over the next four period and as a result will reduce the opportunities for dogs to attack if wandering at-large. It is evident that inadequate confinement is a key factor which contributes to dog attacks in public places.

Council is committed to reducing the risk and improving response from Council in relation to dog attacks that do occur. The common attack occurs when a dog is at-large and occurs on public land within close proximity of its property.

Dogs socialised at an early age are generally less likely to be involved in an incident throughout their lives, therefore over the next four years Council will continue to promote socialisation alongside providers in an effort to reduce the incidences of dog attacks. Furthermore, we will investigate the possibility of introducing school programs regarding 'bite avoidance'.

Our order, local laws, council policies and procedures

Council is in the process of reviewing a number of work instructions regarding investigation of dog attack incidents. To minimise the likelihood of dog attack instances in 'off-leash' areas, Council is installing conditions of use signage to highlight the requirements of 'effective control' of dogs while exercising in those areas.

The conditions of use are formulated from Council order made under section 26 of the Act and specifies what 'effective control' is.

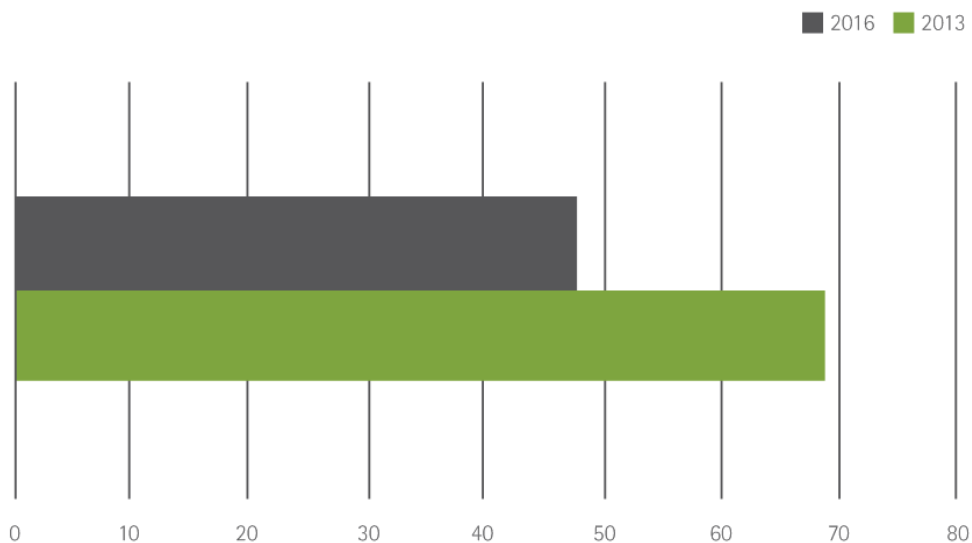
Current training activities

Activity	Frequency
'Dog attack' pamphlets provided to public	As required
Issuing of official warnings, Notice to Comply notices and infringement notices	As required
Declarations of 'menacing' and 'dangerous' dogs	As required
Prosecution of Section 29 offences of the Act	As required
Seizure of dogs involved in dog attack defined as 'serious' under the Act	As required
Targeted patrols of 'hot spots' for dogs off leash	Ongoing
Audits of properties where dogs have escaped to ensure the property is secure	As required
Targeted education campaigns (letter drop) in areas where high numbers of dog attacks have been recorded	Annually

Planned compliance activities over the next four year period:

Activity	When	Evaluation
Promote socialisation and links to accredited providers regarding socialisation for dogs at early years of age	End of year one of plan	Reduce the number of complaints received
Administer a trial session to a local primary school regarding 'bite avoidance'	Year two of plan	Improved dog behaviour session for primary school aged children
Review Council's work instruction for the seizure of dogs that have attacked	Year three of plan	Work instruction to be reviewed and updated annually
Inform the Moonee Valley community on outcomes of prosecutions relating to dog attack instances through media releases	As required throughout any one year	Review feedback provided by community in relation to the media releases

Reported dog attacks





Part 5: Dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs

Council currently has four declared 'dangerous dogs,' one declared 'restricted breed' dog and four declared 'menacing dogs' residing within the municipality. Regarding 'menacing and dangerous' declarations, they are generally implemented by Council or by voluntary declaration as a result of an incident or dogs residing on industrial land for the purpose of protecting that land.

Council is committed to ensuring all owners of any of these types of dogs are aware of their responsibilities pursuant to the Act.

Menacing dogs

Council can declare a dog to be a 'menacing dog' if the dog has rushed or chased a person or has bitten any person or animal causing injury to that person or animal that is not in the nature of a serious injury. Furthermore, if a dog has been declared a 'menacing dog' under a law of another state or a territory of the Commonwealth.

Once a declaration is made, special requirements are imposed on how the dog is kept and restrained when off its property.

Dangerous dogs

A dog can be declared a 'dangerous dog' if the dog has caused the death of or serious injury to a person or animal by biting or attacking that person or animal. If a declared 'menacing dog' and its owner has received at least two infringement notices for not having the dog muzzled in a manner which is sufficient to prevent biting or not under effective control by a chain, cord or leash, it may be declared 'dangerous.'

Furthermore, if a dog has been declared a 'dangerous dog' under a law of another state or a territory of the Commonwealth. Once a declaration has been made it has effect throughout Victoria and cannot be revoked, amended or otherwise altered, special requirements are imposed on owners stipulating how the dog must be housed and restrained.

A dog can also be declared 'dangerous' if it has been trained to attack or bite any person or anything when attached to or worn by a person, or if the dog is kept as a guard dog for the purposes of guarding a non-residential premises.

Restricted breed dogs

The keeping of a 'restricted breed dog' is prohibited in Victoria unless the dog was in Victoria immediately before the commencement of the Domestic Animals Amendment (Dangerous Dogs) Act 2010 and it was registered as a 'restricted breed dog' or another breed of dog in Victoria immediately before the commencement of the Domestic Animals Amendment (Restricted Breeds) Act 2011. Furthermore, a person must not breed, consent to, arrange the breeding of, or recklessly allow the breeding of, a dog (including a stillborn dog) from a restricted breed dog.

Notification requirements are in place and the Act prohibits a person from selling, giving or otherwise transferring ownership of a restricted breed dog except in certain circumstances.

Our orders, local laws, Council policies and procedures

Council's city compliance officers regularly inspect all declared dogs to ensure the requirements are adhered to.

Current compliance activities

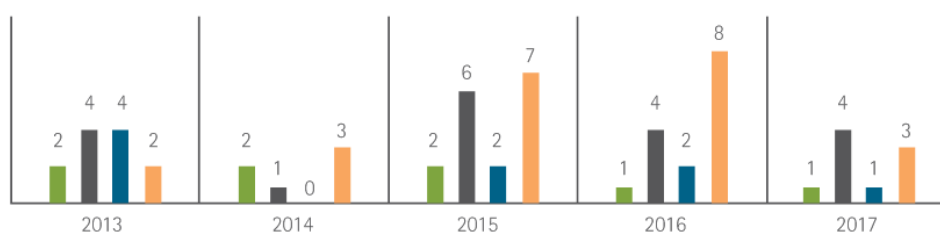
Activity	Frequency
Advertisement of the dangerous dog hotline	Ongoing
Information provided to public regarding the housing and legal requirements for keeping declared dogs	Ongoing
Declarations of 'menacing' and 'dangerous' dogs	As required
Prosecution of Section 29 offences of the Act	As required
Annual inspections of all registered and declared dogs	Annually and as required
Actioning of all reports received from the dangerous dog hotline and the department regarding suspected restricted breed dogs	As required
Maintain registration details of all declared dogs and ensure microchip details are held	Ongoing
Investigation into all suspected restricted breed dogs	As required

Planned compliance activities over the next four year period

Activity	When	Evaluation
Review Council's work instruction for authorised officer for dealing with declared dogs	End of Year one of plan	Work Instructions to be reviewed and updated annually
Inspections of all registered declared dogs	Annually and as required	A minimum of one annual audit of premises where declared dogs are housed
Review Council's work instruction including a checklist for when and how to 'declare' a dog	Year two of plan	Work instructions to be reviewed and updated annually
Targeted patrols of industrial properties in an effort to detect dogs which are kept for guarding non-residential properties	As required	Proactively detect undeclared dogs

Registered declared dog – restricted breeds

■ Restricted breed
 ■ Declared dangerous
 ■ Declared dangerous guard
 ■ Declared menacing





Part 6: Overpopulation and high euthanasia

The plan outlines programs, services and strategies to address overpopulation and high euthanasia rates for both dogs and cats. Council has in place a cat curfew which requires all cats to be kept on private property between sunset and sunrise.

This section also outlines Council's requirement to promote responsible ownership of dogs and cats and to ensure compliance with the Act. In addition, it is an opportunity for a review of existing orders made under the Act, and to evaluate services provided in relation to impoundments.

Unfortunately, euthanasia of both dogs and cats occurs as a result of the inability to have that animal rehomed within the community, as a result of temperament problems that pose a risk to the public, impounded dogs and cats are infected with untreatable disease or deformity, or because a new owner cannot be found. The Lost Dogs Home undertook a review and as a result have changed their approach to euthanising animals.

The main difficulty Council has with impoundment rates and resulting euthanasia statistic, particularly with cats, is once a cat colony has been identified

and traps set to remove the colony, impoundment rates increase.

As a result of the cat colonies, the cats are not domesticated and need to be euthanised as the majority are deemed wild.

Our orders, local laws, council policies and procedures

Section 51 of Council's General Purposes City compliance 2008 outlines the maximum number of cats and dogs permitted without a permit.

Current education/promotion activities

Activity	Schedule
Promotion and education of Council's cat curfew order	Ongoing throughout any year
Promotion of de-sexing voucher scheme	Ongoing throughout any year
Promotion of the 'Who's for cats campaign'	Quarterly
Education campaigns targeting areas where complaints are received about wild cats	Ongoing throughout any year

Current education/promotion activities

Activity	Frequency
Investigation into all reports of animal hoarding	As required
Investigation into suspected backyard breeders	As required
Providing of cat traps free of charge	As required

Planned compliance activities over the next four year period

Activity	When	Evaluation
Review the current cat curfew order	End of year one of plan	Order to be reviewed to determine if an update is required
Evaluate the causes for high euthanasia rates and consider programs to minimise those rates	Year two of plan	Benchmark with neighbouring councils to determine how they minimise the rates
Review all Council educational brochures on the impacts of overpopulation of cats and promote purchasing cats from Council's pound provider	Year three of plan	Current brochures to be reviewed, updated or created





Part 7: Domestic animal businesses

Council is responsible for the registration of all domestic animal businesses, these businesses include

- pet shops
- animal shelters and pounds
- breeding and rearing establishments
- any premises where boarding occurs
- dog training establishments
- boarding establishments
- greyhound establishments

Currently there are five registered domestic animal businesses comprising of; two veterinarians, one pet shop, one day care business and one training organisation.

Council does receive complaints relating to concerns members of the public have with domestic animal businesses and excess numbers generally. Each type of domestic animal business has a code of practice which outlines the minimum standard. All domestic animal businesses must hold an annual permit.

In terms of enforcement, city compliance officers investigate all reports relating to domestic animal businesses and undertake annual inspections in association with the code of practice.

Our orders, local laws, council policies and procedures

Businesses must comply with the conditions outlined in the permit. City compliance officers conduct inspections before approving an application to ensure compliance with the code of practice. Officers are keen to gain voluntary compliance by working with the applicant from an educational perspective rather than initiating enforcement.

Current education/promotion activities

Activity	Schedule
Information and application located on Council's website	Updated annually
Proactive patrols to detect any unregistered businesses	Quarterly

Current compliance activities

Activity	Frequency
Audits undertaken by city compliance officers	Annually
Monitoring of advertising sites to detect unregistered businesses	Quarterly
Data comparison from previous year's registrations	Annually
Enforcement undertaken for businesses that are not compliant	As required

Planned compliance activities over the next four year period

Activity	When	Evaluation
Issue educational pamphlets regarding domestic animal businesses to all excess animal permit holders	End of year one of plan	Compare statistics regarding excess animal permits and new domestic animal businesses
Review applications and renewal process to ensure the compliance with the Act	Year two of plan	Review annually
Once information is received from the public, act and investigate	Year three of plan	As required, update complaints database to create an appropriate timeframe for investigation





Part 8: Other matters

Following support from the local community, Council has installed a permanent fenced area at Alf Pearce Reserve for dogs to exercise off-lead.

The design for the area includes:

- a 'run about area' comprising of a low maintenance granitic sand surface to withstand high use and drainage to prevent ponding and muddy patches
- various seating opportunities for dog owners, a drinking fountain, bins, dog waste bags and garden beds with shade trees
- a 'time out area' for older or smaller dogs to recuperate from the larger fenced area, which includes seating, double access entry, bins, dog waste bags, internal access gate, drinking fountain, garden beds and shade trees
- an 'agility area' with training equipment, seating and screen planting to provide a quieter space for owners to train their dogs
- bushland planting at the north of the site to buffer noise and provide shade to the seating area as well as different surface type for dogs to explore
- a rocky mound with rocks and landforms as an informal seating area that provides grade variation for dogs to increase agility and confidence in uneven height conditions
- planting to buffer noise from the freeway and improve amenity to the northern pathway



Part 9: Annual review of plan and annual reporting

Council is required to review this plan pursuant to section 68A of the Act. The intent behind the review process is to ensure that the plan responds to current issues and opportunities over the four year period.

The annual review process evaluates whether the services provided are suitable.







Moonee Valley Language Line

عربي	Arabic	9280 0738	Ελληνικά	Greek	9280 0741	Español	Spanish	9280 0744
中文	Cantonese	9280 0739	Italiano	Italian	9280 0742	Türkçe	Turkish	9280 0745
Hrvatski	Croatian	9280 0740	Somali	Somali	9280 0743	Việt-ngữ	Vietnamese	9280 0746

All other languages 9280 0747

Hearing Assistance 133 677

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