



informed



Animal Management Plan

2012-2017

Endorsed 7 December 2012

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

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

The City of Burnside covers 30 square kilometres, with a residential population of approximately 41,500 and 18,400 dwellings. There were approximately 5,013 dogs registered in the City in 2010/2011 financial year.

Animal management in Burnside is the responsibility of the Inspectorate section of the Community and Development Services Department. The Council's Customer Service Centre handles general enquiries during normal office hours and our after hour service provider manages out of hours enquiries.

On-road coverage is as follows:

Monday to Friday	-	8.30am to 5.00pm
All other times	-	On-Call for dog emergencies

This Animal Management Plan has been developed for the endorsement of Council and of the Dog and Cat Management Board.

1.2 Strategic Outline

The Council's management of urban animal issues has an impact on the health, wellbeing and lives of the whole community and the welfare of animals in the City. This Plan is therefore designed for everyone in the City of Burnside from dog and cat owners to those who have no pets, and sets the direction for the Council in animal management for the next 5 years (unless reviewed and amended earlier).

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

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

This Plan contains recommendations for a wide range of actions to be undertaken by the Council to achieve the aims and desired outcomes of the City Corporate Plan Vision 2020¹¹. It provides a sound basis and direction for Council from which it can plan and make future decisions and relates back to the wider Council policy context. The Plan will be subject to ongoing review in line with any legislative changes to requirements. It identifies strategies and actions to implement the mission, aims and objectives, including:-

- Responsible Dog and Cat Ownership Education and Promotion;
- De-sexing of Dogs and Cats;
- Dog Registration;
- Dog Attacks and Bite Avoidance;

- Benefits of Pet Ownership;
- Faeces Management;
- Dog “Off Leash” and “On Leash” Areas;
- Permanent Dog and Cat Identification;
- Dogs Wandering at Large;
- Dog Obedience Training and Puppy Socialisation;
- Dog Management Officer Role;
- Dog Barking Nuisance; and
- Management of Domestic Cats.

This Plan is for a more proactive approach to animal management and it is acknowledged that some of the strategies in this plan will need to be partnered with the State Government, Dog and Cat Management Board and relevant stakeholders.

2. Mission Statement

The mission of animal management service delivery in the City of Burnside is:

“To create an environment in the City of Burnside in which all members of the community are kept well informed about the benefits and responsibilities of dog and cat ownership and are committed to being responsible dog and cat owners”.

3. Aims

The aims of this Animal Management Plan are to:

1. Ensure Council meets its obligations under the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*;
2. Investigate and implement best practice in promoting responsible pet ownership;
3. Consider ways the Council could harness the benefits of owning pets; and
4. Establish priorities for animal management in the City of Burnside for the next five years.

4. Delivering the Corporate Desired Outcomes and Objectives

The City of Burnside has prepared a 15 year Strategic plan for the Burnside community called Vision 2020¹¹. It highlights what is important to the community both now, and into the future. It maps a way forward for us to ensure that the City achieves its collective vision and it provides a framework for community activities, management of the City of Burnside operations and Council decision-making.

The Animal Management Plan is a vital delivery document for many of the desired outcomes of this strategic plan. The linkages between the Vision 2020¹¹ plan and the objectives and strategies of the Animal Management Plan are mapped out in more detail in the Table 1.

Objectives

1. Promote the benefits of dog and cat ownership.
2. Encourage responsible dog and cat ownership.

3. Increase public safety and reduce public and environmental nuisances from dogs and cats.
4. Ensure Council delivers effective and efficient and innovative dog and cat management services.

Table 1

Vision 2020ⁱⁱ Desired Outcomes

Objective	Goal	Strategy	<i>Access to a range of education, health and support services that meet community needs and enhance lifestyles</i>	<i>A vibrant and diverse community that has a strong sense of belonging</i>	<i>A safe community that values and supports its people</i>	<i>Natural environments and watercourses protected and conserved</i>	<i>A leading organisation that is healthy, progressive and flexible with a diverse culture that encourages safety, learning and development</i>	<i>Leading edge technologies that assist management and support the delivery of efficient services and communication to out community</i>
Promote the benefits of dog and cat ownership								
	Benefits of Pet Ownership	A strategy to address the promotion of the benefits of owning a dog or cat	✓	✓				
Encourage responsible dog and cat ownership								
	Responsible Dog and Cat Ownership Education and Promotion	A strategy to provide community education on responsible dog and cat ownership	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Desexing of Dogs and Cats	A strategy to achieve a decrease in the number of undesexed dogs and cats in the community	✓	✓	✓		✓	
	Dog Registration	A strategy to obtain maximum registration of dogs	✓	✓	✓		✓	

Objective	Goal	Strategy	<i>Access to a range of education, health and support services that meet community needs and enhance lifestyles</i>	<i>A vibrant and diverse community that has a strong sense of belonging</i>	<i>A safe community that values and supports its people</i>	<i>Natural environments and watercourses protected and conserved</i>	<i>A leading organisation that is healthy, progressive and flexible with a diverse culture that encourages safety, learning and development</i>	<i>Leading edge technologies that assist management and support the delivery of efficient services and communication to out community</i>
	Permanent Dog and Cat Identification	A strategy to encourage the permanent identification of dogs and cats so more pets will be reunited with owners and less dogs and cats placed in pounds.	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Dog Obedience Training and Puppy Socialisation	A strategy to encourage dog owners to socialise and train their dogs to a level to be determined by the Dog and Cat Management Board	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Management of Domestic Cats	A strategy to encourage responsible cat ownership	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Increase public safety and reduce public and environmental nuisances from dogs and cats								
	Dog Attacks and Bite Avoidance	A strategy to reduce the number of dog attacks and harassments and encourage the reporting of all dog attacks and harassments.			✓	✓		

Objective	Goal	Strategy	<i>Access to a range of education, health and support services that meet community needs and enhance lifestyles</i>	<i>A vibrant and diverse community that has a strong sense of belonging</i>	<i>A safe community that values and supports its people</i>	<i>Natural environments and watercourses protected and conserved</i>	<i>A leading organisation that is healthy, progressive and flexible with a diverse culture that encourages safety, learning and development</i>	<i>Leading edge technologies that assist management and support the delivery of efficient services and communication to out community</i>
	Faeces Management	A strategy to encourage dog owner responsibility regarding picking up dog faeces in order to reduce the amount of dog faeces in the environment and promote public health			✓	✓		
	Dogs Wandering at Large	A strategy to reduce the number of dogs wandering at large to reduce public nuisance and increase public safety			✓	✓		
	Dog Barking Nuisance	A strategy to manage and reduce nuisance caused by barking			✓	✓		
Ensure council delivers effective and efficient and innovative dog and cat management services								
	Dog 'On Leash' and 'Off Leash' Areas	A strategy to identify community needs in relation to the development of 'on leash' and 'off leash' areas					✓	✓
	Dog Management Officer Role	A strategy to improve community recognition of the role of Animal Management Officers in the management of dogs and cats					✓	✓

5. The Law/Guidelines

South Australia Legislation - Dog and Cat Management Act 1995

5.1 Objects and Aims

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

Objects:

The objects of this Act are –

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

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

5.2 Legislative Requirements

Section 26 of the Act reads as follows:-

Council responsibility for management of dogs

(1) Each Council is required to administer and enforce the provisions of this Act relating to dogs within its area and for that purpose must –

- (a) maintain a register of dogs containing the information required by the Board (which may be kept in the form of a computer record) that is to be readily available for public inspection;*
- (b) ensure that the Board is provided with information contained in the register as required by the Board from time to time;*
- (c) appoint a suitable person to be Registrar;*
- (d) make satisfactory arrangements for issuing and replacing certificates of registration and registration discs;*
- (e) appoint at least one full time dog management officer or make other arrangements for the exercise of the function and powers of dog management officers;*
- (f) make satisfactory arrangements for the detention of dogs seized under this Act; and*
- (g) make satisfactory arrangements for fulfilling other obligations under this Act.*

(2) The arrangements made by a Council under this Section must be satisfactory to the Board.

(3) Money received by a Council under this Act must be expended in the administration and enforcement of the provisions of this Act relating to dogs.

(4) Each Council must keep separate accounts of money received under this Act and of money expended in the administration and enforcement of the provisions of this Act relating to dogs.

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

(6) Councils may charge—

(a) fees for the provision of extracts from registers kept under this Act; and

(b) fees (which may be differential) approved by the Minister—

(i) for the registration of dogs or businesses under Part 5; and

(ii) for late payment of registration fees; and

(iii) for meeting any other requirement imposed on councils under this Act.

(7) Without limiting the matters that may be taken into account when setting fees to be approved by the Minister, councils must provide for a percentage rebate of the fee that would otherwise be charged for the registration of a dog in the following cases:

(a) if the dog is desexed;

(b) if—

(i) the dog has been implanted with a microchip for the purposes of identification; and

(ii) the information contained in the microchip is up-to-date;

(c) if the dog has passed a specified training program accredited by the Board,

(and, if more than one rebate applies in respect of a particular dog, the rebates are to be aggregated and deducted from the registration fee that would otherwise be charged).

5.3 Summary of obligations under the Act in Brief

5.3.1 The Regulations specify:

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

5.3.2 Appointment and role of a Registrar

Each Council is required to administer and enforce the provisions of the Act relating to dogs within its area and appoint a suitable person to be Registrar.

The Registrar has specific responsibilities under the *Dog and Cat Management Act* 1995 as follows:-

Registration of Dogs:

- dogs must be registered;
- registration procedure for individual dogs;
- registration procedure for businesses involving dogs;
- duration and renewal of registration;
- notifications to ensure accuracy of registers;

- transfer of ownership of dog;
- rectification of register; and
- applications and fees.

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

5.3.3 Role of the Dog and Cat Management Board

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

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

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

5.3.4 ByLaws

Councils have the ability to make By-laws for the control or management of dogs or cats in their area. Councils are provided with freedom of choice as to whether or not they have an active involvement in cat management. The Act relates mainly to unidentified cats.

5.3.5 Registration of Dogs

Under the Act a Council has responsibility for the management of dogs in its area. Every dog of three months of age or over must be registered and wear a collar with a registration disc attached. Registration expires on 30 June each year and must be renewed by 31 August in the same year.

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

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

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

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

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

5.3.6 Control of Dogs in public areas

Dogs are required to be under effective control by means of physical restraint in public places i.e roads and footpaths (other than a park).

Effective control by virtue of physical restraint means

- controlled on a chain, cord or leash not exceeding 2m in length restraining the dog;
- placed in a cage, vehicle or other object or structure; and
- by tethering to a fixed object by means of a chain, cord or leash not exceeding 2m in length.

Dogs are required to be under effective control by virtue of physical restraint or “by command, the dog being in close proximity to the person and the person being able to see the dog at all times” in parks.

Greyhounds must be muzzled and controlled on a leash when being exercised in public places.

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

5.3.7 General offences

Dogs are not allowed to:

- wander at large;
- attack or harass persons or owned animals, whether or not actual injury is caused;
- be transported unrestrained in vehicles (open tray of utility, truck or similar);
- cause injury to a person lawfully entering premises;
- enter the grounds of a school, kindergarten, child care or pre-school centre, except with the permission of the person in charge;
- enter any shop unless it is a pet shop, grooming parlour or premises associated with a registered veterinary surgery;
- rush at or chase vehicles in public places; and
- cause nuisance, in particular barking nuisance.

Dog owners must pick up and lawfully dispose of dog faeces in public places.

5.3.8 Destruction and Control Orders

Councils may issue Destruction and Control Orders in certain circumstances whether on the Council’s own initiative or on complaint. Council’s Dog Management Officers have powers to seize and detain dogs under certain circumstances:

- Wandering at large in private or public places;
- To prevent a dog attacking, harassing or chasing a person or an owned animal or bird;
- To carry out an Order; and
- If considered unduly dangerous.

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

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

5.3.9 Exemptions

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

5.3.10 Prescribed Breeds

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

6. Animal Management Strategies

The following goals have had strategies identified to deliver the aims and objectives of this Animal Management Plan and the desired outcomes of the Vision 2020^{ll} corporate plan. Table 2 shows the linkages between the objectives, goals, strategy, actions and key performance indicators.

6.1 Benefits of Pet Ownership

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

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

Recommended Actions:

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

6.2 Responsible Dog and Cat Ownership Education and Promotion

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

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

Recommended Actions:

1. Educate and promote benefits and responsibilities of dog and cat ownership including the following:
 - responsibilities of dog and cat ownership;
 - children should be supervised at all times around dogs;
 - dogs and people should be separated around food to avoid dog attacks;
 - the importance of reporting all dog attacks in public places or on private property;
 - failure to pick up after your dog is not socially acceptable or environmentally friendly;
 - allowing dogs to wander at large and bark unnecessarily is not socially acceptable;
 - the reasons for and importance of dog registration (and relevant concessions);
 - the reasons why cats should be kept inside at night;
 - the benefits of dog and cat desexing (and dog registration concession);
 - the benefits of permanent dog and cat identification;
 - the benefits of dog training and puppy socialisation;
 - the benefits of purchasing pets from recognised breeders;

- selection of the right pet to suit lifestyle and circumstances and how to make well informed choices;
 - promote the making of suitable holiday care arrangements for dogs and cats and distribute relevant information;
 - promote an awareness of the potential danger to dogs and cats from storms and fireworks;
 - health benefits of dog and cat ownership; and
 - tolerance of dogs and cats by all members of the community.
2. Educate and promote the benefits and responsibilities of dog and cat ownership using the following methods:
- utilise all media opportunities;
 - develop relevant Information Sheets for distribution;
 - ensure that Council Customer Service staff are familiar with all material available;
 - supply all Council Library outlets, Community Centres, Dog Obedience Clubs and Veterinary Clinics in the Council area with relevant educational material; and
 - educational visits to Schools, Pre-Schools.

6.3 Desexing Of Dogs and Cats

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

Dog and cat owners should be encouraged to have their pets desexed, irrespective of whether it is a male or female animal. Desexing animals has the following benefits:

- females do not over breed, interact with stray animals and become involved in unplanned mating;
- males exhibit a significant reduction in aggressive, dominant, and territorial behaviour and become much easier to control;
- wandering is significantly reduced;
- less spread of feline diseases; and
- desexed dogs are much easier to control and general problems are more easily overcome

In the City of Burnside, 73.7% of registered dogs are desexed. Council should aim to increase this percentage. Legislation currently provides a concession for desexed dogs, being 40% of the maximum registration fee. Other initiatives to encourage the desexing of dogs and cats should be pursued.

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

Recommended Actions:

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

6.4 Dog Registration

A strategy to obtain maximum registration of dogs

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

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

- owners are identified as well as their dogs;
- adequate funding is available for Council to carry out responsibilities under the Act; and
- responsible dog owners and the rest of the community do not have to financially support irresponsible dog owners

Recommended Actions:

1. Continue regular district surveys for unregistered dogs.
2. Promote the responsibility of dog owners to register their dogs under the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*.
3. Introduce a registration and new resident information pack.
4. Promote and provide information on the importance of dog registration to the community.
5. Utilise the Council website to promote dog registration.
6. Require the registration of seized unregistered dogs prior to release.
7. Issue owners with registration certificate each time dog is re-registered under the Act.

6.5 Permanent Dog and Cat Identification

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

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

Identification of dogs and cats ensures:

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

Recommended Actions:

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

6.6 Dog Obedience Training and Puppy Socialisation

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

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

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

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

Recommended Actions:

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

6.7 Management of Domestic Cats

A strategy to encourage responsible cat ownership.

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

The City of Burnside receives relatively few complaints regarding domestic cats.

Recommended Actions:

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

6.8 Dog Attacks and Bite Avoidance

A strategy to reduce the number of dog attacks and harassments and encourage the reporting of all dog attacks and harassments.

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

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

While a minority of dogs are involved in attacks and harassment, all dogs have the potential to bite, regardless of size, age, breed or temperament, particularly in situations where they are frightened, dominant, protective or possessive. How to avoid being bitten or how to read a dog's body language are important issues on which to educate.

Council's procedures are in accordance with legislative requirements.

Recommended Actions:

1. Promote the supervision of all children around dogs.
2. Promote the need to report all dog attacks to the Council whether in public places or on private property.
3. Promote skills on how to avoid being bitten and how to read a dog's body language.
4. Promote increased awareness to dog owners of the legal ramifications associated with dog attacks.
5. Utilise the Board's Incident Severity Scale to determine appropriate outcomes of attacks (education, expiation, prosecution or control orders) and engagement of dog owners in remedying the outcomes and consequences of attacks.

6.9 Faeces Management

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

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

The City of Burnside currently provides dispensers and dog waste bags at 36 locations within the City.

Recommended Actions:

1. Advise the community of responsibilities under the *Dog & Cat Management Act 1995*.
2. Continue the provision of dog waste bags and bag dispensers in parks and reserves.
3. Promote the location of bags and dispensers to the community.
4. Ensure placement of sufficient receptacle bins at dispenser locations.
5. Ensure dispensers are frequently refilled and consider the use of larger bag rolls at high usage locations.
6. Highlight the positive environmental impacts of picking up dog faeces.
7. Include complimentary dog waste bags in resident information packs.
8. Consider having Council's logo and promotional message on dog waste bags.

6.10 Dogs Wandering At Large

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

In 2005/2006, Council impounded 65 dogs, which were wandering at large and 64 were returned to owner. Council should aim to reduce the number of dogs wandering at large.

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

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

Council's procedures are in accordance with legislative requirements.

Recommended Actions:

1. Promote information to the community on Council's policies and operational procedures on dogs wandering at large.
2. Educate and inform the community regarding potential dangers to dogs and cats including fireworks, storm conditions and certain events.
3. Promote the availability of 'desensitisation' training computer disc.
4. Develop and implement a comprehensive dog impounding procedure based on the Local Government Association's standard operating procedure.

6.11 Dog Barking Nuisance

A strategy to manage and reduce nuisance caused by barking.

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

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

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

Recommended Actions:

1. Promote information on Council's dog barking nuisance policies and operational procedures to the community.
2. Provide a list of animal behaviourists who can assist dog owners with solving problems.
3. Promote the keeping of cats inside at night to assist in reducing barking nuisance.
4. Continue to investigate complaints and record and communicate to the complainant, outcomes of barking dog complaints.

6.12 Dog 'On Leash' and 'Off Leash' Areas

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

Off Lead Areas

All councils parks and reserves are off lead areas but dogs must be exercised under effective control as per the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995.

- Respond to the owner's commands, be in close proximity to the owner and the owner being able to see the dog at all times.

Council has a designated off lead temporary dog park on Conyngham Street, Glenside.

On Lead Areas

Dogs must be on lead in all public places other than a park or reserve including the median strip area of Alexandra Ave, Rose Park.

All dogs must be on a strong lead no longer than 2 metres within 20 metres of:

- a public convenience;
- children's play ground or play equipment;
- sporting areas when organised sporting activities are in progress; and
- nominated zones as declared by Council.

Recommended Actions:

1. Identify a list of parks that require 'on lead' restrictions.
2. Establish on lead areas via Council By-Law Number 5.
3. Amend By-Law Number 5 to ensure dog owners have a lead when in a park or reserve whether in a lead area or not.

6.13 Animal Management Officer Role

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

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

Recommended Actions:

1. Promote the role of Animal Management Officers.
2. Ensure that Animal Management Officers are friendly and approachable.
3. Promote the theme "Aim to Reunite".

4. Encourage staff to complete an accredited authorised persons and/or animal management course.
5. Attendances at Conferences on Animal Management to keep updated with the latest trends in urban animal management.
6. Continue to focus on customer service training for all officers.
7. Continue to ensure all dog and cat management officers are issued with identity cards in the manner and form specified by the Board.
8. Develop policy to deal with emergency situations outside council and contractor normal operating hours.
9. Review Council's statutory documentation to ensure continued compliance with Board approved documents.

Table 2

Objective	Goal	Strategy	Action	Key Performance Indicator
Promote the benefits of dog and cat ownership	Benefits of Pet Ownership	A strategy to address the promotion of the benefits of owning a dog or cat	Promote pet ownership health statistics Promote 'good news' stories highlighting the positive aspects of pet ownership.	Information is developed and made available to the community on desexing. Media has positive stories regarding pet ownership. 4 per year
Encourage responsible dog and cat ownership	Responsible Dog and Cat Ownership Education and Promotion	A strategy to provide community education on responsible dog and cat ownership	Educate and promote benefits and responsibilities of dog and cat ownership	Information is developed and made available to the community on the responsible pet ownership
Encourage responsible dog and cat ownership	Desexing of Dogs and Cats	A strategy to achieve a decrease in the number of undesexed dogs and cats in the community	Produce an Information Sheet highlighting the benefits of desexing cats and dogs and services available through Veterinary Surgeries, CATS Incorporated, RSPCA, Animal Welfare League and other agencies. Liaise with CATS Inc regarding desexing community cats Promote the low cost subsidised scheme for cat desexing through CATS Incorporated Encourage all Veterinary Surgeries in the Council area to promote the benefits of pet desexing Encourage desexing of cats prior to sexual maturity Liaise with the Dog and Cat Management Board regarding avenues for 'means tested' dog desexing programs.	Information is developed and made available to the community on desexing Increase in the percentage of cats desexed. Feedback from local vets. Subsidised desexing programs available to the community Increase of 7% (80% total) registered dogs that are desexed 10% Increase in the percentage of cats desexed Development of means tested dog desexing programs by 3 rd year of plan.
Encourage responsible dog and cat ownership	Dog Registration	A strategy to obtain maximum registration of dogs	Continue regular district surveys for unregistered dogs Promote the responsibility of dog owners to register their dogs under the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995	Annual registration assessment undertaken (unregistered dogs currently less than 10%) Information is developed and made available to the community on dog registration through council website, advertising and signage on vans
Objective	Goal	Strategy	Action	Key Performance Indicator
			Introduce a registration and new resident information pack	Increase in the percentage of dogs registered (unregistered dogs currently less than 10%)

Promote and provide information on the importance of dog registration to the community

Utilise the council website to promote dog registration

Information is developed and made available to the community on dog registration through website, local Messenger newspaper, brochures and newsletters
Website promoted and links established with www.burnside.sa.gov.au & www.gooddogsa.com

Encourage responsible dog and cat ownership

Permanent Dog and Cat Identification

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

Promote micro-chipping of dogs and cats in Information Sheets

Hold community 'Microchipping Days'

Highlight the number of dogs and cats returned to owner as a percentage of impounded dogs in the City of Burnside

Information is developed and made available to the community on microchipping through website, local Messenger newspaper, brochures and newsletters.

Increase in the percentage of cats that are microchipped. Measured by stat reporting from local vets.
Microchipping day at least one per annum by third year of plan.

Increase in the percentage of registered dogs that are microchipped
Microchipping days conducted at least once per annum

Encourage responsible dog and cat ownership

Dog Obedience Training and Puppy Socialisation

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

Promote Puppy Pre-school programs

Promote Dog Obedience training

Information is developed and made available to the community on puppy and dog training programs
Increase in percentage of registered dogs that are trained

Objective	Goal	Strategy	Action	Key Performance Indicator
Encourage responsible dog and cat ownership	Management of Domestic Cats	A strategy to encourage responsible cat ownership	<p>Promote the desexing and permanent identification of cats</p> <p>Promote the keeping of cats inside at night</p> <p>Promote the use of cat enclosures</p>	<p>Increase in the percentage of cats desexed. Feedback from local vets.</p> <p>10% Reduction in complaints to Council concerning nuisance cats</p> <p>10% Reduction in complaints to Council concerning nuisance cats</p>
Increase public safety and reduce public and environmental nuisances from dogs and cats	Dog Attacks and Bite Avoidance	A strategy to reduce the number of dog attacks and harassments and encourage the reporting of all dog attacks and harassments.	<p>Promote the supervision of all children around dogs.</p> <p>Promote the need to report all dog attacks to the Council whether in public places or on private property.</p> <p>Promote skills on how to avoid being bitten and how to read a dog's body language.</p> <p>Promote increased awareness to dog owners of the legal ramifications associated with dog attacks.</p>	<p>Information is developed and made available to the community on safety with dogs through website, messenger, brochures and newsletters.</p> <p>Information is developed and made available to the community on safety with dogs through website, messenger, brochures and newsletters.</p> <p>Information is developed and made available to the community on safety with dogs through website, messenger, brochures and newsletters.</p> <p>Information is developed and made available to the community on safety with dogs through website, messenger, brochures and newsletters.</p>
Increase public safety and reduce public and environmental nuisances from dogs and cats	Faeces Management	A strategy to encourage dog owner responsibility regarding picking up dog faeces in order to reduce the amount of dog faeces in the environment and promote public health	<p>Advise the community of responsibilities under the Dog and Cat Management Act</p> <p>Continue the provision of dog waste bags and bag dispensers in parks and reserves</p>	<p>Information is developed and made available to the community on the responsible pet ownership through website, messenger, brochures and newsletters.</p> <p>Increase in resident satisfaction due to reduction of dog faeces in parks and reserves. 10% more bags used yearly.</p>

Objective	Goal	Strategy	Action	Key Performance Indicator
Increase public safety and reduce public and environmental nuisances from dogs and cats	Dogs Wandering at Large	A strategy to reduce the number of dogs wandering at large to reduce public nuisance and increase public safety	Promote the location of bags and dispensers to the community	Increase in resident satisfaction due to reduction of dog faeces in parks and reserves. 10% more bags used yearly.
			Ensure placement of sufficient receptacle bins at dispenser locations	Increase in resident satisfaction due to reduction of dog faeces in parks and reserves. 10% more bags used yearly.
			Ensure dispensers are frequently refilled and consider the use of larger bag rolls at high use locations	Increase in resident satisfaction due to reduction of dog faeces in parks and reserves. 10% more bags used yearly.
			Highlight the positive environmental impacts of picking up dog faeces	Information is developed and made available to the community on the responsible pet ownership through website, messenger, brochures and newsletters.
			Include complimentary dog waste bags in resident information packs	Information is developed and made available to the community on the responsible pet ownership through website, messenger, brochures and newsletters.
			Consider having Council logo and promotional messages on dog waste bags	Increased community awareness of Councils role in animal management
			Promote information to the community on councils policies and operational procedures on dogs wandering at large	10% Decrease in wandering at large incidents
			Educate and inform the community regarding potential dangers to dogs and cats including fireworks, storm conditions and certain events	Information is developed and made available to the community on the responsible pet ownership- potential dangers through education via website, messenger, brochures and newsletters.
			Promote the availability of 'desensitisation' training computer disc	Information is developed and made available to the community on the responsible pet ownership- potential dangers through website, messenger, brochures and newsletters.

Objective	Goal	Strategy	Action	Key Performance Indicator
Increase public safety and reduce public and environmental nuisances from dogs and cats	Dog Barking Nuisance	A strategy to manage and reduce nuisance caused by barking	<p>Promote information on councils dog barking nuisance policies and operational procedures to the community</p> <p>Provide a list of animal behaviourists who can assist dog owners with solving problems</p> <p>Promote the keeping of cats inside at night to assist in reducing barking nuisance</p>	<p>Information is developed and made available to the community on the responsible pet ownership through website, messenger, brochures and newsletters.</p> <p>Information is developed and made available to the community through website, messenger, brochures and newsletters.</p> <p>Information is developed and made available to the community on the responsible pet ownership through website, messenger, brochures and newsletters.</p>
Ensure council delivers effective and efficient and innovative dog and cat management services	Dog 'On Leash' and 'Off Leash' Areas	A strategy to identify community needs in relation to the development of 'on leash' and 'off leash' areas	<p>Identify a list of parks that require 'on lead' restrictions</p> <p>Establish on lead areas vis Council By Law Number 5</p> <p>Amend By Law Number 5 to ensure dog owners have a lead when in a park or reserve whether in a lead area or not</p>	<p>Information is developed and made available to the community about on leash and off leash parks through website, messenger, brochures and newsletters. Signage at parks/ reserves</p> <p>On leash areas established and promoted through website, messenger, brochures and newsletters. Signage at on lead areas</p> <p>Information is developed and made available to the community about on leash and off leash parks through website, messenger, brochures and newsletters.</p>
Ensure council delivers effective and efficient and innovative dog and cat management services	Dog Management Officer Role	A strategy to improve community recognition of the role of Animal Management Officers in the management of dogs and cats	<p>Promote the role of Animal Management Officers</p> <p>Ensure that Animal Management Officers are friendly and approachable</p> <p>Promote the theme 'Aim to Reunite'</p>	<p>Council web pages reviewed annually and promotes animal management officers</p> <p>Officers have appropriate training for roles</p> <p>Information is developed and made available to the community through</p>

Objective	Goal	Strategy	Action	Key Performance Indicator
			Encourage staff to complete an accredited authorised persons and/or animal management course	website, messenger, brochures and newsletters.
			Attendances at Conferences on Animal Management to keep updated with the latest trends in urban animal management.	Officers have appropriate training for roles
			Continue to focus on customer service training for all officers	Officers have appropriate training for roles
				Officers have appropriate training for roles

7. Community Consultation Process

7.1 Submissions from members of the community

During the month of August 2012 members of the community were encouraged to make written submissions informing Council of their views regarding animal management within the City of Burnside. Copies of the draft Animal Management Plan were made available from the Civic Centre, the website www.burnside.sa.gov.au, Engage.Burnside and Council arranged to post the draft plan to interested parties.

8. Implementation Strategies

8.1 Implementation Strategies

8.1.1 Reporting Structure

Performance on achievement of the Strategies and Key performance Indicators set in this Plan will be reported annually to Council. Table 2 shows the Key Performance Indicators for each Strategy.

8.1.2 Action Plan

An action plan based on Council's strategies to achieve our objectives will form part of the Finance and Administration Business Plan.

8.1.3 Resources

The funding of this Plan will be in accordance with the annual budget of the Council.

Section 26 (3) of the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* requires that “*money received by a Council under this Act must be expended in the administration or enforcement of the provisions of this Act relating to dogs*”.

8.1.4 Partnerships

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

9. Appendices

9.1 Locations of Playgrounds within Council area

All dogs must be on leads within 20 metres of playground areas, and no dogs to be in the water at the Tusmore Park Wading Pool.

Schedule of Playgrounds

	Reserve	Address
1.	Albert Street Reserve	Albert Street, Dulwich
2.	Bell Yett Reserve	Stonyfell Road, Wattle Park
3.	Bennett Reserve	Jackson Street, Magill
4.	Branson Reserve	Riesling Avenue, Wattle Park
5.	Brock Reserve	Dashwood Road, Beaumont
6.	Chapel Street Reserve	Chapel Street, Magill
7.	Constable Hyde Reserve	Tusmore Avenue, Leabrook
8.	Eastwood Community Centre	Glen Osmond Road, Eastwood
9.	Effie Ferguson Reserve	Hallet Road, Erindale
10.	Fergusson Square	Fergusson Square, Toorak Gardens
11.	Gardiner Reserve	Carunta Street, Wattle Park
12.	Glenunga Reserve	L'Estrange Street, Glenside
13.	Glyde Street, Reserve	Glyde Street, Beulah Park
14.	Hazelwood Park x 3 (includes two playgrounds in swimming centre)	Greenhill Road, Hazelwood Park
15.	Holmes Reserve	Park Avenue, Rosslyn Park
16.	Kensington Gardens Reserve x 2	The Parade, Kensington Park
17.	Kensington Park Reserve	The Parade, Kensington Park
18.	Kingsley Avenue Reserve	Kingsley Avenue, Glenunga
19.	Knightsbridge Reserve	Phillip Avenue, Leabrook
20.	Langman Recreation reserve	Wyatt Road, Burnside
21.	Main Street Reserve	Main Street, Eastwood
22.	Mellor Reserve	Howard Street, Beulah Park
23.	Miller Reserve	Hay Road, Linden Park
24.	Penfold Park	The Parade, Magill
25.	Pepper Street Reserve	Pepper Street, Magill
26.	Tregenza Oval	Laurel Avenue, Linden Park
27.	Tusmore Park	Stirling Street, Tusmore
28.	Ware Reserve	Portrush Road, Glen Osmond
29.	Warland Reserve	Kings Avenue, Burnside
30.	Warrego Crescent Reserve	Warrego Crescent, Linden Park
31.	Webb Street Reserve	Webb Street, Rose Park
32.	Wood Park	Collingwood Avenue, Hazelwood Park

Other

	Reserve	Address
1.	Tusmore Park Wading Pool	Stirling Street, Tusmore

10. References & Stakeholders

10.1 References

- *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*
- *Local Government Act 1999*
- Council's By-Laws No 1 – Permit and Penalties
- Council's By-Laws No 5 – Dogs
- Councils Policies & Procedures
- Council's Animal Management Plan Background Paper
- *Public and Environmental Health Act 1987*
- Development Regulations 2008

10.2 Stakeholders

- The Dog & Cat Management Board
- Animal Welfare League (AWL)
- Delta Society – Delta Dog Safe Program
- Australian Veterinarian Association (AVA) – PetPep Program
- South Australian Canine Association (SACA)
- Local Animal Clubs
- Animal Owners