

DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

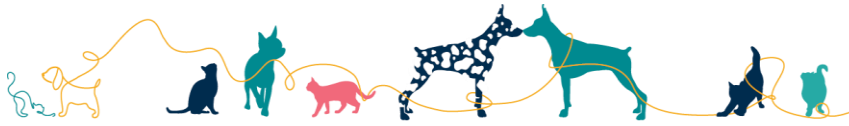
2021-2025



wyndhamcity

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DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN 2021 -2025

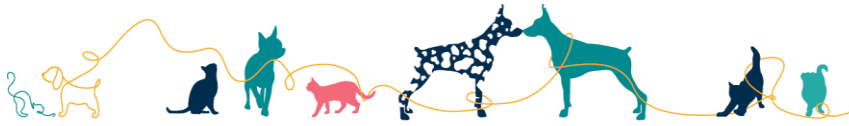
All Victorian Councils are required by the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* to prepare and implement a four-year Domestic Animal Management Plan (The Plan) to guide decision making in relation to animal management for dogs and cats. The scope of 'The Plan' does not include activities for the management of wildlife, livestock, or pest animals.

This four-year plan builds on the 2017-2021 plan and provides the framework for the planning, development, and evaluation of animal management services and programs delivered by Wyndham City Council and complies with the requirements of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*.



The plan must address the following:

- Set out a method for evaluating whether animal control services provided by council are adequate to give effect to the requirements of the Act and regulations
- Outline programs for the training of authorised officers.
- Outline programs, services and strategies to:
 - Promote and encourage responsible pet ownership of dogs and cats; and
 - * *Ensure that people comply with the Act, regulations and legislation; and*
 - * *Minimise risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals; and*
 - * *Address over-population and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats; and*
 - * *Encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats; and*
 - * *Minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance; and*
 - * *Effectively identify all dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs and ensure these dogs are kept in compliance with the Act and regulations.*
- Provide for review of existing orders and Local Laws made under the Act
- Provide for the review of any other matters related to the management of dogs and cats.
- Provide for periodic evaluation of the plan



1. INTRODUCTION

Council Mission states:

"We strive to serve the best interest of the Wyndham community by providing quality service; managing growth; and supporting residents to lead healthy, safe, vibrant and productive lives, while protecting our local environment".



The aim of this Plan is to support Council's mission through the effective management of cats and dogs within the City.

Council provides resources through its annual business planning and budget processes to implement this Plan.

Wyndham's Animal Management Unit delivers the Plan by providing a customer-focused service that strikes a balance between community expectations and compliance obligations through guidance, advice and responsible enforcement in line with Wyndham City's Enforcement Policy.

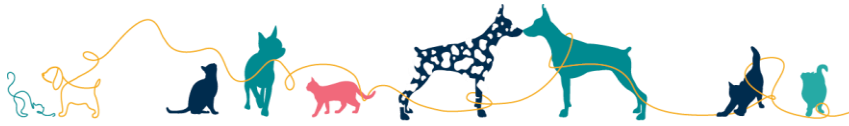
Process applied in developing this Plan

The Domestic Animal Management Plan has been developed on the outcomes and learning's from the previous Plan and current service demands. This includes a review of existing data from service requests, dog attacks, registrations and impoundments. Community feedback and consultation with key stakeholder including veterinarians, dog trainers and others service providers has also guided its development.

Key service demands have resulted in the following themes being identified during our community engagement* process for the draft DAMPlan, as being important to the community and will be a focus in Council's delivery of the Plan over the next 4 years:

- Increased Ranger visibility in the community
- Greater awareness of Dog off Leash responsibilities.
- Education on confinement of cats to properties
- Enrichment and behavioural education for cat and dog owners
- Increased responsible pet ownership communications.
- Benefits of registration
- Increase pound hours to enable collection outside normal hours

*Community Engagement Summary Report included at the end of this document.

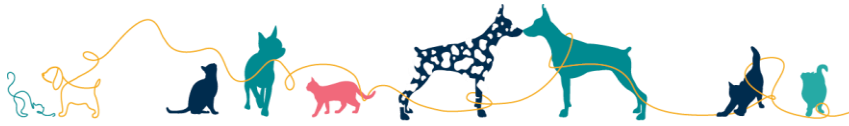


CONTEXT

The estimated population of Wyndham as at 2020 is 283,294 people representing a 4.7% per cent annual growth rate. Wyndham has experienced the largest and fastest growth in all Victorian local government areas and continues to be the third fastest growing in Australia. Spanning 542 square kilometres on a coastal plain, the City is home to a diversity of sectors: strong industrial and technology districts, retail precincts, intensive vegetable growing areas and grazing lands. Key tourism and open space attractions such as the Werribee Park Mansion, Victoria's Open Range Zoo at Werribee, the State Equestrian Centre, the Point Cook Homestead and the Point Cook RAAF Museum surround the expansive urban area.

Find more information on a Snap Shot of Wyndham here: [Snap Shot of Wyndham](#)





The following information is for 2020/21

DOMESTIC ANIMAL STATISTICS AND DATA

	2020/21	2015/16
Number of Registered Dogs	21,002	19,366
Number of Dangerous Dogs*	11	16
Number of Restricted Breed Dogs*	5	11
Number of Menacing Dogs*	18	26
Number of Dogs Impounded annually	740	978
Average percentage of Impounded Dogs identified by tag/chip	85%	82%
Average number of dogs reunited with owners	79%	85%
Number of Registered Cats	8,063	6,050
Number of Cats Impounded annually	1307	1585
Percentage of Impounded Cats identified by tag/chip**	11%	10%
Average number of cats reunited with owners**	6.5%	8%
Registered Domestic Animal Businesses	11	14
Average number of cat trap cages hired per annum	262	N/AV
Average yearly Animal control service requests received/attended to	3,645	3,806

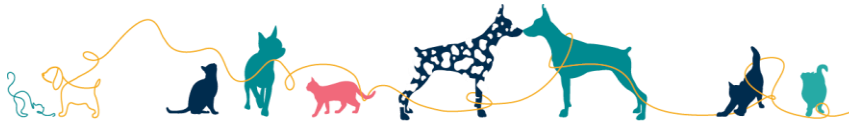
**Dangerous, Menacing dogs are defined in the Domestic Animals Act 1994 by the outcome of an attack.*

**Dogs that are kept for the purpose of guarding are automatically deemed Dangerous under the Act.*

** Restricted breed dogs are defined as dogs that are or fit the Victorian approved standard for an American Pit Bull Terrier (or Pit Bull Terrier), Perro de Presa Canario (or Presa Canario), Dogo Argentino, Japanese Tosa, or Fila Brasileiro.*

**To declare a dog a restricted breed dog, a trained council authorised officer, must make an assessment against the approved Standard for Restricted Breed Dogs in Victoria.*

***** There is an increase in registered cats overall, however a low number of identifiable cats impounded, and a decreasing number of cats reunited with their owners. These numbers show it is not only registered or owned cats being impounded, it is the transitional community cats that are being trapped and impounded reflected in these numbers.***



CONTEXT

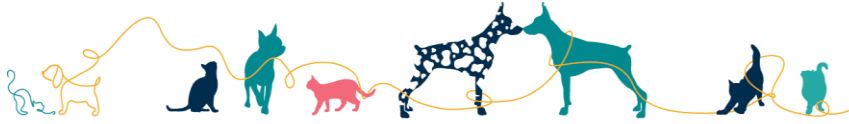
The City Amenity & Safety Department is responsible for animal management operations under the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*, other applicable State Laws and Councils Local Laws.

All Animal Management Officers are competent and trained to perform the required duties under the Legislation. This includes a mix of practical “hands on”, in-house training through to structured courses and industry applicable workshops. This includes new training in response to changing community needs and changes in Legislation.

An annual training program is developed for each officer. Rangers training needs are identified and form part of their professional development.

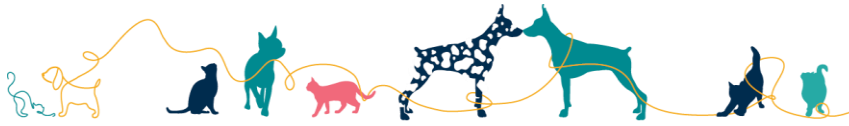
SUMMARY:

The training and skills matrix are reviewed and updated in response to legislative changes and community expectations.



2. TRAINING OF AUTHORISED OFFICERS

Authorised Officer Training - Basic	Current (2021)	Planned (state when)
Microchip implantation training		
Officer 1	Completed	Refresher course as required
Officer 2	Completed	
Industry training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ animal handling ➤ animal assessment ➤ aggressive dog handling ➤ animal handling in a pound environment ➤ emergency first aid for domestic animals ➤ statement taking/brief preparation ➤ evidence presentation/prosecution skills, ➤ computer skills ➤ loading/unloading animals domestic/livestock ➤ court etiquette training ➤ court warrants, issue and filing ➤ conflict resolution 	Completed	Annual animal handling training Refresher courses as required

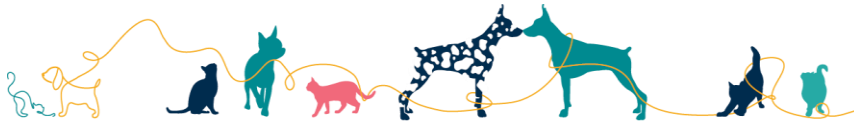


TRAINING OF AUTHORISED OFFICERS (CONT)

<p>OH&S training: All officers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ animal control equipment use and care ➤ animal handling induction, ➤ animal handling practical skills/practice ➤ manual handling ➤ emergency evacuation procedures ➤ dealing with aggressive customers ➤ conflict resolution ➤ client interaction ➤ council policies and procedures under OH&S Legislation 	<p>Completed</p>	<p>Annual animal handling training</p> <p>Refresher courses as required</p>
<p>(State) Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR) – training and information seminars</p> <p>E.g. Dangerous/restricted/menacing dogs and updating of changes in Legislation: All officers</p>	<p>Officers to attend on a rotational basis.</p>	<p>As offered by DEDJTR</p>
<p>Council Induction program for new staff: All officers</p>	<p>As required</p>	<p>As required</p>
<p>Australian Institute of Animal Management, Municipal Association of Victoria and Local Government Professionals – training and information days: All officers</p>	<p>As offered by Industry</p>	<p>As offered by Industry</p>
<p>Departmental training/skills and assessment matrix for all activities undertaken</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>Annual review</p>

SUMMARY

Staff training and skills matrix is reviewed and updated annually, with any new training identified and added to the matrix. Each operational staff member is assessed against the training and skills matrix to ensure officer competency.



ACTIONS IDENTIFIED

Objective 2.1: Ensure all officers are adequately trained in animal handling and husbandry.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Identify any mandatory, role specific and individual officer training.	Current and Ongoing Annual training placement at Pound	Items identified and placed in the matrix. All actions completed for relevant competency Review of annual animal handling & husbandry training.

Objective 2.2: Consistent investigation, compliance and enforcement processes through annual review of internal processes.

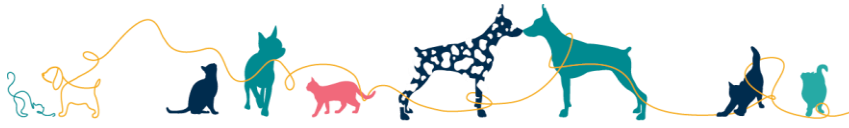
Activity	When	Evaluation
Review investigation, compliance and enforcement processes.	By July annually	Annually - updated procedures, and officer guidelines, training completer, and officer competency assessed. Periodic review of officer case files and service outcomes.

Objective 2.3: Apply a consistent and responsible enforcement approach through application of the Wyndham City Enforcement Policy.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Customer service training and periodic review of case files to ensure officers demonstrate the guiding elements of the Wyndham City Enforcement Policy.	Monthly	Monthly evaluation of infringements via the internal review process and meetings.

Objective 2.4: Encourage each officers professional development.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Encourage each officer to complete a relevant Certificate, Diploma or other form of professional development.	Annually	Officer Personal Development Agreement and budget allocation.



3. REGISTRATION AND IDENTIFICATION

We asked about microchipping and registration in both cats and dogs during the engagement process.

*You told us:
96% of cat owners responded they had their cats microchipped and registered
99% of dog owners responded they had their dogs microchipped and registered.*

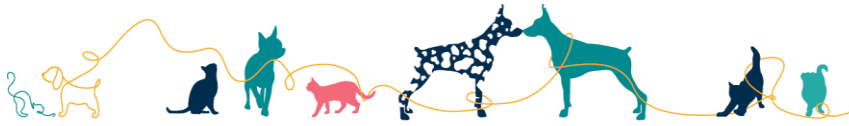
With a high proportion of cats and dogs microchipped the most effective way to improve reuniting lost pets with their owners and the compliance with the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*, is to maximize the number of pets that are registered with council.

Council's current identification and registration activities include:

- Annual registration renewal follow up that includes sending SMS, phone calls & door knock activities to pet owners.
- Reward system & programs for owners of registered pets.
- Council's website and social media is utilised to reunite pets with their owners.
- Encouraging the benefits of pet identification.
- Major pet expo which provides education on pet ownership.
- Free registration for the first period for all new pets registered.
- *84Y agreement's* with vets to reunite animals with owners.

CURRENT SITUATION

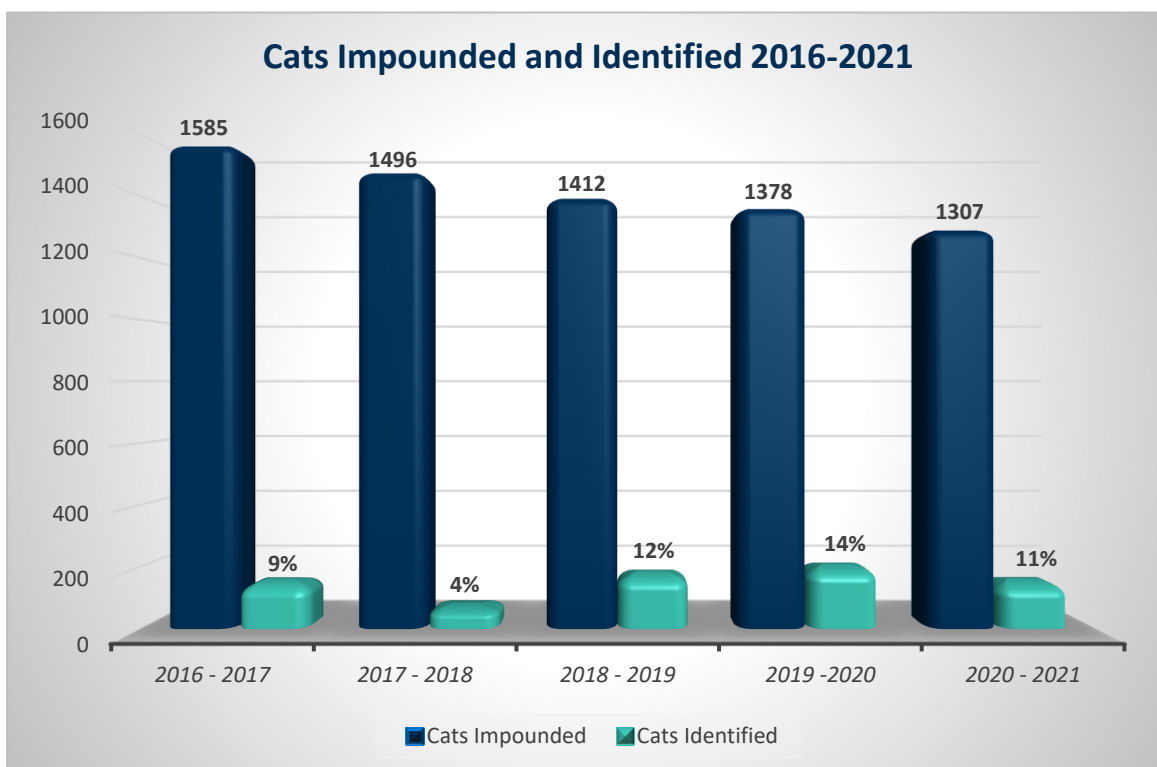
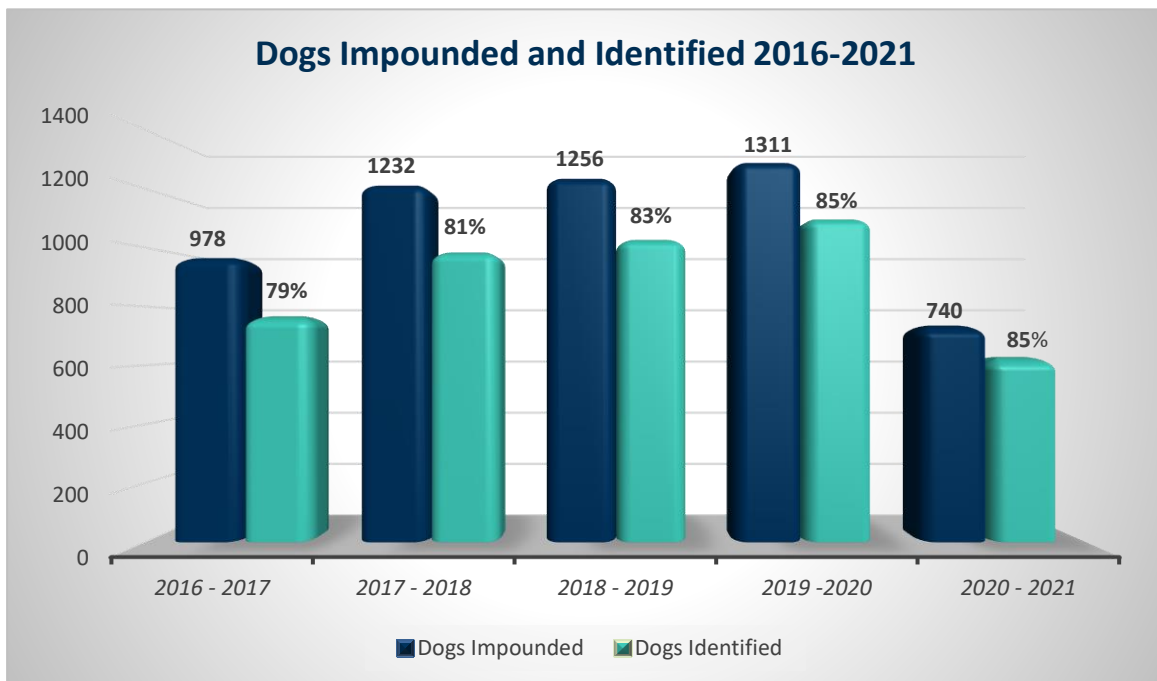
As introduced in 2016, Council continues the incentive scheme to encourage and increase voluntary animal registration compliance. The scheme allows owners of animals that have not previously been registered with Wyndham council to register for free until the next renewal period. Since the introduction of this scheme community-initiated registrations has seen an increase of 1,341 cats during 2020/21 without council contact.

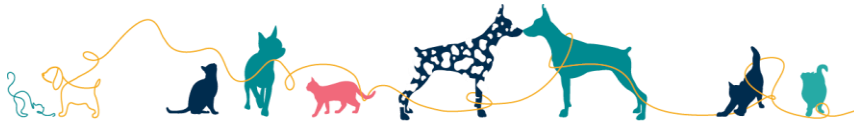


OUR CURRENT DATA



The overall number of dogs & cats impounded over the past five years has reduced. The number of identifiable dogs shows to be increasing each year, with the number of identifiable cats fluctuating. This indicates it is not only registered or owned cats being impounded, it is also the transitional community cats that are being trapped and impounded.





OUR CURRENT EDUCATION/PROMOTION ACTIVITIES

- Information on website, media articles and social media relating to the benefits of registration and identification of pets for quicker reuniting with their owners.
- Registration and identification information brochures supplied to all local vets, community centres, libraries and dog training facilities.
- Register to Reunite program – rewards pet owners by returning from field where possible to avoid impounding and incurring additional fees.

OUR CURRENT COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

- Response to animal related service requests.
- Increase visibility of Rangers in the municipality.
- Random unregistered animal audits of the municipality.
- Follow up on registration for animals notified as sold by domestic animal businesses.

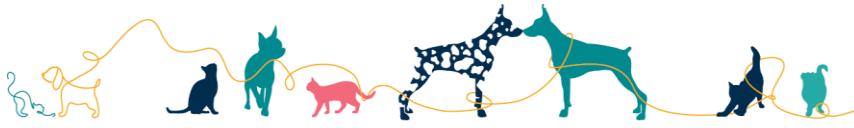
- Vet incentives; including free registration for new/unregistered pets; participation in the desexing program with discounted vouchers subsidised by Council for cats and dogs; and 84Y agreements with vets to allow for the reuniting pets with their owners.
- Use media releases, paid advertising and Council newsletter (Wyndham News) to advise residents of registration requirements.
- Promote and provide registration and information at Pet Expo events.
- Information seminars on responsible pet ownership.

- Follow up on microchip cross referencing data.
- Issue registration notices annually and follow up for compliance.
- Regularly update/audit registration data base (e.g. notification of deceased animal, change of address, change of owner) for data accuracy to ensure owners are not distressed or annoyed by receiving unnecessary or incorrect renewal notices
- Ensure all seized and impounded animals are registered prior to their release.



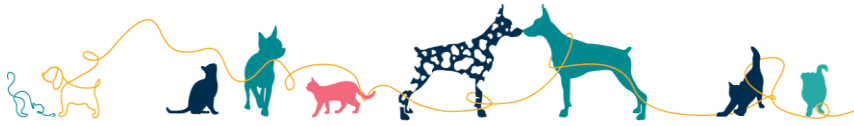
SUMMARY

By encouraging residents to register their pets, we can provide an efficient way of reuniting pets with their owners and reduce anxiety to pets.



ACTIONS IDENTIFIED

<p><i>Objective 3.1: Improve the ongoing accuracy of Council's registration database by cross referencing with microchip data.</i></p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Activity</th> <th>When</th> <th>Evaluation</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Undertake a sample review of newly microchipped dog and cats by contacting registration microchip registries. Check all animals are also listed on Council's pet registration database. Follow up those that are not.</td> <td>Annually</td> <td>Demonstrate Council's pet registration database can be accurately cross referenced with microchip registries. Demonstrate increase in numbers of pets registered with Council following microchip registry cross referencing.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Activity	When	Evaluation	Undertake a sample review of newly microchipped dog and cats by contacting registration microchip registries. Check all animals are also listed on Council's pet registration database. Follow up those that are not.	Annually	Demonstrate Council's pet registration database can be accurately cross referenced with microchip registries. Demonstrate increase in numbers of pets registered with Council following microchip registry cross referencing.
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<p><i>Objective 3.2: Increase registration in compliance situations.</i></p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Activity</th> <th>When</th> <th>Evaluation</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Follow up for cat and dog registration where a service request has been raised relating to a cat or dog.</td> <td>Monthly</td> <td>Cross reference how many new registrations are created from service requests</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Activity	When	Evaluation	Follow up for cat and dog registration where a service request has been raised relating to a cat or dog.	Monthly	Cross reference how many new registrations are created from service requests
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<p><i>Objective 3.3: Encourage dog and cat registration numbers by promoting the benefits of registration on various platforms.</i></p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Activity</th> <th>When</th> <th>Evaluation</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Continue to provide greater choice for when and how they register their animals Conduct random audits throughout the municipality. Promote the audit process through social and local media</td> <td>Annually</td> <td>Customer satisfaction surveys Review of registration numbers Number of unregistered and un-identified animals observed during door knocks.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Activity	When	Evaluation	Continue to provide greater choice for when and how they register their animals Conduct random audits throughout the municipality. Promote the audit process through social and local media	Annually	Customer satisfaction surveys Review of registration numbers Number of unregistered and un-identified animals observed during door knocks.
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<p><i>Objective 3.4: Encourage dog clubs and trainers to distribute benefits of registration.</i></p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Activity</th> <th>When</th> <th>Evaluation</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Meet and discuss with dog clubs and trainers in the area to encourage the distribution of the benefits of registration.</td> <td>Annually</td> <td>Feedback from dog clubs and trainers on uptake from clients</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Activity	When	Evaluation	Meet and discuss with dog clubs and trainers in the area to encourage the distribution of the benefits of registration.	Annually	Feedback from dog clubs and trainers on uptake from clients
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4. NUISANCE

We asked what your major concerns were surrounding cats.

You told us:

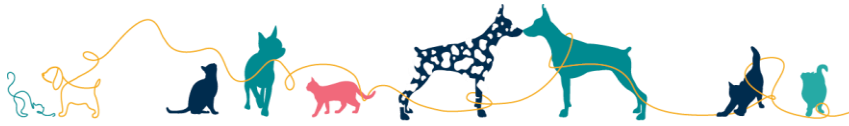
The impact on the environment and wildlife, enforcement of curfew, and trapping was important to you.

We're going to:

Ensure that education surrounding responsible pet ownership and confinement of cats is a priority in the Plan

Council is guided by the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*, State and Local Laws to ensure that all members of the community are complying with the current legislation in the interest of reducing nuisance.

Rangers aim to inform, educate and communicate to the community their responsibilities with regards to responsible pet ownership. If these approaches are not successful Rangers use written letters, notices, infringements, referral to the Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria and sometimes court summons to ensure compliance with the law. Rangers can also use Building, Planning, and Environmental Health compliance requirements to effectively deal with more complex issues that relate to animal ownership



CURRENT SITUATION

Our current data



CATS: It is difficult to identify the actual numbers, however unowned cats whether domestic pets, urban feral or wild feral, are perceived as a nuisance in the community and a threat to the environment and wildlife. These cats can be a risk to owned cats through the spread of disease (such as feline AIDS) and injuries from cat fights. Cat owners are encouraged to be fully responsible pet owners rather than semi pet owners who feed cats and then take no further responsibility for the health, wellbeing, identification and registration of the animal. Council uses the Local Laws and *Domestic Animals Act 1994* legislation to control these matters. Wyndham City has a cat curfew. The curfew requires cats to be confined to their owner's premises between 10pm – 6am.



DOGS: Barking dog service requests have decreased, with 105 in 2018 and 82 reports in the 2019. With the COVID pandemic in 2020, there was a rise to 101 service requests. Owner awareness and education continues to be readily available from Council, Vets and State Government websites. This information is provided to all dog owners at time of release from the Pound to reduce any future service requests of nuisance behaviour.

Excessive barking is caused by but not limited to:

- Separation anxiety;
- Boredom;
- External stimulants (passers-by, wildlife, other dogs barking, cats);
- Territorialism (persons visiting the premises like the postman);
- Communication (please pay attention to me);
- Information is available on DEDJTR's website:
<http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/pets/dogs/training-and-behavioural-problems/barking>

In most instances the owner is not at home to hear or stop the excessive barking or may be tuned out to the noise. Council has processes for dealing with barking dog service requests, with the use of dog barking diary and owner education.

Dogs not being adequately confined to their premises (*at large*) are also considered a nuisance and a hazard to motorists and the public. Council utilises the Local Laws and *Domestic Animals Act 1994* legislation to control these matters.

Our Orders, Local Laws, Council Policies and Procedures

These include:

Control of nuisance animals.

Restrictions and controls on the number of animals to be kept on residential & rural zoned properties.

Animal husbandry.

Conditions on excess animal permits for any extra animals to be desexed.

The creation of permits and notices to comply to manage animal issues.

Provision to prosecute in the Magistrates Court when required.

Mandatory desexing for cats.

A copy of Wyndham City Council's Community Amenity Local Law (2015) can be found at:

<https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2016-06/2015%20Community%20Amenity%20Local%20Law.pdf>

A copy of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* can be found at:

<http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/static/www.legislation.vic.gov.au-lawtoday.html>

Domestic Animal Act 1994 Orders:

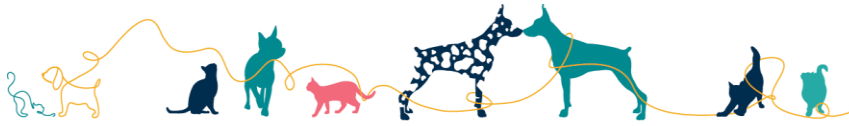
Council can make orders under the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* to deal with animal management issues.

Council currently has a "Dog off Lead Order" which are dog off lead areas and sets the conditions of use.

Council also has a "Cat Curfew" order in place where cats are to be confined to their property between 10.00pm and 6.00am, along with an order for mandatory cat desexing as part of any new registration requirement.

Revision of Councils Local Laws and orders:

The local laws, orders and all strategies related to the management of domestic animals are dealt with and reviewed on an ongoing basis.



OUR CURRENT EDUCATION/ PROMOTION ACTIVITIES

- Council Rangers to attend when requested at any premises or complaint.
- Information on website relating to nuisance animal issues.
- Council runs forums on responsible pet ownership.
- Educate pet owners in rural areas of their responsibilities in relation to nuisance animals, dogs and livestock.
- Distribution of information relating to nuisance animals.

OUR CURRENT COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

- Recording and responding to all animal nuisance and wandering dog service requests.
- Patrols of municipality for stray and wandering dogs.
- Cat trapping and free provision of traps to the community on their property.
- Issuing Notices to Comply to gain compliance after all reasonable

- Distribution of Councils free dog run DVD (a step by step educational guide to setting up a dog friendly dog run).
- Advice provided to residents with problem pets e.g. excessive barking, anxiety, cat confinement, etc.
- Provision of barking dog diaries to affected premises.
- Education to cat owners on Wandering Cats and the nuisance effect their cats can have on neighbours. "It's your cat, it's your responsibility".
- Educate on confining cats to their property utilising cost effective cat runs.
- Utilise the Lost Dogs Home mobile desexing van.

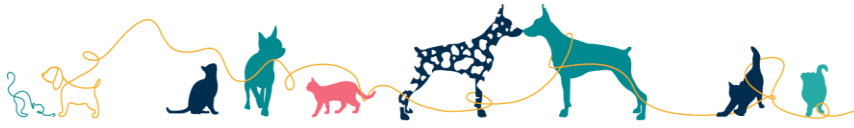
steps have been taken to resolve the issue.

- Issuing Infringements and Summons where applicable.
- Investigation of returned barking dog diaries.
- Investigation of trespassing cats.
- Patrol and enforcement of the designated off lead areas and "hot spots".
- Industrial/commercial premises trapping program conducted on an as needs basis.



SUMMARY

The current levels of education and enforcement aim to strike a balance between the two to effectively gain compliance and to reduce nuisance owners service requests within the Municipality.



ACTIONS IDENTIFIED

Objective 4.1: Reduce cat nuisance service requests

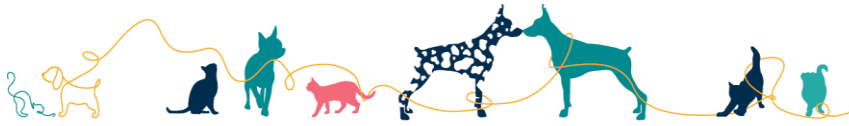
Activity	When	Evaluation
Council to have available education material about cats and how to build or create cat enclosures at minimal cost.	Current and ongoing	Number of education materials distributed
Offering no cost traps to residents with cat trespass / nuisance problems	ongoing	Number of cat traps hired and compared to previous year.
Work with Conservation department to trap cats in our parks and waterways to protect wildlife	ongoing	Number of cats impounded from conservation program.
Legal recourse for injuries/damage created by trespassing cats.	annually	Number of service requests

Objective 4.2: Review and monitor cat curfew effectiveness

Activity	When	Evaluation
Include more awareness of trapping during curfew hours in the cat trap contract.	Current and ongoing	Number of cat curfew infringements issued.
Community consultation on cat curfew effectiveness	annually	Feedback from community
Increase community awareness of cat curfew	Current & ongoing	Number of flyers distributed

Objective 4.3: Reduce dog nuisance service requests by:

Activity	When	Evaluation
Apply barking dog complaint/investigation policy/manual	annual	95% resolution of complaints



5. DOG ATTACKS

We asked what your major concerns are with regards to dogs?

You told us:

Dogs off lead and community safety from wandering dogs were your main concerns.

You wanted to have increased Ranger visibility in the community.

We will:

Include education campaigns aimed towards dog owners about letting their dogs off leash outside designated off leash areas and we'll make sure there's a focus on increased ranger visibility to enforce this.

Increase patrols in sensitive and/or vulnerable areas for greater visibility in the community.

CURRENT SITUATION

Our current data

Council has a strict enforcement program in relation to wandering dogs in the municipality, which is effectively enforced by:

- Ranger visibility in the community – dog off leash areas, schools, play/sports grounds;
- Response during business hours to all stray/wandering dogs;
- An after-hours response service;
- Prioritised response to aggressive dog reports;
- Investigation of dog attack reports;
- Declaring dogs as dangerous or menacing as required;
- State legislation, Local Laws and Orders are enforced.

The purpose of these measures is to ensure the risk to the community is controlled, reduced or removed completely.

Our Orders, Local Laws, Council Policies and Procedures

Council has seen a steady increase in service requests from the community in relation to nuisance aggressive dogs. 2018/19 council received 104 service requests, 2019/20 - 143 service requests reported and 2020/21 - 171 reported. This could be attributed to more residents working from home during COVID lockdowns, together with a gradual increase in pet ownership.

Council's Community Amenity Local Law (2015) provides additional regulatory control measures to manage pets. These include:

- Requiring that dogs behave appropriately, even when in their own backyard.
- Pet owners feeling safe in walking their dogs past properties and are free from attack.

A copy of Wyndham City Council's Community Amenity Local Law (2015) can be found at:

<https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2016-06/2015%20Community%20Amenity%20Local%20Law.pdf>

OUR CURRENT EDUCATION/ PROMOTION ACTIVITIES

- Take the Lead program – Ranger engagement and patrolling parks, sports ovals.
- Information on website relating to dog attacks and what action to take.
- Council run forums on responsible pet ownership.
- Publication and distribution of pamphlets relating to animals.
- Promote and provide registration and information at Pet Expo event.
- Information readily available from State DEDJTR's website:

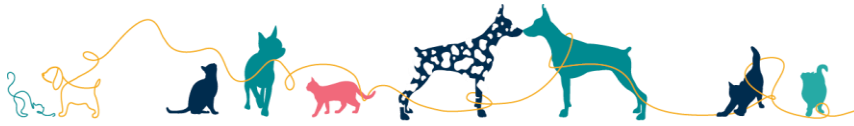
<http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/pets/dogs/dog-attacks-dangerous-and-menacing-dogs/dog-attacks-faqs>

OUR CURRENT COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

- Investigation of all dog attack and aggressive dog concerns.
- Ranger patrols of municipality.
- Declaring dogs as menacing, dangerous or restricted as required.
- Provide After Hours response service.
- Issuing Infringements and summons.
- Where required, seizing dogs involved in dog attacks resulting in a serious injury as defined in legislation.

SUMMARY

Council will continue with its strict enforcement approach to all reported dog attacks and aggressive dog service requests in the municipality.



ACTIONS IDENTIFIED

*Objective 5.1:
Encourage reporting of
dog attacks in the
community*

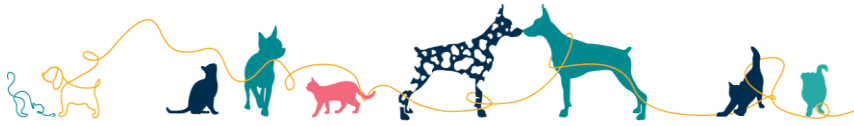
Activity	When	Evaluation
Improve public awareness of what a dog attack is and how to report it.	Bi-monthly	Review the number of service requests received after communication plan implemented
Increase awareness of the possible penalties that may result in the event of an attack on livestock in farming communities.	ongoing	Compare numbers of service requests from previous year

*Objective 5.2: Overall,
decrease the time lapse
from attacks happening
to being reporting to
Council*

Activity	When	Evaluation
Publicise the importance of informing Council when an attack takes place. Utilise web site, media social media and pamphlets.	Bi-monthly	Recording the time of attack against the actual reporting time

*Objective 5.3 Based on
service demand, patrol
sensitive and/or "at
risk" locations*

Activity	When	Evaluation
Publicise the importance of reporting a dog attack Utilise website, media/social media and pamphlets Develop periodical tasking list of at-risk locations for patrolling	Bi-monthly	Review and evaluation of tasking lists Reduction of dog attacks in at risk areas



6. DANGEROUS, MENACING AND RESTRICTED BREED DOGS

CURRENT SITUATION

Our current data

Wyndham has 11 dangerous dogs, 18 menacing dogs and 5 restricted breed dogs in the Municipality.

The level of compliance has been very high. This category of dogs will continue to be monitored with regular and random inspections.

Rangers ensure that the owners of these dogs are adhering to the requirements by:

- Maintaining the State Government data base.

- Conducting scheduled inspections and random audits.
- Investigating service requests.
- Prosecution of non-compliant owners.
- Audits of industrial /residential areas for non-declared guard dogs.
- Identify declared dogs which are impounded via state managed database

OUR CURRENT EDUCATION/ PROMOTION ACTIVITIES

- Information on website (Council & DEDJTR)
- Information via pamphlets
- Information at Pet expo

OUR CURRENT COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

- Attend all service requests regarding suspected dangerous, restricted breed and menacing declared dogs.
- Patrols of the municipality & hot spots areas.
- Inspect all “declared” dogs’ enclosures, restricted breed and menacing dogs’ and signage.
- Maintain State DEDJTR data base.
- Patrol industrial areas for non-registered guard dogs (*dangerous dogs by definition*).
- Cross reference all offending dog attack dogs with the DEDJTR.

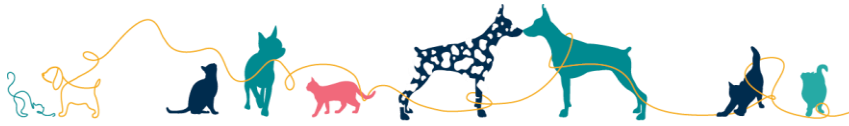
ACTIONS IDENTIFIED

Objective 6.1 100% compliance achieved on all legislation relating to “declared” dogs

Activity	When	Evaluation
Continue inspection regime of all declared, menacing and restricted breed dogs with zero tolerance for non-compliance	annual	Inspection program identifies compliance. Nil prosecutions for non-compliance
Cross reference all offending dog attack dogs with the DEDJTR database to ascertain if they are a “declared” dog.	Current and ongoing	100% compliance with all dogs identified on the DEDJTR database.

SUMMARY

Council officers’ conduct inspections of all existing restricted, dangerous and menacing dogs on an ongoing basis.



7. OVERPOPULATION AND HIGH EUTHANASIA

We asked what your major concerns were surrounding cats?

*You told us:
The impact on the environment and wildlife, enforcement of curfew and trapping was important to you.*

*We will:
Inform the community on the benefits of desexing their cats and dogs along with supporting our mandatory cat desexing.*

CURRENT SITUATION

Wyndham's objective is to reunite pets with their owner, support de-sexing, ensure pets are kept safe and well, and re-house unclaimed pets.

Our current data

RATES OF RETURNING/RE-HOUSING DOGS

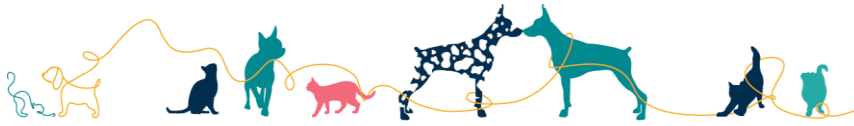
The municipal pound impounded 740 dogs in 2020/21, and on average 79% of those dogs were reunited with their owners. On average 85% of these dogs were identifiable by microchip or registration tag.

RATES OF RETURNING/REHOUSING CATS

The municipal pound impounded 1307 cats in 2020/21 and on average 6.5% of those cats were reunited with their owners. Of these cats 11% were identifiable by microchip or registration tag.

Improvements in the rate of identified cats entering the pound have increased slightly from 10% to 11%. Council's current registration and desexing incentives in conjunction with local vets has contributed to this, along with promotion of the benefits of registration and microchipping.





OUR CURRENT EDUCATION/ PROMOTION ACTIVITIES

- Dog, cat & kitten adoption.
- Utilise foster groups.
- Description and photo of all unidentified animals on Council's Lost Pet webpage and use of social media.
- Increase public education in relation to the impacts of feeding unowned cats which contributes to the breeding of stray cats and Local Law provisions prohibiting feeding and un-owned animal.
- Support residents to either take ownership of strays or to assist in their removal from the stray cat population.
- Mandatory cat desexing.
- Cat curfew from 10.00pm - 6.00am.
- The development of a partnership with local vets to provide discounted desexing for cats to people who agree to take ownership of unowned cats. This will include a Council contribution and will be within a nominated period.
- Council subsidised desexing for cats and dogs.
- Working with other departments to identify "hot spot" areas for feral/unowned cats in our parks, waterways and conservation areas.

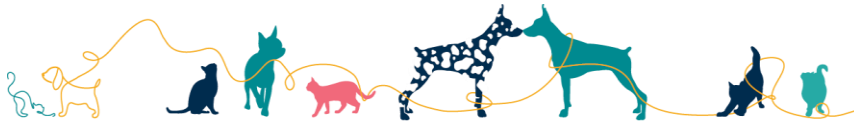
OUR CURRENT COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

- Project in progress to increase awareness of unowned cats in the Wyndham municipality.
- Investigate reports of animal hoarding and assist with desexing of cats and dogs.
- Investigate reports of unauthorised back yard breeders.
- Provision of free cat traps.
- Increase trapping in residential/Industrial and environmentally sensitive.
- Council run forums on responsible pet ownership and health benefits of desexing cats and dogs.
- Notices issued to residents that continually feed un-owned animals
- Local Law created to prohibit the feeding of unowned animals



SUMMARY

There has been an increase in identifiable dogs, and along with our mandatory cat desexing order, an increase in registered cats in our community. There has also been an improvement in the number of dogs being reunited with their owners, or animals being adopted by new owners, consequently lowering the number of euthanised animals.



ACTIONS IDENTIFIED

Objective 7.1: Raise awareness about semi-owned cat population

Activity	When	Evaluation
Continue “Who’s for cats?” education campaign in local area. Utilise resources available from State DEDJTR	6 monthly	<p>Measure number and type of education materials distributed</p> <p>Reduce numbers of semi owned cats handed into local pound / shelter by 3%</p> <p>Number of media stories published</p> <p>Measure uptake on any promotions to encourage people to take ownership of cats</p>

Objective 7.2: Maximise the reclaim and re-homing rates for cats and dogs

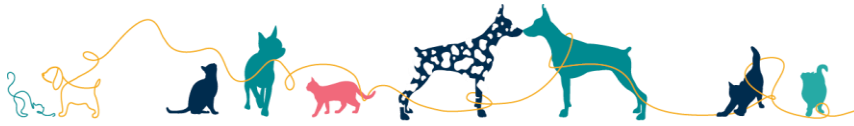
Activity	When	Evaluation
Utilise electronic platforms to advertise lost pets	Ongoing	3% Increase in reclaim rates
Use all avenues available to assist in locating animal owner	Ongoing	Increase in reclaim rates

Objective 7.3: Continue to educate on the benefits of desexing your animals

Activity	When	Evaluation
Community engagement on the benefits and proposal of extending the current desexing order to include dogs.	2023	Public consultation

Objective 7.4: Explore the utilisation of foster and rescue groups

Activity	When	Evaluation
Review existing agreements with foster and rescue groups regarding re-homing	Annually	Existing agreements remain and new agreements are identified.



8. DOMESTIC ANIMAL BUSINESSES

CURRENT SITUATION

Our current data

There are 11 Registered Domestic Animal Businesses

Boarding Establishments	3
Training Establishment	1
Pet Shops	6
Pound/Shelter	1

OUR CURRENT EDUCATION/ PROMOTION ACTIVITIES

- Inspections of existing and new Domestic Animal Businesses in line with relevant code of practice.
- Ensure all relevant Domestic Animal Businesses are advised of any review of the code of practice for their type of business
- Provide education that a Domestic Animal Business is not limited to commercial activities.

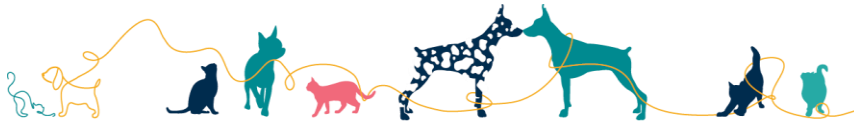
OUR CURRENT COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

- Identify and register all Domestic Animal Business.
- Conduct annual and random inspections/audits of each premise.
- Follow up any non-compliance.
- Liaise with other units within Council to provide advice when planning applications for Domestic Animal Businesses are received to ensure appropriate conditions are placed on construction, operations etc.
- Investigate and act on service requests received.



SUMMARY

Council will continue to register and investigate reported Domestic Animal Businesses to ensure compliance.



ACTIONS IDENTIFIED

Objective 8.1: Identify and register all Domestic Animal Businesses in the municipality

Activity	When	Evaluation
Identify all businesses that should be registered DABs in the municipality that are selling pets and pet services.	Annually	Compare number of registered DABs before and after activity

Objective 8.2: Annually (& random) inspections and audit all registered Domestic Animal Businesses

Activity	When	Evaluation
Conduct inspections of each registered DAB for compliance	Annual & random	100% of all DABs inspected prior to renewal and action taken for any identified non-compliance

Objective 8.3: Increase our relations with Domestic Animal Businesses beyond inspection

Activity	When	Evaluation
Forward inspection sheets prior to inspections for ease of compliance	When required	Compliance pass on inspections



9. OTHER MATTERS

68A(2)(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.

SUMMARY

Council will engage annually with the community on issues surrounding cats and dogs to gauge whether further orders or local laws are required.

OUR CURRENT EDUCATION/ PROMOTION ACTIVITIES

- Information provided to cat owners and residents in relation to curfew requirements.
- Information online and flyer in relation to benefits of registration, microchipping & desexing.
- Confinement information provided to cat and dog owners on release of their pet.
- Information on website and rolling social media releases regarding animal services provided.
- Programs to reunite pets with owners prior to impounding.

OUR CURRENT COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

- Patrols of off lead areas
- All cats to be desexed prior to release for new registrations
- Infringements issued for cats trapped outside curfew hours

10. ANNUAL REVIEW OF PLAN AND ANNUAL REPORTING

68A(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.

The achievement of the Objectives and Activities detailed in this Plan will be reviewed and reported annually.