

DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

2021-2025

Version 2.0



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Executive Summary

Under the provisions of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* all Councils in Victoria are required to develop a Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) which is renewed every 4 years. The DAMP will guide the delivery of animal management services across the City of Casey, and outline services and programs established to address the administration of the Act and the management of dog and cat issues in the community.

The City of Casey's DAMP 2021-2025 objective is to balance the needs of pet owners and the broader Casey community, where people and pets can safely co-exist. It is aimed at promoting and educating on responsible pet ownership, the welfare of dogs and cats in the community; and protecting the community and the environment from nuisance dogs and cats.

The City of Casey DAMP has been developed through a series of consultations. The consultations have included all of Councils internal stakeholders and partners but more importantly, it included our local residents, businesses and those who visit of our municipality. The feedback and suggestions obtained through our consultations have been incorporated into the plan.

The plan covers the following:

- Identify and evaluate animal management services and training programs for Authorised Officers
- Promote and encourage responsible pet ownership
- Encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats
- Minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create nuisance
- Minimise the risk of dog attacks in the community
- Effectively identify and manage all declared dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs kept within the municipality
- Address any overpopulation and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats
- Manage all Domestic Animal Businesses within the municipality and ensure compliance with relevant Code of Practice
- Review current Local Laws and Orders to determine if they are effective
- Identify any other specific animal management issues within the City of Casey.

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Introduction

The City of Casey is located in the outer south eastern suburbs of Melbourne, with an area expanding over 409 square kilometres and encompassing both built and rural landscapes.

The City of Casey is one of the fastest growing regions in Australia, and Victoria's most populous municipality with approximately 370,000 residents. By 2041 it is projected that the number of residents is expected to increase to 514,000. Casey and its population growth is largely driven by young families. 44 per cent of households are couple families with children, 24 per cent are couples without children, 11 per cent are one parent families and 15 per cent are single person households.

The largest age cohort in Casey is estimated to be people aged 0-4 years old and by 2041, the largest age cohort is expected to be 5-9 year olds.

Casey is an incredibly diverse municipality with residents from over 150 different cultural backgrounds, speaking over 140 different languages which represents over 120 different faiths. Casey is also home to one of the largest numbers of Aboriginal and Strait Islander residents in metropolitan Melbourne.

The City of Casey has extensive open space areas, including bushland, coastal villages, parks, gardens, and reserves, which are utilised by the community.

For the 2020/2021 registration period, the City of Casey had 30,011 dogs and 8,748 cats registered. There were a total of 32 Domestic Animal Businesses registered including Pet Shops, Boarding Kennels and Catteries, Shelters and Pounds, Breeding Establishments and Dog Training Businesses.

The City of Casey's, City Compliance team is part of the Safer Communities Department. They are responsible for implementing and maintaining the management of the DAMP. As part of the City Compliance team, Local Laws Officers are dedicated to protecting the community's safety and amenity. This is achieved by balancing the need for enforcement and identifying opportunities to educate the community to achieve voluntary compliance.

The City Compliance team are highly trained investigators, considered as industry leaders in their field. They are dedicated to providing Casey residents with a quality service and are passionate about the welfare of animals. A key goal for the team is to continue increasing new animal registration within the municipality with a vision of promoting value for registration.

The City Compliance team believe that pets are important members of families and recognise the value that pets bring into our lives. A key focus for the team will be at educating residents on responsible pet ownership, which includes animal registration and its benefits, managing nuisance pets, cat populations and dog attack prevention and investigation.

Links to Casey's Long-Term Community Vision 2031

As one of the state's fastest growing and most populated municipalities, it's important that the City of Casey continues to deliver the services and infrastructure to meet the growing demands of our city. The DAMP is part of achieving the vision for the future of the City of Casey and has particular links with a number of organisational strategic priorities.

Organisational Strategic Priorities

The Organisational Strategic Priorities outline how the City of Casey will work towards achieving Council's vision for the future for 2021-2025. The Organisational Strategic Priorities highlight 3 key directions:

1

Community Empowerment

2

Stronger Connections and Places

3

Future Ready Organisation

The City of Casey's organisational strategic priorities aim to empower communities to have greater involvement in the decisions that impact their daily lives, and to find solutions together for our common challenges. They strive at investing in physical, digital, and social spaces that help connections flourish. These priorities outline strategies to make more informed decisions to successfully navigate into the future by investing in our own adaptability to become a resilient and capable organisation, no matter the conditions.

The DAMP links with the Organisational Strategic Priorities and will support achieving these key directions by delivering the following:

Organisational Strategic Priorities delivered through the Domestic Animal Management Plan	
Organisational Strategic Priorities	Delivered through the DAMP
Empowered communities	Conducting community engagement during key animal management projects to ensure Casey residents are involved in decision making involving their pets.
Stronger connections and places	<p>Develop strong relationships with Domestic Animal Businesses, Vets and Animal Welfare organisations to deliver messages of responsible pet ownership throughout the municipality.</p> <p>To monitor and proactively patrol parks and reserves throughout the municipality to ensure these spaces are safe and available for our residents to use.</p> <p>To investigate opportunities to increase the number of dog friendly spaces for use by City of Casey Residents in line with the Open Space Strategy, encouraging residents and their dogs to exercise and socialise whilst enjoying Casey's parks and reserves.</p>
A future-ready organisation	Explore new technologies that enable an improved customer experience and investigate options to improve efficiencies for staff completing animal management tasks.

Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan

The City of Casey's Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan is currently being developed and identifies the most significant health and wellbeing issues within the municipality and outlines the future actions to address these priorities over a four year period.

The emerging directions in the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan are:

1. Healthy Eating and Food Security
2. Mental Wellbeing and Social Inclusion
3. Physical Activity and Active Living
4. Climate Change and Health
5. Family Violence and Gender Equality

The City of Casey has developed the following objectives within the DAMP to promote and align with the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan by:

- Introducing responsible pet ownership education in the strengthening new communities' program.
- Investigate developing an insert for the animal registration renewal process to advise pet owners of dog friendly spaces.
- Investigate a tender process to provide training/socialisation on dog obedience for owners of dogs involved in less serious offences instead of receiving an infringement/enforcement.
- Conducting an audit of all playgrounds within the City of Casey to ensure signage is erected regarding dogs on lead.
- Develop an information booklet on dogs and child safety, for Maternal and Child Health staff to include in sessional visits with new parents, and for other caregivers including grandparents and child minders.
- Investigating an annual dog walking event within the City of Casey to promote being active.
- Enhance our program which provides free temporary animal shelter for Casey residents leaving situations of Family Violence.

Projections for the Future of the City of Casey

It is estimated that the population in Casey will grow to 514,000 in 2041. This represents a significant population increase across the municipality over the next 20 years.

Residential development forecasts assume that the number of dwellings in Casey will increase dramatically across the municipality, and with an increase in population and dwellings, correspondingly the numbers of dogs and cats within the municipality will increase, giving rise to a number of knock-on effects including:

- The land area of properties will reduce to accommodate the increasing population. It is anticipated the incidence of animal nuisance complaints and animal welfare issues may increase with animals being housed on smaller blocks.
- Pressure on open space areas across the municipality will increase with the population size. This may include additional competition between the various user groups for access to open space areas – including owners walking their dogs.

The City of Casey has considered future projections for Council in the DAMP to ensure issues identified are addressed to control, monitor, and enforce the management of pets causing a nuisance, specifically through education initiatives on responsible pet ownership.

Domestic Animal Management Plans

Legislative Obligations

Under Section 68A of *the Domestic Animals Act 1994*, every Council must prepare a Domestic Animal Management Plan. The legislative requirements are as follows:

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

3. Every Council must:

- a. review its Domestic Animal Management Plan annually and, if appropriate, amend the Plan; and
- b. provide the Secretary with a copy of the Plan and any amendments to the Plan; and
- c. publish an evaluation of its implementation of the Plan in its annual report.

Development of the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021-2025

The DAMP was developed by Council's City Compliance team, who are the principal department responsible for its implementation and informed through community and stakeholder engagement.

The outcomes and achievements from the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2017-2021 were reviewed to determine the success of actions and note learnings for the future development of the DAMP 2021-2025. Domestic animal statistics were gathered and benchmarking activities against similar Councils was undertaken.

Council undertook extensive community and stakeholder consultation throughout 2020 to receive critical feedback on the issues occurring within the municipality. This included surveys via City of Casey's engagement platform Casey Conversations, workshops, website information, the use of social media and text messages targeted to our registered pet owners.

The draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021-2025 was developed with the aim of balancing community and stakeholder needs whilst ensuring compliance with the requirements of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*.

Key Issues Identified

A summary of the key issues identified through the consultation process is provided in the table below. This qualitative information, along with the quantitative data was used as basis for discussion in the development of strategic directions for the Domestic Animal Management Plan.

Key Issues Identified	
Topic	Focus
Training of Authorised Officers	There are few options of formal specialist training in the containment of livestock. Identifying a training provider or designing an in-house course has been identified as training which would benefit the City of Casey authorised officers.
Council Orders and procedures	Council has an order in place issued under <i>Sec 26 Domestic Animals Act 1994</i> controlling dogs in a public place. This order has been in effect since 2001 requiring dogs to be under effective control in a public place with the added requirement of not being a nuisance. This order requires updating, specifically identifying reserves which are areas of significant conservation for native wildlife and fauna where dogs must be on leads at all times as well as ensuring that dogs are kept on lead within

	twenty metres of a children's play area.
Responsible pet ownership	Community education was identified throughout the consultation process as an area needing more focus. A significant number of the community who responded to our engagement were unaware of the legislated requirements of being a pet owner.
Dog Nuisance	Barking dogs were identified as an area that continues to impact the community. Animal excrement was one of the most mentioned issues relating to dogs causing a nuisance.
Cat Nuisance	Cats not contained to their owners' properties as per the requirement under a Council order issued under <i>Sec 26 Domestic Animals Act 1994</i> was identified as an issue for our community. Community education on semi-owned cats and feeding stray cats was apparent and will be the focus of new engagement.
Dog Parks and Reserves	Survey results indicated that our residents and visitors are unaware of the on and off lead parks and reserves in the municipality.
Domestic Animal Businesses	Illegal Breeders were identified as a concern for our community.

Key Animal Management Initiatives

The key animal management initiative categories have been identified as Council's principal objectives for the next four years. The City of Casey's initiatives are centred on its community members to ensure residents, visitors and pets live together harmoniously.

The focus is on Community Education, Community Engagement and Community Connection, and Council's aim is to deliver these initiatives in order to achieve voluntary compliance.





Animal Welfare

The City of Casey recognises there are a number of animal welfare issues that are of a concern for our community and the following initiatives have been designed to address those concerns.

Animal Welfare Initiatives

- 1 Education
- 2 Social Media
- 3 Illegal Domestic Animal Businesses
- 4 *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986* Reinstatement
- 5 Family Violence

The DAMP will be focused on educating the community on animal welfare matters through a number of proactive initiatives. Authorised officers will look for opportunities during their investigations to educate and where necessary enforce on animal welfare issues. Officers will proactively identify and prosecute illegal domestic animal businesses and investigate reinstatement of the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986* (POCTA) Authorisation.

With the City of Casey's Local Law Officers reinstating POCTA Authorisation, these Officers will have the power to enforce legislative breaches under the Act of any animal welfare issue detected in the municipality. This will reduce workloads for RSPCA inspectors and ensure that all animal welfare matters are dealt with immediately as a high priority investigation.

Although social media can be a very effective tool for communicating, it can also create some challenges. One such challenge is the emergence of various social media pages and sites that look to reunite lost animals. This raises concerns over pets being reunited with members of the community which may not be the legal registered owner, as well as limiting authorised officers

ability to check containment and educate owners. The DAMP will focus on educating the community on responsible pet ownership, as well as enhancing the reputation of the City Compliance team as skilled investigators who are passionate about animal welfare. Pet Registration will be substantially promoted along with the huge range of benefits including lost pets being reunited with their owners without an infringement being issued or the animal being taken to the pound.

A significant number of Illegal Domestic Animal Businesses (DAB's) such as breeders and home boarders actively advertise and promote their activities through social media and the web. The DAMP has set an action to actively seek to identify illegal DAB's by investigating trading and selling websites and social media outlets. Investigators will also cross reference with Council's Planning Enforcement Department on permits issued for animal keeping, and conduct audits through Central Animal Records of multiple microchipped animals located at a premise.

Research and statistics show that there is a link between animal abuse and domestic violence, where it has been found that pet abuse often occurs before and during human abuse in domestic violence situations. Local Laws Officers encounter family violence in the field and are trained to recognise the correlation between animal cruelty, dangerous dogs and perpetrators of family violence. As an objective of the DAMP, we will continue to provide free temporary animal shelter for Casey residents leaving situations of family violence.

Achieving objectives

The DAMP is a plan involving multiple teams and departments within the City of Casey Council, with the City Compliance team being the lead in achieving the objectives. Some of the other teams and departments involved in the success of achieving the objectives set over the next four years include:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| - Smart Cities and Innovation | - Compliance Management |
| - Customer Service | - Governance |
| - Planning Enforcement | - Emergency Management |
| - Open Space and City Greening | - Maternal and Child Health |
| - Safer Communities | - Sport and Community Connections |
| - Strengthening New Communities | - Health and Wellbeing |
| - Communications and Marketing | - Community Engagement |
| - Events | - School Crossings |
| - Waste | - Prosecutions and Legal Support |
| - Concept Review Panel | - I.T. |

Animal Management Staffing and Structure

The City Compliance team is part of the Safer Communities Department. The City Compliance team have 12 Authorised Local Laws Officers, and 2 Compliance and Activities Officers. There are two Team Leaders of Animals and Amenity, along with the Coordinator of City Compliance. Local Laws Officers are multiskilled, which means they are not dedicated to a specific area of enforcement, but cover multiple areas including investigating breaches of the Casey Community Local Law 2018 and amenity protection with approximately 50% of their workload allocated to animal management duties.

The City Compliance team work to detailed Standard Operating Procedures to ensure consistency of approach across the team. They are highly trained and experienced in conducting animal management investigations.

New Local Laws Officers are required to undertake a structured induction program focusing on the skills needed to be an effective authorised officer. Mandatory compliance training is also conducted through the People and Culture team, which includes training such as Victorian Child Safe Standards, Customer First Training and Workplace Safety.

Animal Management Staffing Structure



Current Programs and Services

Current Programs and Services	
Program	Service to Community
Identification and Registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual cat and dog registration renewal notices and follow up process. • Reduced registration fees for puppies below six months and for appropriately trained assistance dogs. • Educational information included on registration renewal forms. • Annual cross reference of Central Animals Records database with Council's animal registration database, with discrepancies investigated. • Officers reuniting registered pets with their owners.
Dog Attack Complaints (dog attacks/ rushes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate response if situation is deemed as dangerous. • Otherwise, response within 2-24 hours. • Investigation and prosecution of dog attacks, dog rushes and dogs at large.
Animal Nuisance / Amenity Complaints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspect properties proactively and reactively in response to customer complaints regarding animal noise nuisance. • Sound recording devices used during the investigation of noise nuisance complaints. • Investigation and enforcement of cat nuisance complaints which may include trapping of stray cats.
Animal Cruelty Complaints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Casey Local Law Officers are not currently authorised under <i>Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals Act 1986</i> and complaints of animal cruelty are referred to the RSPCA.
Park / Street Patrols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patrols of parks and reserves during business hours. • During daylight savings period (October to April) patrols are extended into the evening.
Animal Pound Facilities (contracted to The Lost Dogs' Home)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Lost Dogs' Home is open to the public from 10.00am to 6.00pm, Monday to Friday; and 9.00am to 1.00pm Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays (except Christmas Day and Good Friday). • Located at 920 Thompsons Road Cranbourne West. • Reunification program – identifiable animals are returned to owners.
Education and Promotion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marketing strategy to promote benefits of responsible pet ownership including media releases and articles, brochures, and social media. • Participation in travelling road shows and events. • Educational information included on registration renewal forms. • "We Are Family" responsible pet ownership program via Maternal and Child Health Centres.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School education on safety around animals run through Animal Welfare Victoria is promoted throughout Casey's Kindergarten and Primary Schools.
After Hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council's after-hours animal management service responds to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collection of lost cats and dogs Aggressive dogs wandering in the community Dog attacks Livestock wandering on roads. Responding to Emergency Management matters involving animals. Coordination of after-hours veterinary care for the above incidents, where required.
Dog Friendly Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dog off lead, fenced parks provided within the municipality. City of Casey reserves are all off lead unless otherwise stated as long as the animal is under effective control.
Community Events and Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City of Casey Pet Expo event occurs annually and promotes responsible pet ownership.
Discounted Desexing of Cats / Free Microchipping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discounted desexing of cats 'events held at The Lost Dogs' Home. Owner pays 50% of fee / City of Casey subsidises 50% of fee, plus free microchip.
Domestic Animal Business Inspections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspect and process new Domestic Animal Business applications. Conduct annual audits and issue annual registration certificates. Investigate complaints. Proactively identify illegal Domestic Animal Businesses and prosecute where appropriate.
Declared Dogs (Dangerous / Menacing or Restricted Breed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual site inspections conducted ensuring requirements of Domestic Animals Act are complied with and enforcement taken for non-compliance. Annual letter to owners outlining responsibilities and penalties for non-compliance. Investigation and follow up of all declared dogs that remain unregistered after 10 April each year. Proactive inspections of industrial areas to identify undeclared guard dogs
Cats not allowed in some areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> S173 Planning Scheme exclusions in place that do not allow cats to be present in designated areas (e.g. Botanic Ridge).

Strategic Themes and Action Plans

Eight key themes have been developed to provide purpose, direction, and commitment to domestic animal management across the municipality, being:

- Training of Authorised Officers

- Registration and Identification
- Nuisance Animals
- Dog Attacks
- Dangerous, Menacing and Restricted Breed Dogs
- Overpopulation and Euthanasia Rates
- Domestic Animal Businesses
- Other Matters

These themes are supported by strategic actions to guide the planning and delivery of services over the next four years.

Strategic Theme 1: Training of Authorised Officers

Aim - To enhance the capacity of all staff involved in animal management by providing the skills and knowledge to carry out their work at the highest standard.

Actions under this Theme address Section 68(A)(2)(b) of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* by outlining Casey's approach to the training of Authorised Officers to ensure that they can properly administer and enforce the requirements of the Act.

Summary

The City of Casey provides all Authorised Officers training opportunities to ensure they have the skills and knowledge to deliver a quality service to its community. Ongoing staff development ensures the officers are well equipped to maintain the high standard of investigation expected and continue to build their reputation as leaders in their field.

Our Local Laws Officers come from a diverse background with a variety of life experiences behind them. They have formal qualifications and certificates that are specific to investigations or animal management. These qualifications include the Advanced Diploma of Justice, Diploma of Justice, Certificate of Policing, ATC Investigation and Case Management, Diploma of Management and Certificate IV's in Animal Control and Statutory Compliance and Government Statutory Enforcement and Investigation.

Strengthening current procedures to reflect ongoing changes within the community was identified as an area of improvement through the consultation with both City of Casey staff and members of the community. Therefore, an objective focusing on City Compliance procedures relating to Animal Management has been developed in the DAMP to ensure best practice standards are being applied to investigations.

Current and Planned Training

Most industry training for all Local Laws Officers is completed on the job and is based on a mentoring or coaching method of learning. Some areas however are more formal, such as an annual tailored three-day investigation training course and a course on managing and handling aggressive dogs.

The following table outlines the current and planned training for the City of Casey Local Laws Officers.

Current and Planned Training	
Authorised Officer Training	Status
Baton Training	Conducted annually
Situational Awareness, Conflict Management and Self Defence	Conducted annually
Aggressive Dog Management / Handling	Conducted annually
Nationally accredited first aid and CPR	Conducted annually
3 Day Investigation Training	Conducted annually
Stock Handling	Conducted annually
City of Casey mandatory Compliance Training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Health and Safety • Conflict of Interest • Workplace Bullying and Harassment • Electronic Communication and Social Media • Fraud Awareness • Privacy and Data Protection • Anti-discrimination and Equal Opportunity • Victorian Child Safe Standards • Sexual Harassment in the Workplace • Customer First Training • Deaf Awareness Training 	Assigned through Human Resources
Animal Management training and information sessions	Courses offered by State Government, RSPCA, Municipal Association of Victoria, Local Government Professionals and other relevant organisations. Attended when available
Australian Institute of Animal Management Annual Conference	Attended when available
Industry Training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief Preparation • Investigation and Evidence Gathering • Animal Handling • Time Management • Restricted Breed Identification • Dangerous Dog Management • Domestic Animal Business Auditing 	On the job training provided through experienced senior staff members and Team Leaders of Animals and Amenities.

City of Casey Traineeship Program

The City of Casey trialled a Local Law Officer traineeship program in 2019 and 2020 targeting students who had completed an Advanced Diploma of Justice or a Cert IV in Investigations or Animal Control that were looking to pursue a career in the Local Laws and Animal Management field.

The program ran for 12 months each, during which, the officer received structured training across all aspects of investigation and animal management. In the two years the trial program ran, The City of Casey has appointed two trainees to full time Local Law officer positions. It is an objective of this DAMP to investigate making this program a permanent program within City Compliance.

Objectives

Objective 1.1 To support all officers to pursue any professional development, networking and knowledge sharing opportunities within the animal management sector.	
#	Activity
1.1.1	Using the Corporate Performance Development Review (MyPandD), identify training opportunities for officers in relation to further study and professional development
1.1.2	Encourage officers to attend workshops, seminars, forums and conferences delivered by organisations such as Agriculture Victoria, RSPCA, MAV and AIAM.

Objective 1.2 To enhance the reputation of the Animal Management Officers as highly skilled investigators in conjunction with the more traditional perception of being expert animal handlers.	
#	Activity
1.2.1	Ongoing training supplied to Officers to enhance investigation and animal handling skills.
1.2.2	Develop an animal handling induction for new Animal Management Officers, introducing skills in identifying animal behaviour and aggression in animals.
1.2.3	Officers to receive the Ministerial approved Canine Anatomy Identification training course when available.
1.2.4	Investigate reinstating POCTA authorisation to Animal Management Officers.
1.2.5	Enhance Animal Management Officer skills in securing and impounding livestock.

Objective 1.3 To ensure best practice standards when dealing with customers by maintaining good communication, regular updates and closing the loop for all animal management investigations; while upholding legislative requirements and Council policies and procedures.	
#	Activity
1.3.1	Develop and review City Compliance policies and procedures for animal related investigations ensuring they are customer focused.
1.3.2	Undertake a project to map all of City Compliances processes in 'Promapp' software system to ensure procedures are reviewed and updated regularly.
1.3.3	Continue to use the customer service satisfaction survey to identify opportunities for continuous improvement.
1.3.4	Prepare an animal management information training package for all Council staff that may be involved with animal management matters.

Strategic Theme 2: Registration and Identification

Aim – To enhance animal registration compliance within the City of Casey

Actions in this section address Sections 68A(2)(c)(v) and 68A(2)(a),(c)(i),(c)(ii),(d),(f) of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* by outlining services and strategies to encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats.

Summary

The City of Casey realises that people regard their pets as members of their family. With this in mind, we aim to promote pet registration and its value to dog and cat owners enhancing awareness of registration requirements to increase new pet registration within the municipality.

The DAMP will be focusing on educating pet owners within our community on responsible pet ownership, promoting registration through Domestic Animal Businesses, Vets within the municipality, the City of Casey website and through social media channels.

Offering discounted registration fees for newly acquired animals purchased and adopted from a pound or shelter will also be introduced. Council view this as a double positive, not only for pet owners receiving a discounted fee, but for rescuing an animal from a potential dire situation.

Feedback was received from our community members in our consultation, that pet owners are unaware of what their pet registration fees are contributed to, and consequently the DAMP will include an objective of preparing a Communications Plan to optimise the profile of the animal management service City of Casey provide animal owners within the municipality.

Legislation

The *Domestic Animals Act 1994* requires all dogs and cats to be registered with Council at 3 months of age, with renewals due annually on 10 April. A pet must be microchipped prior to registration and cats must be desexed in the City of Casey prior to registration.

The City Compliance Team aim to increase pet registration by promoting value for registration by making every effort to reunite registered pets with their owners when they have become lost, which has been included as an objective in the City of Casey DAMP.

Registration Fee's

Council's animal registration fees are used to support the delivery of the Animal Management Service and programs, for example:

- Animal management staff to support the collection and return of stray animals to owners.
- Individualised registration tags for each registered cat and dog within the City of Casey.
- Investigation and prosecution of owners involved in animal attacks, or the keeping of unregistered animals.
- Registration and inspection of Domestic Animal Businesses (incl Pet Shops, Boarding Kennels and Breeders) in the City of Casey
- Investigation of animal complaints including Nuisance cats, barking dogs, trespassing complaints, and animal welfare concerns.
- Provision for the State Government levy which council must pay for every cat and dog registered.
- Management of Dangerous/Restricted Breed and Menacing dogs
- The cost of pound services.
- After hours animal collection.
- Dog bite and attack education programs for kindergarten and primary school children.
- Facilities across Casey including pet friendly spaces such as fenced dog parks.
- Events, information booklets, pet expo, community discounted microchip and desexing days, and community education about responsible pet ownership.

New Animal Registration Numbers

The table below reflects the number of new animal registrations received over the past four financial years. This does not include animals that have been previously registered and renewed, this is additional new dog and cat numbers only.

New Registration Numbers	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Dogs	2925	3455	4492	5329
Cats	775	969	1485	1771
Total	3700	4424	5977	7100

Registration Renewals

Registration renewal notices are sent to dog and cat owners every year, prior to the due date of the 10 April. A notice is mailed or emailed to the registered dog and cat owner listing the cost of the renewal, payment options and the due date. Registrations that have not been renewed after the 10 April, are sent a reminder notice along with further SMS messages. Councils move to sending out renewals and reminders via email has seen a significant reduction in costs in the past two years.

Registration renewals that remained unpaid are followed up by Local Law Officers who conduct door knocks. Infringements are subsequently issued where unregistered animals are identified.

Top 10 Suburbs for Registered Pets

Top 10 Suburbs with Registered Pets for 2020/2021			
Dogs		Cats	
1.	Berwick	1.	Berwick
2.	Narre Warren South	2.	Narre Warren
3.	Narre Warren	3.	Cranbourne North
4.	Clyde North	4.	Cranbourne
5.	Cranbourne North	5.	Clyde North
6.	Cranbourne	6.	Narre Warren South
7.	Cranbourne East	7.	Endeavour Hills
8.	Cranbourne West	8.	Cranbourne West
9.	Endeavour Hills	9.	Hampton Park
10.	Hampton Park	10.	Cranbourne East

Top 10 Registered Dog Breeds

Top 10 Registered Dog Breeds	
Dog Breeds	
1.	Cavoodle
2.	German Shepherd
3.	Labrador
4.	Border Collie
5.	American Staffordshire Bull Terrier
6.	Staffordshire Bull Terrier
7.	Golden Retriever
8.	Jack Russell Terrier
9.	Kelpie
10.	French Bulldog

Council Orders and Local Laws

Council Orders relating to registration

Cat Desexing

In exercising its powers prescribed in Section 10A of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*, Council made an Order on 4 September 2007 which imposes a condition on the registration of cats in the municipal district of the City of Casey. The Order states that Council will not, after 1 October 2007, register or renew the registration of a cat unless the cat is desexed or is exempted under the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* from any requirement to be desexed.

Local Laws

Animal Numbers

The Casey Community Local Law 2018

Clause 11(1)(a)(vi): A person who owns or occupies land of less than 4000 square metres must not, except with a permit, keep more than 2 dogs and 2 cats.

Clause 11(1)(b): A person who owns or occupies land greater than 4000 square metres must not, except with a permit, keep more than 4 dogs and 4 cats.

Objectives

Objective 2.1 To increase new registration numbers of animals in the City of Casey every year.	
#	Activity
2.1.1	Offer discounted registration fees for newly acquired animals purchased/adopted from a pound or shelter within 4 weeks.
2.1.2	Promote registration through registered Domestic Animal Businesses and Veterinary Clinics within Casey.
2.1.3	Implement a dedicated resource to door knock specific areas and identify unregistered animals.

Objective 2.2 Educate and promote the benefits and value of pet registration.	
#	Activity
2.2.1	Prepare a Communication Plan to optimise the profile of the animal management service Casey provide animal owners within the municipality.
2.2.2	Promote a number of responsible pet ownership topics through social media.
2.2.3	Registered animals returned to their owners will not be issued an infringement on the first occasions but will be provided with an official warning.
2.2.4	Use message boards on Animal Management Vehicles to promote animal registration in Casey.
2.2.5	Investigate sending SMS to dog owners when predicted thunderstorms or extreme weather events are occurring.
2.2.6	Establish a quarterly e-newsletter for pet owners in Casey to promote responsible pet ownership, animal reunification and benefits of pet registration.
2.2.7	Investigate sending a welcome pack SMS/email to newly registered pet owners.
2.2.8	Introduce responsible pet ownership education in the strengthening new communities' program.
2.2.9	Conduct an annual Pet Expo promoting responsible pet ownership.

Objective 2.3 Identify hotspot areas for registration non-compliance.	
#	Activity
2.3.1	Advocate to State Government to have a centralised animal management database across all Victorian Councils municipalities.
2.3.2	Utilise Council's aerial mapping and geographical information system to analyse and identify hotspots for registration non-compliance and targeted enforcement.
2.3.3	Cross-reference animal registration database with the Central Animals Registry to identify unregistered dogs and cats living in Casey for targeted enforcement.
2.3.4	Develop an Annual Registration Plan to outline a timeline for targeted education and enforcement.

Strategic Theme 3: Nuisance Animals

Aim - To minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance within the City of Casey

Actions in this section address Sections 68A(2)(c)(vi) and 68A(2)(a),(c)(i),(c) (ii),(d),(f) of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* by outlining programs, services and strategies to minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance

Summary

Animal nuisance caused by dogs and cats can considerably affect a person's enjoyment of their home and impact on the safety of community members. Educating pet owners on minimising nuisance caused by their pets will be a key focus for this plan.

The DAMP plans to reduce the impact of dog nuisance on the community by providing specific support to pet owners and those impacted.

This includes:

- developing a barking dog booklet to provide dog owners educational information on how to resolve noise nuisance,
- the introduction of an animal behaviorist to assist in complex nuisance matters, and
- investigating a tender process to provide training/socialisation on dog obedience and responsible pet ownership to Casey residents.

Feral and semi-owned cat populations and cat confinement was highlighted as an area needing improved community awareness after 84% of participants in the community consultation demonstrated they were unaware of laws relating to cats in the City of Casey.

Further areas identified through the consultation was the need for education on dog friendly spaces, and the need to address animal excrement where pet owners fail to pick up after their dogs.

Nuisance Complaint Numbers

The statistics calculated below are based on complaints relating to nuisance. The statistics are calculated per financial year and for the past four years of the prior DAMP.

Dog nuisance complaints statistics in the table include dog wandering at large, animal excrement, dog nuisance and dog barking. Cat nuisance complaint statistics include cats wandering at large, cat nuisance, and animal excrement.

Nuisance Complaints	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Dogs	1,357	1,295	1,288	1,149
Cats	207	210	255	376

A separate table has been created below for dog and cat pick up request statistics. This shows the number of dogs and cats collected in the past four financial years.

Animal Collections	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Dogs	1195	1240	1183	730
Cats	742	875	788	631

Nuisance Cats

Wandering cats are a common nuisance complaint for Casey residents. The City of Casey have an Order in place that cats must be within their property at all times. By confining cats to their property, it prevents them from injury and spreading diseases, it also protects our native wildlife. Casey also have a restriction in place to keep a cat in the Botanic Ridge and Settlers Run Estate. These two areas are close to the Royal Botanic Gardens in Cranbourne and are home to many native and endangered animals, including the endangered Southern Brown Bandicoot.

Casey receive multiple complaints from residents regarding cat nuisance issues and Council seek to minimise the number of those complaints in the DAMP by educating residents on the City of Casey 24/7 cat curfew, raising awareness specifically about semi-owned cats and the legal responsibilities of feeding feral cats, and promoting the use of cat enclosures and cat proof fencing as an effective way of containing cats to a property.

The infringement for a wandering cat is much less (0.5 penalty units) than the equivalent infringement for that of a wandering dog (1.5 penalty unit). The City of Casey has identified this reduced penalty as a possible contributing factor in the number of cat nuisance complaints received by Council, and have subsequently included to advocate to the State Government to

increase the penalty for cats wandering at large as part of the DAMP.

Nuisance Barking Dogs

Barking dogs can be a source of great irritation for residents in the community. Barking is a natural behaviour and is a dogs way of communicating, but excessive barking can be a sign that something is wrong and the dog is wanting or needing something that it cannot rectify itself.

The City of Casey receive many barking dog complaints, with over 512 complaints reported for the 2020-2021 financial year period. With smaller property sizes, and increased development occurring, it is anticipated that this number will increase with population growth.

Barking dog complaints can be a very time consuming investigation and one that requires the complainant to assist Local Laws Officers in gathering evidence through completing dog barking log sheets. Many barking complaints can be resolved quickly by notifying the owner of the issue, as many are unaware that their dog is barking and causing a nuisance.

It was identified through consultation with the community that assistance was needed by Council to provide owners information on how to resolve nuisance barking. The DAMP will focus on providing readily accessible information to the public relating to nuisance animals by developing a barking dog booklet to educate owners on resolving noise nuisance and expanding the dog barking procedure to include a 'Nuisance Test' to determine if the barking is an annoyance or a nuisance.

Dog Litter Nuisance

Animal excrement was identified as an issue through the consultation conducted with the community.

The Casey Community Local Law 2018 states that a person who is in control of a dog, in a public place must have in their possession a bag or other receptacle for the purpose of removing excrement from an animal, deposited in or on the public place.

Failing to pick up after a dog can cause harm to the environment, potential health impacts to other animals and people, and cause a nuisance to members of the community. The DAMP will develop a Communications Plan to address animal excrement issues across the municipality, by providing information on the impacts on failing to pick up dog litter through social media and the City of Casey website; and handing out free dog poo bags in dispensers to the community at various Casey events and information stands.

Council Orders and Local Laws

Council Orders and Restrictions

Cats at Large

In exercising its powers prescribed in Section 26(2)(b)(i),(ii)(iii) of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*, Council made an Order on 2 February 1999 which imposes a condition on the presence of cats and their means of restriction to owners property in any area of the municipal district of the City of Casey. The Order states if a cat is found at large outside the premises of the owner at any time, the owner is guilty of an offence.

Dogs on Lead in Public Places

In exercising its powers prescribed in Section 26(2)(b)(i)(iii) of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*, Council made an Order on 16 November 1999 which imposes a condition on the presence of dogs and their means of restraint in any area of the municipal district of the City of Casey. The Order states that all dogs are to be under effective control of some person by means of a chain, cord or leash at all times in any public place other than a Council reserve, and at no time shall a person in charge of a dog allow it to cause a nuisance or annoyance to any other person in a public place or Council reserve.

Cats Restricted in Areas

All land titles in the Botanic Ridge Estate are required to comply with a restriction known as a Section 173 Agreement. It is an offence under Section 126 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* to keep a cat on land in the Botanic Ridge and Settlers Run Estates.

Local Laws

Animal Litter

The Casey Community Local Law 2018 Clause 10(1) states a person who is in charge or control of any dog, cat, livestock or animal in or on a public place:

(2) must have in his or her possession a bag or other receptacle for the purpose of removing from the public place excrement from that dog, cat livestock or animal deposited in or on the public place; and

(3) must not permit excrement of any dog, cat, livestock or animal under his or her care or control, or of which he or she is in charge to remain in or on a public place; and

(4) must remove from a public place any excrement of a dog, cat livestock or animal under his or her care or control, or of which he or she is in charge, if directed to do so by an Authorised Officer.

Animal Keeping

The Casey Community Local Law 2018 clause 13(2) states a person who owns or occupies land on which any animal is kept must ensure that the land is adequately secured to the satisfaction of Council or an Authorised Officer to prevent any animal from escaping that land.

Animal Nuisance

The Casey Community Local Law 2018 clause 14(1) states a person who owns or occupies land on which any animal is kept must not allow any noise or smell from any animal to emanate which interferes with the reasonable comfort or convenience of persons who occupy adjacent or nearby land.

Objectives

Objective 3.1

To promote responsible pet ownership through education and promotional activities.

#	Activity
3.1.1	Investigate developing an insert for the animal registration renewal process to advise pet owners of dog on-leash requirements.
3.1.2	Investigate a tender process to provide training/socialisation on dog obedience for owners of dogs involved in less serious offences instead of receiving an infringement/enforcement.
3.1.3	Develop a program that addresses location specific issues identified from animal related complaints.

Objective 3.2

Educate and inform the community in relation to the management of cats.

#	Activity
3.2.1	Advocate to State Government for increase in cat at large infringement to match dog at large infringement.
3.2.2	Raise community awareness about feral and semi-owned cat populations and cat confinement.
3.2.3	Increase community awareness on the 24/7 cat curfew order in Casey to minimise cat nuisance complaints received.
3.2.4	Investigate opportunities to network with other Councils and organisations to remedy cat management and confinement issues.

Objective 3.3

Develop an educative strategy to reduce the issues arising from dogs not being adequately contained.

#	Activity
3.3.1	Actively encourage obedience dog training in the community.
3.3.2	Introduction of an animal behaviourist to assist in complex nuisance matters.
3.3.3	Consideration to be given to obtaining section 84W under the <i>Domestic Animals Act 1994</i> Orders at the Magistrates Court.

Objective 3.4

Provide readily accessible information to the public relating to nuisance animals.

#	Activity
3.4.1	Development of a barking dog booklet to provide dog owners educational information on how to resolve the noise nuisance.
3.4.2	Include educational information and links on the City of Casey website for residents to access to assist in animal nuisance.
3.4.3	Investigate sending SMS to registered animal owners to provide links to resources/information pages to provide tools to rectify the nuisance before an investigation is commenced.

Objective 3.5

Educate and inform the community in relation to the management of dogs.

#	Activity
3.5.1	Investigate expanding the Barking Dog Procedure to include a 'Nuisance Test' to determine if the barking is an annoyance or nuisance.
3.5.2	Develop a Communications Plan to address animal excrement issues across the municipality.
3.5.3	Conduct an audit of all playgrounds within the City of Casey to ensure signage is erected regarding dogs on lead.

Strategic Theme 4: Dog Attacks

Aim - To minimise the risk of dog attacks to the community.

Actions in this section address Sections 68A(2)(c)(iii) and 68A(2)(a),(c)(i),(c)(ii),(d),(f) of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* by outlining strategies to minimise the risk of injury to people and other animals resulting from dog attacks.

Summary

For the 2020-2021 financial year, 237 dog attacks were reported to the City of Casey. The dog attacks have been against people and other animals and have been non-serious and serious in nature. There were also 110 dog rushes, where a dog came within three metres of a person and displayed aggression. Aggressive dogs pose a significant safety risk and are treated with the highest priority.

Most dog attacks and dog rushes occur when dogs are not contained to their property. Dogs that have not been adequately socialised with other animals are more likely to demonstrate aggression if they find themselves not contained to their property which leads to instances of dog attacks. Promoting responsible pet ownership is the overarching strategic theme for this plan, looking to minimise instances and the risk of dog attacks in the community.

An information pack for owners of dogs involved in dog attacks and rushes will be developed. This will include information on all aspects of an investigation from a possible dog seizure, attending for a record of interview, through to the potential outcomes such as an appearance at Magistrates Court and a Dangerous Dog Declaration.

An information pack for the victims of dog attacks will also be prepared as part of this plan. This will include information on the investigation process, providing a formal statement and giving evidence in Court as well as including information on support services available.

Supplying information to all parties involved in dog attack investigations is an opportunity to educate whilst demonstrating that the investigation process is transparent and appropriate.

Dog Attacks and Children

Educating children on safety around dogs is an imperative aspect of the DAMP and seeks to do so by developing an information booklet on 'Dogs and Child Safety'. Maternal and Child Health staff will provide this information in sessional visits with new parents, whilst it would also be available as a resource for both council operated and private childcare centres.

The DAMP will also actively promote the Responsible Pet Ownership Program and Dog Bite Prevention Programs conducted by Agriculture Victoria to all of the Kindergartens and Primary Schools within the City of Casey.



Dog Attack Numbers

The statistics below are based on reports received for dog attacks and dog rushes within the City of Casey over the past four years.

Report Numbers	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Dog attacks on Animals	166	153	174	151
Dog attacks on people	82	74	109	86
Total Dog attacks	248	227	283	237
Dog Rush	unavailable	57	120	110

Court Prosecution

Council investigate all reported dog attacks and prosecute serious injury offences at Magistrates

Court. A decision to prosecute is based on a number of factors including; the seriousness of the injury, the nature of the attack, the behaviour of the dog(s) involved, the owners actions and ultimately the risk to the community.

Non-serious injury dog attack offences can be enforced through prosecution or by issuing an infringement notice under the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*. Serious Injury dog attack offences do not have an option for an infringement notice and must be prosecuted.

During a prosecution, prosecutors can seek Court Orders under the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* to ensure the community is safe from future attacks. An order under Section 84W can compel an animal owner to carry out works to a property to ensure their dog(s) are adequately contained and unable to escape. In some cases, council may seek an order under Section 84WA, prohibiting an individual from owning dogs. Council can also seek an order from the court to destroy a dog involved in a serious injury attack.

At the conclusion of a prosecution, Council may commence the process to declare the attacking dog as a Dangerous Dog pursuant to Section 34(1) *Domestic Animals Act 1994* which puts a number of significant control measures onto a dog and its owners to keep the community safe.

Objectives

Objective 4.1	
Raise awareness of the risk of dog attacks that can occur in the community and at home.	
#	Activity
4.1.1	Investigate the benefits of referring successful prosecutions to the media team to share with the Casey community.
4.1.2	Advocate to State Government for state-wide advertising campaigns to highlight the impact of dog attacks in the community and responsible pet ownership. This includes the importance of reporting dog attacks, dog containment, dog socialisation and training.
4.1.3	Develop an information booklet on dogs and child safety, for Maternal and Child Health staff to include in sessional visits with new parents, and for other caregivers including grandparents and child minders.

Objective 4.2	
To increase public awareness on causes and consequences of a dog attack and provide education and resources to minimise occurrences.	
#	Activity
4.2.1	Prepare a Communications Plan to improve public awareness on the definition of a dog attack, how to report one, and how to minimise the potential of a dog attack occurring.
4.2.2	Create an enforcement consequences and awareness pack for owners of dogs involved

	in dog attacks and rushes.
4.2.3	Create an information pack for victims of dog attacks identifying Council processes, Court procedures and support services.

Objective 4.3 Promote State Government programs which educate Kindergarten and Primary School children within the City of Casey on responsible pet ownership and dog bite prevention.	
#	Activity
4.3.1	Actively promote the Responsible Pet Ownership Program and Dog Bite Prevention Programs conducted by Agriculture Victoria to Kindergartens and Primary Schools within Casey.

Strategic Theme 5: Dangerous, Menacing and Restricted Breed Dogs

Aim - To actively identify, manage and enforce compliance with requirements of all dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs.

Actions in this section address Sections 68A(2)(c)(vii) and 68A(2)(a),(c)(i),(c)(ii),(d),(f) of *the Domestic Animals Act 1994* which outline programs, services and strategies to effectively identify all dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs in that district and to ensure that those dogs are kept in compliance with this Act and the regulations.

Summary

The City of Casey conduct annual audits on all declared dogs in the municipality to ensure all relevant legislation and regulations are being complied with.

There are three categories of declared dogs;

- Dangerous Dogs - Dogs declared dangerous after a serious injury attack or dogs being used as a guard dog on non-residential premises.
- Menacing Dogs - Dogs declared menacing after a non-serious injury attack on a person or animal or if it rushes at or chases a person. A “Rush” is where a dog approaches a person within 3 metres and displays aggressive behaviour such as snarling, growling, barking or a raising of the hackles.
- Restricted Breed Dogs - Dogs that haven’t been involved in an attack on a person or animal or have displayed aggression but are defined as dogs that fit the *Approved Standard of Restricted Breed Dogs in Victoria* namely, American Pit Bull Terrier, Perro de Presa Canarios, Dogo Argentinos, Japanese Tosas and Fila Brasileiros.

The City of Casey has 20 declared dogs kept in the municipality. Activities to identify dogs that are required to be declared include proactive inspections of industrial areas to identify guard dogs and using microchip registries to identify possible Restricted Breed Dogs being kept within

the municipality. Officers will also seek declarations on dogs involved in attacks and rushes that pose an ongoing risk to the community.

Owners of declared dogs are provided with information on the legal requirements of keeping a declared dog and provided resources on where to purchase materials such as cages, collars and signage.

A dangerous dog declaration has effect throughout Victoria, and cannot be revoked, amended, or otherwise altered.

Declaration Process and Panel

At the conclusion of a prosecution, Council may commence the process to declare the attacking dog as a Dangerous Dog pursuant to Section 34(1) *Domestic Animals Act 1994* which puts a number of significant control measures onto a dog and its owners to keep the community safe.

When planning to declare a dog dangerous, Council must notify the owner of the dog and give them the opportunity to make submissions in writing and/or in person.

The Dangerous Dog declaration process involves a panel of senior staff members from across the organisation that have not been apart of the investigation. As impartial parties, they consider all the information submitted from both the investigating officers and the dog owner before making a recommendation to the Council delegate (Director of Community Life) who makes the ultimate decision on whether to declare the dog dangerous. Once the declaration decision has been made, Council must send the dog owner a notice informing them of the outcome and include the reasons for the decision.

An owner may appeal against a declaration within the Administrative Appeals Tribunal of Victoria within 28 days.

Menacing Dog declarations are also determined by means of a panel hearing whereas a Restricted Breed declaration is determined on a physical inspection of a suspected dog, conducted by certified authorised officer specifically trained in Restricted Breed identification.

Declared Dog Requirements

There are strict requirements for all Dangerous Dogs and Restricted Breed Dogs relating to signage, housing and collar. Both Dangerous and Restricted Breed declared dogs must display prescribed warning signs at all entrances to the premises where the dog is kept, warning people that a declared dog is being kept on the property.

Specific housing requirements include a secured enclosure on the property to prevent escape and injury to animals and people. Dangerous Dogs and Restricted Breed Dogs must always wear a prescribed collar at all times. The collar is specially designed to be visible from a distance and reflective at night.

Menacing dogs have a lower level of restrictions attached which is limited to being on a lead and wearing a muzzle when out in the community.

Declared Dog Numbers in Casey

There are 20 declared dogs kept within the City of Casey. See the table below for numbers for the financial year of 2020/2021 of declared dogs.

Declared Dogs	Dangerous	Menacing	Restricted Breed
2020/2021	10	9	1

Objectives

Objective 5.1 Undertake activities to identify and monitor declared dogs in the municipality.	
#	Activity
5.1.1	Proactive inspections of industrial areas to identify undeclared guard dogs.
5.1.2	Use microchip registries to identify possible restricted breed dogs within the municipality

Objective 5.2 Continue to achieve a high level of compliance for declared dogs.	
#	Activity
5.2.1	Effectively inspect and audit all declared dog premises annually to ensure they are compliant with requirements.
5.2.2	Ensure the Victorian Declared Dog Registry is kept up to date and information is accurate.
5.2.3	Provide an information pack to owners of all newly declared dogs.

Strategic Theme 6: Overpopulation and High Euthanasia

Aim - To minimise the number of stray, semi-owned and unwanted pets within the municipality.

Actions in this section address 68A(2)(c)(iv) and 68A(2)(a),(c)(i),(c)(ii),(d),(f) of the Domestic Animals Act 1994 by outlining programs, services and strategies to address over-population and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats.

Summary

The City of Casey reunite registered cats and dogs with their owners where ever possible which has contributed to a steady reduction of dog and cat impounds over the past 4 years which has in turn helped achieve a lower euthanasia rate. As new registration numbers increase, officers are able to reunite more animals which results in less animals being taken to the pound.

The euthanasia rates for cats has decreased over the past four years, but is still much higher in comparison to dogs. This statistic is due to a large number of cats in the community not being microchipped or registered with Council. If a cat has no microchip, it limits the ability to trace its owner and can lead to euthanasia. Educating the community on the benefits of microchipping

as well as process changes in the use of cat traps has aided the reduction in euthanasia rates in cats.

The City of Casey's pound provider conduct behavioural and health examinations on animals that have been impounded to assess if they are acceptable for adoption. Statistics show, that of the 795 cats that were impounded for the 2020/2021 period, only 12% of the cats were reclaimed by their owners, with 51% rehomed through adoption and 37% euthanised. Many of the euthanised cats were likely to be feral or semi owned.

The City of Casey DAMP will aim to promote initiatives to rehome unwanted animals and undertake activities to increase the rates of desexing and microchipping. By campaigning an 'adopt an animal' scheme within the community, Council seek to encourage residents to consider adopting an animal that has been impounded. Increasing the number of rehomed animals will potentially help achieve a goal of lower euthanasia rates.

The DAMP will also investigate a subsidised desexing voucher scheme for concession card holders, and discount incentive schemes for new registrations. This is aimed at increasing the rates of desexed animals within the municipality and the potential for pets to breed and overpopulate.

Impounded Animal Numbers

The statistics below show the number of dogs and cats that have been impounded by Casey Local Laws Officers over the past 4 years.

Dogs Impounded

Dogs Impounded	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Impounded	1039	1132	947	597
Reclaimed	730	870	746	439
Adopted	200	169	115	83
Euthanised	107	87	76	51

Cats Impounded

Cats Impounded	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Impounded	915	1189	1047	795
Reclaimed	95	134	110	94
Adopted	428	536	470	401
Euthanised	382	484	464	289

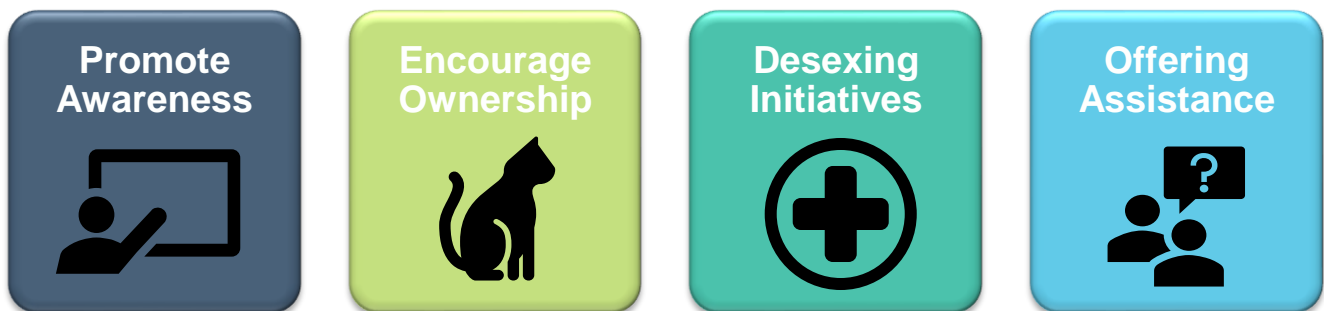
Euthanasia Rates

Euthanasia Rates %	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Dogs	15%	10%	8%	8%
Cats	41%	40%	44%	36%

Semi owned cats in Casey

A semi owned cat is a feral cat or a cat that has no owner but has a well-intentioned member of the community feeding it without taking on the full legal responsibility.

Educating and promoting the awareness of semi owned cat populations with Casey residents is integral to minimise and address cat overpopulation within the municipality. The main initiatives for addressing semi owned cats in Casey are:



Cats breed extremely fast, which is why it is so important that cats are desexed to prevent unwanted numbers. Feeding a feral/unowned cat and not taking full responsibility can contribute to cat overpopulation issues because the cats are strong enough to reproduce and therefore more kittens are brought into a life of disease and neglect which can have significant impacts on local wildlife and create amenity issues for residents.

Community consultation revealed that 84% of participants were unaware of semi owned cats, and their legal responsibilities under the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*.

The City of Casey DAMP will develop a communications plan to educate residents on the impact of having feral and semi owned cats in the community.

The City of Casey will encourage the residents that are feeding feral/unowned cats to either take full ownership or to call Council for assistance in the removal of the cat. The DAMP will investigate a discount incentive scheme in desexing for new registrations, which will support those residents in taking responsibility for the unowned cat, assistance in reducing unwanted litters and reducing the potential for disease and health issues.

Council Orders and Local Laws

Council Orders

Cat Desexing

In exercising its powers prescribed in Section 10A of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*, Council made an Order on 4 September 2007 which imposes a condition on the registration of cats in the municipal district of the City of Casey. The Order states that Council will not, after 1 October 2007, register or renew the registration of a cat unless the cat is desexed or is exempted under the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* from any requirement to be desexed.

Local Laws

Responsible Breeding of Cats

The Casey Community Local Law 2018 clause 15(1) states a person must not sell or give to any person, or allow to be sold or given to any person, a cat that has not been desexed except in accordance with a permit; or where a cat is 10 years of age or older; or where the person is the proprietor of an Applicable Breeding Establishment; or where the person is a member of an Applicable Organisation with which the cat is registered.

Objectives

Objective 6.1 Promote initiatives to rehome unwanted animals	
#	Activity
6.1.1	Promote an 'adopt and animal' scheme in the community.
6.1.2	Investigate initiatives to increase the reclaim rate of dogs and cats impounded by Animal Management Officers.

Objective 6.2 Manage and promote awareness of semi-owned cat populations.	
#	Activity
6.2.1	Develop a Communications Plan to promote the impact of having feral and semi owned cats in the community.

Objective 6.3 Undertake activities to increase rates of desexing and microchipping.	
#	Activity
6.3.1	Investigate a subsidised desexing voucher scheme for concession card holders, and discount incentive schemes for new registrations.

Strategic Theme 7: Domestic Animal Businesses

Aim - To ensure compliance of all Domestic Animal Businesses within the City of Casey.

Actions under this section address 68A(2)(c)(ii) and 68A(2)(a),(c)(i),(d),(f) of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* by outlining how Council will ensure that Domestic Animal Businesses comply with this Act, the regulations and any related legislation.

Summary

All Domestic Animal Businesses (DAB) within the City of Casey are inspected and audited annually. This is to ensure the business is compliant with the relevant Code of Practice. City of Casey Local Laws Officers work with businesses when breaches are detected to address any non-compliant issues.

Identifying illegal DAB's is an objective in the City of Casey DAMP. Breeding establishments and home boarding businesses without the relevant permits will be targeted through conducting proactive inspections, cross referencing permits with internal and external departments and investigating social media and internet websites.

Casey seeks to ensure animal welfare is a priority in all domestic animal businesses within the municipality and will take necessary enforcement action when welfare concerns are identified.

The City of Casey aspires to strengthen relationships with their registered DAB's by promoting the registered businesses to add value to their registration fees. This includes advertising registered DAB's on Council's website and providing information to community members. Council hope to work closely together with DAB's to promote messages on responsible pet ownership and pet registration.

Domestic Animal Businesses in Casey

The City of Casey have 32 registered domestic animal businesses in the municipality for the year of 2021. They include Training Establishments, Boarding Kennels and Catteries, Pounds and Shelters, Pet Shops and Breeding Establishments. See the table below for the number of registered DAB's in 2021:

DAB's in 2021	Training Establishments	Boarding Kennels and Catteries	Pounds and Shelters	Pet Shops	Breeding Establishments
Number	7	16	2	5	2

Breeders

Illegal breeding establishments were raised as a concern to our community when asked during the consultation process. The City of Casey DAMP will actively seek to identify illegal breeding establishments and take enforcement action.

Council are the responsible authority in auditing and inspecting DAB's, but there are other categories of breeders which do not require regulation or Council are not the responsible authority in conducting auditing and inspections.

The *Domestic Animals Act 1994*, *Domestic Animal Regulations 2015* and *Code of Practice for the operation of breeding and rearing businesses* regulates the breeding and selling of dogs and cats in Victoria. It limits the number of fertile females a breeder can keep and classifies the breeder into one of four categories:



Microbreeders

A microbreeder is a person that owns 1 or 2 fertile dogs or cats and breeds those animals. Microbreeders do not have to register as a DAB or comply with the Code of Practice.

Recreational Breeders

A recreational breeder is a person who is a member of an applicable organisation and has up to 10 fertile female dogs or cats and breeds those animals in order to sell them. Recreational breeders do not need to register as a DAB or comply with the Code of Practice.

Breeding DAB

A breeding DAB is a person who has between 3 and 10 fertile females dogs or cats and are not a member of an applicable organisation and breeds to sell those animals. A breeding DAB must be registered with Council and comply with the Code of Practice. Council are the responsible authority in auditing and inspecting breeding DAB's and ensuring compliance with the Act and Code of Practice.

Commercial Dog Breeder

A commercial dog breeder is a person who keeps more than 10 fertile females on their property. If the breeder has between 11 and 50 fertile females they must be registered as a DAB with Council first, and then apply to the Minister for Agriculture to obtain approval to be a commercial dog breeder. Authorised Officers from the Department of Agriculture are the responsible authority for auditing and inspecting commercial dog breeders and ensuring compliance with the Act and Code of Practice.

Objectives

Objective 7.1

To actively manage Domestic Animal Businesses in meeting their requirements under the Act, Regulations, and relevant Code of Practice.

#	Activity
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7.1.1	Ensure all registered Domestic Animal Businesses are inspected and audited annually.
7.1.2	Review information for and about Domestic Animal Businesses on Council's website.

Objective 7.2

Identify and register all Domestic Animal Businesses within the municipality.

#	Activity
7.2.1	Identify any Domestic Animal Businesses by permit auditing with Planning Enforcement and Greyhound Racing Victoria.
7.2.2	Conduct audit of microchipped animals through Central Animal Records of possible litters at properties within Casey.
7.2.3	Actively seek to identify illegal Domestic Animal Business Breeding Establishments and action accordingly.

Objective 7.3

To promote registered Domestic Animal Businesses in the City of Casey to add value for their registration.

#	Activity
7.3.1	Identify opportunities to promote registered Domestic Animal Businesses within the City of Casey.

Strategic Theme 8: Other Matters

Actions in this section address 68A(2)(e) of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* by providing for the review of any other matters that it thinks necessary for the effective management of dogs and cats in the municipality.

Other Matters

Providing an efficient service and ensuring best value for registration is an important component in achieving key objectives throughout all strategic themes in the DAMP.

The City of Casey is committed to continuous improvement and exploring new technology to ensure officers are equipped to be able to provide efficient, effective and thorough animal management investigations. Mobile field-based technology will become more prevalent during the life of this DAMP, allowing officers to carry out more of their work in the field, being more visible to the community and more efficient with the service that they provide. This technology will see officers assigned work based on their proximity to a investigation, it will allow them to

update notes, photos and issue notices on a tablet or phone that automatically syncs with Councils systems without the need for duplication or use of paper. This technology will create savings in time, money and provide our officers with the best platform to be successful and achieve the right outcomes for our community.

The City of Casey seek to provide best value for animal registration fees by enforcing and educating on non-compliance with *Sec 10 Domestic Animals Act 1994*. Additionally, it was identified in the community consultation that our community wanted more of a visual presence from our Local Laws Officers in the parks and reserves within the municipality. The Casey DAMP will set to provide pro-active patrols in parks and reserves to increase public awareness and education to pet owners.

A legislative requirement of the DAMP is to review Council Orders made under *the Domestic Animals Act 1994* and Local Laws with a view of determining whether further Orders or Local Laws dealing with the management of dogs and cats are desirable.

A new Casey Community Local Law will commence during the life of the new DAMP and all Local Laws relating to animals will be reviewed with new clauses potentially introduced. One new clause to be investigated as part of that process is to attach a penalty for non-compliance to breaches of an Animal Management Agreement. Animal Management Agreements are used in situations where a Dangerous Dog or Menacing Dog declaration is not appropriate, but some form of restrictions are required to keep the community safe. This generally involves an agreement between the dog owner and Council that a dog will be kept on a lead when off of its property, and it may include a requirement to use a muzzle or even undergo some obedience training. Currently these agreements have no penalty or consequence for breaching the agreement which may impact community safety.

The City of Casey has Council Orders in place created under the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*. These orders date back to 1999 and control cats and dogs in public places. Whilst the order controlling cats is still relevant and appropriate 20 years on, the order controlling dogs will be reviewed and updated to reflect a change in the way we share public spaces with dogs.

Assistance dogs are a critical support to some members of our community. Whilst Guide Dogs are exempt from paying registration fees because it is dictated within the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*, assistance dogs are not. Acknowledging the importance that assistance dogs have within our community, Council offers a reduced rate of animal registration fee if a dog has received specialist training as an assistance or therapy dog. For the Duration of this DAMP Council intent to continue this reduced rate of registration whilst advocating to state government to have Assistance dogs appropriately acknowledged.

Animal Welfare and Domestic Violence

The City of Casey had the highest rate of domestic violence incidents reported in Victoria for the year 2019-2020 according to Crime Statistics Agency Victoria. 5055 reports were made in the year, with 400 to 500 reports being made each month to police. These figures demonstrate the impact that family violence is having within our Casey community.

In the same reporting year, RSPCA recorded 581 reports of animal cruelty within the City of Casey area, the highest of any other Local Government Areas. Research shows that there is a direct link between domestic violence and animal welfare and the City of Casey DAMP will continue to focus on assisting victims of domestic violence by continuing a program which

provides free temporary animal shelter for those Casey residents leaving situations of family violence.

To support this initiative, Council will allocate a budget for the purpose of ensuring compliance with legislation for people that are escaping domestic violence situations. This can assist people in registering, microchipping and desexing their pets to comply with *the Domestic Animals Act 1994* and associated Orders within the City of Casey.

The Casey DAMP will aim to increase public awareness and promote this service for victims and animals exposed to domestic violence by working with supportive services and the Victoria Police.

Objectives

Objective 8.1 Improve technology for investigating Animal Management matters to provide an efficient service to City of Casey residents.	
#	Activity
8.1.1	Identify field-based technology that can enhance Animal Management investigations.
8.1.2	Investigate the feasibility of placing QR Codes at designated parks and reserves for making customer service requests.

Objective 8.2 Animal Welfare and Domestic Violence	
#	Activity
8.2.1	Continue the program which provides free temporary animal shelter for Casey residents leaving situations of Family Violence.
8.2.2	Allocate a budget for the purpose of ensuring compliance with legislation for people that are escaping domestic violence situations if they are unable to do so.

Objective 8.3 Ensure best value for the City of Casey rate payers for animal management services.	
#	Activity
8.3.1	Offers a reduced rate of animal registration fee if a dog has received specialist training as an assistance or therapy dog.

Objective 8.4

To ensure the safety of animals through the management of all domestic animals in emergency situations.

#	Activity
8.4.1	Review and implementation of the Municipal Emergency Animal Management Plan.
8.4.2	Develop a program which provides free temporary animal shelter for Casey residents in fire or flood emergency situations.

Objective 8.5

To provide a visual presence in Council's Parks and Reserves by conducting proactive patrols, educating residents on legislative requirements and enforcing non-compliance.

#	Activity
8.5.1	Continue to provide pro-active patrols in parks and reserves to increase public awareness on animal management matters.

Objective 8.6

Review Council's Local Laws and Orders in relation to animal management, to ensure currency.

#	Activity
8.6.1	Review Local Laws and Orders relating to animal management.
8.6.2	To investigate updating the Local Law to include a new clause and penalty relating to Animal Management Agreements.

Objective 8.7

Promote being active with pets within the municipality to encourage health and wellbeing for residents and pet owners.

#	Activity
8.7.1	Investigate an annual dog walking event within the City of Casey to promote being active and responsible pet ownership.

Objective 8.8

Investigate animal programs developed by the State Government to support mental health.

#	Activity
8.8.1	Promote the State Government's Therapy Dogs in Schools mental health program.

Annual Review and Reporting of the Plan

The *Domestic Animals Act 1994* Section 68A(3) states that every Council must:

- Review its Domestic Animal Management Plan annually and, if appropriate, amend the plan
- Provide the Department of Primary Industries' Secretary with a copy of the plan and any amendments to the plan
- Publish an evaluation of its implementation of the plan in its annual report.

Council will review this Plan annually with a full review being done in year four. Action items within the plan have time lines which will be reviewed on a regular basis throughout the life of the plan. The relevant State Government Secretary will also be advised and provided a copy of any other amendments to the Plan which may arise during the review process.

Section 68(A)3 of the Act – Review and Reporting			
#	Activity	When	Evaluation
1	Review and evaluate the DAMP annually and amend (if required)	Annually	
2	Provide the State Secretary with a copy of the DAMP and any amendments (if any)	Annually	
3	Publish an evaluation of the implementation of the Casey DAMP in the annual report	Annually	

Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Process

Council will monitor performance of the objectives that are detailed throughout this DAMP by:

- Developing and monitoring KPIs for the City Compliance Team.
- Reporting on KPIs to the Manager of Safer Communities.
- Establishing an annual timeline action plan summary for reviewing the Plan and evaluating its implementation
- Identifying, monitoring and evaluating new programs through the Department's Business Plan

- Reporting annually through Council's established reporting systems, in accordance with the requirements of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* and the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework. (LGPRF)

Key Performance Indicators

KPI	Target %
Staff receive an average of 15 hours training per year in animal management related training.	100%
Increase in number of new animal registrations from previous year. (LGPRF)	3%
Customer satisfaction for nuisance animal complaints.	80%
Respond to customer requests relating to Animal Management within 5 working days (LGPRF)	95%
Reduction in rate of serious dog attacks.	3%
Successful Prosecution for animal related investigations at Magistrates Court.	90%
Compliance with declared dog keeping requirements.	100%
Reduction in euthanasia rates for dogs and cats.	5%
Compliance Inspections conducted at Domestic Animal Business requirements annually.	100%

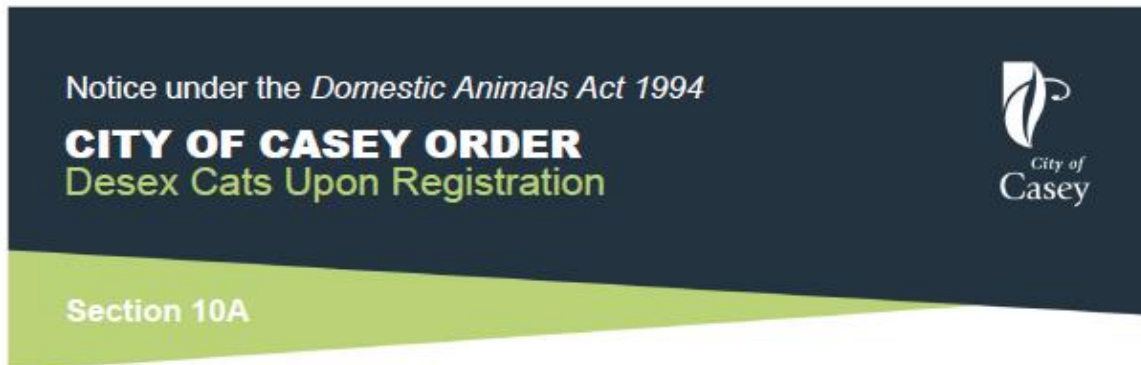
Administrative Updates

It is recognised that, from time to time, circumstances may change leading to the need for minor administrative changes to this document. Where an update does not materially alter this document, such a change may be made administratively. Examples include a change to the name of a Council department, a change to the name of a Federal or State Government department, and a minor update to legislation which does not have a material impact. However, any change or update which materially alters this document must be by resolution of Council.

Appendix

City of Casey Orders

Desex Cats Upon Registration Order – the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* Section 10A



Published in the Victorian Government Gazette No. G 37 Thursday 13 September 2007

Under the Domestic (Feral and Nuisance) Animals Act 1994 section 10A, City of Casey Council has resolved that it will not, after 1 October 2007, register or renew the registration of a cat unless the cat is desexed or exempted under the Domestic (Feral and Nuisance) Animals Act 1994 from any requirement to be desexed.

Contact the City of Casey:

Web: casey.vic.gov.au
Email: caseyoc@casey.vic.gov.au
Phone: 03 9706 6200
Post: PO Box 1000, Narre Warren VIC 3805
NRS: 133 677 (for the deaf, hearing or speech impaired)

Customer Service Centres:

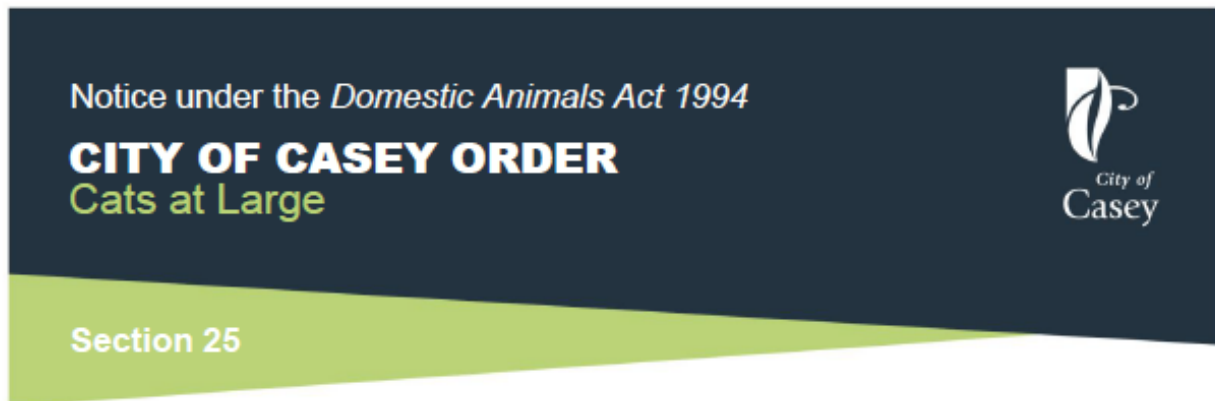
Narre Warren: Bunjil Place, Patrick Northeast Drive, Narre Warren
Cranbourne: Cranbourne Park Shopping Centre, Cranbourne
ABN: 43 320 296 742



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CASEY.VIC.GOV.AU

Cats at Large Order – *Domestic Animals Act 1994* Section 25



Published in the Victorian Government Gazette No. G 7 Thursday 18 February 1999

Notice is hereby given of an Order made by Resolution of the City Casey Council at its meeting on 2 February 1999 in accordance with the provisions of Clause 25 of the Domestic (Feral and Nuisance) Animals Act 1994.

This Order states "that if a cat is found at large outside the premises of its owner at any time, the owner is guilty of an offence".

The owner of a cat includes a person who keeps or harbours the animal and has the animal in his or her care for the time being whether this animal is at large or in confinement.

Contact the City of Casey:

Web: casey.vic.gov.au
Email: caseycc@casey.vic.gov.au
Phone: 03 9706 5200
Post: PO Box 1000, Narre Warren VIC 3805
NRS: 133 677 (for the deaf, hearing or speech impaired)

Customer Service Centres:

Narre Warren: Bunjil Place, Patrick Northeast Drive, Narre Warren
Cranbourne: Cranbourne Park Shopping Centre, Cranbourne
ABN: 43 320 295 742



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CASEY.VIC.GOV.AU

City of Casey Website

To access a copy of the Casey Community Local Law 2018, complete online pet registration, access information and resources see the City of Casey website:

<http://www.casey.vic.gov.au>

Action Plan Timeline

1. Training of Authorised Officers			
Objective 1.1 To support all officers to pursue any professional development, networking and knowledge sharing opportunities within the animal management sector.			
#	Activity	Year	Comments
1.1.1	Using the Corporate Performance Development Review (MyPandD) identify training opportunities for officers in relation to further study and professional development.	Annually	
1.1.2	Encourage officers to attend workshops, seminars, forums and conferences delivered by organisations such as Agriculture Victoria, RSPCA, MAV and AIAM.	When available	
Objective 1.2 To enhance the reputation of the Animal Management Officers as highly skilled investigators in conjunction with the more traditional perception of being expert animal handlers.			
1.2.1	Ongoing training supplied to Officers to enhance investigation and animal handling skills.	Annually	
1.2.2	Develop an animal handling induction for new Animal Management Officers, introducing e skills in identifying animal behaviour and aggression in animals.	2022	
1.2.3	Officers to receive the Ministerial approved Canine Anatomy Identification training course when available	When available	

Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021-2025 (Version No. 2.0)

1.2.4	Investigate reinstating POCTA authorisation to Animal Management Officers	2021	
1.2.5	Enhance Animal Management Officer skills in securing and impounding livestock	Annually	
Objective 1.3 To ensure best practice standards when dealing with customers by maintaining good communication, regular updates and closing the loop for all animal management investigations, while upholding legislative requirements and Council policies and procedures.			
1.3.1	Develop and review City Compliance policies and procedures for animal related investigations ensuring they are customer focused.	Ongoing	
1.3.2	Undertake a project to map all of City Compliances processes in 'Promapp' software system to ensure procedures are reviewed and updated regularly.	2021	
1.3.3	Continue to use the customer satisfaction survey to identify opportunities for continuous improvement.	Ongoing	
1.3.4	Prepare an Animal Management information training package for all Council staff that may be involved in animal management matters.	2023	

2. Registration and identification

Objective 2.1

To increase new registration numbers of animals in the City of Casey every year.

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#	Activity	Year	Comments
2.1.1	Offer discounted registration fees for newly acquired animals purchased/adopted from a pound or shelter within 4 weeks.	Ongoing	
2.1.2	Promote registration through registered Domestic Animal Businesses and Veterinary Clinics within Casey.	2021	
2.1.3	Implement a dedicated resource to door knock specific areas and identify unregistered animals.	Annually	
Objective 2.2			
Educate and promote the benefits and value of pet registration			
2.2.1	Prepare a Communication Plan to optimise the profile of the animal management service Casey provides animal owners within the municipality.	2022	
2.2.2	Promote a number of responsible pet ownership topics through social media.	Annually	
2.2.3	Registered animals returned to their owners will not be issued an infringement on the first occasion, but will be provided with an official warning.	Ongoing	
2.2.4	Use message boards on Animal Management Vehicles to promote animal registration in Casey.	Ongoing	
2.2.5	Investigate sending SMS to dog owners when predicted thunderstorms or extreme weather	2021	

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	events are occurring.		
2.2.6	Establish a quarterly e-newsletter for pet owners in Casey to promote responsible pet ownership, animal reunification and benefits of pet registration.	2022	
2.2.7	Investigate sending a welcome pack SMS/email to newly registered pet owners.	2023	
2.2.8	Introduce responsible pet ownership education in the strengthening new communities' program.	2022	
2.2.9	Conduct an annual Pet Expo promoting responsible pet ownership.	Annually	
Objective 2.3 Identify hotspot areas for registration non-compliance			
2.3.1	Advocate to State Government to have a centralised animal management database across all Victorian Councils and Shires.	2023	
2.3.2	Utilise Council's aerial mapping and geographical information system to analyse and identify hotspots for registration non-compliance and targeted enforcement.	Annually	
2.3.3	Cross-reference animal registration database with the Central Animals Registry to identify unregistered dogs and cats living in Casey for targeted enforcement.	Annually	

Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021-2025 (Version No. 2.0)

2.3.4	Develop an Annual Registration Plan to outline a timeline for targeted education and enforcement.	2021	
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3. Nuisance

Objective 3.1

To promote responsible pet ownership through education and promotional activities.

#	Activity	Year	Comments
3.1.1	Investigate developing an insert for the animal registration renewal process to advise pet owners of dog on-leash requirements.	2021	
3.1.2	Investigate a tender process to provide training/socialisation on dog obedience for owners of dogs involved in less serious offences instead of receiving an infringement/enforcement.	2022	
3.1.3	Develop a program that addresses location specific issues identified from animal related complaints.	2022	

Objective 3.2

Educate and inform the community in relation to the management of cats.

3.2.1	Advocate to State Government for increase in cat at large infringement to match dog at large infringement.	2023	
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3.2.2	Raise community awareness about feral and semi-owned cat populations and cat confinement.	2021	
3.2.3	Increase community awareness on the 24/7 cat curfew order in Casey to minimise cat nuisance complaints received.	2021	
3.2.4	Investigate opportunities to network with other Councils and organisations to remedy cat management and confinement issues.	2021	
Objective 3.3 Develop a strategy to reduce the issues arising from dogs not being adequately contained.			
3.3.1	Actively encourage obedience dog training in the community.	Annually	
3.3.2	Introduction of an animal behaviourist to assist in complex nuisance matters.	2022	
3.3.3	Consideration to be given to obtaining section 84W under the Domestic Animals Act 1994 Orders at the Magistrates Court.	Ongoing	
Objective 3.4 Provide readily accessible information to the public relating to nuisance animals.			
3.4.1	Development of a barking dog booklet to provide dog owners educational information on how to resolve the noise nuisance.	2022	

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3.4.2	Include educational information and links on the City of Casey website for residents to access to assist in animal nuisance.	Ongoing	
3.4.3	Investigate sending SMS to registered animal owners to provide links to resources/information pages to provide tools to rectify the nuisance before an investigation is commenced.	2021	
Objective 3.5 Educate and inform the community in relation to the management of dogs.			
3.5.1	Investigate expanding the Barking Dog Procedure to include a 'Nuisance Test' to determine if the barking is an annoyance or nuisance.	2021	
3.5.2	Develop a Communications Plan to address animal excrement issues across the municipality.	2021	
3.5.3	Conduct an audit of all playgrounds within the City of Casey to ensure signage is erected regarding dogs on lead.	2024	

4. Dog Attacks

Objective 4.1

Raise awareness on the risk of dog attacks, that can occur in the community and at home.

#	Activity	Year	Comments
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4.1.1	Investigate the benefits of referring successful prosecutions to the media team to share with the Casey community.	Ongoing	
4.1.2	Advocate to State Government for state/wide advertising campaigns to highlight the impact of dog attacks in the community and responsible pet ownership. This includes the importance of reporting dog attacks, dog containment, dog socialisation and training.	2023	
4.1.3	Develop an information booklet on dogs and child safety , for Maternal and Child Health staff to include in sessional visits with new parents, and for other caregivers including grandparents and child minders.	2024	
Objective 4.2 To increase public awareness on causes and consequences of a dog attack and provide education and resources to minimise occurrences.			
4.2.1	Prepare a Communications Plan to increase public awareness on the potential of a dog attack occurring.	2022	
4.2.2	Create an enforcement consequences and awareness pack for owners of dogs involved in dog attacks and rushes.	2021	
4.2.3	Create an information pack for victims of dog attacks identifying Council processes, Court procedures and support services.	2021	

Objective 4.3

Promote State Government programs which educate Kindergarten and Primary School children within the City of Casey on responsible pet ownership and dog bite prevention.

4.3.1	Actively promote the Responsible Pet Ownership Program and Dog Bite Prevention Programs conducted by DEDJTR to Kindergartens and Primary Schools within Casey.	Annually	
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5. Dangerous, Menacing and Restricted Breed Dogs

Objective 5.1

Undertake activities to identify and monitor declared dogs in the municipality.

#	Activity	Year	Comments
5.1.1	Proactive inspections of industrial areas to identify undeclared guard dogs.	Annually	
5.1.2	Use microchip registries to identify possible restricted breed dogs within the municipality.	Annually	

Objective 5.2

Continue to achieve a high level of compliance for declared dogs

5.2.1	Effectively inspect and audit all declared dog premises annually to ensure they are compliant with requirements.	Annually	
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5.2.2	Ensure the Victorian Declared Dog Registry is kept up to date and information is accurate.	Ongoing	
5.2.3	Provide an information pack to owners of all newly declared dogs.	2022	

6. Overpopulation and High Euthanasia

Objective 6.1

Promote initiatives to rehome unwanted animals

#	Activity	Year	Comments
6.1.1	Promote an 'adopt and animal' scheme in the community.	2021	
6.1.2	Investigate initiatives to increase the reclaim rate of dogs and cats impounded by Animal Management Officers.	Ongoing	

Objective 6.2

Manage and promote awareness of semi-owned cat populations

6.2.1	Develop a Communications Plan to promote the impact of having feral and semi owned cats in the community.	2023	
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Objective 6.3

Undertake activities to increase rates of desexing and microchipping

Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021-2025 (Version No. 2.0)

6.3.1	Investigate a subsidised desexing voucher scheme for concession card holders, and discount incentive schemes for new registrations.	2022	
7. Domestic Animal Businesses			
Objective 7.1			
To actively manage Domestic Animal Businesses in meeting their requirements under the Act, Regulations and relevant Code of Practice.			
#	Activity	Year	Comments
7.1.1	Ensure all registered Domestic Animal Businesses are inspected and audited annually.	Annually	
7.1.2	Review information for and about Domestic Animal Businesses on Council's website.	Ongoing	
Objective 7.2			
Identify and register all Domestic Animal Businesses within the municipality.			
7.2.1	Identify any Domestic Animal Businesses by permit auditing with Planning Enforcement and Greyhound Racing Victoria.	Ongoing	
7.2.2	Conduct audit of microchipped animals through Central Animal Records of possible litters at properties within Casey.	Annually	
7.2.3	Actively seek to identify illegal Domestic Animal Business Breeding Establishments and action accordingly.	Annually	

Objective 7.3

To promote registered Domestic Animal Businesses in the City of Casey to add value for their registration

7.3.1	Identify opportunities to promote registered Domestic Animal Businesses within the City of Casey.	Ongoing	
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8. Other Matters

Objective 8.1

Improve technology for investigating Animal Management matters to provide an efficient service to City of Casey residents.

#	Activity	Year	Comments
8.1.1	Identify field based technology that can enhance Animal Management investigations	2022	
8.1.2	Investigate the feasibility of placing QR Codes at designated parks and reserves for marking customer service requests.	2024	

Objective 8.2

Animal Welfare and Domestic Violence

8.2.1	Enhance the program which provides free temporary animal shelter for Casey residents leaving situations of Family Violence.	2021	
8.2.2	Allocate a budget for the purpose of ensuring compliance with legislation for people that are	2022	

Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021-2025 (Version No. 2.0)

	escaping domestic violence situations if they are unable to do so.		
Objective 8.3 Ensure best value for the City of Casey rate payers for animal management services.			
8.3.1	Offers a reduced rate of animal registration fee if a dog has received specialist training as an assistance or therapy dog.	2022	
Objective 8.4 To ensure the safety of animals through the management of all domestic animals in emergency situations.			
8.4.1	Review and implementation of the Municipal Emergency Animal Management Plan.	2023	
8.4.2	Develop a program which provides free temporary animal shelter for Casey residents in fire or flood emergency situations.	2022	
Objective 8.5 To provide a visual presence in Council's Parks and Reserves by conducting proactive patrols, educating residents on legislative requirements and enforcing non-compliance.			
8.5.1	Continue to provide proactive patrols in parks and reserves to increase public awareness on Animal Management matters.	Ongoing	
Objective 8.6 Review Council's Local Laws and Orders in relation to animal management, to ensure currency.			
8.6.1	Review Local Laws and Orders relating to animal	Ongoing	

Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021-2025 (Version No. 2.0)

	management.		
8.6.2	To investigate updating the Local Law to include a new clause and penalty relating to Animal Management Agreements.	2022	
Objective 8.7 Promote being active with pets within the municipality to encourage health and wellbeing for residents and pet owners.			
8.7.1	Investigate an annual dog walking event within the City of Casey to promote being active.	2023	
Objective 8.8 Investigate animal programs developed by the State Government to support mental health			
8.8.1	Promote the State Government's Therapy Dogs in Schools mental health program.	Ongoing	