



Greater
Shepparton
CITY COUNCIL

**DRAFT
DOMESTIC
ANIMAL
MANAGEMENT
PLAN**
2026/2029





Acknowledgement of Country

"We, the Greater Shepparton City Council, acknowledge the Yorta Yorta Peoples of the land which now comprises Greater Shepparton. We pay respect to their tribal Elders, we celebrate their continuing culture and we acknowledge the memory of their ancestors."

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Executive summary

Dogs and cats play an important role in many of our lives. They are often important members of our family's providing companionship, reduce stress and assist us to be more active. However, they can also cause concern when left to wander the streets or when they are allowed to become a nuisance. Wandering dogs risk being involved in a dog attack or causing a car accident.

Wandering cats kill our native wildlife and cause significant damage to our local environment. Council's Animal Management team aim to make Greater Shepparton a safe and harmonious place to live where quality of life is not negatively impacted by irresponsible pet owners and are available to provide advice and guidance on animal issues. The Domestic Animal Management Plan seeks to provide sensible planning and undertake actions that protect the safety and amenity of the community and environment through education, compliance and enforcement activities.

In the past 4 years, the Animal Management Team have handled almost 9,700 animal related requests and admitted over 7,600 animals into the Shepparton Animal Shelter, one of the largest in regional Victoria.

This version is the fifth iteration of Greater Shepparton City Council's Domestic Animal Management Plan. It builds on the outcomes of previous plans and sets a strategic direction to guide future service delivery to 2029.

The plan has been prepared by the Animal Management team in response to Council's obligations under the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* (the Act)



Key actions from past plans and programs

The key actions completed in previous plans included:

Investment of resources into building and equipment upgrades to improve disease control, enhance animal comfort and increase safety

Developed educational programs surrounding animal management including primary school and high school education packages

2

Voucher Programs

Developed and delivered State Government-funded MAV and P.A.W.S. desexing voucher schemes.

100%

Success Rate

Serious Offences Prosecuted

Strengthening Compliance & Animal Welfare
Successfully prosecuted all serious dog attack and animal cruelty cases.

2,000+

Animals Cared For Annually

Providing shelter, care, and support for over 2,000 animals each year.

2

Off-Leash Dog Parks Created
Expanding recreational spaces for dogs and their owners to enjoy safely.

Investigated and purchased a new computer program for the animal shelter to assist with monitoring the health of animals

Development and implementation of major philosophical and cultural changes resulting in significant reduction in euthanasia and a considerable increase in animal adoption

4

New Ranger Vehicles

Investing in community safety through safer, more efficient animal transport services.

2020 & 2022

Bushfire & Flood Emergency Response
Supporting Communities During Crisis

Assisted communities during Wangaratta bushfires and Shepparton floods with animal emergency response.

Undertook the feasibility study for a new animal shelter facility

2,000+

Animal Assistance Requests Every Year

24/7 Emergency Animal Response Service
Providing rapid support for animal emergencies and community animal welfare concerns, day and night.





1. Introduction and context

1.1 Purpose of Domestic Animal Management Plan

Council plays an important leadership role in supporting and promoting responsible pet ownership, community safety and healthy living through a well-informed community. This role is legislated under the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* (the Act) which includes the requirement for Councils to prepare a Domestic Animal Management Plan every four years.

The plan sets out a method for evaluating where the animal management services provided by Council are adequate to give effect to requirements of the Act and *Domestic Animal Regulations 2015*.

The plan is informed by evidence and is action oriented, with a focus on measurable and achievable actions within allocated resources.

The plan must set out a method for:

- outlining planning for the training of authorised officers along with various programs, services and strategies;
- evaluating whether the animal management services provided by Council are adequate to give effect to requirements of the Act and the Domestic Animal Regulations 2015 (The Regulations); and
- reviewing and where appropriate amending the plan and publishing an evaluation of the implementation of the plan in the Council's Annual Report (see *Appendix A*).

1.2 Process applied in developing the plan

In preparing this plan, the following methodology has been applied:

Step 1: Strategic review

A strategic review was undertaken of:

- Relevant Council plans and strategies;
- Existing animal management operations including procedures, Local Laws, Council Orders, service reviews and resources;
- Data such as customer complaints, animal registrations and permits over the past years to help understand emerging trends;
- Previous DAMP action plan outcomes that were delivered successfully and those that were yet to be delivered; and
- Challenges experienced in delivering the plan and areas where there is still room for improvement.

Step 2: Draft development

In 2025 and 2026, the Animal Management team prepared the initial draft of the plan, informed by and aligned with the framework of the previous plan. The objectives and actions aimed to address the emerging issues and challenges identified during the strategic review.

Step 3: Community consultation

This Draft plan will be released for community engagement and consultation. The following activities will take place:

- Community Survey on Council's website

inviting participants to provide feedback, share experiences and offer opinions to help shape the actions in the plan.

- Targeted consultation with stakeholders such as Domestic Animal Businesses, local vets, organisations, Landcare groups
- Advertising through social media, flyers and electronic signage.

Following the consultation period, the plan will be updated to include relevant feedback then finalised for adoption by Council at an Ordinary Council Meeting.

1.3 Demographic and Profile of Council

Greater Shepparton City Council is located in north-central Victoria, about 180 kilometres north of Melbourne and is approximately 2,421 square kilometres in size. It includes the townships of Dookie, Murchison, Toolamba, Tatura, Undera, Mooroopna and Shepparton. Greater Shepparton's estimated resident population for 2024 is 69,874, with a population density of 28.86 persons per square km. More than 13% of the population were born overseas, over 30 nationalities are represented and over 50 languages are spoken alongside English.

Greater Shepparton sits within the lands of the Yorta Yorta Nation. The beautiful Goulburn River and its forested floodplain is a key natural feature that winds its way through the heart of the municipality.

Greater Shepparton is described as the food bowl of Victoria with a rich agricultural and manufacturing industry, supported by extensive health, education and services industries.

1.4 How does this plan fit in with the Council Plan?

Council's Community Vision is 'A diverse, vibrant and connected community valuing accessible opportunities for everyone. We adapt and respond in a way that is innovative, sustainable and accountable. We acknowledge where we have been and look forward to where we are going. Together we are greater!'

The Council Plan 2025–2029 sets the direction and objectives for how the community envisions the role of Council in the future and outlines the actions required to achieve these outcomes.

Animal management and community amenity is a key focus area of the strategic objective 'Liveability' and includes the implementation of this Domestic Animal Management Plan and increasing the number of registered dogs and cats with Council. Animal Registration fees directly support the provision of animal management services and enable Council to reunite lost pets with their owners.

1.5 Context and Current Situation

Animal Management service

Councils Animal Management department consists of three main services:



We Protect Animal Rangers

Authorised Officers who specialise in community education, criminal investigation, animal handling and enforcement of the Act



We Respond After Hours Emergency Service

Authorised Officers who respond to animal management emergencies outside of normal operating hours



We Care Shepparton Animal Shelter

Cares for over 2,000 cats, dogs, small animals and livestock per year including stray, surrendered and seized animals and operates an Adoption program

Animal Management statistics

Animal Registration Statistics*	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Number of dogs registered	8,297	8,164	7,525	6,712
Number of cats registered	2,501	2,788	2,547	2,437
Registered Domestic Animal Businesses	10	10	11	9
* State Government Levy – Financial Year				

Prosecutions	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Dog attack prosecutions *	6	3	2	7	5	6
Animal cruelty prosecutions**	0	0	0	2	1	1
Other animal management prosecutions**	0	0	0	2	0	0
Total Prosecutions	6	3	2	11	6	7

*LGPRF Data – Financial Year | ** Legal Matters Report

Dog and Cat Infringements*	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Fail to register / renew the registration of a dog or cat	67	37	9	39	67	76
Dog Wandering at large	14	3	9	15	29	24
Dog Attack causing non-serious injury or dog rush	3	2	1	2	5	0
Local Laws relating to animals	0	2	0	1	3	2
Total Infringements	84	44	19	57	104	102

* Infringements – Financial year

Animal Management Customer requests *	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Over population					
Ranger Trapping Program	5	2	1	2	2
Trap Hire	8	12	11	37	58
Dog - Excess	35	28	35	22	41
Cat - Excess	27	30	26	15	32
Pet Exchange Register / Advertising	1	0	7	2	1
Registration and Identification					
Animal Registration follow up	202	249	354	338	573
Nuisance animals					
Lost Animal Reports	388	248	404	349	315
Dog – Wandering or contained	376	423	511	492	465
Cat – Wandering or contained	57	89	141	127	134
Dog - Barking	178	145	206	238	205
Dog - Park/Off Lead Patrol	10	5	7	3	11
Dog Attacks and rush					
Dog - Attack	89	88	75	97	108
Dog - Rush	34	26	21	42	48
Dangerous, menacing and restricted breed					
Dog - Declared/Guard Dogs	13	8	9	8	9

Animal Management Customer requests *	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Domestic Animal Businesses					
Domestic Animal Business	40	35	32	37	62
Other					
Welfare check / Injured animal / hygiene	94	211	232	252	279
General Enquiries	259	272	191	248	432
Dead animals (Council or private land)	67	65	101	55	66
Emergency Services – Ranger Assistance	0	3	3	2	0
Other	388	24	14	74	67
Total customer requests (not including livestock) *	2,271	1963	2,381	2,440	2,908

* LGPRF Data – Financial Year

Shepparton Animal Shelter Statistics*	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
DOGS					
Total dogs admitted	520	503	689	703	686
Dogs surrendered	101	91	168	170	177
Dogs collected after being hit by car and killed	3	4	6	6	3
Dogs seized due to dog attack	16	5	14	6	13
Dogs reclaimed by their owners	323	284	391	341	364
Dogs adopted from shelter	48	94	147	172	202
Dogs moved to other shelters for adoption	84	76	21	34	35
Dogs euthanased (not including euthanased due to dog attack)	46	22	108	113	100
Dogs euthanased due to dog attack or being declared	14	10	15	19	20
Other	2	13	1	18	16
CATS					
Total cats admitted	1,163	928	1,258	1,345	1,289
Cats surrendered	344	197	393	325	264
Cats collected after being hit by car and killed	27	31	46	53	41
Cats reclaimed by their owners	72	42	55	57	75
Cats adopted from shelter	98	300	566	583	676
Cats moved to other shelters for adoption	610	226	29	10	5
Cats euthanased	332	302	525	578	471
Cats deceased natural causes	24	18	35	31	19
Other	0	9	2	3	2

*Data from Pathway Registers

1.6 Our Orders and Local Laws

Council has made several Orders which seek to protect the safety and amenity of the community and the environment, promote responsible pet ownership and encourage compliance with legislative requirements.

Order - Dogs on leash and off leash dog parks

In 2021, Greater Shepparton City Council made an order under section 26(2) of the Act, requiring the owner of any dog must keep the dog restrained by means of a chain, cord or leash not greater than 3 metres in length, and is attached to the dog when the dog is in any reserve, or area other than a designated area or in any public place in the municipality. The Order also specified requirements when attending an off-leash dog park.

<https://greater-shepparton.com.au/animals-environment-and-waste/animals/pets/dogs/off-leash-dog-parks>

Council currently has two designated off leash dog parks:

- Ducat Reserve, Paterson Road, Shepparton, within the fenced area signposted by Council as the 'off leash dog park'
- Princess Park, Nixon Street Shepparton, within the fenced area signposted by Council as the 'off leash dog park'

Order - Cat desexing

In 2008, Council made an order under section 10A(1) of the Act that requires all cats to be desexed prior to registration unless exempt under Part 2 10B of the Act. This order aimed to increase the number of cats desexed within the municipality.

Order - Cat curfew

In 1996, Council made an order under section 25 of the Act that prohibits all cats from being at large outside the premise of the owner at any hour during the day or night. This order aimed to reduce the number of wandering and trespassing cats within the municipality.

Local Laws

In 2018, pursuant to section 111 of the *Local Government Act 1989* and section 42 of the Act, Council created a number of Local Laws relating to:

- The numbers of animals that can be kept on a property without Local laws permits;
- The cleanliness of animal housing areas on private properties; and
- That a person must carry a suitable receptacle for the removal of excrement or faeces on Council land.

Council Policies, Plans and Procedures

The following are a list of Council policies, guidelines and procedures relevant for animal management:

- Complaint Policy
- Compliance and Enforcement Policy
- Victorian Emergency Animal Welfare Plan
- Greater Shepparton Emergency Animal Welfare Sub-Plan
- Authorisation and Delegations
- Privacy legislation and principles
- Code of Conduct
- Procurement policy

Industry specific procedures and guidelines relating to:

- Shepparton Animal Shelter Health Management Plan
- Enforcement Guidelines
- Infringements
- Investigation techniques and evidence collection
- Procedural fairness
- Occupational Health and Safety
- Complaint handling
- Animal seizure, admissions and reclaims
- Barking dog resolution process
- Search warrants
- Operational plans
- Animal registration
- Fees and charges
- Reporting including Animal Fate Data, Legal Matters and LGPRF
- The operation of the Shepparton Animal Shelter in accordance with the Act and Code of Practice for the Management of Dogs and Cats in Shelters and Pounds





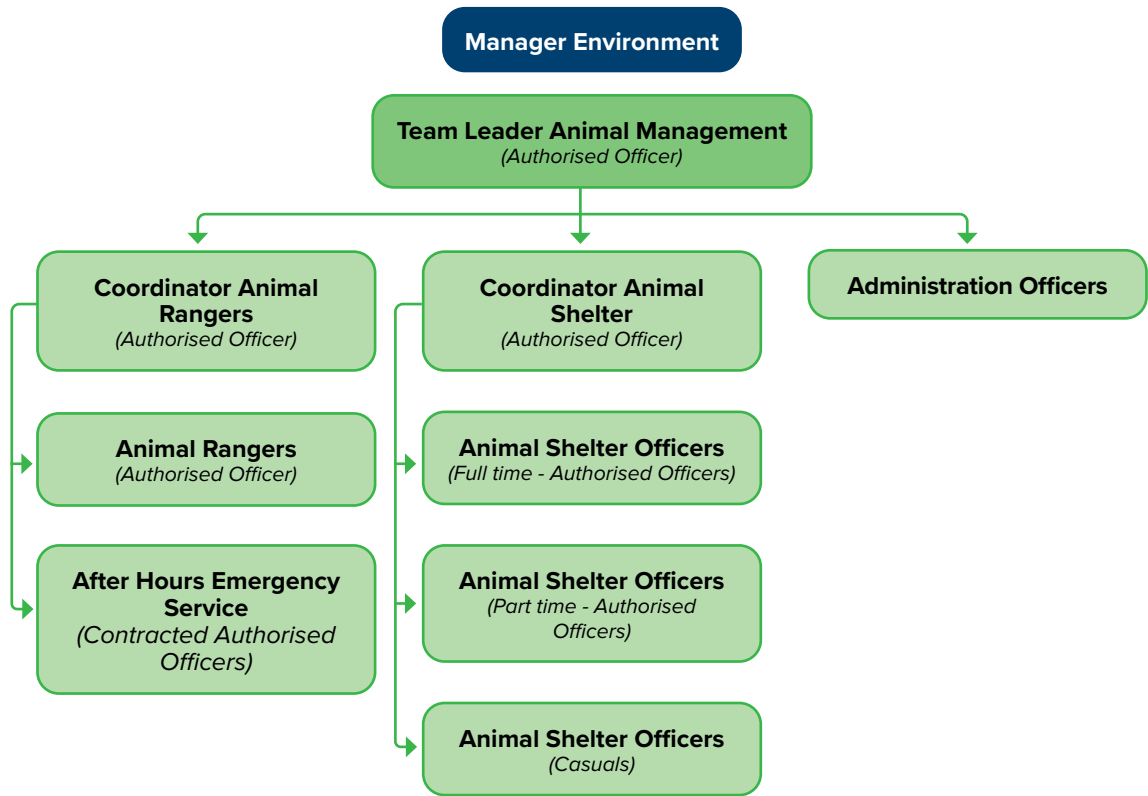
2. Training of Authorised Officers

Contact and current situation

The Animal Management team consists of the following positions, with many being Authorised officers under the Act.

All officers authorised under the Act are required to hold the qualifications and experience relevant for their position to ensure that they can properly

administer and enforce the Act. The functions and responsibilities of the Animal Management team is driven by legislation and requires specialist skills and knowledge to meet its statutory obligations including to protect public health and wellbeing, community safety, general amenity and the natural and built environment.



Council takes a continuous improvement approach to maintaining staff training and education by regularly refreshing knowledge and skills, completing annual performance and development plans tailored to each officer's needs, identifying key focus opportunities, keeping up to date with emerging issues and

practices, and implementing industry best-practice and continuous improvement initiatives.

Animal Management currently completes the following programs to ensure Officers are adequately trained including:

Program / Service

- ✓ Induction for all new staff
- ✓ Annual training and support for Officers to increase their qualifications
- ✓ Annual performance reviews for individual officers

Our plan to train Authorised Officers

Considering the above, the activities and objectives for the next four years are listed in the below table.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Objective 2.1 Maintain a training matrix for individual officers including proposed and completed training		
Maintain a skills matrix for each staff member that records completed training and identified training	Annually	Annual review of the matrix to ensure its accuracy, includes training identified in the Position Description, annual Performance Development Review, emerging issues and practices and is timely to ensure adequate budget consideration
Objective 2.2 All new authorised officers have completed the minimum training requirements		
Identify training requirements for authorised officers upon commencement	Ongoing	Review training matrix and ensure officers have been enrolled and completed the identified training.
Record when training has been completed	Ongoing	All training and certificates are recorded with Learning and Development Department
Objective 2.3 Provide annual Performance Development Review for each authorised officer including additional training opportunities		
Complete annual Performance Development Reviews for each staff member	Annually	Annual training review undertaken by Supervisors
Identify additional (non-mandatory) training opportunities eg. Skills gaps, emerging issues and trends, legislative changes, prosecution, animal behaviour, advanced conflict management		Skills matrix updated to include newly identified training



3. Programs to promote and encourage responsible pet ownership and compliance

Context and current situation

Responsible pet ownership means providing lifelong care for a pet's wellbeing while ensuring it does not harm the community or environment. Dogs and cats can offer companionship and health benefits, but problems can arise if animals are not desexed, properly trained, or not properly contained.

Council emphasises education, appropriate pet selection, training, enrichment, desexing, microchipping, registration, and pet containment through media campaigns, supporting educational material and first-time conversations with pet owners. Council will rely on compliance and enforcement where necessary. Council does not tolerate repeated behaviour that puts the safety of the community at risk.

Education helps ensure pets contribute positively to the community. Before buying or adopting a dog or cat, owners should choose a species, breed, age

and size suited to their circumstances, and older residents are encouraged to plan for their pet's future if considering aged care or retirement living.

Owners are encouraged to provide appropriate training and enrichment to keep pets healthy, happy and well behaved.

Council continues to operate the Shepparton Animal Shelter, providing opportunities to strengthen a proactive approach to responsible pet ownership that is tailored to the needs of the community. The Shepparton Animal Shelter allows residents the option of surrendering their animal if they are no longer willing or able to care for their animal and allows residents to deliver stray and wandering animals into care. The facility is 30 years old and requires constant maintenance. Council continues to investigate the feasibility of a new facility.

Council currently delivers a range of animal management programs and services including:

Program / Service

- ✓ Multiple options to register animals so they can be reunited with owners
- ✓ Customer requests
- ✓ Park patrols
- ✓ Animal Rangers identify and monitor declared dogs
- ✓ Media strategy and education programs
- ✓ Shepparton Animal Shelter accepted surrendered animals, reuniting lost pets with their owners and successful adoption program
- ✓ Cat management including:
 - Cat traps available for hire to the community
 - 24-hour cat curfew
 - Mandatory desexing of cats order

Our plan to promote responsible pet ownership

Considering the above, the activities and objectives for the next four years are listed in the below table.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Objective 3.1 Educating the community about their legislative obligations surrounding responsible pet ownership		
Develop engaging web content	Year 2 and 3	Web content updated
Develop a strategic annual media plan – to educate pet owners about their responsibilities through information, social media campaigns, and park signage	Year 2 then annually	Media plan developed and implemented Annual review of information available for pet owners Annual review of education material for cat owners on the cat curfew to improve understanding and compliance
Promote external agency and organisation information, initiatives and activities where relevant	Ongoing	Number of promotions of external agencies such as Animal Welfare Victoria and Safe Cat, Safe Wildlife initiatives Update Council website and other material to include links
Attend one education event per year	Annually	Event attended
Objective 3.2 Conduct strategic enforcement activities		
Review policies, procedures and resourcing to ensure actions are targeted and is firm, proportionate and procedurally fair	Annually	Number of updates to policies and procedures Updates are aligned with Compliance and Enforcement Policy
Identify public parks where off leash dogs are regularly reported		Number of signs installed
Conduct random patrols		Number of patrols completed
Install signage at identified public parks		Reduction in number of customer complaints
Objective 3.3 Desexing scheme for pet owners		
Undertake feasibility study to introduce a free or low-cost desexing program for pet owners.	Year 2	Feasibility study completed
Submit budget bid for program	Year 2	Budget bid submitted
Implement program if budget successful	Year 3	Program implemented



4. Address over-population rates and any high euthanasia rates

Context and current situation

Over-population rates are primarily driven by undesexed animals, in particular cats. There are a number of reasons why animals remain undesexed including lack of ownership. Agriculture Victoria describes the cat overpopulation as a serious concern, as there are often more cats than can be rehomed and their unmanaged lifestyles increase the risk of disease transmission, injuries and harm to wildlife and biodiversity.

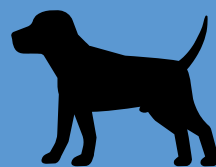
Council undertakes a range of programs and services to increase the rate of desexed animals including education, registration and the Animal Shelter adoption program which has grown significantly over the last 4 years. All cats and dogs are required to be desexed and microchipped before being made available to their new homes.

Since 2022, the Shepparton Animal Shelter provides data to Agriculture Victoria on animal admission and outcomes. This data reflects our ongoing commitment to reuniting lost animals with their owners, caring for animals when the owner surrenders the animal to Council and a successful adoption program, to find animals new homes. Animals that enter our adoption program are assessed on their behaviour and are vaccinated, desexed, microchipped and registered with Council if their new owners reside within our municipality. Council remains committed to reducing the euthanasia rate wherever possible for adoptable animals, recognising that not all animals are able to be rehomed.

Registration is an important tool to reduce high euthanasia rates as registered animals are more likely to be reunited with their owners.



63.7%
increase in cat
adoptions



73.6%
increase in dog
adoptions

Council currently delivers a range of animal management programs and services to reduce over-population and euthanasia rates including:

Program / Service
✓ Operate the Shepparton Animal Shelter including accepting surrendered animals, reuniting lost pets with their owners and adoption program
✓ Animal Rangers respond to and investigate reports regarding people breeding dogs and cats and animal hoarding
✓ Cat traps available for hire from Animal shelter (subject to availability)
✓ Animal Fate Data submitted to Agriculture Victorian annually
✓ Educate community on benefits of desexing, keeping cats and dogs confined, Pet Exchange register requirements,
✓ Detection and enforcement of illegal breeders
✓ Cat management including: • 24-hour cat curfew • Mandatory desexing of cats prior to registration

Our plan to address over population

Considering the above, the activities and objectives for the next four years are listed in the below table.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Objective 4.1 Work with the community to further reduce euthanasia rates for impounded dogs and cats		
Provide training support for pet owners to reduce undesirable behaviours in pets	Year 4	Training program developed and implemented Media campaign developed and implemented
Educate the community on the effect that feeding stray cats has on the over-population	Year 3	
Educate the community on the benefits of having their registration and microchipping details up to date – to reunite lost pets with their owners	Year 2	
Encourage dog and cat owners to surrender unwanted pets to council or shelters rather than abandoning them	Ongoing	
Promote the benefits of adopting an animal from the shelter	Ongoing	
Objective 4.2 Increase the number of animals adopted or relocated to reduce the number of cats and dogs euthanised		
Inform the community of Animal Fate data	Ongoing	Reduction in number of adoptable animals euthanised at Animal Shelter
Promote confinement of animals to owner’s premises		
Establish Section 84Y agreements with external agencies to provide options to transfer animals to other organisations which may be better equipped to manage behaviour, veterinary or breed specific requirements		
Expand foster carer program to provide care for vulnerable animals		
Objective 4.3 Review Victorian Cat Management Strategy recommendations and investigate the feasibility of implementing some of the recommendations		
Review Victorian Cat Management Strategy (VCMS) and investigate the feasibility of implementing some of the recommendations	Ongoing	Programs identified to promote VCMS outcomes
Advocate to Victorian Government to assist in implementing VCMS recommendations		



5. Registration and Identification

Context and current situation

All dogs and cats over the age of three months must be microchipped and registered within the municipality in which they reside. Animal Registration fees help fund animal management services such as the Shepparton Animal Shelter, Animal Rangers and the prosecution of serious offences such as dog attack or animal cruelty. Council is also required under the Act to pay a portion of every dog and cat registration and domestic animal business permit to the Victorian Government to fund its services. The amount payable increases each year in line with CPI. It will almost double from \$4.64 in 2025/26 to \$9 per animal registration in 2026/27.

Animal Management aims to educate the community and encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats. Across Victoria, including in Greater Shepparton, the number of registered animals is in decline. Increasing awareness of registration requirements and the benefits of registration has been identified as a priority for the team to assist in funding the vital services it provides the community.

Council currently delivers a range of animal management programs and services to increase animal registration and identification including:

Program / Service

- ✓ Ensure all animals are microchipped and registered prior to release from the Animal Shelter
- ✓ Respond to and investigate unregistered animals and undertake education and enforcement activities
- ✓ Patrol public places, such as streets, reserves and parks to check that dogs are registered
- ✓ Enforcement activities including issuing infringements or prosecutions
- ✓ Multiple avenues for owners to register and renew registration of pets
- ✓ Educate owners on why it is important to have pet microchipped

Our plan to increase registration and identification

Considering the above, the activities and objectives for the next four years are listed in the below table.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Objective 5.1 'Stop the drop' type initiative to stop the reduction in the number of dog and cat registrations		
Investigate trend analysis of registered and/or microchipped animals	Annually	Analysis completed of trend data
Review registration fees and potential incentives for long term compliant owners	Annually	Increase in the number of animals registered with Council
Provide for online registration and a range of registration payment methods	Ongoing	
Advertise pet registration renewals on webpage, council hold message, entry points of Council	Ongoing	
Domestic animal businesses and vets are provided with information on registration and identification responsibilities	Annually	Information provided annually
Community education on the importance of registering and microchipping – via events, brochures, handouts, social media, website	Ongoing	Number of events, media activities per year
Objective 5.2 Increase the number of dogs and cats registered and microchipped		
Discounted animal shelter release fee for registered animals for first admission	Ongoing	Increase in the number of animals reclaimed by their owners
Online payment options for registrations	Ongoing	Increase in the number of animals registered online
Investigate the provision of lifetime registration tags	Year 1 and 2	Lifetime tags implemented if available
Consider providing low-cost microchipping service	Year 3	Increase in the number of animals microchipped
Objective 5.3 Increase awareness among culturally and linguistically diverse communities of per registration requirements		
Produce information regarding registration and de-sexing requirements in multi-lingual formats	Year 4	Information available in multi-lingual formats



6. Nuisance

Context and current situation

Nuisance dogs and cats pose a risk to other animals and wildlife and are a common cause of neighbourhood disputes. Animal management aims to educate the community on responsible pet ownership and to provide services to minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance.

Dogs can cause a nuisance when they wander at large or are not securely confined to their property, are not kept under effective control when being walked by their owners or if their owner does not pick up their faeces. Dogs escape their property for a variety of reasons and once wandering at large, can be involved in dog attacks, dog rush incidents or be injured or killed on our roads. Wandering dogs can also cause community members to feel unsafe.

Cats can cause a nuisance when they are allowed to wander off their owner's property, or when they are semi-owned or are unowned and left to breed and catch wildlife. Unowned or semi-owned cats can also spread diseases such as cat flu, ringworm or toxoplasmosis. While Council introduced a 24-hour cat curfew in 1996, over the last few years, the number of cats found wandering at large and surrendered to the shelter remains constant, with many animals not being registered and/or microchipped to their owners.

Dogs that bark excessively can be a great source of irritation to neighbours and Council's barking dog resolution process aims at reducing barking while maintaining neighbourly relations. Animal Rangers continue to review the barking dog resolution process to ensure the process is fair for all involved.

Dog faeces left on footpaths and Council parks, cats defecating in peoples' gardens or a build-up of faeces in people's backyards or inside homes are common concerns raised by residents. This is not only smelly, unsightly and unpleasant but can also be a hazard to the health of people and animals. Faeces can be slow to decompose and can spread diseases and parasites to other animals or people. Council's Local Law requires residents to pick up after their animals and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1994 requires animals to be kept in an area without excessive faeces.



1130
nuisance
animal reports
2024/25

Animal Management provides a range of services and programs aimed at minimising the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance including:

Program / Service

- ✓ Cat traps available for hire from Animal shelter (subject to availability)
- ✓ Installation of education signage around parks and gardens advising owners to keep their dog on a leash and to pick up faeces
- ✓ Conduct random park patrols throughout the municipality for compliance
- ✓ Respond to and investigate wandering dogs, animal hoarding, barking dogs and nuisance animals and undertake education and enforcement activities
- ✓ Conduct random park patrols throughout the municipality for compliance
- ✓ Conduct enforcement activities including issuing infringements and prosecutions

Our plan to address nuisance animals

Considering the above, the activities and objectives for the next four years are listed in the below table.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Objective 6.1 Increase cat trapping initiatives of stray or trespassing cats		
Audit and purchase extra cat traps that are available for residents to hire	Year 3	Compare number of cat traps before and after audit
Review cat trespassing procedures	Year 2	Procedures reviewed and implemented
Objective 6.2 Continue to improve the process for dealing with barking dog complaints		
Review and update the information that Council provides to the community about barking dogs and how barking dogs complaints are handled	Annually	Annual review and information updated
Explore resource sharing with other Councils	Year 3	Collaborate with other local Councils
Objective 6.3 Educate dog owners of the importance of keeping their dogs confined or on leash and to pick up after their dogs		
Media plan developed to educate owners on responsible dog ownership	Year 2	Media plan developed and implemented
Objective 6.4 Reduce the nuisance and risks associated with the presence of dogs at large or off leash in public places		
Audit all education signage to keep dogs on leash and pick up after your dog and install signs as required	Year 1 and Year 4	Audit completed and signs installed
Increase enforcement activities in alignment with Compliance and Enforcement Policy to reduce the risk of dog attack and car accidents	Year 3	Number of infringements issued for dogs wandering at large, not being securely confined or being walked off leash
Conduct random patrols of parks for dogs wandering at large or not being walked on leash	Ongoing with an increase in Year 4	Number of patrols conducted
Investigate future off leash dog parks	Year 2	Investigation completed Implement findings



7. Dog Attacks

Context and current situation

Dog attacks on people and animals have the potential to cause serious injury or death. They can occur in the dog's own home, or when the dog is wandering at large. Animal Rangers are trained and skilled in conducting investigations into dog attack and dog rush incidents and can result in the dog owner being charged in a criminal case and the attacking dog seized and potentially euthanised or declared a dangerous dog. Dog attacks that cause serious injury or death are the most common reason Animal Management prosecutes an animal owner.

Unfortunately, even with the increase in enforcement activities, dog attack incidents continue to increase, with a majority being caused by the attacking dog not being securely confined to their property. Reducing the risk of dog attacks relies heavily on dog owners being responsible for their own animals, being proactive with their training, ensuring their fencing remains secure and keeping their dogs on leash when outside their property.

Animal Management continues to work towards reducing the number of dog attacks by increasing its education and enforcement activities. Community members are encouraged to report dog attack and dog rush incidents to Council and information on the investigation process is available on Council's website.

Animal Rangers continue to educate the community and dog owners on their responsibilities including prosecuting owners for dog attack to protect the community and act as a deterrent to prevent future attacks.

Responsible ownership is key to prevention

Four simple prevention actions:

1.

Maintain secure fencing

2.

Train dogs appropriately

3.

Keep dogs on leash outside the property

4.

Keep dogs confined to the property

Council currently delivers a range of animal management programs and services to reduce dog attacks including:

Program / Service
✓ Installation of education signage around parks and gardens advising owners to keep their dog on a leash to reduce dog attacks at Council parks
✓ Educate the community on dog attack prevention, how to report dog attacks and dog attack penalties through information available on its website, media campaigns and advertising prosecution outcomes
✓ Conduct random park patrols throughout the municipality for compliance
✓ Respond to and investigate dog rush and dog attack reports
✓ Investigate and prepare briefs of evidence for all reported dog attack and dog rush incidents
✓ Seize dogs that have attacked and commence prosecutions where possible

Our plan relating to dog attacks

Considering the above, the activities and objectives for the next four years are listed in the below table.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Objective 7.1 Increase public awareness of safety around dogs and key dog attack prevention messages		
Education campaign to improve the awareness of safety around dogs and key dog attack prevention messages	Year 2	Media plan created and implemented
Maintain a dog attack information webpage which explains how to prevent dog attacks and how to safely interact with dogs	Year 2	Website reviewed Number of visits to website
Objective 7.2 Increased public awareness how to report dog attack and dog rush incidents and prosecution outcomes		
Develop and maintain webpage which explains: * How to report a dog attack or rush * Penalties for dog attacks * Dog attack investigation process and information for victims and dog owners * Dog attack prosecution outcomes	Year 2	Website reviewed Number of visits to website
Objective 7.3 Review dog attack investigation procedures		
Review dog attack investigation procedures to ensure best practice evidence collection, record of interview procedures, criminal procedures and other relevant legislation	Year 1 and Year 4	Procedure reviewed and up to date
Objective 7.4 Review Victims Charter and Victims Commission to ensure investigation technique includes information and considerations for victims		
Review Victims Charter and Victims commission to ensure investigation technique and brochures include information and considerations for victims	Year 1 and Year 4	Information included in procedure and brochures



8. Dangerous, Menacing and Restricted Breed Dogs

Context and current situation

Animal Management is responsible for declaring dog as dangerous, menacing or restricted breed dogs. Dogs may be declared dangerous if they attack another animal or person or if they are used or trained as a guard dog. There are strict housing and identification requirements for a dangerous dog and higher penalties for non-compliance or if the dog attacks again. Dogs may be declared menacing if they have rushed at or bitten a person, that is not of a serious nature and restricted breed dogs are dogs of a certain breed that have been restricted in Victoria.

Once an animal has been declared, the details are entered onto the Victorian Declared Dog Registry, there are strict reporting requirements and Animal Rangers will regularly inspect the owner's property for compliance.

Animal Management is committed to ensuring these dogs are declared appropriately and owners comply with the Act. Dogs can be seized and euthanised and owners prosecuted if they do not follow the requirements of the Act and regulations.

Animal Rangers continue to educate the community on declared dogs, monitoring declared dogs and prosecuting owners for non-compliance.



Council currently delivers a range of animal management programs and services to reduce nuisance animals including:

Program / Service
✓ Investigate potential declared dogs, develop and implement procedures for declaring dogs and declare dogs as required
✓ Conduct random patrols and inspections of declared dogs for compliance
✓ Conduct enforcement activities including issuing infringements or prosecutions for non-compliance

Our plan for declared dogs

Considering the above, the activities and objectives for the next four years are listed in the below table.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Objective 8.1 Procedures to assist in deciding to declare a dog dangerous, menacing or restricted breed dog to ensure the decision is procedurally fair and nonbiased		
Review procedures to assist decision making regarding the declaration process	Year 2	Procedures reviewed and amended
Objective 8.2 Declared dogs or restricted breed dogs are correctly registered		
Monitor registration applications for declared dogs or restricted breed dogs	Ongoing	Number of suspected declared dogs or registered breed dogs identified and investigated by Animal Rangers
Objective 8.3 Ensure declared dogs are compliant to relevant legislation and regulations		
Conduct random property inspections of declared dogs to ensure compliance	Ongoing	Inspections conducted at least annually
Commence enforcement for any non-compliance identified in alignment with Compliance and Enforcement Policy	Ongoing	Non-compliance identified and addressed through enforcement action
Ensure Information on the Victorian Declared dog registry is accurate and kept up to date	Annually	Database maintained and accurate
Objective 8.4 Identify and declare guard dogs in industrial areas		
Conduct patrols for unregistered guard dogs in industrial areas and declare	Year 4	Number of patrols conducted Number of dogs identified
Objective 8.5 Educate the community on what a declared dog is and the responsibilities for keeping a declared dog		
Provide up to date information about the responsibilities of owning a declared dog via Councils website	Year 3	Website updated



9. Domestic Animal Businesses

Context and current situation

The Act requires a registration and monitoring scheme of all domestic animal businesses. Under the Act, a domestic animal business includes:

- an animal shelter, Council pound or pet shop; or
- an enterprise which carries out the breeding of dogs (other than GRV greyhounds) to sell, if the enterprise has 3 or more fertile female dogs and the proprietor is not a recreational breeder; or
- an enterprise which carries out the breeding of cats to sell, if the enterprise has 3 or more fertile female cats and the proprietor is not a recreational breeder; or
- an enterprise which trains or boards dogs (other than GRV greyhounds) or cats for the purpose of profit; or
- an enterprise which rears or keeps dogs (other than GRV greyhounds) or cats;
 - o for the purpose of profit or sale; or
 - o for a fee or for exchange of services.

Domestic animal businesses are required to obtain a Domestic Animal Business permit from Council with conditions, limitations and restrictions on how the business can operate and comply with specific codes of practice that outline the minimum level of care required for animals at their facility. Animal Rangers inspect every business for compliance and can either issue work plans to rectify any issues identified, can revoke their permit or commence legal proceedings in the Magistrates Court.

Council currently has several registered Domestic Animal Business including pet shops, boarding kennels and training establishments who are required to operate under the Act and in accordance with the relevant Code of Practice. Council does not have any registered commercial dog breeders in the municipality.

Animal Rangers also investigate complaints about a registered domestic animal business or reports of a business that involves dogs and cats and animal breeders to ensure they comply with their legislative requirements.

Our plan for domestic animal businesses

Considering the above, the activities and objectives for the next four years are listed in the below table.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Objective 9.1 Inspect and audit all registered Domestic Animal Businesses and investigate any complaints about a registered domestic animal business		
Inspect and audit all registered domestic animal businesses and complete any required actions (eg: work plans, notice to comply, enforcement)	Annually	All domestic animal businesses are audited and any actions completed
Ensure all Domestic Animal Business permits are renewed before 10 April each year	Annually	All permits renewed
Objective 9.2 Identify and register all Domestic Animal Businesses in the municipality and work towards compliance		
Identify all businesses that should be registered DABs in the municipality, including businesses selling pets / pet products / services in the municipality then follow up to determine whether they are and should be registered with council	Ongoing	Number of Domestic Animal Businesses identified
Monitor Councils' registration database for owners with more than 3 fertile females	Ongoing	Number of properties identified
Animal Rangers inspect properties with excess animals for compliance with Local Laws and breeding legislation	Ongoing	Number of excess animal requests completed
Objective 9.3 Audit Pet Exchange register and search websites and advertisements for persons keeping more than three entire females (without Applicable Organisation membership) or breeding and selling dogs and cats		
Conduct searches for unregistered domestic animal businesses via the internet, media and news papers	Ongoing	Audit conducted
Objective 9.4 Develop procedure for dealing with VCAT cases and domestic animal business prosecutions		
Develop procedures for dealing with VCAT cases and prosecutions	Year 4	Procedure developed and implemented
Objective 9.5 Ensure all Domestic Animal Businesses are compliant with the Planning Scheme		
Work closely with Council's planning department regarding Domestic Animal Business requirements and investigate planning permit issues for domestic animals	Ongoing	Number of Domestic Animal Businesses made compliant under the planning scheme



10. Other matters

Council must outline any other matters related to the management of dogs and cats in their municipal district that it thinks necessary.

10.1 Animal Shelter Facility

Context and current situation

The current Shepparton Animal Shelter located at 125 Wanganui Road Shepparton on the existing transfer station site was opened in 2002. The shelter cares for over 2000 lost and surrendered animals per year, including dogs, cats, guinea pigs, rabbits, ferrets, birds, poultry and livestock. The facility is showing signs of age and no longer meets the level of service the community expects.

In 2024 a feasibility study was undertaken to examine the cost, location and service provision for a new facility. This study will be followed by a business case.

Our plan for new animal shelter facility

Considering the above, the activities and objectives for the next four years are listed in the below table.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Objective 10.1.1 Continue the project for a new animal shelter facility		
Complete a business case for a new facility	Year 1 and Year 2	Business case completed
Investigate grant funding available to support a new Animal Shelter facility	Ongoing	Investigation and grant funding applications submitted
Progress next stages for a new animal shelter facility	Ongoing	Project continues in progress
Objective 10.1.2 Audit the current animal shelter facility for compliance with the relevant legislation and Code of Practice		
Audit the current animal shelter facility for compliance with the relevant legislation and Code of Practice	Annually	Annual audit completed
Prepare business case and submissions for ongoing maintenance or capital works to maintain shelter in accordance with relevant legislation	Annually	Business case and submissions completed

10.2 Prosecutions and Infringements

Context and current situation

Animal management utilised several enforcement tools to seek compliance with the Act including:

- Preparing briefs of evidence and bringing criminal charges in the Magistrates Court for the most serious offences or for Local Laws offences;
- Issuing Infringement notices with a monetary penalty; and
- Issuing Official warnings with no monetary penalty.

The number of prosecutions being brought before the Magistrates Court for serious animal related offences such as dog attack causing serious injury or death and animal cruelty continues to increase.

One strategy being implemented is to increase the number of infringements being issued for lesser offences as a deterrent against more serious offending. Infringements that are unpaid are either referred to Fines Victoria for collection, management and enforcement or proceeds to the Magistrates Court for determination.

Our plan for prosecutions and infringements

Considering the above, the activities and objectives for the next four years are listed in the below table.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Objective 10.2.1 Prepare Briefs of evidence for all alleged serious offences for possible prosecution		
Prepare Briefs of evidence for all alleged serious offences for possible prosecution	Ongoing	Number of briefs of evidence prepared versus the number of alleged serious offences identified
Objective 10.2.2 Increase the number of infringements for lesser offences such as dog wandering at large and failing to register as a deterrent against more serious offences such as dog attack		
Increase the number of Infringements as a deterrent for more serious offences in alignment with the Compliance and Enforcement Policy	Ongoing	Number of infringements issued
Objective 10.2.3 Ensure infringement and enforcement processes continue to meet legislative requirements		
Review Infringement module processes including templates, timelines, internal review processes, elect to go to court processes, evidence collection to ensure it continues to meet legislative requirements	Annually or as legislation changes	Review conducted, templates updated and software amended as required
Review infringement section of website to ensure it continues to meet legislative requirements	Annually or as legislation changes	Review conducted and website amended as required
Review Enforcement Guidelines	Year 3	Enforcement Guidelines reviewed
Ensure advice is provided in various languages	Year 1	Template document developed and implemented

10.3 Social pressures

Context and current situation

Owning a dog or cat can have many benefits, from companionship to encouraging exercise and social interactions. However, various social pressures can have a negative effect on the owners and animals' health and welfare including:

- Cost of living
- Homelessness
- Domestic violence

The Shepparton Animal Shelter provides a safe place for all domestic animals and livestock and accepts any surrendered animal from residents. The shelter cares for approximately 150 dogs, 300 cats and various other surrendered animals per year. Staff are sensitive to each person's situation and ensure confidentiality and privacy as per legislation. If staff become aware of a potential domestic or family violence situation for a surrendered animal, animals may be relocated to other facilities.

Animal Rangers respond to requests if owners require assistance in surrendering their animals and work closely with RSPCA Inspectors to investigate situations where animals may be abandoned, neglected or injured.

Our plan for social pressures

Considering the above, the activities and objectives for the next four years are listed in the below table.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Objective 10.3.1 Support people and animals experiencing cost of living pressures, homelessness or family or domestic violence		
Investigate options to support people and animals experiencing homelessness, family violence or cost of living pressures	Year 3	Options identified and considered for potential budget submissions
Develop and implement procedures for Hardship Applications	Year 3	Procedure developed and implemented
Identify and strengthen internal and external referral support networks and protocols	Year 4	Networks identified and strengthened

10.4 Emergency Animal Management

Context and current situation

The Animal Management team plays an important role providing support to domestic animals and livestock in emergency situations. During the 2022 flood, the team provided animal welfare support at the Emergency Relief Centres, rescued animals caught up in flood water, continued to respond to urgent animal management situations and continued to care for the animals at the Shepparton Animal Shelter.

The arrangements and procedures for this service are outlined in the Victorian Emergency Animal Welfare Plan and Councils Emergency Animal Welfare Sub plan.

Our plan for emergency animal management

Considering the above, the activities and objectives for the next four years are listed in the below table.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Objective 10.4.1 Ensure Councils Emergency Animal Welfare Sub Plan is maintained and available		
Review and update Council's Emergency Animal Welfare Sub-Plan for animals in emergency situations	Year 3	Plan reviewed and updated
Establish contact with VFF and local DEECA Animal Health Officers and update contact lists, in case of emergencies	Year 3	Contacts updated
Investigate 84Y agreements with neighbouring Councils for housing of animals during an emergency	Ongoing	Number of 84Y agreements executed
Investigate resources required to meet Emergency Animal Welfare Sub Plan objectives	Year 4	Resources identified for implementation of Emergency Animal Welfare Sub Plan
Objective 10.4.2 Promote emergency animal welfare planning within the community		
Develop and implement a media plan to promote emergency animal welfare planning within the community	Year 4	Emergency planning information available on website and promoted to community

10.5 Preventing animal cruelty and abandonment

Context and current situation

The Animal Management team are authorised Inspectors under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986* and work closely with RSPCA Inspectors to respond to and investigate animal welfare matters, including cruelty, neglect and abandonment. Animal Rangers may issue notices to owners or seize animals to ensure they receive appropriate veterinary treatment or other care.

The Shepparton Animal Shelter provides care for all animals where their owners are no longer able or willing to care for them and provides a safe environment for animals that may have been abused, neglected or abandoned. Animal Shelter Officers and Animal Rangers also investigate cases of alleged cruelty, neglect and injured animals admitted to the Shepparton Animal Shelter.

Our plan for preventing animal cruelty and abandonment

Considering the above, the activities and objectives for the next four years are listed in the below table.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Objective 10.5.1 Identify strategies to address causes of animal abandonment		
Promote Shepparton Animal Shelter as the place to surrender animals	Year 2	Media plan developed and implemented
Identify strategies to educate the community on the risks of animal abandonment	Year 3	Strategies identified and implemented
Objective 10.5.2 Review and implement procedures for investigating animal cruelty, animal welfare and abandonment situations in accordance with state legislation and codes of practice		
Review, develop and implement procedures for investigating animal cruelty, welfare and abandonment situations	Ongoing	Procedures reviewed, developed and implemented



11. Annual review of plan and annual reporting

Council must review its plan annually and, if appropriate, amend the plan in accordance with section 68A(3) of the Act. Council must then provide a copy of the plan to the Secretary of the Department of

Emergency, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) and publish a review of the Plan's implementation in Councils Annual Report.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Objective 11.1 Animal Management adequately addresses the requirement of the Act and Regulations		
Review data against the actions set out in the plan	Annually	Review completed, published in Council's annual report, Plan amended and provided to Secretary
Publish the outcome of the review in Council's Annual Report		
Make changes to the Plan as required and submit to the Secretary		



12. Appendix

Appendix 1: Domestic Animal Management Plans

The following is section 68A of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* which outlines Councils requirements for a Domestic Animal Management Plan.

Domestic Animals Act 1994 - Section 68A

(1) Subject to subsection (1A), each Council must, in consultation with the Secretary, prepare a domestic animal management plan on 4 December 2021 and at the end of each period of 4 years after that day.

(1A) A Council may apply to the Secretary for an extension of time within which to prepare a domestic animal management plan.

(1B) The Secretary may grant an extension of time under subsection (1A) if the Secretary believes that special circumstances exist that warrant the granting of an extension.

(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.

Appendix 2: Dogs on leash and off leash dog parks

On 23 November 2021, Council made an order under section 26(2) of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*. This order is effective from 24 November 2021.

1. Revocation of all previous orders

All previous orders made by Council under section 26(2) of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* are revoked.

2. Prohibited Areas

A dog must not enter or remain in any **Prohibited Area** regardless of whether the dog is on a chain, cord or leash or otherwise controlled or not controlled.

3. Dogs must be on leash

The **owner** of any dog must keep the dog restrained by means of a chain, cord or leash not greater than 3 metres in length, and is attached to the dog when the dog is:

- i. in any reserve, or area other than a Designated Area; or
- ii. in any **Public Place** in the municipality.

and the chain, cord or leash must be either held by or attached to the owner of the dog or securely fastened to a post or other fixture and the dog remains under sight or voice control by the owner.

4. Dogs in Designated Area

Subject to clause 5 and clause 6, a dog may be exercised in a **Designated Area**:

- i. if the **owner** of a dog:
 - i. is 18 years of age or older;
 - ii. has their dog on a leash, of no more than 3 metres in length, and be attached to the **owner**, before entering and exiting the **Designated Area**;
 - iii. remains inside the fenced area with their dog at all times;
 - iv. cleans up after their dog and place faeces inside a plastic bag into the bin provided;

- v. must not behave in an offensive, violent, threatening or intimidating manner; and
- vi. must immediately remove their dog from this area if the dog shows signs of aggression or mating behaviour;

ii. A dog may be exercised off a chain, cord or leash within the **Designated Area** if the owner of a **dog**;

- i. carries a chain, cord or leash sufficient to bring the dog under effective control by placing the dog on a chain, cord or leash;
- ii. has effective voice and/or hand control of the dog and is within constant sight of the dog so as to be able to promptly bring the dog under control by placing the dog on a chain, cord or leash;

iii. An **owner** a dog must ensure that the dog;

- i. is not allowed to worry, rush at, bite, attack or otherwise threaten any person or animal;
- ii. is not on heat and is prevented from breeding or attempt to breed with any other dog;
- iii. is prevented from causing damage and or injury to any person or animal;
- iv. is prevented from digging, burrowing or otherwise disturbing turf, grassed areas or the earth in any way;
- v. is restrained and prevented from damaging property or Council assets;
- vi. is up to date with their Vaccinations; and
- vii. wears a collar or harness and current registration tag at all times.

iv. Any **person** in the **Designated Area** must;

- i. comply with all conditions of entry, directions or requirements for use of the Designated Area, as signposted by Council; and
- ii. comply with all requirements or directions given by an authorised officer under the Act.

5. Restriction on number of dogs

A **person** or **owner** must not have more than two (2) dogs under the person's apparent control (whether on or off leash) in a **Public Place** or **Designated Area** at any one time.

6. Non-application to specified dogs or greyhounds

- i. Clause 2 of this Order does not apply to Guide dogs, Guide dogs in training, Guide dog puppies and accredited service dogs.
- ii. Clause 4 of this Order does not apply to any dog which has been declared a dangerous dog, menacing dog or restricted breed dog under the Act, or to a greyhound that must be restrained in accordance with the restraint requirements at section 27 of the Act.
- iii. Clauses 3, 4 and 5 of this Order do not apply to a dog in any of the circumstances listed in section 20(2) of the Act.

7. Meaning of words

In this Order:

Act means the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*.

Council means *Greater Shepparton City Council*

Designated Area means any of the following reserves or part of the reserves;

- Ducat Reserve, Patterson Road Shepparton, within the fenced area signposted by Council as the 'off leash dog park'.
- Princess Park, Nixon Street Shepparton, within the fenced area signposted by Council as the 'off leash dog park'.

owner includes a person in apparent control of the dog at the time.

person means a natural person.

Prohibited Area means an area (including an area on or between specified times and on or between specified dates) described as;

- any children's playground; and
- within ten (10) metres of the perimeter of any children's playground.

Public Place has the meaning given to it in the Summary Offences Act 1966, but does not include a public place that is on private land.

Appendix 2: Cat desexing Order

On 05 June 2006, Council made an order under section 10A(1) of the Domestic Animals Act 1994. This order is effective from 5 June 2008.

Pursuant to section 10A(1) of the Domestic (Feral and Nuisance) Animals Act 1994, the Council, at a meeting held on 5 June 2006, resolved that all cats registered with the Council after 10 April 2008 be desexed unless exempt under Section 10B of the Domestic (Feral and Nuisance) Animals Act 1994.

Appendix 3: Cat curfew Order

In 1996 Council made an order under section 25 of the Domestic Animals Act 1994. This Order is effective from 19 December 1996.

Council by Order under section 25 of the Domestic (Feral and Nuisance) Animals Act 1994 has resolved that cats are prohibited from being at large outside the premise of the owner at any hour during the day or night within the municipality of the Greater Shepparton City Council. The order will come into effect the day it is printed in the Government Gazette.

Appendix 4: Local Laws

In 2018, Council made Local Laws pursuant to section 111 of the *Local Government Act 1989* and section 42 of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*. The Local Law included clauses relating to:

- The numbers of animals that can be kept on a property without Local laws permits
- The Cleanliness of animal housing areas on private properties
- That a person must carry a suitable receptacle for the removal of excrement or faeces on Council land

<https://greater-shepparton.com.au/council/local-laws/read-our-local-laws>



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A hearing loop is also available at Council's customer service centre and Council meeting rooms.



Interpreter service available.