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ANIMAL MANAGEMENT POLICY

1. SCOPE

This policy covers Council's level of service and obligations towards animal management according to legislative requirements.
It also provides clear direction on Council's expectations from the community for responsible dog ownership as required by the *Dog Control Act 2000*.
Dead animals, roadkill, invasive species or pests are not the subject of this policy.
This policy does not cover animal welfare incidents, but Council will communicate and cooperate with agencies that have statutory responsibility for this.

2. PURPOSE

To ensure the safe ownership and management of animals within the community, and to provide clear direction on the Council's and community member's roles in accordance with the available legislation.
The policy aims to take into account the value animal ownership can make to a community, educate those involved, and reduce conflict between animal owners and non-owners.

3. POLICY STATEMENT

3.1. Council will supply and maintain signage at appropriate access points to clearly identify declared areas.
3.2. Council will administer all provisions of the *Dog Control Act 2000* within available resource allocation and consistent with its priorities for service provision.
3.3. In administering the provision of the *Dog Control Act 2000* the value of education and the delivery of information for dog owners and non-dog owners is the first guiding principal to be adopted by Council staff. Regulatory measures will be used in conjunction with education, based on the nature of the offence and circumstance.
3.4. Council will work together with the community to reduce the risk from anti-social and straying dogs, and non-compliant ownership, through education, routine patrols, enforcement measures, and the prompt investigation of concerns and complaints of dog-related issues.
3.5. Council will provide an emergency out-of-hours service to respond to reports of dog attacks and dogs at large that are causing a traffic hazard on a major road and, where a dog at large has been restrained within a property, arrange collection for the next working day when practicable.
3.6. Council will provide dog exercise areas that recognise the needs of people and their dogs, taking into account any negative impacts on the environment.
3.7. Council will actively support and promote responsible dog ownership as defined by the Code of Responsible Dog Ownership.
3.8. It is the responsibility of all dog owners to be aware of and comply with the Code of Responsible Dog Ownership.
3.9. Council will develop and maintain a dog management fee structure.

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3.10. The management of cats, outside of Council controlled land, is not the responsibility of Council.

4. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Relevant legislation includes:

(a) *Dog Control Act 2000*
(b) *Cat Management Act 2009*
(c) *Local Government Act 1993*
(d) *Law of Animals Act 1962*
(e) *Animal Welfare Act 1993*
(f) *Local Government Act 1993*

5. REFERENCES AND RELATED DOCUMENTS

Animal Management Policy Guidelines CG019
APPENDIX A - Code for Responsible Dog Ownership
APPENDIX B – Declared Areas
APPENDIX C – Declared Areas - Cats