



## **ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**2012-2017**

**DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO  
SECTION 26A  
OF THE  
DOG AND CAT MANAGEMENT ACT 1995**

# WATTLE RANGE COUNCIL ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

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## 1. Executive Summary

This Animal Management Plan has been prepared by the Wattle Range Council in partnership with the Dog and Cat Management Board in response to Council's responsibilities under the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995. This plan will set the direction for the management of urban animals within Wattle Range Council over the next five years.

The plan identifies strategies and actions to implement the mission, aims and objectives for domestic animal management and to create an environment that encourages responsible pet ownership, where people and pets integrate safely and harmoniously within the Council area.

This plan contains recommendations for a wide range of actions to be undertaken by the Council in a programmed approach. These actions will enable Council to maintain a balance between competing interests and to reposition domestic animal management to accommodate new requirements.

Council's Community Plan 2009-2014 requires Council to provide services that enhance a healthy lifestyle and provide social, economic, and environmental benefits to the people of the Wattle Range Council area.

### **The Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 and Regulations**

The Dog and Cat Management Act brought a new legal framework to South Australia in the management of dogs and cats.

The objectives of the Act are to:

- Encourage responsible dog and cat ownership;
- Reduce public and environmental nuisance caused by dogs and cats; and
- To promote the effective management of dogs and cats.

The Act has prescriptive requirements for dog and cat owners, with Councils having the responsibility to enforce these requirements. Some areas of responsibility include:

- To register dogs
- To have dogs under effective control
- To prevent dogs from attacking/harassing
- To prevent noise nuisances from dogs
- To clean up after dogs in public places
- The ability to issue dog control orders

If breaches are detected owners can face penalties and orders.

### **By-Laws**

Wattle Range Council has one By-law under the Dog and Cat Management Act to address dog management issues.

This is By-law 5 which covers the following provisions:

- Limit on dog numbers (with exemption from limits for kennels)
- Dog free areas
- Dog on lease areas
- Dog exercise areas
- Orders

Animal control has widened into a greater array of contexts following the introduction of the Act. Knowledge of both animal and human behaviours is now a requirement for those working in this field. There is growing recognition that enforcement of laws will not, on its own, result in lasting, voluntary changes in behaviour. Enforcement activities need to be supplemented by a range of non-regulatory approaches such as public education and improved signage.

There is now considerable evidence to support our understanding of the benefits of owning pets. This implies a potentially new role for the Council in harnessing the benefits of pet ownership or at least maintaining the ability of the community to continue to own dogs and cats. In this new environment, it is essential that Council take a strategic approach to managing domestic pets in the community. This strategy will provide Council with a sound basis and direction from which it can plan, co-ordinate and make future decisions to meet the needs of the community over the next five years.

### **3. Vision Statement**

“To promote responsible pet ownership whilst recognising that companion animals are part of the community, contributing to its quality of life, and to ensure that the needs of animals and their owners are accommodated while recognising the differing needs of non- pet owners within the Wattle Range Council area.”

### **4. Aims**

Wattle Range Council aims to:

- Promote responsible dog and cat ownership;
- To educate and encourage responsible dog and cat ownership
- Provide for the welfare and safety of dogs and cats;
- Ensure public safety and enhance the amenity and environment and provide for the needs of pets, owners and non pet owners;
- Harness the benefits of dog and cat ownership.

### **5. Objectives**

#### ***Promote responsible dog and cat ownership***

- Provide access to information and materials related to responsible pet ownership.

- Encourage desexing and micro chipping
- Obtain maximum registration and identification of pets to facilitate reuniting pets to owners where possible.
- Encourage and promote appropriate pet numbers

***Provide for the welfare and safety of dogs and cats***

- Encourage pet owners to undertake routine preventative measures such as vaccination, worming, and other forms of parasite control.
- Policing of provisions of Dog and Cat Management Act
- Policing of identification and registration of dogs and cats to enable reunion of lost pets with their owners and control of unowned animals.
- Maintain adequate local impoundment facilities for temporary protection of lost or unowned animals.
- Ensure the provision of prompt veterinary attention to sick or injured animals.
- Promote de-sexing of dogs and cats through differential registration fees, incentive schemes.
- Provide advice and facilities to deal with unwanted pets.

***Increase public safety and enhance the amenity and environment and provide for the needs of pets, pet owners and non pet owners***

- Provide easy access to public open space areas for regular utilisation by animal owners.
- Ensure that all areas are furnished with adequate signage.
- Reduce the number of dogs wandering at large to minimise public nuisance and increase public safety.
- Reduce the number of dog attacks and harassments on humans and livestock through education and encouraging the reporting of all dog attacks.

***Harness the benefits of dog and cat ownership***

- Inform the community of the social and economic benefits of pet ownership to the community.
- By educating pet owners in responsible ownership.

## **6. Policy context**

The Wattle Range Council Community Plan 2009-2014 is Council's principal strategic planning document. The plan sets the overall vision and mission of Council and coupled with Council Annual Business Plan highlights Council's specific goals and key actions. The development of this management plan is undertaken within the overall strategic and business planning framework of Council and has regard to this framework.

Wattle Range Council's Vision is:

*“ Wattle Range Council will be recognised for the quality of life enjoyed by the community in a vibrant and prosperous Region”*

While The Animal Management Plan is not mentioned specifically in Councils Community Plan 2009-2014, Strategic Direction 3 – Community Well Being states as a Strategy:

*“ Foster community safety in the planning and delivery of Council services”*

And as a Strategic Action:

*“ Provide and promote the effective management of animals within the community”*

## 7. Strategic Objectives

### 7.1 Promote responsible dog and cat ownership

Strategy	Action	Timeframe	Responsible officer	KPI
Provide access to information and materials related to responsible pet ownership.	Promote responsible animal management websites: <a href="http://www.animalwelfare.com.au">www.animalwelfare.com.au</a> <a href="http://www.rspcasa.asn.au">www.rspcasa.asn.au</a> <a href="http://www.dogssa.com.au">www.dogssa.com.au</a> <a href="http://www.petnet.com.au">www.petnet.com.au</a>		MP&CR	Links are on Council's Web site
Encourage de-sexing and micro chipping.	Offer rebated for dog registrations for concession cards de-sexing micro chipping and training	Annually	DMOs	Increase in the percentage dogs that are de-sexed or micro-chipped
Obtain maximum registration and identification of pets to facilitate reuniting pets to owners where possible.	Identify and implement easier and innovative ways to facilitate registration renewals.  Conduct regular door knocks to identify unregistered dogs	June 2014  Annually	MP&CR  DMOs	5% increase in percentage of renewals made on time.  10% increase in number of dogs registered.
Encourage and promote appropriate pet numbers	Promote and educate dog owners on the Council Bylaw limiting dog numbers and relevance of breed, property size and open space.	Ongoing	DMOs	Number of exemptions issued. Relevant info. developed and promoted Increase in number of properties with 2 or fewer dogs.

## 7.2 Provide for the welfare and safety of dogs and cats

Strategy	Action	Timeframe	Responsible officer	KPI
Encourage pet owners to undertake routine preventative measures such as vaccination, worming, and other forms of parasite control.	Develop partnerships with local vets to improve communications with local pet owners through the distribution of information	June 2013	DMOs	Increase in numbers seeking vaccinations Information provided by Vets
Policing of provisions of Dog and Cat Management Act.	Council will appoint a Registrar and at least one DMO and ensure that these officers are trained and equipped to undertake their respective duties.	Annually	Council	Appointment made in accordance with Act.
	Council will maintain a Dog Register which is current and represents the known ownership and dog details of all dogs in the community.	Annually	CSOs	Dog Register available.
	Maintain current DMO resources.	Ongoing	Council	Budget papers
	DMOs to attend regular training through attendance at conferences and identified training	Ongoing	MP&CR	Training records
	Council will monitor all public places for compliance with the provision of the Act on an ad-hoc basis.	Ongoing	DMOs	5% reduction in number of complaints
	Council will develop an assessment process to determine when a dog is barking "to such a degree or extent that it is unreasonably interferes with the peace, comfort or convenience of a	2014	DMOs	Assessment procedure in place

	person”			
Policing of identification and registration of dogs and cats to enable reunion of lost pets with their owners and control of un-owned animals.	Educate the community on the prescribe identification of dogs i.e. current registration.	Ongoing	DMOs	Education material developed. 5%Reduction in number of unregistered dogs.
Maintain adequate local impoundment facilities for temporary protection of lost or un-owned animals.	Review the pound facilities as per House- keeping Audit on regular basis	Monthly	DMOs	Audits conducted monthly
Ensure the provision of prompt veterinary attention to sick or injured animals.	Monitor health of dogs at pound on a daily basis. Maintain a good working relationship with local vet	Ongoing	DMOs	
Promote de-sexing of dogs and cats through differential registration fees, incentive schemes.	Provide differential registration fees for de-sexed dogs.	Ongoing	DMOs	5% increase in number of dogs registered as de-sexed or microchipped
Provide advice and facilities to deal with unwanted pets.	Maintain existing pound facilities. Liaise with RSPCA S.A to assist with re-housing of dogs.	Ongoing	DMOs	

**7.3 Increase public safety and enhance the amenity and environment and provide for the needs of pets, pet owners and non per owners**

Strategy	Action	Timeframe	Responsible Officer	KPI
Provide easy access to public open space areas for regular utilisation by animal owners.	Identify and update dog on leash, off leash, dog park and prohibited activity area throughout the Wattle Range Council area.	2014	Council	Open space areas identified and promoted to community
	Ensure that all areas are furnished with adequate signage.	2014	MP&CR	
Reduce the	Educate owners of their	Ongoing	DMOs	Number of



number of dogs wandering at large to minimise public nuisance and increase public safety.	responsibilities to contain their animals.  Encourage dog owners to use faeces bags/bins provided or to use their own plastic bags for faeces removal.	Ongoing	DMOs	dogs collected as WAL reduces each year.
	Animals Management Officers will: - Conduct random patrols of public areas - Respond to calls of dogs and livestock wandering at large - Impound unidentified dogs and livestock - Apply penalties prescribed by the Act.	Ongoing	DMOs	Council maintains a 24hr/day 7 days/week service.
Reduce the number of dog attacks and harassments on humans and livestock through education and encouraging the reporting of all dog attacks.	Investigate dog attacks/harassment complaints in line with standard operating procedures.	Ongoing	DMOs	Number of attacks reduces each year
	Provide educational material and undertake referral to other agencies in relation to responsible dog ownership.	Ongoing	DMOs	

### ***7.4 Harness the benefits of dog and cat ownership***

<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>		
Inform the community of the social and economic benefits of pet ownership to the community.	Promote to the community the benefits of pet ownership through educational materials such as: - Dog and Cat Management Boards publication "You and Your Dog" and "You and Your Cat" - Animal Welfare league Brochures "Living Happily with Your Dog" - Canine Companion of SA.	Ongoing	MP&CR	Web site links established and promotional material available to community
By educating pet owners in responsible ownership.	Provide links to other relevant agencies and web pages to promote dog and cat information	June 2013	IT Dept.	

## 8. Resources

The Act requires that revenues raised from the provisions of the Act shall be applied to animal management of the area.

Revenue is derived from two principle sources, from registrations and from expiation fines for breeches to the provisions of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995. Dog registration fees and expiation fees are set down in the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995.

### Strategy:

1. The performance of the Council on the achievement of the Strategies, Actions and Key Performance Indicators ("Key Performance Indicators" are quantitative and qualitative statistical information used to assess how successfully objectives are being achieved) set in this Plan will be reported on in the Annual Report of the Council.
2. The funding of this Plan will be by adoption of the year's program in the Annual Business Plan and Budget of the Council.
- 3.

## 9. Internal Review

In accordance with Section 44 of the Local Government Act 1999, a person who is dissatisfied with a decision which has been taken by the Council, Council employee or a person acting on behalf of the Council may apply in writing to the Chief Executive Officer or have that decision reviewed.

A request for review of a decision by Council, Council employee or a person acting on behalf of the Council decision will be formally acknowledged within 5 days of receipt, including advice to applicant about the timeframe for dealing with the matter. In most cases application for review will be considered within 28 days, although in some circumstances it may take longer. However, in all cases, applicants will be kept informed about the progress of the review and advised in writing of the outcome of the review procedure and process. If application for review is not resolved satisfactorily, applicants will be advised of other options for review, such as State Ombudsman, legal advice, and/or the courts.

Written complaints should be submitted as soon as possible of the notice being issued and within:

1. 28 days in the case of an Expiation Notice
2. 14 days in the case of an Expiation Reminder Notice
3. 14 days of incident that the complaint relates to.
4. 7 days of issue of a notice of intent to place a control order.
5. 14 days of issue of a control order.

Council or its officer will investigate complaints from any persons. It is Councils policy that any personal details of complainants will be kept confidential.

No fee is attached to the application for a matter to be reviewed.

Copies of the procedure will be available for inspection at the Council's principal office during ordinary business hours. Copies will also be provided to interested

members of the community upon request, and upon such payment of the fee set by Council.

## 10. Monitoring and Review

The Animal management action plan adopts the adaptive management cycle of Plan- Do- Monitor- Evaluate, as shown diagrammatically below.



All activities contained in this plan contribute to strategies and outcomes in Councils Strategic plan

## 11. Wattle Range Council By-Law 5 - Dogs

As attached.

## **THE WATTLE RANGE COUNCIL**

*By-law made under the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995  
and the Local Government Act 1999*

### **BY-LAW NO. 5 - DOGS**

*for the management and control of dogs within the Council's area*

#### **1. DEFINITIONS**

In this by-law unless the context otherwise requires:

- 1.1 "Act" means the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995;
- 1.2 "approved kennel establishment" means a building, structure or area approved by the relevant authority, pursuant to the Development Act 1993 for the keeping of cats and / or dogs on a temporary or permanent basis;
- 1.3 "council land" means all parklands, reserves, ornamental grounds, streets, roads, jetties, bridges, foreshore, public places and other land vested in or under the control of the Council;
- 1.4 "dog" means an animal of the species canis familiaris but does not include a dingo or cross of a dingo;
- 1.5 "effective control" has the same meaning as that contained within Section 8 of the Act and includes effective control by command providing the dog is in close proximity to the person responsible for control of the dog and that person is able to see the dog at all times;
- 1.6 "premises" means any domestic and non-domestic premises, except a kennel establishment in respect of which a development authorisation is in force under the Development Act 1993.

#### **2. DOG FREE AREAS**

No person shall on any Council land to which this paragraph applies, in accordance with paragraph 6 of this by-law cause suffer or permit any dog under that person's control, charge or authority to be, or remain in that place.

#### **3. DOGS ON LEASH AREAS**

No person shall on any Council land to which this paragraph applies, in accordance with paragraph 6 of this by-law, cause, suffer or permit any dog under that person's control, charge or authority to be or remain in that public place unless such dog is restrained by a strong leash not exceeding 2 metres in length and either tethered securely to a fixed object or held by a person capable of controlling the dog and preventing it from being a nuisance or a danger to other persons.

#### **4. DOG EXERCISE AREAS**

- 4.1 Any person may enter upon any part of Council land to which this paragraph applies in accordance with paragraph 6 of this by-law, for the purpose of exercising a dog under his or her effective control;
- 4.2 Where a person enters upon such part of Council land for that purpose, he or she shall ensure that the dog or dogs under his or her control remain under effective control while on the land;

4.3 Signs shall be erected to denote the land to which this paragraph applies, and information shall be provided to the public in a manner determined by the Council's Chief Executive Officer to inform the public about such land.

**5. LIMIT ON DOG NUMBERS**

5.1 The limit on the number of dogs kept on a premises within a township shall be two dogs.

5.2 The limit on the number of dogs kept in a premises outside of a township shall be three dogs, other than working dogs.

5.3 No person shall, without obtaining written permission of the Council, keep any dog on any premises where the number of dogs exceeds the limit:

5.3.1 unless the premises is an approved kennel establishment; or

5.3.2 the council has exempted any premises from compliance with this Clause.

**6. APPLICATION OF PARAGRAPHS**

Any of paragraphs 2, 3 and subparagraph 4.1 of this by-law shall apply only in such portion or portions of Council land as the Council may by resolution direct in accordance with Section 246(3)(e) of the Local Government Act, 1999.

**7. CONSTRUCTION**

This by-law is subject to any Act of Parliament and Regulations made thereunder.

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The foregoing by-law was duly made and passed at a meeting of the Wattle Range Council held on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of August 2005 by an absolute majority of the members for the time being constituting the Council, there being at least two thirds of the members present.



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Mr Frank Brennan  
Chief Executive Officer