

Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021-2025



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1 INTRODUCTION & CONTEXT

1.1 PURPOSE OF DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Under Section 68A of the Domestic Animals Act, every Council must prepare a domestic animal management plan, as follows:

68A Councils to prepare domestic animal management plans

1. Every Council must, in consultation with the Secretary, 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.

1.2 PROCESS APPLIED IN DEVELOPING THE PLAN

This Domestic Animal Management (DAM) Plan was prepared in accordance with the Domestic Animals Act 1994. The plan creates the framework for the planning, development and evaluation of Councils animal management services and summarises the professional, consistent and proactive approach undertaken within the municipality.

This DAM Plan has been developed in four stages. The first stage involved a review of Council's current DAM Plan, policies, procedures and strategies in order to identify gaps and prioritise future actions. The review included conducting a survey within the local community which encouraged them to have their say on domestic animal management issues.

Community Consultation survey

The survey was conducted over a seven week period and one hundred and forty nine (149) responses were received. Of the respondents, 120 were dog owners, 28 were cat owners and 1 did not specify.

Results - Priority focus	Percentage
Main dog issue - Dogs at large/not under effective control	45%
Main cat issue - Cats not being confined to their property	59%
Support the mandatory desexing of dogs.....	62%
Support the mandatory desexing of cats	86%
Council needs more off leash dog areas.....	82%
Council to continue to investigate and prosecute owners of attacking dogs	90%
Would be willing to make a statement if involved with a dog attack.....	90%
Council needs more campaigns regarding responsible pet ownership	85%
Are aware that cats need to be confined to their property.....	79%
Own animals that are desexed, microchipped and registered.....	58%
Would use social media to locate lost pets	58%
Would always reclaim their dog or cat from the pound	81%
Know that microchipping their animal doesn't register the animal with Council	83%
Think that residents should be fined if they fail to register their pet.....	48%
Think that animal registration fees are too high.....	57%
Are aware that it is their responsibility to plan for their pets in the event of an emergency.....	95%
Are aware of Council's local laws that limit the amount of cats and dogs that can be housed.....	60%

Responses also indicated that further promotional activities are recommended for the cat trap hire program, off leash dog areas in Council, animal adoption and foster care programs and the discounted National Desexing Network program for cats.

The second stage was to undertake a review by gathering and evaluating;

- recommendations made by the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR);
- relevant government legislation, Codes of Practice and guidelines;
- benchmarking statistics provided by other Local Councils; and
- statistics collected through the DAM Plan Survey.

Key references important to this plan are the Domestic Animals Act 1994 (the Act); Domestic Animals Regulations 2015 (the Regulations); relevant Codes of Practice; Moira Shire Council Plan 2018-2021; DJPR DAM Plan template; Moira Shire Council Community Safety and Environment Local Laws; Moira Shire Council pound register; Moira Shire Council Customer Request Management system; and other Council's DAM Plans.

The third stage involved developing the strategic framework to guide Councils animal management services into the future. Numerous objectives, activities and evaluation techniques were used to address each legislative requirement through workshops within the Safety and Amenity Unit.

The final stage involved community consultation and comment to ensure that the needs of the wider community are reflected throughout this plan. Insert description of process applied to develop the plan.

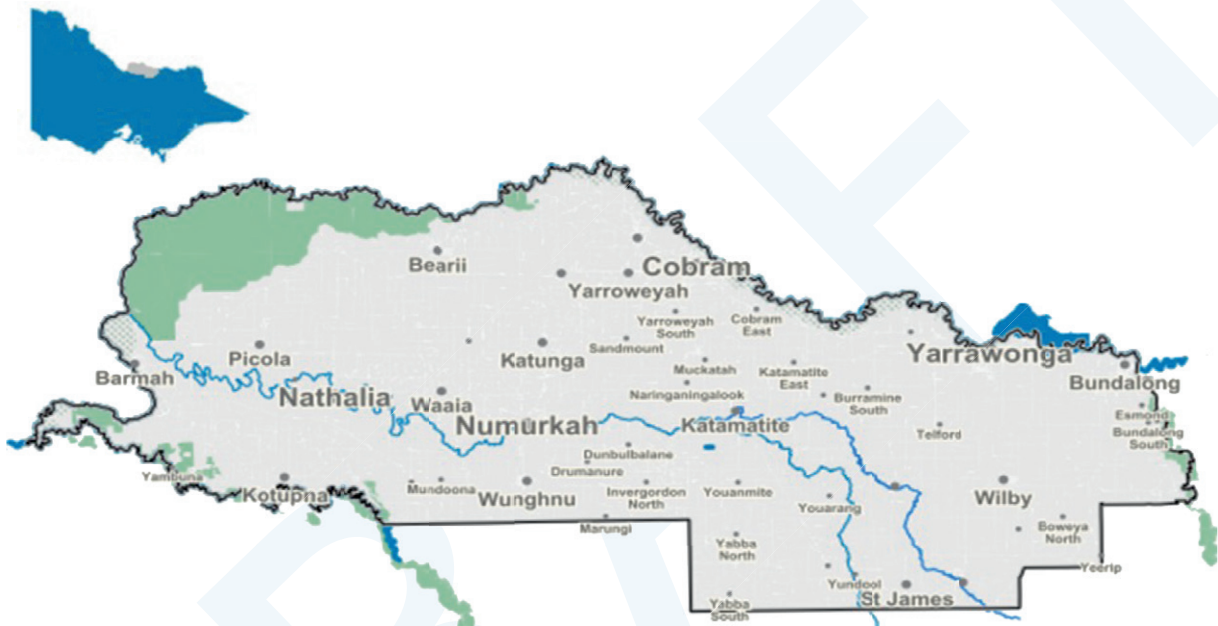
1.3 DEMOGRAPHIC AND PROFILE OF COUNCIL

Shire Demographics

Moirá Shire is situated in the central northern border of Victoria and is bounded by the Murray, Goulburn and Ovens River.

Moirá has a population of approximately 29,925 people and spans 4,045 square kilometres.

The municipality has four major towns - Cobram, Nathalia, Numurkah and Yarrawonga as well as 22 smaller communities - Barmah, Bearii, Bundalong, Burramine, Invergordon, Kaarimba, Katamatite, Katunga, Koonoomoo, Kotupna, Lake Rowan, Peechelba, Picola, St James, Strathmerton, Tungamah, Waaia, Wilby, Wunghnu, Yabba North, Yalca and Yarroweyah.

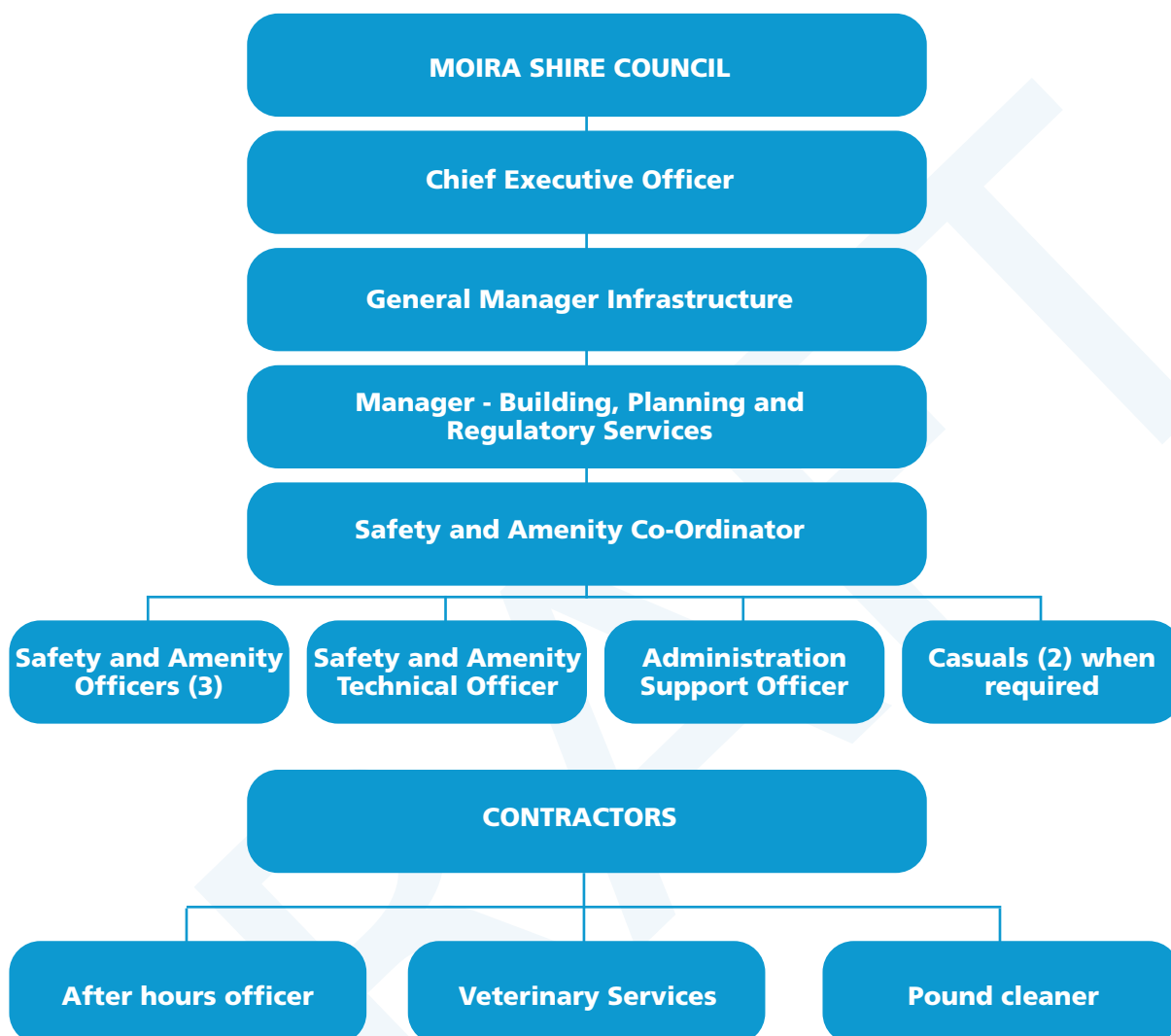


1.4 CONTEXT AND CURRENT SITUATION

The core purpose of the Moirá Shire Council animal management service is to:

- create an environment where people and pets can peacefully coexist within the community;
- minimise any adverse impacts on the environment and protect the community from feral cats and nuisance dogs and cats by providing a service to deal with wandering, aggressive or nuisance animals;
- manage a registration and identification scheme for dogs and cats which recognises and promotes responsible ownership;
- identify and control dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs;
- support and regulate animal welfare standards in domestic animal businesses;
- educate the community on responsible pet ownership and animal welfare issues;
- ensure that impounded animals are cared for in accordance with the Code of Practice for the Operation of Shelters and Pounds;
- endeavour to reunite impounded pets with their owners;
- decrease the euthanasia rate in the pound;
- promote the re-housing of suitable pets with a suitable new owner;
- provide specialist advice to Council in animal management matters; and
- to ensure that the needs of the wider community are reflected through the administration and enforcement of the Act, the Regulations and Codes of Practice.

Council's main department authorised under the Act is the Safety and Amenity Unit. The operational structure is outlined below.



The cleaning of the pound is contracted to a cleaning service and a contractor is engaged for the After Hours Emergency Service.

Refer to Appendix 1 for Delegations.

Refer to Appendix 2 for Section 26 Orders.

Refer to Appendix 3 for Council's Community Safety and Environment Local Laws.

Refer to Appendix 4 for current service levels.

1.5 DOMESTIC ANIMAL STATISTICS

The statistics and information from the past four years have been taken into account when determining our activities.

Refer to Appendix 5 for Animal registration statistics

Refer to Appendix 6 for Impounded animal statistics.

Refer to Appendix 7 for Domestic animal complaints received.

Refer to Appendix 8 for Infringements and Prosecutions.

2 TRAINING OF AUTHORISED OFFICERS

68(A)(2)(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.



2.1 CONTEXT AND CURRENT SITUATION

Council's Safety and Amenity Unit consists of one Co-Ordinator, one Safety and Amenity Technical Officer, one Administration Support Officer and three Safety and Amenity Officers. The unit is responsible for administering and enforcing the legislation that regulates domestic animals.

Our team is also responsible for administering and enforcing other local laws, footpath trading guidelines, fire prevention, assisting with school crossing supervision as well as responding to livestock on road and parking controls.

Council is committed to ensuring that all Authorised Officers are adequately trained to correctly administer and enforce the requirements of the Domestic Animals Act 1994 and Council's local laws.

Council's Co-Ordinator has twenty seven years' experience with Council in animal management. Two of council's Authorised Officers have a minimum of sixteen (16) years' experience with Council in animal management and the third has ten (10) years of previous experience with animal enforcement with a different government agency. The Technical Officer has a minimum of six (6) years' experience with Council in animal management.

2.2 OUR PLANNED TRAINING FOR AUTHORISED OFFICERS

Authorised Officer Training	Current (2021)				Planned
	Officer 1	Officer 2	Officer 3	Tech Officer	
Certificate IV in Animal Control and Regulation		✓			Prior to 2024
Certificate IV in Statutory Compliance		✓			Prior to 2024
DJPR training and information Seminars	✓	✓		✓	As offered
Animal Rehousing Assessment	✓	✓		✓	2021/22
Restricted Breed and General Dog Identification	✓	✓	✓	✓	
First Aid	✓	✓	✓	✓	Annually
Safe Dog Handling, Apprehension and Bite Prevention	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Managing Conflict and Difficult Situations	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Council's computer software courses	✓	✓	✓	✓	As offered
DAB Audit training	✓			✓	2021/22
Introduction to Emergency Management				✓	

2.3 OUR PLAN

Activity	When	Evaluation
Training requirements		
Identify minimum training requirements and additional training opportunities for staff	Ongoing	Training requirements are assessed by Co-Ordinator and discussed with officers as a part of annual performance reviews
On the job training for new employees with an experienced officer who provides real time, situational advice	Upon induction of new staff	Feedback provided by both officers as to effectiveness
Ensure all officers attend audit training	Jan 2022	Training provided within timeframe
Areas of responsibility		
Officer's areas (towns) of responsibility to be rotated every 18 months	Every 18 months	Feedback from officers on whether timeframe should be shorter/longer
Processes and procedures		
Develop Standing Operating Procedures for officers	Dec 2022	Information developed within timeframe

3 PROGRAMS TO PROMOTE AND ENCOURAGE RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP AND COMPLIANCE WITH LEGISLATION

Outline programs to promote and encourage responsible pet ownership and compliance with DA Act requirements.



3.1 CONTEXT AND CURRENT SITUATION

Feral cats

Feral cats continue to be an issue for Council with 221 feral cats impounded in 2020/21. Council has a number of measures in place to try to reduce the amount of feral cats in the community. Council implemented a subsidised cat desexing program in partnership with the National Desexing Network and the veterinary clinics within the shire. The program commenced in August 2020 and so far has resulted in the desexing of 171 cats, the microchipping of 162 cats and 169 new cat registrations with Council.

Council received 273 complaints regarding stray cats and impounded 507 cats in 2020/21. Council continues to offer a cat trap hire scheme to address this issue. During this period 46 cat traps were hired from Council.

Impounded Animals

Animals are impounded in accordance with the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*.

Keeping of excess animals

Council issued seven (7) Keeping of excess animal permits in 2020/21.

Infringements and Prosecutions

Council issued 25 infringements in 2020/21. Refer to Appendix 7 – Infringements and Prosecutions

3.2 OUR ORDERS, LOCAL LAWS, COUNCIL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

CURRENT ORDERS:

Council's Section 26 Order addresses the presence of dogs in public places. Refer to Appendix 2.

CURRENT LOCAL LAWS:

Refer to Appendix 3 for Council's local laws relating to the keeping of domestic animals.

CURRENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:

Moirá Shire Council currently undertakes the following education and promotion activities:

- Subsidised National Desexing Network program for cats;
- Provide a cat trap to the public through the cat trap hire scheme;
- Operate a Council Pound facility with 12 dog and 12 cat pens; and
- Provide various information on Council's website and issue media releases relating to responsible pet ownership.

3.3 OUR PLAN

Activity	When	Evaluation
Endeavour to reduce cat nuisance complaints		
Maintain Cat Trap Program to assist residents to deal with cat trespassing and nuisance problems	Ongoing	Annual review of program including the number of traps hired and the number of impounded cats
Provide information relating to responsible cat ownership	Ongoing	Annual review of data. Monitor and review.
Endeavour to reduce dog nuisance complaints		
Provide adequate signs at Council parks (on lead / off lead, requirements, pick up after your dog)	Ongoing	Annual review of signage at Council parks data, enforcement data and compliance rates
Patrol Council parks for dogs in 'No dogs allowed' areas and owners not picking up after their dogs	Ongoing	Annual review of enforcement action and compliance rates
Maintain the National Desexing Network discounted cat desexing program	Ongoing	Date program implemented Annual comparison of the number of desexed cats
Media and education strategy		
Media releases regarding nuisance animal issues	Ongoing	Annual review of the number of media articles published
Increased media relating to cat trap program, off leash dog areas, animal adoption and foster care programs and the NDN (if continued)	March 2023	Information developed within timeframe Review number of visits to website
Provide strategies to dog owners with noisy animals. List the link to relevant information	April 2022	Information developed within timeframe review.
Information brochures and documents		
Barking dog factsheets to be provided to dog owners as required	Ongoing	Annual review to ensure correct information is listed
Provide education material about cat enclosures and nuisance issues to cat owners as required	Ongoing	Annual review to ensure correct information is listed Number of booklets distributed and when

4 PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS OVER-POPULATION RATES AND ANY HIGH EUTHANASIA RATES

68A(2)(c)(iv) Outline programs, services and strategies to address any over-population and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats

- also addresses 68A(2)(a), (c)(i), (c)(ii), (d), (f)

4.1 CONTEXT AND CURRENT SITUATION

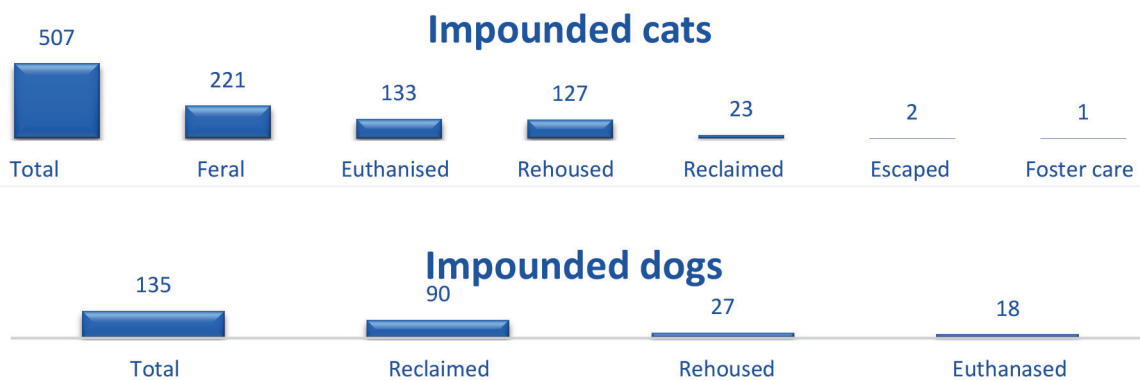
The Animal Adoption program has been instrumental in lowering the euthanasia rate of impounded animals that are deemed suitable for rehoming.

The major issue for Council is the number of feral and wild cats in the community. The percentage of cats impounded that were classified as feral or wild was 39% in 2017/18, 22% in 2018/19, 45% in 2019/20 and 44% in 2020/21. Over that period of time 647 cats were removed from the wild population.

Cats and dogs impounded outcome

Council impounded 642 cats and dogs in 2020/21.

This is an increase from 575 cats and dogs that were impounded in 2017/18. A large percentage (44%) of cats were euthanased in 2020/21 as they were feral.



4.2 OUR ORDERS, LOCAL LAWS, COUNCIL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

CURRENT ORDERS:

Desexing

Council currently has no Orders under Section 26 of the Domestic Animals Act 1994 in relation to the compulsory desexing of cats and dogs.

Registration fees are reduced if an animal is desexed. This legislation aims at increasing the number of animals that are desexed within Victoria.

Domestic Animal Pound Release Fee

The domestic animal pound release fee is \$130 (a cat or dog) plus, if applicable, a microchipping fee of \$45 and a registration fee. A daily sustenance fee of \$10 per day may also apply. All fees are subject to change as per Council's annual budget processes.

Animal Adoption Policy

Animals may be adopted from the pound when they become available. The cost of adopting an animal is determined by the cost of all veterinary requirements (microchipping, vaccination, worming, desexing) and registration.

CURRENT LOCAL LAWS:

Council's local laws address the number of dogs and cats that can be kept on residential and commercial properties without a permit. Refer to Appendix 3.

CURRENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:

The Moira Shire Council Website contains:

- Information about impounded and lost animals, including suggestions on who to contact if their animal becomes lost and what information may be required
- The Pound Release Fees
- ‘Pound Pet of the Week’. This is also published in ‘The Courier’.

Moira Shire Council currently undertakes the following compliance activities:

- Attend to complaints in the community regarding cats and dogs trespassing on private property;
- Collect and impound stray and wandering at large dogs and cats;
- Accept any dog or cat that the owner wants to surrender to Council;
- Animal Adoption / Foster care; and
- Euthanase any feral, wild or uncontrollable cat; and
- Euthanase any unclaimed (within 8 day statutory period) dog or cat which is not rehoused.

4.3 OUR PLAN

Activity	When	Evaluation
Media and education campaign		
Media releases regarding domestic animals businesses	Ongoing	Annual review of number of media releases issued
Media releases educating the community about the risks of overpopulation and how they can prevent subsequent issues, such as feral cat population	May 2024	Information developed within timeframe
Endeavour to increase rehousing rates		
Enter into agreements with other bodies for rehoming	Ongoing	Annual review of agreements to ensure program is satisfactory and agreement complies with legislation and Code of Practice
Maintain media and education strategy to promote the pound services provided by Council including animal adoption and agreements with external community organisations	Ongoing	Annual review of campaign data including number of media releases, type of publicity and pound statistics
Publish ‘Pound Pet of the Week’ on Council’s website, Facebook page and in ‘The Courier’	Ongoing	Procedure reviewed annually to ensure best practice
Maintain internal procedures and guidelines		
Maintain a program of assessment for euthanasia or suitability for rehoming of dogs and cats	Ongoing	Maintain internal procedures and guidelines Procedure reviewed annually to ensure best practice
Maintain foster carers, volunteer programs, agreements with other 84Y groups	Ongoing	Procedure reviewed annually to ensure best practice
Develop a database of photos and description of lost animals that is sent to council by owners. Officers to regularly cross check when impounding animals	Nov 2021	Database developed within timeframe Review annually to determine if there is an increase in the number of animals returned to owners
Information brochures and documents		
Distribute brochures regarding pound services, animal adoption, desexing, identification, registration	Ongoing	Information reviewed annually to ensure information is up to date
Educational material distributed at customer service centres	Ongoing	Information reviewed annually to ensure information is up to date
Website Information	Ongoing	Annual review of information to ensure correct information

5 REGISTRATION AND IDENTIFICATION

68A(2)(c)(v) Outline programs, services and strategies to encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats

- also addresses 68A(2)(a), (c)(i), (c)(ii), (d), (f)



5.1 CONTEXT AND CURRENT SITUATION

As of 25 February 2021 council has 4752 registered dogs and 1304 registered cats.

In 2021, 67% of registered dogs are desexed and 99% are microchipped. 96% of registered cats are desexed and 99% are microchipped.



Annual registration fees that are due before 10 April are collected by Council. Animal Registration tags are issued to every dog and cat as a lifetime tag.

Registration Fees

Maximum Fee	\$86.30	Reduced Fee	\$31.50
Max Fee Pensioner	\$45.20	Reduced Fee Pensioner	\$17.80

Reduced fees are available for dogs and cats that are either: desexed; over ten years old; working stock; kept for breeding by a DAB or regulated obedience training; or registered with an Applicable Organisation.



Moirá Shire Pound statistics for 2020/21 indicate that:

- 19% of impounded dogs were registered and approximately 59% were microchipped;
- 41 % of impounded dogs were not identifiable.

Pound statistics - cats



Moirá Shire Pound statistics for 2020/21 indicate that:

- Nearly half (44%) of cats impounded were classified as feral, wild or uncontrollable;
- Only 10% of owned cats were identifiable with a microchip; and
- Only 2% of owned cats were registered.

Pound statistics for 2020/21 indicate that only 28% of owned impounded animals were microchipped and only 7% were registered with Council.

Council aims to increase the number of identifiable animals within the shire through permanent identification (microchipping) and registration. The cross checking of animals registered with the various microchip registries against Council's registration list will assist by identifying any animals that are not currently registered with Council.

Council will also investigate the feasibility of introducing a discounted microchipping scheme for concession card holders and will investigate a discounted pound release fee for pensioners.

5.2 OUR ORDERS, LOCAL LAWS, COUNCIL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

CURRENT ORDERS:

- All dogs and cats over three months of age to be registered with Council. Application for registration and renewal of registration of dogs and cats to be completed via application form or online; and
- Registration fees are fixed by Council in the annual budget.

CURRENT LOCAL LAWS:

Refer to Appendix 3 – Moirá Shire Council Local Laws

CURRENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:

- Annual Registration Renewal notice sent to all registered animals;
- Annual Media release advising of requirement to register dogs and cats;
- Each first week of April, an A frame sign is placed outside the main Council office in Cobram advising that Animal Registrations are due;
- Annual Registration Overdue notice sent to all animals that are not registered by May;
- Participation in DJPR Responsible Pet Ownership Program (statutory requirement); and
- State Government Levy collection for funding of DJPR Responsible Pet Ownership program (statutory requirement). This levy is included in every registration.

OUR CURRENT COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

- Investigations conducted after complaint received; and
- Warnings and Infringements issued (Fail to register / renew) as required.

5.3 OUR PLAN

Activity	When	Evaluation
Increase dog and cat registrations		
Ensure all impounded animals are registered to their owner prior to release	Ongoing	Annual review of the number of impounded dogs and cats who are not registered
Ensure all animals that are the subject of a complaint are registered	Ongoing	Annual review of unregistered animals picked up during door knocks
Obtain details of dogs and cats in municipality from the microchip registries. Check if animals are listed on council's registration database and follow up on those who aren't.	Nov 2021	Information obtained within timeframe Review of registration statistics to determine success
Increase in registered seized dogs and cats		
Ensure the details of all impounded animals are entered onto the pound register	Ongoing	Annual review of pound register records
Media and education strategy		
'A' frame signs placed in strategic positions throughout municipality	Ongoing	Annual review of the number of signs, locations targeted and timeframes
Media releases	Ongoing	Annual review of the number of media articles published
Advertise 'Free first ride home' for stray registered animals	Ongoing	Annual review of registration statistics to determine success
Provide website information that educates the community of the importance of pet registration	June 2022	Information developed within timeframe
Incentives to encourage registration and microchipping		
Implement registration scheme	Ongoing	Annual review of registration statistics to determine success
Any animals registered with Council from January to April will receive registration until April the following year	Ongoing	Annual review of registration statistics to determine success
Investigate introducing a discounted pound release fee for pensioners	March 2022	Investigation completed within timeframe
Investigate options for discounted microchipping scheme – vouchers for concession holders	Jan 2024	Investigation completed within timeframe Date program (if) implemented. Annual review of data
Internal procedures and guidelines		
Endeavour to scan all deceased dogs and cats and contact owners if possible	Ongoing	Annual review of data from Council database
Information brochures and documents		
Brochure and information included in 'new residents' kit	Ongoing	Annual review of information to ensure correct information
Website Information	Ongoing	Annual review to ensure correct information is listed
Brochures regarding responsible pet ownership available at service centres	Ongoing	Annual review to ensure correct information is listed

6 NUISANCE

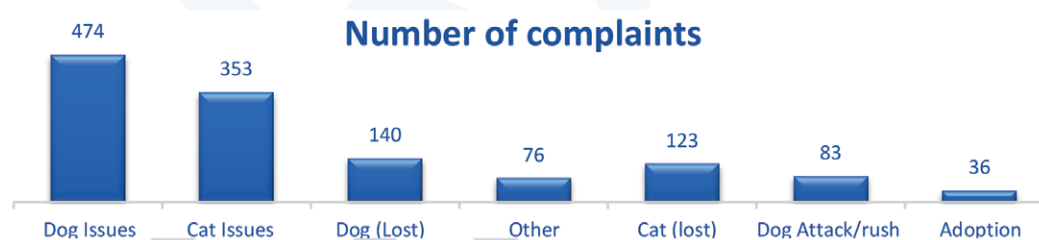
68A(2)(c)(vi) Outline programs, services and strategies to minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance

- also addresses 68A(2)(a),(c)(i),(c)(ii),(d),(f)

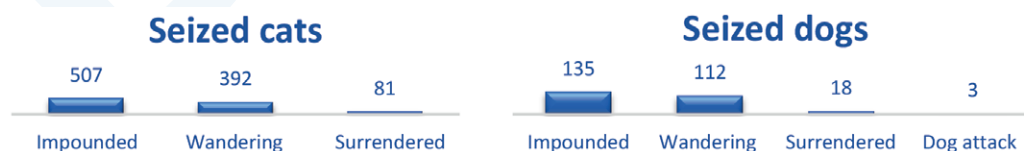


6.1 CONTEXT AND CURRENT SITUATION

Council's purpose is to reduce the number of nuisance dogs and cats throughout the municipality. The following graph shows the number of complaints received by the Moira Shire Council regarding domestic animals.



Council received 1285 complaints about domestic animals during the 2020/21 period. This has reduced from 1505 in 2017/18. Refer to Appendix 6 for other years.



The vast majority of animal impoundments were due to wandering cats or dogs.

Moirá Shire received 1285 calls regarding dogs and cats during the 2020/21 period, with approximately 37% of calls involving dog issues. These issues related to dogs wandering, dogs off lead, registration issues and animal noise.

Council aims to further reduce the number of nuisance wandering dog complaints by providing strategies to owners in reducing barking, proactive patrols of towns as well as assisting with Council's endeavour in establishing dedicated off leash dog parks in each of the major towns.

Ninety-nine (99) dogs and cats were surrendered to Council in 2020/21. This may be due to socio economic factors.

6.2 OUR ORDERS, LOCAL LAWS, COUNCIL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

CURRENT ORDERS:

Council's Section 26 order regulates dogs in public places including prohibiting dogs in some public areas, requiring dogs in public places to be on a leash and allowing some off lead areas throughout the municipality at certain times. Refer to Appendix 2.

CURRENT LOCAL LAWS:

Council's local laws addresses the number that can be kept at a property without a permit, requirements regarding animal shelters and animal excrement. Refer to Appendix 3.

CURRENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:

Council has a cat trap program in which residents can hire cat traps for a seven day period. The cost of hiring a cat trap is fully refunded upon the return of the trap to council.

Upon receiving a complaint for barking dog issues:

- Provide verbal one on one information with both parties;
- Letter sent to both parties advising of options;
- Barking dog diary provided to complainant; and
- Dispute Settlement Centre brochure provided to both parties.

Upon receiving a complaint regarding cat wandering issues:

- Cat trap application form provided to complainant; and
- Information given to cat owners if their cat is wandering.

Dog wandering:

- Patrol area when complaint is received; and
- Information given to dog owners if their dog is wandering.

Council website:

- Information on the number of animals that can be kept at a property without a permit.

OUR CURRENT COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

Moirá Shire Council currently undertakes the following compliance activities when complaint received:

- Attend property;
- Conduct Investigation - Review barking dog dairies and issue Notice to Comply;
- Impound wandering cats and dogs;
- Issue warnings and infringement notices; and
- Patrols of area.

6.3 OUR PLAN

Activity	When	Evaluation
Endeavour to reduce cat nuisance complaints		
Maintain Cat Trap Program to assist residents to deal with cat trespassing and nuisance problems	Ongoing	Annual review of program including the number of traps hired and the number of impounded cats
Provide information relating to responsible cat ownership	Ongoing	Annual review of data. Monitor and review.
Endeavour to reduce dog nuisance complaints		
Provide adequate signs at Council parks (on lead / off lead, requirements, pick up after your dog)	Ongoing	Annual review of signage at Council parks data, enforcement data and compliance rates
Patrol Council parks for dogs in 'No dogs allowed' areas and owners not picking up after their dogs	Ongoing	Annual review of enforcement action and compliance rates
Provide relevant input into Council's endeavour to establish fenced off leash dog parks in various towns	December 2021	Information provided within timeframe
Cooperate with other agencies as required		
Liaise with other agencies as required	Ongoing	Annual review of assistance provided by Councils Authorised Officers
Media and education strategy		
Media releases regarding nuisance animal issues	Ongoing	Annual review of the number of media articles published
Provide strategies to dog owners with noisy animals. List the link to relevant information	April 2022	Information developed within timeframe review.
Information brochures and documents		
Barking dog factsheets to be provided to dog owners as required	Ongoing	Annual review to ensure correct information is listed
Provide education material about cat enclosures and nuisance issues to cat owners as required	Ongoing	Annual review to ensure correct information is listed Number of booklets distributed and when
Website Information	Ongoing	Annual review to ensure correct information is listed
Provide information kits for animals adopted from pound	Ongoing	Annual review to ensure correct information is listed

7 DOG ATTACKS

68A(2)(c)(iii) Outline programs, services and strategies to minimise the risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals. Also addresses 68A(2)(a),(c)(i),(c)(ii),(d),(f)

7.1 CONTEXT AND CURRENT SITUATION

Dog attacks remain a major risk within the community, with 52 complaints being reported to Council in 2020/21. Most of these incidents involved dogs wandering at large with 221 reports of stray dogs during this period. Council is unable to determine how many dog attack incidents occur in the home by the family pet as these are often unreported.

Council aims at reducing the number of dog attacks and dog rushes within the community by implementing various prevention activities.

This includes educating the community on dog attack prevention and the serious consequences of a dog attack, the patrolling of hot spot areas and publishing the results of successful dog attack prosecutions.

The number of dog attack complaints has decreased from 91 in 2017/18 to 83 in 2020/21.



Refer to Appendix 7 for Infringements and Prosecutions.

7.2 OUR ORDERS, LOCAL LAWS, COUNCIL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

CURRENT ORDERS:

Council's Section 26 Order regulates dogs in public places, including the prohibiting dogs in some public areas, requiring that dogs in public places be on a leash and allowing some off lead areas throughout the municipality at certain times. Refer to Appendix 2.

CURRENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:

Moirá Shire Council currently undertakes the following education and promotion activities:

- Media Releases in local newspaper;
- Provide information when requested; and
- Promote effective confinement and the control of dogs.

CURRENT COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

Moirá Shire Council currently undertakes the following compliance activities:

- Patrol township areas for wandering dogs;
- Respond to complaint about dog attacks;
- Seize dog after attack / rush;
- Declare dogs that have attacked as dangerous or menacing;
- Declare dogs as Restricted Breed dogs;
- Issue Notices to Comply;
- Issue infringements; and
- Prosecution.

7.3 OUR PLAN

Activity	When	Evaluation
Endeavour to encourage the community to report dog attacks to Council		
Improve public awareness of what a dog attack is and how to report it via media strategy	Ongoing	Annual review of the number of dog attacks reported to council
Education and media strategy about responsible pet ownership and preventing dog attacks		
Maintain media strategy to promote Responsible Pet Ownership within the community	Ongoing	Annual review of implementation of strategy
Provide adequate signs at Council parks (on lead / off lead requirements, pick up after your dog)	Ongoing	Annual review of signage at Council parks data, enforcement data, compliance rates
Target specific issues, such as inadequate fencing in media campaigns	Jan 2023	Information developed within timeframe
Publish results of successful dog attack prosecutions	As courts determined	Information published within timeframe
Identify dog attack problem areas		
Maintain records to see if council has dog attack problem areas	Ongoing	Annual review of data collected to determine if there are problem areas
Undertake preventative education and enforcement initiatives		
Patrols of identified hot spot areas	Ongoing	Annual review of results from the patrols
Take enforcement action including infringements and prosecutions	Ongoing	Annual review of number of infringements issued and prosecutions undertaken
Declare dogs menacing or dangerous after a dog attack or rush incident	Ongoing	Annual review of the number of dogs declared within the municipality
Endeavour to decrease the number of dog attacks incidents in the community		
Record details of all dog attacks and dog rush incidents	Ongoing	Annual comparison of data collected
Endeavour to decrease dog attacks on livestock		
Patrol areas of reported dog attacks on livestock	Ongoing	Annual comparison of data collected
Distribute Animal Welfare Victoria (AWV) booklet 'Responsible pet ownership of working dogs' to farming properties within the shire	Ongoing	Number of booklets distributed
Develop information brochures and documents		
Website Information	Ongoing	Annual review of information to ensure correct information
Educational material distributed at customer service centres	Ongoing	Information reviewed annually to ensure information is up to date

8 DANGEROUS, MENACING AND RESTRICTED BREED DOGS

68A(2)(c)(vii) 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
- also addresses 68A(2)(a),(c)(i),(c)(ii),(d),(f)



8.1 CONTEXT AND CURRENT SITUATION

As of April 2021 there are **four** declared menacing dogs registered with council.

There is only a small population of dogs that were declared menacing as a result of either a dog rush or dog attack. Council will annually inspect all properties that keep a declared dog to ensure that they are compliant with their requirements.

8.2 OUR POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

CURRENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:

A restricted breed dog declaration is listed on Council's Animal Registration form.

Details of Council declared dangerous and menacing dogs are entered on the VDDR website.

Impounded dogs that are destroyed in relation to Section 84TA, TB and TC are entered via the Victorian Declared Dog Registry (VDDR) website.

CURRENT COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES:

Moirá Shire Council currently undertakes the following compliance activities:

- Respond to complaints regarding alleged dangerous, menacing or restricted breed dogs;
- Maintain a register of declared dogs within the shire;
- Declare dogs as Restricted Breed, Dangerous or menacing; and
- Record details on the Victorian Declared Dog Registry.

8.3 OUR PLAN

Activity	When	Evaluation
Identify and register all Declared Dogs in the municipality and ensure dogs that are declared comply with the Act		
Maintain Registration form to include declaration regarding declared dog status	Ongoing	Annual review of form to ensure compliance with legislation requirements
Effectively inspect and audit all declared dog premises to ensure they are following requirements		
Inspect all properties that keep a declared dog annually	Ongoing	Inspect every property to ensure compliance
Ensure all declared dogs are on the VDDR and Council's database are maintained	Ongoing	Inspect database annually to ensure database is maintained
Media and education strategy		
Promote Animal Welfare Victoria regarding education programs to raise awareness of what is a declared dog i.e.: restricted breed, dangerous or menacing	Ongoing	Annual review of information to ensure correct information
Media releases regarding declared dogs – including what a declared dog is	Ongoing	Annual review of media releases conducted
Website Information	Ongoing	Annual review of information to ensure correct information
Cooperate with other agencies as required		
Cooperate with other agencies and local government bodies to monitor declared dogs	Ongoing	Annual review of Council records and via Declared Dog registry
Liaise with DJPR in regards to media and education strategies Promote information brochures and documents	Ongoing	Annual review of Council records Promote information brochures and documents
Promote information brochures and documents		
Website Information	Ongoing	Annual review of information to ensure correct information

9 DOMESTIC ANIMAL BUSINESSES

68A(2)(c)(ii) Outline programs, services and strategies which the Council intends to pursue in its municipal district to ensure that people comply with this Act, the regulations and any related legislation

- also addresses 68A(2)(a), (c)(i), (d), (f)



9.1 CONTEXT AND CURRENT SITUATION

Council has five registered Domestic Animal Businesses:

- **three** boarding establishments;
- **one** breeding establishment; and
- **one** pound.

Council endeavours to identify any unregistered domestic animal businesses operating within the municipality.

9.2 OUR POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

CURRENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:

The registration fee for a Domestic Animal Business is \$161 which includes the State Government levy of \$20.

- Send renewal notices to Domestic Animal Businesses for permits
- Provide Responsible Pet Ownership brochures to Domestic Animal Businesses as requested.

Moirá Shire Council currently undertakes the following compliance activities:

- Inspect Domestic Animal Businesses as required;
- Respond and investigate complaint about Domestic Animal Business;
- Prosecute / Close down illegal Domestic Animal Business;
- Participation in DJPR Responsible Pet Ownership Program (statutory requirement); and
- State Government Levy collection for funding of DJPR Responsible Pet Ownership program (statutory requirement).

9.3 OUR PLAN

Activity	When	Evaluation
Identify and register all Domestic Animal Businesses (DAB's) in the municipality		
Identify possible businesses/ individuals that may be required to register as DAB's by cross referencing with Pet Exchange Register	Dec 2021	Information obtained within timeframe Annual comparison of number of registered DAB's before and after activity
Follow up on information obtained in relation to possible unregistered DAB's	Ongoing	Annual review the number of businesses identified
Follow up registration after receiving forms required under Section 13 of the Act	Ongoing	Annual review of statistical data including number of Section 13 forms received and results of follow up action
Visit and inspect all registered DAB's		
Ensure all DAB's have valid registration and visit and inspect all DAB's to ensure they comply with the relevant Codes of Practice. Enforce compliance (if required)	Ongoing	Annual review of DAB's registration Visit DAB's annually to check for compliance. Results of inspections/audits to be recorded
Identify and investigate illegally operating DAB's in the municipality		
Maintain education campaign to promote awareness of DAB and Code of Practice requirements	Ongoing	Comparison of number of registered establishments before and after campaign
Develop internal procedures and guidelines		
Process for registering new DAB and initial assessment of applications	Ongoing	Procedure reviewed annually to ensure best practice
Maintain database of all visits conducted including history, audit results and work plans for each business	Ongoing	Database reviewed each inspection to information is up to date
Develop SOP's that work closely with Planning Department regarding DAB's	Dec 2022	Information developed within timeframe
Develop information brochures and documents		
Distribute information packs for potential or new DAB	Ongoing	Information reviewed annually to ensure up to date
Review of current DAB permit and development of specific conditions to be included in permits	Ongoing	Permit document reviewed annually to ensure meets current legislation and Codes of Practice

10 OTHER MATTERS

68A(2)(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.



CEMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

10.1 CONTEXT AND CURRENT SITUATION

Moirá Shire Council has experienced various natural disasters, with a large scale flood throughout the municipality in 2012, a tornado in 2013, a large scale fire in 2014 and flooding in 2016.

The Moirá Shire Emergency Animal Welfare Plan, which details how Council assists with animals during emergencies, was endorsed by Council on 4 February 2019. It is a sub plan to the Municipal Emergency Management Plan.

10.2 OUR POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

CURRENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:

Are listed in Moirá Shire Council's Municipal Emergency Animal Welfare Plan.

CURRENT COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES:

Provide various information on Council's website and issue media releases relating to owner's responsibilities for their pets in the event of an emergency.

10.3 OUR PLAN

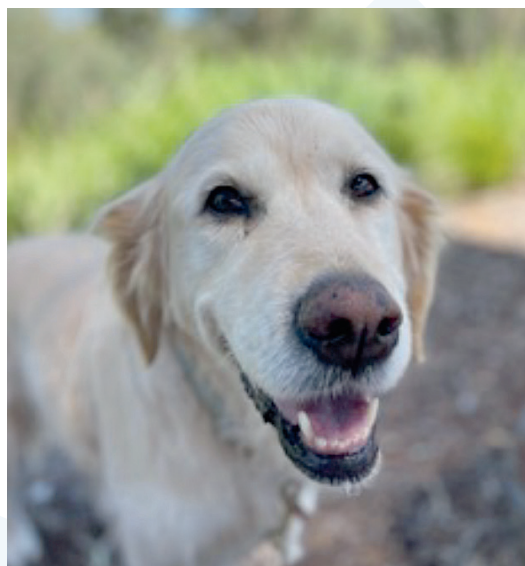
Activity	When	Evaluation
Council Policies and Procedures		
Maintain and update the Emergency Management Animal Welfare Plan	Ongoing	Plan reviewed annually to ensure it meets current legislation and Codes of Practice
Develop SOP's for officers in regards to their animal welfare role during emergencies	Dec 2022	Information developed within timeframe
Media and education strategy		
Maintain a media and education strategy regarding domestic pets and emergency management including media releases on pets in emergency planning e.g.: what equipment pets require, veterinary medication, identification to help reunite pets with their owners after the emergency	Ongoing	Annual review of media and education campaign data including number of media releases and promotion activities

POUND DEVELOPMENT

10.4 CONTEXT AND CURRENT SITUATION

Council's purpose is to maintain the pound infrastructure and processes to ensure compliance with the Code of Practice for the Management of Dogs and Cats in Shelters and Pounds and compliance with State and local government legislation and permits.

The Code of Practice for the Management of Dogs and Cats in Shelters and Pounds (Revision 1) specifies the minimum standards of accommodation, management and care that are appropriate to the physical and behavioural needs of dogs and cats housed in establishments operating as pounds.



10.5 OUR POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

CURRENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:

The procedures are listed in Council's Pound - Health Management Plan and the Vet agreement with Cobram Veterinary Clinic.

CURRENT COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES:

Annual review of pound in accordance with the Code of Practice.

10.6 OUR PLAN

Activity	When	Evaluation
Pound Facility		
Review current facility annually in accordance with the Code of Practice	Ongoing	Review completed within timeframe
Investigate ways of improving welfare of impounded animals	Ongoing	Investigation completed within timeframe
Pound Process and Procedure		
Review current processes, procedures and documents	Ongoing	Review completed within timeframe
Develop and implement processes and procedures during any review	Ongoing	Procedure reviewed annually to ensure best practice and compliance with legislation and Code of Practice

11 ANNUAL REVIEW OF PLAN AND ANNUAL REPORTING

68A(3) Every Council must—

- (a) *review its domestic animal management plan annually and, if appropriate, amend the plan;*
- (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.*

EVALUATION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DOMESTIC ANIMALS MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Safety and Amenity Unit utilises a number of computer programs and databases to assist in the evaluation of the animal control services provided.

Council utilises a complaint record and animal registration management system 'Authority'. Various excel spread sheets are utilised to maintain databases of impounded animals, declared dogs and DAB's. Statistics are obtained from reports generated by these programs.

The implementation of the DAM Plan will be evaluated annually, amended if appropriate, with the results presented to Council and published in Council's Annual Report. The Secretary will be provided with a copy of the Plan and any amendments to the Plan.

APPENDIX 1 – DELEGATIONS

Local Government Act 1989

The Moira Shire Council 'municipal district' under the *Local Government Act 1989* covers an area where the Murray River forms the northern and western border of the municipality, the Lower Goulburn River, the south western border, and the Ovens River, the eastern border. Councils Authorised Officers enforce Victorian legislation within these boundaries where Council is the land manager.

Domestic Animals Act 1994

The *Domestic Animals Act 1994*, Domestic Animals Regulations 2015 and all relevant Code of Practice are enforced within the municipal district by police officers and Council's Authorised Officers who are authorised under Section 72 of the Domestic Animals Act 1994.

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986

The *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986* and any associated Regulations and Codes of Practice are enforced within the municipal district by members of Victoria Police, RSPCA Inspectors and DJPR Officers.

National Parks and State Parks

There are a number of National Parks and State Parks, located within Moira Shire Councils municipal district that are managed by Parks Victoria. Parks Victoria Officers handle numerous animal issues including stray and feral cats and are able to address issues relating to dogs attacking wildlife under the *Wildlife Act 1975*. Council's Authorised Officers will investigate serious dog attacks on persons within these parks if requested. Police officers are also authorised to investigate these types of matters.

Wildlife Act 1975

Parks Victoria Rangers are authorised under the *Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987* to enforce the *Wildlife Act 1975*. Victoria Police can also enforce this legislation. Council Safety and Amenity Officers are not authorised under this legislation.

Section 48 Offence for dogs or cats to attack etc. wildlife

- (1) If a dog or cat rushes at, attacks, bites, worries or chases wildlife while at large on public land, the owner is guilty of an offence and liable, upon conviction, to a penalty of not more than 25 penalty units.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply to dogs pursuing game birds or sambar deer in accordance with regulations made under this Act.
- (3) An authorised officer may destroy any dog or cat found in circumstances in which the authorised officer reasonably believes that an offence under this section is being committed.

Section 48A Seizure of dogs or cats

- (1) An authorised officer may seize a dog or cat which is found at large on any public land which is—
 - (a) a Nature Reserve or a State Wildlife Reserve; or
 - (b) a Wildlife Management Co-operative Area or a wildlife sanctuary established under Part V; or
 - (c) any other area prescribed for the purposes of this section.
- (2) If reasonable attempts have been made to seize a dog or cat found at large in circumstances in which subsection (1) applies, and the dog or cat has not been seized, an authorised officer may destroy the dog or cat.
- (3) An authorised officer who seizes a dog or cat must, as soon as is reasonably possible, deliver it to an authorised officer of the Council of the municipal district in which the animal is found.

Section 48B Owner to be notified

- (1) If the owner of a dog or cat which has been delivered to the authorised officer of a Council under section 48A is able to be identified from a marker attached to or implanted in the animal's body, the Council must notify the owner of the seizure of the animal.
- (2) A notice under this section must be in writing and must be delivered either personally or by post within 4 days after the animal is seized.

Section 48C Recovery or disposal of animal

- (1) The owner of a dog or cat which has been seized under section 48A may recover that animal if he or she pays the amount fixed by the Council within 8 days of the seizure of that animal.
- (2) If the dog or cat is not recovered by its owner within 8 days of seizure, the Council may sell or destroy it.

APPENDIX 2 – DOMESTIC ANIMALS ACT 1994 SECTION 26 ORDER

Local Government Act 1989

A Council may by resolution under Section 26 of the Act, make an order under this section which may do all or any of the following—

- prohibit the presence of dogs and cats in any public place of the municipal district of the Council;
- impose all or any of the following conditions on the presence of dogs or cats in any public place of the municipal district of the Council—
- conditions as to the means of restraint of dogs or cats;
- conditions as to the times at which the presence of dogs or cats is or is not permitted; and
- any other conditions that are specified in the order.

Dogs in Public Places

On the 9 August 2001, the Victoria Government Gazette G32, published an Order made under Section 26 of the Domestic (Feral and Nuisance) Animals Act 1994, regarding dogs in public places. A copy of the gazetted Order is outlined below:

“Notice is hereby given that Council at its ordinary meeting held on 23 July 2001 resolved to make the following order under the provisions of section 26 of the *Domestic (Feral & Nuisance) Animals Act 1994*:

1. That the presence of dogs shall be prohibited in the following areas:
 - School grounds throughout the municipality;
 - Municipal swimming pools and surrounds;
 - Yarrowonga foreshore between Hunt Street/Bank Street and the water’s edge, between Belmore Street and Woods Road; and
 - Thompson’s Beach, Cobram the area between the pine post boundary along the access track and car park to the water’s edge.
2. That dogs are permitted to be present in all other municipal places and public places only while fully constrained on a leash.
3. Clause 2 does not apply to the Showgrounds of the towns of Cobram, Nathalia, Numurkah and Yarrowonga, the football ground at Tungamah and other towns where dogs may be exercised off a leash in the presence of the owner during daylight hours only. This clause does not apply when an organised sporting event or similar activity is in progress, thereby allowing the presence of a dog on a leash only. ‘Owner’ has the same meaning as in the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*.
4. That the Council order made on 16 December 1996 under the provisions of section 26 of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* be revoked.

Any person contravening this order is liable to a penalty of \$200 for the first offence and a penalty of \$400 for a second or subsequent offence.

Note: This notice replaces the order that appears on page 1712 of the Victoria Government Gazette dated 26 July 2001 whereby clause 1 was dissimilar to the Council resolution.”

The Monetary Units Act 2004 provisions introduced in 2004 overrides the penalties described above in the gazette.

APPENDIX 3 – MOIRA SHIRE COUNCIL COMMUNITY SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT LOCAL LAWS 2013

6.1 Animals, birds (including pigeons), and poultry

- (a) No person may without a permit keep any livestock, birds (including pigeons), or poultry other than a domestic animal, fowl hen or song bird on any property in a residential area.
- (b) No person shall allow to remain on any property any noisy animal, bird (including pigeons), or poultry which in the opinion of an authorised officer cause a nuisance to any person residing in the neighbourhood.
- (c) For the purpose of this Part, noises emanating from such animals, birds (including pigeons), or poultry shall not be deemed to cause a nuisance to any person unless objections in writing have been lodged with Council from more than one resident of immediate neighbouring properties
- (d) Pigeons shall not be kept on any property unless in a pigeon loft constructed to Council's requirements.
- (e) Except on land in a rural area, an owner or occupier of land shall not keep:
 - (i) a rooster
 - (ii) a turkey or
 - (iii) a goose or gander
 - (iv) a peacock or peahen

Penalty First offence – 10 penalty units

Second or subsequent offence – 20 penalty units

6.2 Dogs

- (a) No person may without a permit keep more than two dogs on any property in a residential area or commercial area, or on any property in a rural area which comprises less than eight hectares.
- (b) No dog shall be housed or confined in an enclosure or tethered at a lesser distance than 5 metres from any dwelling on an adjoining property, and such enclosure shall comprise an area of not less than ten square metres in respect of each dog being confined.

Penalty First offence – 10 penalty units

Second or subsequent offence – 20 penalty units

6.3 Cats

- (a) No person may without a permit keep more than two cats on any property in a residential area or commercial area, or on any property in a rural area which comprises less than eight hectares.
- (b) No person shall keep or allow to be kept a cat which in the opinion of an authorised officer causes a nuisance or damage to any person, property or the environment.

Penalty First offence – 10 penalty units

Second or subsequent offence – 20 penalty units

6.5 Vermin control

- (a) The owner or occupier of any property shall keep the area of land within two metres of a poultry house, pigeon loft, bird cage or enclosure free from all dry grass, weeds, waste and other materials capable of harbouring vermin.
- (b) No person shall keep on any property where poultry or birds are kept, any food for their consumption unless such food is kept in vermin-proof receptacles or buildings.

Penalty First offence – 10 penalty units

Second or subsequent offence – 20 penalty units

6.6 Cleanliness

- (a) The owner or occupier of any property shall cause every poultry house, pigeon loft, bird cage or enclosure, to be thoroughly cleansed as often as may be necessary and shall keep the same in a clean and sanitary condition at all times.
- (b) Droppings and waste from any animal, bird or poultry shall be removed from the property from time to time or as frequently as may be directed by an authorised officer so as not to cause a nuisance or offensive conditions.

Penalty First offence – 10 penalty units
Second or subsequent offence – 20 penalty units

6.8 Control of disease

The owner or occupier of any property on which there is kept any animal, bird, or poultry which develops any contagious or infectious disease which is or is likely to be injurious to any human being or other animal, shall cause such animal, bird, or poultry as the case may be, to receive appropriate treatment from a qualified Veterinarian or be destroyed and properly disposed of to the satisfaction of an authorised officer.

Penalty First offence – 10 penalty units
Second or subsequent offence – 20 penalty units

6.9 Animal Excrement

- (a) No person in charge of an animal shall allow any part of the animal's excrement to remain on a road or Council land.
- (b) A person in charge of a domestic animal must carry a suitable receptacle for the removal of that animal's excrement from a road or Council land.

Penalty First offence – 10 penalty units.
Second or subsequent offence – 20 penalty units.

APPENDIX 4 – SERVICE LEVELS

Activities	Service Level
Cat Traps	Cat Trap hire scheme
Declared Dog complaints	Immediate Response
Develop and maintain relationship with Veterinary clinic	Ongoing
Dog Attacks and Investigations	Immediate Response
Domestic Animal Businesses	Maintain Domestic Animal Business registration database Inspections conducted annually
Domestic animal complaints	Depends on the nature and urgency of the complaint. Response can range from immediate action or time frames in line with Councils Customer Service Charter, business rules and protocols
Identification and registration activities	Animal to be checked for microchip upon seizure and owner to be contacted via phone within first 24 hours
Impounding of wandering, surrendered animals or feral cats	Collected same day if restrained. As negotiated if surrendered.
Maintain registration database	Annual registration renewal notice is sent to pet owners prior to April. Overdue Registration reminder letters are sent in May
Media Releases	Council publishes press releases on various animal topics including animal registration, micro-chipping requirements as well as targeting locally identified 'hot topics' as the need arises
Pound Management	Pound is owned and operated by Council and is open during office hours by appointment only
Provide a 24-hour a day after-hours emergency service	Ongoing via Contractor
Provide advice on domestic animal matters	Ongoing
Registration door knocks	In response to complaints and non-renewed registrations

APPENDIX 5 – DOMESTIC ANIMAL REGISTRATION STATISTICS

Domestic Animal Statistics	2017 to 2018	2018 to 2019	2019 to 2020	2020 to 2021
Registered Dogs	5294	5127	4792	4752
Registered Cats	1305	1269	1217	1304
Registered Declared Dogs	4	4	4	4
Complaints Received	1505	1323	1387	1285
Domestic Animal Businesses	5	6	6	5
Keeping of Surplus Animal Permits	7	3	9	7

APPENDIX 6 – IMPOUNDED ANIMAL STATISTICS

Impounded Animals	2017 to 2018				2018 to 2019				2019 to 2020				2020 to 2021			
	Dogs	%	Cats	%	Dogs	%	Cats	%	Dogs	%	Cats	%	Dogs	%	Cats	%
Total Impounded	181	31	394	69	215	37	367	63	199	32	425	68	135	21	507	79
Feral / Wild / Uncontrolled			155	39			81	22			190	45			221	44
Owned Animals	181	100	239	61	215	100	286	78	199	100	235	55	135	100	286	56
Seized wandering	143	79	361	92	168	78	322	88	144	72	367	86	112	83	392	77
Seized dog attack	6	3			11	5			12	6			3	2		
Abandoned	1	1	3	0	10	5			5	3	4	1	2	1	1	0
Surrendered	31	17	30	8	26	12	40	11	38	19	50	12	18	13	81	16
Seized RSPCA															24	5
Born in pound							5	1			4	1			9	2
Total excluding ferals	181		239		215		286		199		235		135		286	
Registered	23	13	2	1	38	18	5	1	26	13	5	3	26	19	5	2
Microchipped	111	61	16	4	140	65	19	5	88	44	21	11	80	59	29	10
Reclaimed by owner	98	54	19	8	143	67	18	6	97	49	18	9	90	67	23	8
Escaped			4	2			6	2			1	0			2	1
Stolen									1	0	1	0				
Died in pound	1	1	1	0			1	0			1	0				
Euthanased	35	19	122	51	29	13	136	48	28	14	45	19	18	13	133	47
Unsuitable for rehousing	21	60	47	39	29	100	83	61	20	71	24	53	13	72	127	95
Rehoused	47	26	93	39	42	20	123	43	73	37	169	72	27	20	127	44
Foster care					1	0	2	1							1	0

**Statistics are from 11 April to 10 April the following year

APPENDIX 7 – DOMESTIC ANIMAL COMPLAINTS RECEIVED STATISTICS

Domestic Animal Complaints Received	2017 to 2018	2018 to 2019	2019 to 2020	2020 to 2021
Total Complaints	1505	1323	1387	1285
Cat (Lost)	104	72	113	123
Cat Issues	291	323	309	353
Cat (registration)	8	13	13	20
Cat (stray)	214	225	254	273
Cat (Surrender)	18	31	19	17
Cat (trap)	51	54	23	43
Dog (Lost)	220	129	181	140
Dog Issues	525	506	474	474
Dog Off lead	10	4	5	17
Dog (Greyhounds)	0	0	0	0
Dog (Nuisance)	127	164	175	129
Dog (Registration)	82	83	53	81
Dog (Stray)	261	228	205	221
Dog (Surrender)	45	27	36	26
Dog Attack / Rush	91	78	97	83
Dog Attack (Livestock)	13	14	24	10
Dog Attack (Other)	40	30	30	30
Dog Attack (Person)	18	20	13	12
Dog Rush	20	14	30	31
Other **	175	185	154	76
Animal business complaints	6	14	14	7
Cruelty / Welfare issues	23	26	3	1
Animal Control	101	100	122	63
Keeping of Animals	37	34	14	5
Noise (Animals)	8	11	1	0
Adoption Request	99	30	59	36

**Statistics from 11 April to 10 April the following year

APPENDIX 7 – INFRINGEMENTS AND PROSECUTIONS

	2017 to 2018	2018 to 2019	2019 to 2020	2020 to 2021
Total Infringements	8	30	25	25
Cat at large in restricted district	0	0	0	0
Dog/Cat found in prohibited public place	0	0	0	0
Dog at large during daytime	6	6	8	7
Dog at large during night time	0	0	1	0
Failure to apply to register dog or cat	1	8	11	11
No dog/cat identification marker	0	0	0	0
Allow Dog To Rush Or Chase A Person	0	0	0	0
Non-Serious Injury Caused By Dog Attack	0	2	1	2
Not Renewing Dog or Cat Registration	1	14	4	5

**Statistics from 11 April to 10 April the following year

Prosecutions	2017 to 2018	2018 to 2019	2019 to 2020	2020 to 2021
Prosecutions Undertaken	0	0	2	0

DEFINITIONS

Term	Definition
Authorised Officer the Section Act.	A person employed by Council who is authorised under Section 224 of <i>Local Government Act 1989</i> * to administer and enforce the Act and 72 of the <i>Domestic Animals Act 1994</i> to administer and enforce the Act. *As the legislation currently stands
DAB	A Domestic Animal Business
DJPR DEDJTR in January 2019.	The Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions. The department was
DAM Plan	The <i>Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021- 25</i>
The Act	The <i>Domestic Animals Act 1994</i>
The Regulations	The <i>Domestic Animals Regulations 2015</i>
Codes of Practice	Specific standards for the conduct of various activities relating to dogs and cats
Permanent identification device	A microchip or other electronic device that is capable of being permanently implanted in an animal of a prescribed class of animal and that is designed to record information in a manner that can be electronically retrieved.
Desexing	In relation to a dog or cat means a surgical procedure to remove all or part of the reproductive organs of the dog or cat to prevent it breeding and to prevent or eliminate secondary sexual behaviours.
Domestic Animal Business	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 for the purpose of profit or sale; or for a fee or for exchange of services.
Microchip	See Permanent Identification Device
Pound	Any premises maintained for the purpose of impounding dogs or cats.