Moorabool Shire Council

DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

2012-2016

The Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) 2012-2016 was adopted by Moorabool Shire Council on 4 December 2013
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2008, the State Government amended the Domestic Animals Act 1994 specifying that all Victorian councils prepare a four year Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP).

The DAMP enables Council to take a greater strategic approach to animal management within the municipality by:

- Promoting and encouraging responsible pet ownership;
- Encompassing effective management of dogs and cats through desexing programs and identification through microchipping of cats and dogs; and
- Reducing public and environmental nuisances caused by dogs either wandering and/or not under effective control in public places and open spaces.

The development and implementation of the DAMP for Moorabool Shire, incorporating the State legislative amendments, will:

- Improve animal management;
- Increase the likelihood of microchipped animals being reunited with their owners
- Decrease the numbers of cats and dogs being handed into the pound
- Decrease the numbers of cats and dogs having to be euthanized
- Decrease the amount of dog attacks
- Increase public safety
- Provide safety and welfare for animals
- Regulate the confinement of dogs and cats
- Provide access to open and public spaces for the exercise of dogs with their owners

In representing the community, Council’s responsibility is to keep the community informed of innovative approaches in managing domestic animals across the municipality.

Council is responsible for the management and operation of the Shire's Pound, located in Bacchus Marsh.
AIM

The development and implementation of this Plan will:

- Raise community awareness regarding responsible pet ownership
- Educate and assist the community to be responsible pet owners
- Increase Council awareness about domestic animal management
- Heighten Council support for animal management
- Address animal issues within the municipality
- Address authorised officer training needs
- Address animal welfare issues
- Ensure Council remains up-to-date with current legislation
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1. **INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT**

**Purpose of the Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP)**

In 2008, the State Government amended the *Domestic Animals Act* (1994) (the Act).

To further improve animal management, councils in Victoria are required by legislation to prepare and implement a Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP).

The purpose of the DAMP is to improve the way domestic animals are managed within the Shire.

The plan aims to increase the chances of animals being reunited with their owners and decrease the numbers of cats and dogs being surrendered to the animal pound, therefore decreasing the numbers of dogs and cats that are euthanized.

The DAMP provides the community and stakeholders with the chance to express their views about matters relating to animal management, particularly the community’s views on compulsory microchipping and desexing of all cats and dogs in the Shire.

Section 68A of the Act requires a Domestic Animal Management Plan to include:

1. An evaluation of current animal control services provided by Council to ensure they comply with the requirements of the Act.

2. Services and strategies to promote responsible pet ownership of dog and cats.

3. Ways to minimise the risk of dog attacks on people and animals.

4. Address the euthanasia rates for dogs and cats.

5. Encourage and promote the registration and identification of cats and dogs.

6. Reduce the potential for cats and dogs to create an environmental nuisance.

7. Effectively identify all dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs in the municipality and ensure these dogs are kept in compliance with the Act.

8. Provide training for authorised officers to ensure they can properly administer and enforce the requirements of the Act.
**Process applied in developing the DAMP**

In October 2013, the draft DAMP will be placed on Council’s Have Your Say website for the community to provide feedback on the proposed plan.

In addition, the draft was submitted to external stakeholders for comment and feedback.

This community engagement process was utilised to gain a broad range of views and input into the development of the DAMP. Additional information was sought by reviewing current domestic animal-related literature, and discussing current animal issues with other Council service units to discover their views on compulsory microchipping and desexing of dogs and cats.

The consultation process included:

- Conducting consultation with all relevant stakeholders
- Advertisements in Council’s customer service centres
- Community consultation via Council’s websites
- Views sought from the local veterinarians
- Input from other councils
- Consultation with dog breeders

This consultation process, together with investigations by Council Community Safety Officers, has contributed to the development of the Domestic Animal Management Plan.
2. **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

**Moorabool Shire Council Animal Management Services**

Moorabool Shire Council recognises that pets contribute to the improved quality of life for many people.

The benefits of animal companionship for health and wellbeing are associated with being a pet owner. Therefore, educating the community about the needs and responsibilities of animal ownership is very important.

Council also recognises that being proactive within the community assists in animal management, as well as working in partnership with stakeholders and the community to ensure the safety and wellbeing of residents.

Councils are required to provide an animal management service to ensure community safety, respond to enquiries from the community and provide enforcement of relevant Acts. Council operates under the following legislation:

- Domestic Animals Act 1994
- Impounding of Livestock Act 1994
- Infringements Act 2006
- Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986
- Code of practice for the operation Breeding and Rearing Establishments
- Code of practice for the operation of Boarding Establishments
- Codes of practice for the Management of Animals in Shelters and Pounds
- Codes of practice for the operation of Pet Shops
- Codes of practice for the operation of Greyhound Establishments
- Codes of practice for Dog Training Establishments

When considering the actions outlined in this Plan the Mission, Vision and Strategic Framework adopted by Council in 2013 and outlined below guided the decision making process.

**Moorabool Shire Council’s Mission for the municipality (Council Plan 2013-2017) is:**

“Working with our people to deliver valued outcomes that improve community wellbeing and are economically responsible”

**Moorabool Shire Council’s Vision for the municipality (Council Plan 2013-2017) is:**

“Vibrant and resilient communities with unique identities”

**Moorabool Shire Council’s Strategic Framework for the municipality (Council Plan 2013-2017)**

This four year Council Plan provides the strategic direction for Council to move towards its desired outcomes.

The Council Plan clearly outlines:

- the vision or desired future state for Moorabool
- the mission or Council’s purpose
- the behaviours Council values as an organisation
- the four key result areas or main themes that guide new initiatives and continuing services
- the objectives or desired outcomes within each key result area
- the strategies to be undertaken to achieve the objectives
- the measures to be used to monitor Council’s performance over the four years
3. **MOORABOOL SHIRE COUNCIL’S GOAL FOR DAMP**

To educate and promote the benefits and importance of microchipping, registering and desexing domestic animals within our municipality.

To ensure key outcomes from the DAMP meet the community’s expectations regarding responsible pet management.
4. **DOMESTIC ANIMAL STATISTICS AND DATA**

In 2007, BIS Shrapnel estimated that in Australia:

- 40 percent of households owned one or more dogs
- 26 percent of households owned one or more cats
- 53 percent of households own a dog/and or a cat

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Moorabool Shire Council</th>
<th>Moorabool Shire Council</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Key Statistics for 2012</strong></td>
<td><strong>Key Statistics for 2012</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>29,409</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area</td>
<td>2110 sq km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of EFT Authorised Officers (Animal Control)</td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours training per officer annually</td>
<td>40 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of registered dogs</td>
<td>5,201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of registered cats</td>
<td>1,163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of registered dogs declared</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of dog complaints</td>
<td>192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of cat complaints</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of dog attacks</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. **Current Animal Management Programs and Services**

Council’s Community Safety Officers trained in animal management deal with a wide range of issues associated with domestic animals throughout the municipality. These include:

- Dealing with customer complaints
- Maintaining the animal pound to the required standards
- Investigating dog attacks
- Random visits (door knocks) to pet owners’ homes to ensure pets are registered
- Providing after hours emergency service to address public safety issues
- Access to open and public places
- Daily pick-ups of strays, unwanted and feral animals
- Inspections of kennels, dangerous and restricted breed premises ensuring compliance with legislation
- Issuing of Local Law permits for additional animals
- Registering and inspecting Domestic Animal Businesses
- Educating the community on being responsible pet owners
- Assisting other departments with animal advice
- Maintaining the impound register
- The continuous review of Council’s duty to fulfil legislative requirements relating to domestic animals

Council’s Community Safety Unit is expected to meet a number of minimum service level requirements each year as part of its standard service delivery to the community. These include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program/Service</th>
<th>Service Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identification and registration of cats and dogs</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identification and registration - door knock campaigns for unregistered animals</td>
<td>Annually (At various intervals throughout the year)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic animal complaints</td>
<td>Addressed as a matter of priority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dangerous Dog complaints</td>
<td>Immediate response where practicable. Treated with the highest priority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Routine Street Patrols for wandering animals</td>
<td>Daily in the course of duties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pound – Cleaning and feeding of animals</td>
<td>Monday – Friday 9.30am – 11.00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pound hours of business</td>
<td>Monday – Friday 4.00pm – 5.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saturday &amp; Sunday 8.00am – 10.00am and 3.00pm – 4.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microchipping</td>
<td>Council conducts an annual microchipping day so residents can have their pets microchipped at a reduced rate. (In 2011, Council held two microchipping days. In total, 88 cats and dogs were microchipped and 65 new registrations were obtained).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School information sessions about responsible pet ownership</td>
<td>Community Safety Officers conduct Responsible Pet Ownership sessions at schools upon request at agreed scheduled times.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After-hours service</td>
<td>On call Community Safety Officers will respond</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6. **CONSULTATION OUTCOMES**

**Background**
Members of the community and stakeholders were invited to participate in a consultation process to assist Council in the development of the DAMP and to measure the attitudes of the community regarding compulsory microchipping and desexing of all cats and dogs.

The consultation process included participation from:
- The Lost Dogs Home
- Cat and dog owners
- Registered breeder
- The Cats Coalition Crisis Centre
- The broader Moorabool community

Additional information was obtained by reviewing current literature about animal management issues and by obtaining feedback from other Council service units.

**Outcomes**
The consultation and research findings indicate that the major concern pertaining to domestic animals within Moorabool Shire was dogs at large. The second major complaint is barking dogs.

Outcomes of consultation also indicate that there is considerable concern regarding irresponsible pet ownership in the Shire.

The amount of regulatory control which exists to manage issues such as irresponsible pet ownership is another area of concern for residents.
DAMP Key Issues

Responsible Pet Ownership (Prospective and New Pet Owners)
The DAMP places a strong emphasis on educating prospective pet owners and new pet owners about all aspects of owning a pet, including microchipping, desexing, registration and health. This will be achieved through the development of a responsible pet ownership education program, and by providing prospective pet owners with information and advice prior to obtaining a pet.

The objective of the education program will be to inform new and prospective pet owners of the responsibilities of owning a pet. Advice will include:

- Selecting a breed that is appropriate for the new owners lifestyle
- Registering pets annually
- Vaccination of pets
- Desexing of pets
- Socialisation of pets around other animals and humans
- Exercising of dogs
- Appropriate fencing for containment
- Microchipping of existing animals
- Ensuring pets have regular check-ups

Desexing Cats and Dogs
Unless otherwise stated in the Act, dogs and cats are not required to be desexed other than if they are a restricted breed dog. However, owners of cats and dog are encouraged to have their pets desexed. From 11 April 2013, desexed cats and dogs are eligible for a reduced registration fee.

Benefits of desexing your pets include:

- Decrease in unplanned and unnecessary breeding
- Decrease in the likelihood of aggressive behaviour, predominantly in males
- Reduced amount of dogs wandering at large
- Improved temperament

Microchipping Cats and Dogs
As at 1 May 2007, it is now State Government legislation that all new dogs and cats must be microchipped before they can be registered with Council. Whilst this rule does not apply to pets already registered with Council, it is recommended that they be microchipped as well.

The advantages of microchipping are:

- It is the most effective way of identifying your pets if lost
- It assists Council staff in reuniting you with your lost pets
- Animals that are impounded are scanned for a microchip and if one is present it facilitates the return of the animal
- It is a permanent method of identification that stays with your animals for life
**Dog Attacks**
All dogs have the potential to bite regardless of their breed, size, age and temperament, particularly in situations where they are frightened, vying for domination over another dog, or are being protective of their owners.

Dogs that have been exercised and socialised with other dogs are less likely to have aggressive tendencies.

Dogs that are on leads when not confined to their properties reduce the risk of dog attacks occurring within the municipality. All dog owners are encouraged to contain their animals to their properties unless they are under effective control, which requires the dog to be on a lead unless it is a working dog.

On 11 June 2003, Council adopted a plan that requires dogs to be on leads **at all times** within the community other than in designated off-lead areas.

Upon request, Community Safety Officers will visit schools to teach students how to behave around animals.

As most dog attacks occur in the family home, parents are encouraged to supervise their children at all times when they are playing with dogs.

**Dogs Wandering at Large**
It is assumed that a dog is wandering at large when it is in a public place and/or without consent of an owner/occupier.

Dogs are generally not wandering at large in the following circumstances:

- the dog is being used for working stock such as droving, tending, working or protecting stock
- the dog is under effective control of the owner within off leash areas

A person who is responsible for the dog wandering at large, and who is not in control of the dog or does not have the dog on a lead, is guilty of an offence under the Act as wandering dogs at large can be a threat to the community.

To reduce the amount of dogs wandering at large, a combination of education, encouragement and enforcement will ensure that the majority of microchipped and registered dogs impounded are returned to their owners.

**Cats Wandering at Large**
Cats need to be under the effective control of their owners at all times. A growing stray cat population (currently there are over 500,000 stray cats in Victoria) creates a public health risk and a public nuisance in terms of disease if the cats are not vaccinated and desexed.

Feeding and harbouring stray and feral cats can cause over population with disease, and aggressive animals becoming a nuisance for neighbouring properties.

Moorabool Shire has cat traps available for hire to residents. No trapping is allowed over the weekend period. All animals trapped by this method are retained for an 8 day holding period to allow owners to claim, unless they are feral and not permanently identified by microchip.
Welfare of Cats and Dogs
Cats and dogs that have been impounded within Moorabool Shire Council’s pound facility will be:

- Scanned for a microchip
- Provided with veterinary treatment as required
- Provided with fresh water and suitable food in accordance with relevant legislation
- Maintained in the pound facility to prevent disease transfer
- Provided bedding and housing from weather conditions in order to remain clean, dry and comfortable surroundings
- Handled by trained staff
- Provided with a facility for humane euthanasia where necessary

Moorabool Shire Council has implemented and adopted a Cat Management Policy which forms an attachment to this Domestic Animal Management Plan.

A Cat Management Brochure has also been developed and adopted and is available from our Customer Service Centres, and the Bacchus Marsh Veterinarian.

Animals are rehoused directly from the Council Pound utilising the various agencies available to Moorabool Shire Council and a dedicated Facebook Adoption page. Due to recent legislative changes there is no requirement to rehouse within a restricted timeframe allowing Community Safety Officers to rehabilitate animals that may require specialized one on one attention.

Moorabool Shire Council advertises suitably assessed animals on the Pet Rescue website and by liaising with individual Breed Rescue organisations in an attempt to minimise the number of animals euthanized.

Moorabool Shire Council advertises all adoptions in local media outlets and on the Facebook internet site to promote Animal Adoption to the wider community.

100% of suitably assessed rehousable animals are rehoused by the above initiatives.

Keeping cats inside at night
Cats that are outside at night have a tendency to roam from their home, are at greater risk of sustaining injury through being hit by a car and are more at risk of contracting a disease, such as Feline AIDS or Enteritis (both of which are not dangerous to humans) from fighting with other cats.

Council does not have a cat curfew; however it is recommended that cats are contained indoors between 7.30pm and 6am.

By keeping your cat inside at night between the hours of 7.30pm to 6am, it will also minimise the amount of hunting your cat does, as most of a cat’s hunting is done at night. This hunting generally causes a reduction in numbers of various native fauna.

Community Safety
Council will aim to ensure public safety through the reduction of animals wandering at large by:
- Ensuring dogs are on leads at all times, other than at designated off-lead areas
- Implementing strategies to assist pet owners and members of the community who are experiencing difficulties with pets
- Introducing barking dog collars, access to cat cages, as well as re-housing
- Encouraging the reporting of all dog attacks
- Voluntary surrender of dangerous dogs

**Barking Dogs**
The continued nuisance of a barking dog can become a very complex and difficult issue to deal with effectively and can be rather stressful for those involved.

Council promotes a collaborative approach to overcome barking dog complaints, including:
- Liaising with concerned parties involved in a complaint regarding a barking dog and the animals owner
- Providing advice on the use and purchase of citronella collars
- Providing advice on the use and hire of bark counting collars
- Providing advice on anti-barking “birdhouses” available for hire and purchase
- Promoting keeping cats inside at night
- Requesting complainants and adjoining neighbours to complete a barking dog diary to ascertain times when dogs are barking excessively.

Council staff are committed to liaising with all parties to achieve positive outcomes

**Promote Socialisation and Dog Training**
Training and socialisation is encouraged to pet owners who adopt a dog from Council's pound.

There are many training and obedience clubs throughout the municipality offering individual or group tuition.

**Promotion of Dog Off-Leash Areas**
On 11 June 2003, Council adopted a plan that dogs must be on leads at all times when out in the community other than when they are at designated areas throughout the municipality that have been declared as “dog off lead areas”.

As part of promoting the dog off-lead areas, signs have been placed at these sites. Information has been placed in Council Customer Service Centres and advertisements placed in the local newspaper as well as the Moorabool Shire Council Newsletter.

**Registration and Identification**
All dogs and cats over three months old must be registered with Council. Working Dogs must be registered but have a reduced fee. Similarly, assistance animals, such as guide dogs must be registered but this registration is fee free. Council is continually seeking ways to increase the proportion of dogs and cats that are registered in our municipality. Some of these include:
- Promoting the microchipping / registration annual event days; and
- Encouraging concessions for eligible members of the public on their registrations.
- Conducting regular door knock inspections throughout the municipality to enforce registration requirements.
8. **STRATEGIC DIRECTION FOR DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT**

**Animal Management Officer Training and Development**
Moorabool Shire Council's main objective is to ensure all staff involved with animal management have the skills and knowledge necessary to safely carry out their work.

All of Council's Animal Management staff have participated in Customer Focus Training and will undertake further Customer Service Training in the short term to ensure they are familiar with organisational customer service standards and response timeframes.

Other training being undertaken by staff includes:

- Certificate IV in Animal Control and Regulation course
- Animal and Livestock handling (training)
- Carry Out Pound Procedures
- Aggressive dog handling techniques

Council will work towards:

- Providing ongoing customer focus training to staff
- Encouraging all officers to undertake the Certificate IV in Animal Control and Regulation

**Encouraging Responsible Pet Ownership**
Moorabool Shire Council's main objective is to assist pet owners to protect the health and welfare of their pets. Council will encourage pet owners to be more responsible through:

- Education - advertisements/pamphlets
- Microchipping days
- Delivering responsible pet ownership sessions within schools as per requests
- Placing brochures in local veterinary clinics and other relevant outlets.

**Planned Programs and Initiatives:**

- Initiate programs with YMCA and other community and sporting groups
- Promote responsible pet ownership in schools
- Deliver pamphlets promoting information on responsible pet ownership
- Provide additional and ongoing microchipping days
- Promote off-leash areas and the need to exercise dogs
- Provide information to the media on responsible pet ownership
Identification and Registration
Moorabool Shire Council’s main objective is to increase the number of registered and identifiable animals in the municipality through:

- Annual mail-out of renewal registrations
- Annual door knock to enforce registrations
- Leaflets available to the public in our Customer Service Centres and from the Community Safety Unit
- Advertisements in the local paper promoting registration
- Bi-monthly Moorabool Shire Community Newsletter Moorabool Matters

Planned Programs and Initiatives:

- Continue annual door knocks
- Continue to include information about responsible pet ownership in the Moorabool Shire Community Newsletter Moorabool Matters
- Advertisements in the local paper
- Pamphlet drop in areas considered to have high rates of unregistered animals
- Continue mail-outs of annual renewal registration for animals
- Continue participation in the State’s pet registration incentive scheme
- Provide up-to-date information in Council’s Customer Services areas and in the Community Safety Unit

Compliance and Enforcement - Local Laws and Orders
Moorabool Shire Council’s objective is to achieve compliance by implementing and enforcing laws and regulations of the Domestic Animals Act 1994.

Moorabool Shire Council’s current enforcements include:

- Local Law permit required for more than two dogs or cats in residential areas
- Current off-leash designated areas (adopted by Council on 11 June 2003)

Planned Programs and Initiatives:

- Review Local Laws pertaining to zoning of animals (review scheduled for 2014)
- Patrol and monitor open spaces and public place (dogs off leads)
- Educate the community to ensure that dogs are on leads or under effective control if in an off lead area to ensure that breaches are not committed under the Act

Domestic Animal Businesses
Moorabool Shire Council has ten registered domestic animal businesses within its municipality.

Community Safety Officers undertake annual checks of these businesses to ensure compliance with the Code of Practice.

Planned Programs and Initiatives:

- Continue annual checks of these businesses to ensure Codes of Practice are adhered to
- Promote responsible pet ownership
Declared Dogs
Moorabool Shire Council’s objective is to prevent dog attacks in the community by dangerous dogs.

Council currently has twelve declared dangerous dogs.

The Shire undertakes patrols of non-residential properties to identify dogs that are on business premises which are required to be declared for the purpose of guarding.

Planned Programs and Initiatives:

- Continue to patrol all non-residential areas
- All dogs declared to Council are recorded on the Victorian Declared Registry
- Continue to inspect the current premises of the dangerous/restricted dogs to ensure that compliance is adhered to

Restricted Breed Dogs
The Domestic Animals Act legislates to place restrictions on certain breeds of dogs. Currently, the following breeds are considered restricted breed dogs:

- American Pit Bull Terrier (or Pit Bull Terrier)
- Japanese Tosa
- Dogo Argentina
- Fila Brasileiro
- Perro de Presa Canario or (Presa Canario)
### 9. PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Council will monitor and review the DAMP continuously to improve the animal management services that are detailed in the plan.

**Key Performance Indicators will include reviewing:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>Target</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Dog Registration rate</td>
<td>Number of dogs registered as a percentage of residential properties</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>+10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Cat Registration rate</td>
<td>Number of cats registered as a percentage of residential properties</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>+10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Enforcement Success Rate</td>
<td>Number of successful prosecution outcomes as a percentage of total prosecutions</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Dog Re-housing rate</td>
<td>Number of dogs re-housed as a percentage of total dogs impounded</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>+5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Cat Re-housing rate</td>
<td>Number of cats re-housed as a percentage of total cats impounded</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>+5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Dog reclaim rate</td>
<td>Number of dogs reclaimed as a percentage of total dogs impounded</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Cat reclaim rate</td>
<td>Number of cats reclaimed as a percentage of total cats impounded</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Dog euthanasia rate</td>
<td>Number of dogs euthanized as a percentage of total dogs impounded</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Cat euthanasia rate</td>
<td>Number of cats euthanized as a percentage of total cats impounded</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Declared dog Compliance Rate</td>
<td>Number of declared dogs as a percentage of number of complaints/audits</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Domestic Animals Business Compliance Rate</td>
<td>Number of domestic animal businesses registered as a percentage of number of complaints/audits</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
10. **REVIEW CYCLE FOR DAMP**

The Domestic Animal Management Plan actions will be reviewed annually as part of service delivery planning by Council’s Animal Management Team. Should there be any issues arising from the DAMP, they will be reported immediately to the Community Safety Coordinator for further action.

Moorabool Shire Council will continue to monitor the progress of the DAMP and will conduct a full review every four years.
# APPENDIX A: ACTION PLAN

<p>| Initiative 1 | Responsible Pet Ownership. (New and prospective pet owners) | Ongoing microchipping days. Pamphlets and brochures made available at the pound and service centres throughout the Shire. | Budget/Communications/Advertising/Customer Service |
| Initiative 2 | De-sexing Cats and Dogs | Adopted by Order of Council | Communications/Advertising |
| Initiative 3 | Microchipping cats and dogs | Adopted by Order of Council | Communications/Advertising |
| Initiative 5 | Cats and dogs wandering at large | Continue education of responsible pet ownership. Continued education on the benefits of confining cats at night. | Communications/Advertising |
| Initiative 6 | The welfare of dogs and cats | Continue maintaining the welfare of cats and dogs at the pound. And continue encouraging responsible pet ownership. | Budget/Communications/Advertising |
| Initiative 7 | Community Safety | Inform the community of designated off leash areas for dogs. Continue regular patrols. Introduce the hiring of barking dog collars. Access to cat cages as well as re-homing. Encourage the reporting of all dog attacks. Take appropriate action to investigate dog attacks and to ensure they do not reoccur. | Communications/Advertising/Budget/Customer Service |
| Initiative 8 | Barking dogs | Educating the community on the effects of continual barking. Promote bark counting dog collars and anti-bark “birdhouses” for hire. Education to ensure the barking dog diaries are completed correctly. | Communications/Advertising |
| Initiative 9 | Promote Socialisation and Dog Training | As part of responsible pet ownership, socialisation and dog training is encouraged and recommended when dogs are purchased from the Council pound. Brochures are made available from the pound, Customer Service Centres and the Community Safety Unit | Communications/Advertising/Customer Service |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initiative 10</th>
<th>Promotion of Dogs Off Leash Areas</th>
<th>Promote dog off leash areas. Patrol areas to ensure compliance.</th>
<th>Communications/ Advertising/ Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initiative 11</td>
<td>Registration and Identification</td>
<td>Encouraging concessions for eligible members of the public. Continuation of microchipping days. Annual door knocking, to proactively ensure all domestic animals within the Shire are registered. Advertisements in the local paper and Moorabool matters</td>
<td>Communications/ Advertising/ Budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initiative 12</td>
<td>Conduct Animal Management Officer training</td>
<td>Encourage officers to undertake Certificate IV in Statutory Government Compliance. Ongoing training in animal shelter management. Authorisation and training. To implant microchips. Continued customer focus training</td>
<td>Budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initiative 13</td>
<td>Monitor performance and evaluate the effectiveness of the service</td>
<td>Existing reporting systems. Consultation with community and benchmarking against other councils</td>
<td>Budget</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX B: DOG OFF-LEASH AREAS

On 11 June 2003, Moorabool Shire Council made the following order pursuant to Section 26(2) of the Domestic Animals Act 1994:

“All dogs must be kept under the effective control of a person by means of a chain, cord or leash when in any public place (including but not limited to any park, footpath, nature strip, traffic island, market and shared pathway) within Council’s municipal district except where:

(i) The dog is participating in any activity of a type which has been approved by resolution of Council; or
(ii) Any of the circumstances listed in Section 20(2) of the Domestic Animals Act 1994 applies.”

Council has further resolved that dogs may be exercised off lead at any time at the following locations:

- Peppertree Park Bacchus Marsh
- Federation Park Bacchus Marsh
- Reserve adjacent to Lerderderg River Bacchus Marsh (from pump shed to bridge)
- Reserve on Western side of Links Rd behind houses in Pamela Court Darley
- Telford Park Darley
- Caledonia Park Ballan
- Road East Recreation Reserve Mt Egerton
- Lyndhurst St Public Park & Water Reserve Gordon
- Parkers Rd Reserve Lal Lal
- Vacant land at south east corner of Dunnstown Recreation Reserve

Council has also resolved that dogs may be exercised off lead in the following areas after 4.30pm Mon-Fri, and on Saturday and Sunday, only when the Reserves are not in use for designated public sporting events, training and/or special events as designated from time to time by the Committee of Management at:

- Masons Lane
- Blackwood Recreation Reserve
- Myrniong Recreation Reserve and when reserves are not in use for designated public sporting training and/or special events as designated from time to time by the Committee of Management.
- Bungaree- Creswick Road Reserve
- Ormond Road/Western Highway Recreation Reserve Wallace

OWNERS RESPONSIBILITIES

- Ensure your dog is not a nuisance to other park users.
- Ensure your dog remains under effective control at all times.
- Dogs must be on a leash within 10 metres of barbecue and picnic areas, public gatherings and children’s play areas.
- Dog owners must clean up their dog’s faeces. Dog dispensers are provided in most parks and reserves. Used bags and scoops may be disposed of appropriately in park bins.
APPENDIX C: DOG OFF-LEASH AREAS - MAPS

BACCHUS MARSH

[Map of Bacchus Marsh with dog off-leash areas highlighted]
APPENDIX D: CAT MANAGEMENT POLICY

1. Purpose and Scope of the Policy

This policy should be read in conjunction with Council’s Domestic Animal Management Plan.

The following policy forms the basis for cat control and management within the township and rural living areas of Moorabool Shire. While many of the conditions are not enforceable under Local laws or other legislation, cat owners are urged to respect the policy, other residents and the environment in which they live.

2. Policy

Promote responsible cat ownership in the community by ensuring that cat owners are educated on the best practice management of their cat and understand the importance of working within the guidelines of the Moorabool Shire Cat Management Policy that aims to:

- Conduct regular education with provision of pamphlets and advice on cat ownership;
- Offer advice and assistance with respect to complaints or enquiries related to cat keeping;
- Encourage owners to ensure that their cat is de-sexed, immunised, kept free of parasites and are fed/watered and provided with adequate shelter and prevented from roaming at nights; and
- Assist to return cats to their owners if they are impounded.

3. Process

- All cats must be registered with Moorabool Shire Council from three months of age, if being registered for the 1st time, cats must be microchipped prior to registering;
- Cat owners should ensure their cat(s) wear registration ID tags at all times;
- Cats should not adversely impact on the lives of residents by creating a nuisance through noise or trespass;
- Owners are urged to enforce a nightly curfew on their cats to reduce hunting opportunities and creating public nuisance;
- Council will provide residents with cat traps for a small fee and assist them to resolve cat problems in a humane way;
- Council will continue to provide appropriate educational material to residents in respect to responsible cat ownership including the current cat brochure;
- Council will provide residents with the opportunities to microchip their pets by sponsoring microchipping days in association with appropriate companies; and
- Domestic Animal Businesses include: pet shops, pounds and shelters, breeding and boarding establishments. These must be registered with the Moorabool Shire Council, and comply with Codes of Practice. These Codes of Practice are designed to protect the rights of consumers, and to ensure the welfare of animals. Copies of Codes of Practices can be obtained by contacting the Moorabool Shire Council's Community Safety Unit.
4. **Related Legislation/Policies/Guidelines**

   Moorabool Shire Council Animal Management Plan  
   Domestic Animals Act 1994  
   Code of Practice for the Private Keeping of Cats  
   Code of Practice for the Management of Dogs & Cats in Shelters and Pounds  
   Code of Practice for the Operation of Boarding Establishments  
   Code of Practice for the Operation of Breeding and Rearing Establishments  
   Code of Practice for the Operation of Pet Shops  

5. **Council Plan Reference – Key Performance Area**

   Key Performance Area 2 – Supporting Vibrant Communities  
   Objective 2.2 – Innovative Community Services  

6. **Review**

   This policy will be reviewed bi-annually