

Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026 - 2029

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DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLANS

Section 68A of the *Domestic Animals Act* 1994, requires every Council in Victoria to prepare, in consultation with the Secretary¹, a Domestic Animal Management Plan. A new Plan must be prepared every 4 years.

Each Domestic Animal Management Plan must:

1. 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
2. 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
3. Outline programs, services and strategies which the Council intends to pursue in its municipal district:
 - a. to promote and encourage the responsible ownership of dogs and cats;
 - b. to ensure that people comply with this Act, the regulations and any related legislation;
 - c. to minimise the risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals;
 - d. to address any over-population and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats;
 - e. to encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats;
 - f. to minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance;
 - g. 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
4. 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
5. 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
6. Provide for the periodic evaluation of any program, service, strategy or review outlined under the Plan.

Every Council must:

1. Review its Domestic Animal Management Plan annually and, if appropriate, amend the Plan;
2. Provide the Secretary with a copy of the Plan and any amendments to the Plan; and
3. Publish an evaluation of its implementation of the Plan in its annual report.

This Domestic Animal Management Plan has been prepared to comply with these requirements.

¹ Secretary means the person who is, for the time being, the Department Head of the Department of Economic, Jobs, Training and Resources (s68A of the DAA)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is Cardinia Shire's Domestic Animal Management Plan for 2026-2029. The Plans relate to Council's management of dogs and cats. It has been prepared following a review of Council's current services, programs and strategies together with feedback received from Councillors, Council staff and the community.

This Domestic Animal Management Plan addresses Council's responsibilities under the *Domestic Animals Act*, as well as the local laws and orders relating to dogs and cats.

The Plan is structured around the following 8 strategic themes:

1. Training of Authorised Officers
2. Registration and Identification
3. Nuisance dogs and cats
4. Dog Attacks
5. Dangerous, Menacing and Restricted Breed Dogs
6. Overpopulation and Euthanasia
7. Domestic Animal Businesses
8. Other matters

The mechanisms for conducting annual reviews and reporting and for making amendments to the Plan are contained at the end of the Plan.

INTRODUCTION

The *Domestic Animals Act 1994* (the DAA) provides the foundation for Cardinia Shire's animal management service. The purpose of the service is to promote animal welfare, the responsible ownership of dogs and cats, and the protection of the environment.

Every Victorian Council is required to produce a Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) which is reviewed annually and renewed every 4 years. This is Cardinia Shire's Plan for 2026-2029.

Purpose of the Plan

The DAMP will guide Cardinia Shire in its service to the community, increasing the likelihood of animals being reunited with their owners and reducing the number of dogs and cats in shelters and potentially being euthanised.

It will assist the Shire in minimising nuisance and possible danger created by some dogs and cats. It will also ensure that officers responsible for implementing the plan are skilled and trained to effectively deliver the service.

The DAMP sets out a method for evaluating whether the animal control services provided by Cardinia Shire Council is adequate to give effect to the requirements of the DAA and the regulations; and outline programs for the training of authorised officers to ensure that they can properly administer and enforce the requirements of the DAA in Cardinia Shire Council.

Mission Statement

To encourage and facilitate responsible pet ownership through education and innovative strategies that allows people and pets to integrate safely and harmoniously within Cardinia Shire.

Link to Cardinia's Council Plan and Vision

Cardinia's Council Plan is Council's key strategic document that will that help to prepare for the challenges ahead. It will deliver Council's vision by focusing efforts on:

- **Strong communities**
- **Liveable places**
- **Thriving Environments**
- **Prosperous economies**

while also being **responsible leaders**

The Cardinia DAMP links with the Council Plan and will support achieving these keys directions by delivering the following:

Councils	Action delivered through the DAMP
Strong communities	Conducting community engagement during key animal management projects or Local Law reviews to ensure residents are involved in the decision making when it comes to matters involving their cats and dogs. Responsible pet ownership can be a feature of strong communities.

Councils	Action delivered through the DAMP
Liveable Places	Provide places for people to exercise their dogs in line with community expectations. This includes monitoring the community's needs, and patrolling and monitoring public spaces to ensure they are safe and can be enjoyed by all residents throughout the Shire. Educate the community and enforce the requirements of the <i>Domestic Animals Act 1994</i> and Council's local laws relating to the keeping of dogs and cats.

Shire Profile

Cardinia Shire is situated about 55 kilometres south-east of the Melbourne CBD and is one of eight 'interface Councils' forming the perimeter of metropolitan Melbourne, providing a transition between urban and rural areas.

More than 135,000 people now call Cardinia Shire home. The population is forecast to grow to 183,596 by 2031². It is one of the fastest growing municipalities in Victoria.

Neighbouring councils include Casey, Yarra Ranges, Baw Baw, South Gippsland and Bass Coast Councils.

It comprises 1,280 square kilometres of land – which is larger than Casey Council and Bass Coast Council but smaller than Baw Baw Shire and Yarra Ranges Shire.

The Shire has 3 distinct geographic areas. Each presents different challenges for the domestic animal management service.

Our **urban areas** of Beaconsfield, Pakenham and Officer and our railway towns of Nar Nar Good, Tynong, Garfield and Bunyip are a mix of traditional country towns and new metropolitan areas.

Our **hills area** sits at the Dandenong Ranges foothills and is home to country charm villages including Emerald, Gembrook, Cockatoo and Upper Beaconsfield.

Our **southern rural area** has rich, productive landscapes that support local farming, food production and rural living across our townships including Koo Wee Rup and Lang Lang. The area also includes the catchments for internationally significant Ramsar wetlands which support migratory shorebirds and other waterbirds, fish and marine invertebrates.

Council's Animal Management Service

Cardinia Shire's Compliance Services team is primarily responsible for implementing and managing the Domestic Animal Management Plan. This team sits within the Regulatory Services business unit of Cardinia Shire.

The compliance services team have 13 field officers, 8 officers have some animal management tasks and 4 of whom deal with animal management issues as approximately 50% of their work activity. In addition to animal management, all officers also undertake local laws, planning enforcement and parking enforcement matters. The animal management staffing structure is set out in the table below:

² This growth will predominately be in Pakenham, Officer, Officer South, Beaconsfield and Nar Nar Goon North.

General Manager Community and Planning Services	
Manager Regulatory Services	
Coordinator Compliance Services	
Team Leader Compliance Services	
Senior Compliance Services Officer x 2	Compliance Services Officer x 6

Domestic animal management request data:

Animal management report type	21/22	24/25
Number of requests total	1950	2137
Barking dog reports	361	348
Nuisance wandering cat reports	247	178
Dog attack reports (On animal, person and rush)	128	162

Compliance Services Officers are trained and dedicated to maintaining community safety and amenity. This is achieved by balancing enforcement activities with community education and compliance.

In addition to administering the state-wide requirements of the DAA, Council has the following requirements that are also administered by the Compliance Services team:

- *Cat are required to be desexed* - All cats over the age of 3 months must be desexed (Council Order pursuant to DAA).

- *Dogs are required to be leashed in public places except in dedicated dog off-leash areas* (Council Order pursuant to DAA).
- *Dog owners are required to carry a bag that is suitable to remove their dogs' faeces from public places* (clause 49 of Community Local Law 2024).
- *24 hour Cat Curfew* - All cats are required to be confined to their owner's property (Council Order pursuant to DAA).
- *Keeping multiple animals* -A permit is required to keep more animals than the amount specified in the tables below (s45 of Community Local Law 2024).

Column 1 – Type of animals	Column 2 – Land less than 1000m2	Column 3 – Land of between 1,000m2 to 4000m2	Column 4 – Land greater than 4000m2
Dogs	2	2	4
Cats	2	2	4

The following standard procedures and policies are used in the animal management service.

- Compliance Services – Picking up Cats Procedure
- Compliance Services – Picking up Dogs Procedure
- Compliance Services – After hours Procedure
- Compliance Services – Handling Domestic Animals procedure
- Compliance Service – Declared Dog and Destruction Procedure.
- Compliance Services - Barking Dog Procedure Policy
- Declared Dog Audit policy
- Compliance Services and Prosecutions– Dog Attack response, seizure, investigation and prosecution procedures

Key Outcomes of DAMP 2021-2025

The table below lists the outcomes of the actions in the DAMP 2021-2025

Program/service initiative	Action	Completed/outcome
Conduct Animal Management Officer Training.	Animal management handling and training.	Officers attended the following: - Animal handling training by external provider annually - First aid training (specific focus on animal bites) - Dog bite prevention training by external provider
Promote and Encourage responsible Pet Ownership.	Review information provided on Council's website Issue media releases through Council's Communication Department	- Extensive media releases during life of Plan. - Information updated on Council's website - Information provided on the back of animal registration renewals around DAA orders and other ownership requirements - Had primary schools attend our Council offices to improve responsible pet ownership and understanding how to behave around dogs to reduce dog attacks
Ensure compliance with Act and Regulations.	Conduct an annual doorknock to identify and register all dogs and cats Monitor compliance of dogs on leash in public areas.	- Engaged external contractor to conduct highly successful door knock campaign to target new animal registrations. - Officers conducted follow up door knocks of unpaid animal registration renewals. - Introduced more internal layers on our mapping system to better understand where animals are registered to see "hot spot" areas or areas of concern with low registration rates. - All off leash parks are regularly patrolled and complaints followed up on.

Program/service initiative	Action	Completed/outcome
Minimise the risk of dog attacks.	Monitor and review dog off-leash areas. Conduct regular patrols of all council parks and reserves. Ensure properties have suitable fencing to securely contain dogs. Review signage in public places. Investigate a QR code link to Council's website with important information	- Responding to reports in off leash areas including patrols. - Notices have been issued to properties for failing to provide adequate fencing to secure dogs. - Sent schools emails to promote the living safely around dog's program offered by animal welfare Victoria - Signage was updated for all our off leash dog parks to make them much clearer for people using them. QR codes will be investigated again in next plan but we have begun to use them on materials being handed out relating to animal registration.
Address over population and high euthanasia of dogs and cats.	Encourage re-housing and adoption of unwanted dogs and cats. Hire of cat cages for trapping of feral cats.	- Cat traps are readily available for hire. - Unclaimed dogs and cats that pass assessments have been rehoused.
Encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats.	Annual mail out of dog/cat registration renewal forms. Mail out reminder notices for unpaid animal registrations.	- Registration renewal forms sent out mid-February each year. - Final Reminder notices sent out mid-May each year. - Regular media releases encouraging pet registration, web site notice referring to pet registration. - Door knocks for new registrations and follow up
Minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance.	Encourage the use of cat enclosures. Pet owners to carry dog tidy bags when walking dogs.	- In cases of cat wandering issues officers have promoted the installation of cat enclosures. - Letter box drops of brochures for reports of wandering cats. Cat cage hire available. - Reviewed and implemented new internal barking dog procedure
Dangerous Dogs, Menacing Dogs and Restricted Breed Dogs.	Programmed inspections of registered properties housing Restricted, Declared or Menacing Dogs. Ensure information is readily available that clearly outlines restrictions for the above dogs.	- All properties housing RBDs, Dangerous/Menacing dogs are audited annually including spot checks. - Proactively inspected industrial areas for guard dogs or properties that were using dangerous dog signs inappropriately.
Review existing orders made under the Act and Local Laws.	Review and adopted new Local Law	- Completed review and adopted new Community Local Law 2024. - Orders made under the DAA for cat desexing and off leash areas.

Consultation Process

The development of the Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) was informed by a comprehensive consultation process involving Councillors, the Compliance Services team, Biodiversity team, Parks Planning team, Community Safety and Inclusion team, and the broader Cardinia community.

Council conducted a community survey focusing on the strategic themes of the Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP). This survey replicated the structure of the 2022 version, with minor updates to ensure relevance. Invitations to participate were sent via email or letter to all households with a currently registered dog and/or cat. Additionally, an open-access version was made available on the Creating Cardinia platform for non-pet owners, promoted through Council communication channels. We are pleased to report that the survey received responses from 1,242 registered pet owners and 49 individuals who participated via the open-access option.

Key Community priorities:

The top three issues identified for Council to address in promoting responsible pet ownership remain consistent with previous findings:

- Cats roaming outside of their property.
- Uncollected dog waste.
- Dog attacks.

Since 2022, there has been an increase in the proportion of respondents that have concerns around dog behaviour including:

- Dogs annoying or intimidating people
- Dogs off-leash and not returning to their owners
- Dog attacks.

There were some variations by region:

- **Hills Region:** Higher concern for roaming cats and dogs not confined to properties.
- **Growth Region:** Greater emphasis on dogs off-leash in inappropriate areas, lack of supervision by owners of off-leash dogs, roaming cats and uncollected dog waste.
- **East Region:** Increased focus on dogs exhibiting intimidating behaviour and dogs not securely confined to their properties.

We have used the data collected to inform the Action plan for the 8 strategic themes.

1. TRAINING OF AUTHORISED OFFICERS

The purpose of this part of the Domestic Animal Management Plan is to promote actions that ensure all animal management officers are skilled and appropriately trained to deliver our services and programs.

The Compliance Services team apply Standard Operating Procedures to ensure consistency of approach across the team. Staff are trained and experienced in conducting animal management investigations.

New officers are required to undertake a structured induction program focusing on the skills needed to be an effective authorised officer. Ongoing training is also undertaken with budget dedicated to Animal handling, use of animal management equipment and animal bite safety training.

Current and planned training

Authorised Officer Training	Current	Planned
Industry training	Staff are routinely required to attend industry training. Including animal handling, animal assessment, use of animal management equipment, statement taking, prosecution, computer skills	Annually
OHS training – dealing with aggressive customers	Training is offered annually as internal training available to all council staff	Annually
Bureau of Animal Welfare – training and information days	All Compliance Staff attend these sessions on a rotating basis or as they become available	As listed by Animal Welfare Victoria
Induction program for new staff – animal handling	All staff as part of their induction process are taken through a training program that covers such issues as, manual handling, use of animal specific equipment, procedures, animal diseases, dog/cat behaviour, aggressive dogs, feral cats and body language.	All new staff
Authorised Officer Training	Council's prosecution team provides training for new authorised officers to address core competencies and skills.	All new staff
Internal Organisational Training	Staff attend in-house training over a range of case management principles	Annually
Animal handling training provided by Accredited Trainer	All staff attend “hands on” animal handling training that deals with, body language aggressive dogs, behavioural issues, cat trapping, handling cats.	All new staff and bi-annually

Action plan – training of authorised officers

Objective 1.1 ensure that Compliance Services Officers have the skills necessary to effectively perform their regulatory role and ensure community safety.

#	Activity	Timeframe				Evaluation
		Y 1	Y 2	Y 3	Y 4	
1.1.1	Ongoing training supplied to officers to enhance investigation and animal handling skills	x	x	x	x	Documentation to be kept of training attended by all animal management officers in a central location.
1.1.2	Encourage officers to attend workshops, seminars, forums and conferences delivered by organisations such as Agriculture Victoria, RSPCA and AIAM.					
1.1.3	Develop and review internal animal management policies and providing training on these policies annually	x				Documentation to be finalised
1.1.4	provide staff training on internal animal management policies annually		x	x	x	Annual training given to animal management officers.

Objective 1.2 Develop a training policy that identifies minimum training requirements and any additional training needs that should be undertaken by animal management officers.

#	Activity	Timeframe				Evaluation
		Y 1	Y 2	Y 3	Y 4	
1.2.1	Identify minimum expected training of Animal Management staff and track completion	x	x	x	x	Documentation to be finalised and incorporated into an approved council training policy

1.2.2	Identify additional training opportunities for animal management staff	x	x	x	x	Documentation of additional training attended by officers
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2. REGISTRATION AND PERMANENT IDENTIFICATION

The purpose of this part of the Domestic Animal Management Plan is to promote actions that ensure encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats in accordance with the Domestic Animals Act.

Discussion and Current situation

Registration is important because it assists in the return of lost animals to their owner, including in some circumstances direct return without the need for them enter the pound. It also ensures that the animal management service is funded by those that own domestic animals.

During consultation very few survey respondents admitted to having unregistered dogs and/or cats. However, those that do far more often cited not being able to afford it as the reason (22%) than was recorded in 2022 (7%). The incidence of rating the current registration fees as poor increased notably in 2025 (31%, up from 15% in 2022), mostly due to it being perceived as not offering any value or benefit (especially for those who keep their cats contained, who feel it is unfair that their fees are the same as dogs which are provided with public infrastructure). It was noted by some that the fees have increased significantly, and comments suggest that it has reached a point where it is causing cost-of-living pressures and perhaps acting as a disincentive to register.

In 2025, cat owners more often rated the registration fees as poor or very poor (40%, compared to 30% dog owners). And suggestions included varying the fees based on the living situation of the pet (e.g. cheaper rates for contained cats) and rebates for cat owners who build enclosures.

The number of registrations varies year to year. The variation is a function of new registrations and animals that are removed from the register because the animal has died, the owner has moved, the pet is no longer living with them or because the owner has not renewed the registration.

In October 2023, Animal Welfare Victoria conducted a Victorian Pet Census to address pet/companion animal ownership in Victoria. The objective was to obtain estimates of the overall pet population in Victoria and measure the ranger of awareness, attitude and behaviour relating to pet ownership.

The survey found that 58% of the adult Victorians owned a pet at the time of the survey equating to approx. 1.4 million Victorian households. Dogs were by far the most popular pet (41%) followed by cats (24%) It equated to 1.5 pets on average per person.

Cardinia Shire Council is made up of approx. 45,000 households (2021 census) with an estimated population of 127,000. As of 1st May 2024, approx. 17,000 animals were registered with Council which is significantly below the average assumed number of pets in the shire.

As a result of the Victorian pet census Councils Compliance Services team identified the need to address low numbers of new animal registration applications and high outstanding renewals. The campaign aimed to promote public safety, enhance responsible pet ownership by ensuring that dogs and cats in Cardinia Shire were appropriately identified and registered and improve the reunification of lost pets with their owners.

Council engaged an external provider to assist with door knocking and developed a communications plan to share the campaign with the public to enhance uptake of animal registrations. 2000 properties were door knocked in a 1.5 week period which resulted in an increase of 503 new animal registrations and an additional 533 animal renewals paid. Council plan to expand on this campaign during the period of this DAMP.

Our current data 2024-25

	Registered	Desexed (%)	Totals animals registered
Cats	3373	3151 (93%)	16,939
Dogs	13,566	10,574 (78%)	

Current Orders, Local Laws, Council Policies and Procedures

- Cat desexing: All cats over the age of 3 months must be desexed (Council Order pursuant to DAA).
- Compulsory microchipping of dogs and cats for all registrations. (DAA)
- Free registration for first year if pet is under 3 months old when first registering
- Free dog and cat transfer of registration when relocating to Cardinia Shire Council, if the animals are currently registered with another Council.
- To acknowledge residents who adopt animals through pounds or shelters registration is free for the remainder of that registration period

Current education/compliance activities

Activity	Includes	Frequency
Provide comprehensive information on Council's website about registration and identification requirements	• requirements to register and permanently identify their dog and cat • benefits of registration and permanent identification • when registration is due • how and where to register • fee structure • information to provide (e.g. microchipping, desexing certificates) • how to notify Council that they are no longer the owner, they have changed address or the pet is deceased • highlight renewal period in March and April	Ongoing
Follow up unregistered animals	• Issue 'Notices to Comply.' to owners who are identified as having unregistered animals • Issue Infringement Notices to owners who fail to register animals when directed or otherwise in line with Councils enforcement policy	Ongoing
Media releases	• Quarterly media releases promoting pet registration in local newspapers, on Council social media channels and 'Connect' Magazine	Quarterly
Annual registration renewal period	• Mail out registration renewal forms. • Send out email and SMS reminders for unpaid renewals	Feb-May annually
Convenient access to register, renew or update details	• Online registration forms for new registrations and to update details • Hard copy registration forms available • Online, in person, phone payment options	Ongoing
Discount registration	• Free registration for first year if pet is under 3 months old when first registering • Free dog and cat transfer of registration when relocating to Cardinia Shire Council, if the animals are currently registered with another Council. • To acknowledge residents who adopt animals through pounds or shelters registration is free for the remainder of that registration period	Ongoing

Action plan – Registration and Permanent Identification

Objective 2.1 to increase number of registered animals in the municipality as required by the DAA.						
#	Activity	Timeframe				Evaluation
		Y 1	Y 2	Y 3	Y 4	
2.1.1	Continue current registration renewal period activities including mail out of renewals and follow up reminder text messages and emails annually Feb-May	x	x	x	x	Stable number of renewed animal registrations
2.1.2	Run registration campaign annually in June, including: • Display of signage including banners on high traffic roads and corflute signs at places frequented by animal owners (e.g. off leash parks) • Media including Councils social media, connect magazine and local newspaper.	x	x	x	x	Increase in new animal registration and payment of renewals
2.1.3	Complete an annual audit of unpaid registrations by combination of cold calling or systematic door knocking program	x	x	x	x	
2.1.4	Explore ways to connect with residents from diverse backgrounds and provide information in other languages relating to pet registration	x	x	x	x	
2.1.5	Consider further opportunities to offer discounted registration to residents that currently do not qualify for any of the discounts but may be struggling financially.				x	
2.1.6	Consider discounted registration rates or rebates for cat owners when the owner can prove that they have installed a cat enclosure or other means of keeping their cat permanently contained to the property.				x	

3. NUISANCE DOGS AND CATS

The purpose of this part of the Domestic Animal Management Plan is to identify actions, services and strategies to minimise the potential for dogs and cats to cause a nuisance.

Discussion

Dogs cause a nuisance when they bark excessively, wander at large, are not kept under effective control by their owner in public places and when their faeces are not picked up in public places. Cats cause a nuisance when they wander at large including onto neighbouring properties.

Council receives many barking dog complaints. This issue is expected to grow as the population increases and more developments occur on smaller lot sizes, which can exacerbate the problem. Many complaints are resolved quickly, by notifying the owner who may be unaware that there is problem. However, many are not easily resolved and require more detailed investigation.

Council will investigate alleged barking nuisance and require complainants to record the offensive barking in a diary format at the time of making their complaint. In this way, information about the complaint can be quickly assessed, which in turn helps to streamline the assessment and resolution of the complaint.

More people were experiencing barking dogs and stray cats without reporting these to Council in 2025 than was recorded in 2022, suggesting there may be an opportunity to better communicate these council services and/or make the reporting process easier.

Current situation

The 24-hour cat curfew introduced in 2000 and it has helped to reduce the number of cats entering private properties, along with a reduction in the impact on native and sensitive fauna.

Cat traps are available for residents to trap cats that are regularly present on their property, along with helpful information to ensure that residents use the traps appropriately.

There has been an increase in responsible cat ownership since 2022, with more cat owners saying they have a cat run/enclosure (30%, up from 22% in 2022), and fewer letting their cat roam freely during the day (17%, down from 21% in 2022). The 2025 findings show that 74% of cat owners say they have their cats contained to either inside and/or a cat enclosure, and only 17% let their cat roam freely.

Dogs are required to be leashed in public places, except in a designated off leash park. Dogs are also required to be kept under effective control in an off-leash park. There continues to be just over one in ten dog owners who admit to walking their dog off-lead in public areas not designated as off-lead. Further analysis of the data doesn't show there to be any demographic or location where this is more common.

Dog owners are required to remove their dog's faeces from public places and are required to carry a bag suitable for removing dog faeces. These measures allow residents to comfortably enjoy public places throughout the Shire and promote public safety.

Our current data

Activity data summary	2021/2022	2024/2025
Pick up contained dog requests	317	224
Dogs reported wandering at large	152	132
Barking dog reports	361	348
Dog off leash reports	77	72
Pick up contained cat	234	181
Cat nuisance	247	178

Current Orders, Local Laws, Council Policies and Procedures

- Compulsory de-sexing of all cats over the age of 3 months (DAA order)
- Dogs must be on leash at all times unless in designated off-leash zones (DAA order)
- All cats must be secured to the premises of the owner (DAA order)
- An owner or occupier of land must take reasonable steps to prevent any animal making unreasonable noise (Clause 48 *Community Local Law 2024*)
- An owner or occupier of land must ensure that the part of the property where any animal is kept is maintained and does not cause a nuisance (clause 47.3 *Community Local Law 2024*)
- Animal numbers: A permit from Council is required to keep more animals than the amount specified in the tables below (clause 45 of *Community Local Law 2024*):

Column 1 – Type of animals	Column 2 – Land less than 1000m ²	Column 3 – Land of between 1,000m ² to 4000m ²	Column 4 – Land greater than 4000m ²
Dogs	2	2	4

Cats	2	2	4
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Current education/compliance activities

Activity	Includes	Frequency
Provide comprehensive information on Council's website about nuisance animals	• Provide information on Council's website for those experiencing nuisance animals • Information for dog and cat owners on their responsibilities around common nuisance issues such as barking, wandering cats etc. • Information on causes of excessive barking and suggestions for reducing a dogs' barking.	Ongoing
Ability to report nuisance issues online	Ability to report the following through online forms: • Excessive barking • Dog attacks/rushes • Dogs not on a leash if outside their owner's property (except in designated off leash dog areas) • repeatedly come on to your property without your permission • are creating a health risk • are kept in excessive numbers on a property.	Ongoing
Media releases	• Media releases on Councils social media and connect magazine relating to animal nuisance • Media notification around planned event fireworks to reduce instances of wandering animals relating to fireworks	Ongoing
Promotion of responsible pet ownership	• Promote and inform residents of the designated off-leash locations and the requirements in these areas.	
Enforcing non-compliance with the Domestic Animals Act 1994 and breaches of Council's Community Local Law 2024	• Issue 'Warning Notices' and 'Notices to Comply.' • Issue Infringement Notices. • Programmed patrols of areas for off leash dogs. • Providing cat trap hire. • Provide afterhours service for collections of contained dogs and reports of aggressive wandering dogs and dog attacks.	Ongoing

	• Robust inspection and consideration of all excess animal permits, including consultation with potential affected residents • Unscheduled spot inspections of all declared Dangerous, Menacing and Restricted Breeds dogs.	
Promotion of events or activities not run by Council	• Ensure all eligible primary schools within the Shire are aware of the <i>Responsible Pet Ownership</i> primary school program that is offered by Animal Welfare Victoria • Promote online webinars by other agencies (animal aid, RSPCA etc) to registered owners	Ongoing

Media release examples: * to be added in final plan

Action plan – Nuisance Dogs and Cats

Objective 3.1 Provide education around the use of off leash areas and public places

#	Activity	Timeframe				Evaluation/comments
		Y 1	Y 2	Y 3	Y 4	
3.1.1	Hold activations of dog parks to meet with community and provide education around the use		x	x		Reduction in number of complaints of dog attacks at dog parks
3.1.2	Review and update signage at dog parks and explore QR codes to link to further info on Councils website	x				Signage reviewed and updated
3.1.3	Improve information on Councils website so off leash areas are easier to locate	x				Website reviewed and updated
3.1.4	Rostered off leash patrols based off of reports of hot spots	x	x	x	x	
3.1.5	Rostered patrols of public places including ensuring that people are carrying bags to collect dog faeces	x	x	x	x	
3.1.6	Explore provision of free waste bags at popular dog walking locations			x	x	

Objective 3.2 Increasing the number of cats contained to their properties

#	Activity	Timeframe				Evaluation/comments
		Y 1	Y 2	Y 3	Y 4	
3.2.1	Education drive for cat containment including improvement to education materials and attendance at community events.	x	x			Less reports of wandering/nuisance cats within the 6 months following the drive

3.2.2	Educate community on how to make reports regarding wandering cats to Council and what we can do			x		
3.2.3	Provide education material about cat enclosures and explore providing a DIY cat enclosure workshop.		x	x		Provide workshops if found to be feasible and less reports of wandering/nuisance cats within the 12 months following workshops
3.2.4	Identify hot spots for education and enforcement in areas of biodiversity value by working with internal Council environment teams.	x	x			Hot spots identified and enforcement taken for wandering cats

Objective 3.3 Reduce reports of barking dogs and encourage resolution of problem barking

#	Activity	Timeframe				Evaluation/Comments
		Y 1	Y 2	Y 3	Y 4	
3.3.1	Review current educational materials available for complainants and dog owners. Including a brochure to suggest ways to reduce barking or common reasons that dogs may bark.			x	x	
3.3.2	Improve website information and encourage neighbours to discuss problem barking with each other			x	x	

4. DOG ATTACKS

The purpose of this part of the Domestic Animal Management Plan is to promote actions that ensure, services and strategies that minimise the risk of injury to people and other animals resulting from dog attacks.

Discussion

Council is aware that not every dog attack is reported. This is why Council has a strong focus on encouraging people to report all dog attacks which occur.

Since 2022, there has been an increase in the proportion prioritising dog behaviour: annoying or intimidating people, off-leash and not returning to their owners, and/or attacks.

When a dog attack occurs, the Council is responsible for conducting a thorough investigation and, if necessary, bringing the owner before the Court. Every complaint is treated with the utmost seriousness and is always investigated. Effective communication with the public is essential to ensure they have every opportunity to lodge a complaint.

There are a range of powers that Council can exercise to reduce the likelihood of recurrence, including imposing restrictions on the dog or owner, applying for orders to ensure improved behavioural training occurs etc.

Most dog attacks and dog rushes occur in and around the dogs' home (including on the footpath near the home). Containing dogs to the property is a key measure to reduce dog attacks.

Dogs that have not been adequately socialised with humans and other dogs/animals are more likely to display aggressive tendencies. People should be encouraged to attend formal programs to socialise their dog and to expose their dog to a variety of situations.

It is important to ensure children know how to behave around dogs, especially those who do not live with or have experience with dogs. Animal Welfare Victoria's school and kindergarten programs are designed to reduce dog attacks on children. The Council encourages all schools and kindergartens to participate in these programs.

Current situation

Our current data

Activity	2021/2022	2024/2025
Dog attack report	99	111
Dog rush report	29	51

All complaints of dog attacks are treated as a high priority by staff and Council will explore all enforcement options when a breach of the DAA occurs.

The Compliance Services team apply a Dog attack procedure which covers initial response, seizure, investigation and prosecution procedure to ensure that a consistent approach is taken by all Compliance Services Officers when investigating dog attack offences and referring matters to the Magistrates Court.

Council has a discretionary power to seize dogs during the investigation of suspected attacks. Council officers make these decisions using a risk-based methodology, which is signed off by the Coordinator Compliance Services and is reviewed from time to time.

Our Current Orders, Local Laws, Council Policies and Procedures

- Leash requirement for dogs except in designated off-leash zones (Order pursuant to DAA)
- Effective control of dogs requirement in designated off-leash areas
- The After Hours Procedure which prioritises after hours requests relating to animal aggression.
- Compliance and Enforcement Policy
- Dog attack – initial response, seizure, investigation and prosecution procedure
- Dog Control Decisions Policy

Our Current Activities

Activity	Includes	Frequency
Information relating to dog attacks on Councils website	Information on reporting attacks including: • Helpful information to provide when you make a report including providing photos of injuries, vet/medical reports, descriptions of the dog, dogs owner and dog owners car if relevant. • Online report form • Information on other reporting methods (Phone, post, email and in person) • Information on Councils processes including statement taking, evidence collection etc.	Ongoing
Investigation of all complaints regarding alleged dog attacks in a timely manner	• Officers are required to investigate every dog attack reported and will action requests as soon as possible. Strict timeframes for action are provided in Councils dog attack policy for each stage of the investigation.	Ongoing
Dog control decision process	• Process is followed after enforcement action or a successful prosecution in the magistrates Court to ensure that adequate restrictions are put on the attacking dog in line with Councils powers to make decisions in the DAA.	Ongoing
Outcomes provided to victims	• A letter is provided to victims of dog attacks outlining the outcome of the investigation including any outcomes of subsequent prosecutions and dog control decisions.	Ongoing

Action plan – Dog Attacks

Objective 4.1 *To provide readily accessible information to the public relating to the prevention of Dog Attacks (Education/Promotional Activities).*

#	Activity	Timeframe				Evaluation
		Y 1	Y 2	Y 3	Y 4	
4.1.1	Raise awareness of risk of dog attacks in the home, in the street and in parks and how to reduce these risks through: • Distribution of brochures, factsheets and other material developed by the Bureau of Animal Welfare and/or Council, regarding dog attacks • Information included with registration renewals • Media releases in relation to successful prosecutions of dog attacks • Actively promoting the Animal Welfare Victoria Responsible Pet Ownership Course (RPO). • Providing information to vets, pet shops, breeders, shelters, etc, to display and/or hand out • Council's social media	x	x	x	x	Increase in public understanding of dog attacks.
4.1.2	Explore reporting outcomes of major dog attack prosecutions to local media to raise awareness in the community of the need to report dog attacks and Council's action in relation to attacks.	x				Updated information available from Council
4.1.3	Review signage in public places including dog parks and open spaces with contact number to report dog attacks. Investigate a QR code for signage to link to Council's website with important information on using these spaces and reducing risk of attacks.		x			

4.1.4	Work with Councils internal teams to actively encourage all eligible kindergartens and Schools within the Shire are aware of the Living Safely with Dogs program offered by Animal Welfare Victoria.	x	x	x	x	Increased program participation
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Objective 4.2 - Targeted education to owners of dogs that are at an increased risk of being involved in a dog attacks.

#	Activity	When				Evaluation
		Y 1	Y 2	Y 3	Y 4	
4.2.1	Targeted education in geographical areas that are reporting highest numbers of dog attacks.	x	x			Reduction of number of dog attacks in these areas
4.2.2	Targeted education in geographical areas of the shire where inadequate fencing for containment of dogs is more likely (e.g. more rural areas with high use of farm style fencing).			x	x	Reduction of number of dog attacks in these areas
4.2.3	Investigate use of Councils mapping systems to plot locations of dog attacks for easy identification of hot spots.	x				Implementation of dog attack layer in Council mapping system

5. DANGEROUS, MENACING & RESTRICTED BREED DOGS

The purpose of this part of the Domestic Animal Management Plan is to promote services and strategies that effectively identify all dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs in the Shire and to ensure that those dogs are kept in compliance with the DAA and its regulations.

Discussion

On occasion, Council exercises discretionary power to impose a Dangerous Dog declaration, Menacing Dog declaration and to destroy dogs that have been found to have committed attacks. These decisions are made under delegation by the Manager, Regulatory Services, according to the process set out in the Dog Control Decisions Policy. This policy sets out the discretionary factors to be considered.

There are three categories of declared dogs:

1. Dangerous dogs	2. Menacing dogs	3. Restricted breed dogs
A dangerous dog is one that the Council has declared to be dangerous because it has bitten or attacked a person or animal, causing serious injury or death. A dog is automatically a dangerous dog under the <i>Domestic Animals Act 1994</i> if it: • is kept for the purpose of guarding non-residential premises • has been trained to attack or bite any person or any thing when attached to or worn by a person.	A Menacing dog is one that the Council had declared menacing because it causes a non-serious bite injury to a person or animal, or if it rushes at or chases a person. 'Rush at' means that the dog has approached a person within 3 metres, displaying aggressive behaviour such as; snarling, growling, barking or raising the hackles.	Restricted breed dogs are defined as dogs that fit the <i>Approved Standard for Restricted Breed Dogs in Victoria (standard)</i>. These may be pure or cross bred: - American Pit Bull Terriers (or Pit Bull Terriers) - Perro de Presa Canarios (or Presa Canario) - Dogo Argentinos - Japanese Tosas - Fila Brasileiros. Restricted breed dogs have not attacked a person or animal or displayed signs of aggression. However, they are considered a higher risk to community safety than other breeds of dogs.

Current situation

When a dog is declared, the DAA has strict requirements for owners that must be complied with. Council conduct annual audits on declared dogs to ensure that all relevant legislation and regulations for the keeping of such dogs is being complied with. Council will continue to ensure such dogs are identified and their owners are aware of and comply with their responsibilities. Such dogs are strictly monitored with formal and on the spot inspections to ensure compliance and overall public safety.

All enquiries from the public regarding the possible incidence of a dangerous and restricted breed dogs within the Shire are dealt with immediately. Council also seeks to identify any declared dogs that may be present in the municipality but are not present as such on Council records.

Declared Dogs	Dangerous	Menacing	Restricted breed
2024/2025	5	11	0

Our Current Orders, Local Laws, Council Policies and Procedures

- Dog Control Decisions Policy
- Declared Dog Audit Policy
- Dog attack – initial response, seizure, investigation and prosecution procedure Declared Dog and Destruction Procedure
- Compliance and Enforcement Policy
- All Dangerous Dogs, Restricted Breed Dogs and Menacing Dogs on the Victorian Declared Dog Registry (VDDR) (s.44AE).

Our Current activities

Activity	Includes	Frequency
Strict monitoring of declared dangerous and restricted breed dogs	Unscheduled audits of all properties housing declared dangerous and restricted breed dogs including inspection of enclosures to ensure compliance.	Yearly
Provide information to owners of Menacing, Dangerous and restricted breed dogs	Ensure all owners of declared dogs are aware of their obligations under the Act regarding identification and keeping these dogs by	At declaration

	providing them with relevant sections of the Act, brochures, fact sheets/develop information kit.	
Ensure that the Victorian Declared Dog Registry (VDDR) is kept up to date and information is accurate	At the time of declaration animals are entered onto the VDDR by Council. Any changes reported regarding the dog are updated accordingly	As declaration and as required
Respond to complaints regarding declared dogs	Respond to complaints regarding Menacing, Dangerous and Restricted Breed dogs as a matter of priority and urgency.	Ongoing
Follow-up non-compliance issues	Following up non-compliance issues and taking any appropriate enforcement action.	Ongoing

Action plan – Dangerous, Menacing and Restricted Breed Dogs

Objective 5.1 *Continue to ensure that Council are making well-considered decisions in relation to dog control and declaration matters*

#	Activity	Timeframe				Evaluation/notes
		Y 1	Y 2	Y 3	Y 4	
5.1.1	Review policy for declaration of dangerous and menacing dogs	x				Procedure updated and implemented
5.1.2	Yearly review of policies and procedures to ensure alignment with changing legal requirements and community expectations.		x	x	x	

Objective 5.2 *to ensure that record keeping in relation to declared dogs is accurate and owners are aware of requirements*

#	Activity	Timeframe				Evaluation/notes
		Y 1	Y 2	Y 3	Y 4	
5.2.1	Ensure all declared dogs are accurately registered on the Victorian Declared Dog Registry and that details regarding change of owner/change of address/death of dog are updated as soon as possible.	x	x	x	x	
5.2.2	Audit Councils registration records against the VDDR to ensure that all declared dogs are registered and that all registered declared dogs are accurately recorded on the VDDR.	X	X	X	X	
5.2.3	Provide information on keeping and reporting requirements yearly to owners of declared dogs with their registration reminders	x	x	x	x	

6. PET OVERPOPULATION AND HIGH EUTHANASIA RATES

The purpose of this part of the Domestic Animal Management Plan is to promote actions to address over-population and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats.

Discussion

As Cardinia Shire is rapidly growing, there is need for education through new resident's packs, and media releases to ensure compliance relating to animal keeping.

Current data appears to suggest that impounded dogs are highly likely to be reclaimed by their owner or adopted. A small proportion of dogs are euthanised due to being abandoned and unsuitable for re-homing. This may be due to health or behavioural concerns identified through suitability assessments, or incidents such as attacks that make it unsafe to place the animal in a new home.

While the data indicates that a high number of impounded cats are not reclaimed and are subsequently euthanised, it is important to acknowledge that these figures are influenced by the presence of feral and unowned cat populations throughout the shire. These animals, when trapped and impounded, are often unsuitable for rehoming due to their lack of socialisation and behavioural challenges, which significantly limits the options available for their care.

It is also important to note that under the Act, Councils are required to accept any dog or cat surrendered by an owner within the municipality regardless of their condition or temperament. As a result, even though some animals may be unsuitable for rehoming, Councils do not have the discretion to refuse intake, and this may be reflected in euthanasia rates.

The implementation of compulsory de-sexing of all cats over the age of 3 months and the requirements to secure all cats to the owner's premises are a few tools used by Council to curb overpopulation and therefore reduce the euthanasia rate. Council hires cat traps to the public, which is well utilised.

Council has applied for and received grants to promote the desexing of cats, particularly among the pensioners. We will continue to seek and apply for similar grants and partnerships to reduce the incidence of unwanted cat breeding.

Many well-intentioned people feed stray or feral cats without taking on the full legal responsibility for the animal. These cats are known as semi-owned cats and by and large they are not desexed. Cats breed extremely fast, which is why it is so important that cats are desexed to prevent unwanted numbers. Feeding an unowned cat and not taking full responsibility can contribute to cat overpopulation issues. High numbers of unowned cats can have significant impacts on local wildlife and create amenity issues for residents. The main initiatives for addressing semi-owned cats are to promote awareness and encourage responsible ownership.

Current situation

In 2024/2025 454 dogs and cats entered Council's pound. The breakdowns are provided below.

Our current data 2024/2025

Status	Dog	Cat *	Total
Euthanised	44	72	116
Adopted	50	91	141
Reclaimed	119	35	154
Pending outcome	17	26	43
Total	230	224	454

*Includes impounded feral cats

Our current Orders, Local Laws, Council Policies and Procedure

- Compulsory de-sexing of all cats over the age of 3 months (DAA order)
- 24-hour cat curfew - All cats must be secured to the premises of the owner (DAA order).

Our Current Activities

Activity	Includes	Frequency
Media	Media releases promoting responsible pet ownership and issues relating to breeding in local newspapers, on Council's website and Cardinia 'Connect' Magazine.	Ongoing

Provide information to owners in relation to desexing and animal keeping	Readily accessible information through brochures and fact sheets from Animal Welfare Victoria relating to animal keeping.	Ongoing
Grant funding	Seek out and apply for grant funding available to local Councils to provide low-cost veterinary care including desexing.	Ongoing
Hire of cat traps	Cat traps available for hire to trap feral/unowned cats to reduce breeding and overpopulation	Ongoing
Orders under the DAA	Cardinia Shire have orders in relation to mandatory cat desexing and confinement of cats to the owners premises at all times	Ongoing

Action plan - Overpopulation and High Euthanasia Rates

Objective 6.1 <i>To provide readily accessible information to the public relating to issues that may lead to Overpopulation and High Euthanasia</i>						
#	Activity	Timeframe				Evaluation/notes
		Y 1	Y 2	Y 3	Y 4	
6.1.1	Explore information provided to new residents and consider Including detailed information on responsible pet ownership, the importance of desexing, and local animal keeping regulations.	x	x	x	x	
6.1.2	Media Campaign: Utilise social media, local newspapers, and community events to spread awareness about the importance of desexing dogs and cats and responsible pet ownership.	x	x	x	x	
6.1.3	Promote responsible feeding practices and discourage feeding stray cats without taking full responsibility for them.	x	x	x	x	

6.1.4	Promote 'saving a life' by adopting cats/dogs from pound or shelter and promote the benefits of adoption I from pound or shelter and host a adoption event. Continue to provide reduced registration fees for adopted animals.	x	x	x	x	
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Objective 6.2 *To actively seek out funding and collaboration options to support reduction in overpopulation and euthanasia rates in the municipality*

#	Activity	Timeframe				Evaluation/notes
		Y 1	Y 2	Y 3	Y 4	
6.2.1	Grant Applications: Persist in applying for grants to fund desexing programs, especially targeting semi-owners of cats and low-income residents and pensioners.	x	x	x	x	
6.2.2	Partnerships: explore collaboration options with local veterinary clinics and animal welfare organisations to provide the community with discounted or free desexing and veterinary services.	x	x	x	x	
6.2.3	Explore education programs already available through other welfare organisations and promote these to animal owners.	x	x	x	x	

7. DOMESTIC ANIMAL BUSINESSES

The purpose of this part of the Domestic Animal Management Plan is to promote actions that ensure all domestic animal businesses are managed appropriately and comply with all regulatory requirements under the *Domestic Animals Act*.

Discussion

Council has a strong focus on ensuring that Domestic Animal Businesses are operating in accordance with the requirements set out in the Domestic Animals Act and the Regulations.

A Domestic Animal Business (DAB) is defined in the DAA. It means:

- 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 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 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 purposes 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.

Each DAB needs to be registered in April each year. All premises are inspected annually to ensure the DAB complies with all relevant legislation and codes of practice.

Proactive action is also taken to ensure existing businesses that are not currently registered with Council apply for the appropriate permits and operate in accordance with relevant legislation and codes of practice.

Current situation

Cardinia Shire Council currently has 14 registered DABs. This includes:

- 7 animal boarding establishments
- 3 animal breeding establishments
- 2 pet shops
- 4 training establishments

Current Orders, Local Laws, Council Policies and Procedures

- Cardinia Shire Council currently has no orders in place relating to Domestic Animal Businesses. Council acts in accordance with the requirements set in the Act.

Current activities

Activity	Includes	Frequency
Website	Information relating to DABs and the requirements and process for registration is provided on Council's website. Registration applications can also be made on Council's website	Ongoing
Education	Animal Welfare Victoria fact sheets are available at the Council offices and distributed to DABs as required. Support and advice is provided to operators of proposed DABs as necessary	
Auditing and inspections	Pre-permit inspections, prior to granting a registration and permit. Annual and on the spot audits of all DABs to ensure they comply with relevant codes of practice.	
Investigation and enforcement	Investigation and enforcement of any alleged breaches in relation to permit conditions, non-compliance and unregistered businesses.	

Action plan - Domestic Animal Businesses

Objective 7.1 <i>Identify and register all DAB's operating in the shire</i>						
#	Activity	Timeframe				Evaluation/notes
		Y 1	Y 2	Y 3	Y 4	
7.1.1	Media communications regarding DAB definitions, the requirements for registration and applicable codes of practice.	x	x	x	x	
7.1.2	Respond to complaints regarding advertisements to detect any unregistered DABs within the municipal district.	x	x	x	x	
7.1.3	Proactive campaign to identify unregistered DAB's by monitoring advertisements of puppies and kittens for sale in the municipal district	x	x			
7.1.4	Proactive campaign to identify unregistered DAB's by monitoring advertisement of other DABs including boarding and training establishments			x	x	

Objective 7.2 <i>Continue to identify and enforce non-compliant and unregistered DABs</i>						
#	Activity	Timeframe				Evaluation/notes
		Y 1	Y 2	Y 3	Y 4	
7.1.1	Conduct unscheduled spot inspections of all DABs at least once a year.	x	x	x	x	

7.1.2	Respond to complaints regarding unregistered DAB's as a priority	x	x	x	x	
7.1.3	Ensure any issues of non-compliance are identified and followed up with information of required actions and timeframes for resolution including further inspections and prosecution where necessary.	x	x	x	x	
7.1.4	Investigate using Council public media releases to publish DAB prosecution outcomes	x	x	x	x	

8. OTHER MATTERS

Family violence and homelessness

Discussion

Family violence and homelessness can significantly impact the welfare of domestic animals. This section outlines the strategies and partnerships in place to support pets affected by these circumstances, ensuring their safety and well-being.

Family violence and homelessness are deeply interconnected issues that significantly impact the well-being of individuals and families in our community. According to the Family Violence Database (FVDB), during the 2023/24 financial year, 325 clients received homelessness services due to family violence through general services, and 528 clients accessed homelessness services through specialist family violence services. In Cardinia alone, there were 1,699 incidents of family violence reported for that year.

In the same reporting period, RSPCA responded to 242 reports of animal cruelty in Cardinia shire. Numerous studies have confirmed that in households with companion animals experiencing domestic violence and abuse, there is also a high probability of animal abuse.

A critical aspect of this issue is the role of pets in the lives of those experiencing family violence. Many individuals remain in violent situations out of fear for their pets' safety if they leave them with the perpetrator or due to the lack of access to shelters or accommodation options that will accommodate pets. Recognising this, Cardinia Shire is committed to exploring and implementing strategies to support these individuals and their pets, ensuring they have safe and accessible options when seeking refuge from violence. By addressing these concerns, we aim to create a more supportive environment for members of our community experiencing family violence and to reduce incidents of animal cruelty.

Action plan – Other Matters

Objective 8.1 *increased awareness of support already available and explore further ways Council can support those facing homelessness or experiencing family violence*

#	Activity	Timeframe				Evaluation/notes
		Y 1	Y 2	Y 3	Y 4	
8.1.1	Establish and Maintain Partnerships: Continue to explore and strengthen agreements with pounds, shelters, and support organisations	x	x	x	x	
8.1.2	Review, scope and consider further initiatives provide assistance to people escaping situations of family violence. Consideration will be given to providing assistance to people escaping family violence e.g. free temporary animal shelter for those Cardinia residents leaving situations of family violence.	x	x	x	x	
8.1.3	Education and Awareness: Promote awareness of available services and support for pets affected by family violence and homelessness directly and more broadly on Councils website and social media	x	x			

ANNUAL REVIEW OF PLAN AND REPORTING

The DAA requires the Domestic Animal Management Plan to be reviewed annually. Specifically, Sections 68A(3) states that

Every Council must:

- (a) review its domestic animal management plan annually and, if appropriate, amend the plan
- (b) provide the Department of Primary Industries' Secretary with a copy of the plan and any amendments to the plan
- (c) publish an evaluation of its implementation of the plan in its annual report.

Council will monitor performance of the objectives that are detailed throughout the Plan by:

- Reporting on KPIs to the Manager Regulatory Services.
- Establishing an annual action plan for reviewing the Plan and evaluating its implementation.
- Reporting annually through Council's established reporting procedures in accordance with the requirements of the DAA and Local Government Performance Reporting Framework.

Annual reviews of the Domestic Animal Management Plan will be conducted by the Co-ordinator Compliance Services.