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# **Strategic Companion Animal Management Plan**

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2012 - 2015

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# INTRODUCTION

The term Companion Animal (CA) describes assistance animals, pet dogs and cats and some aspects of working dogs. The term 'companion' was selected to reflect the focus of animal and community welfare in the *Companion Animal Act 1998* (CAA).

CA are an integral part of our community, culture and society. Our compassion for living things is reflected in the manner that we treat animals; this means that the ownership of CA is to be considered a privilege. This privilege comes with a range of responsibilities in relation to CA, the community, and the environment.

## **Why do we need a Strategic Companion Animal Management Plan (SCAMP)?**

- To ensure that the CAA is understood and complied with.
- To balance the needs of pet owners and non-pet owners in the Tamworth region.
- To provide the opportunity to create lasting, voluntary changes in human behaviour regarding the ownership of CA.
- To identify gaps within current planning mechanisms that affect CA ownership.
- To provide measurable indicators for the assessment of the plan outcomes.
- To reflect the emerging understanding that CA can contribute to quality of life, and to integrate this with the need to minimize impacts on the environment and native wildlife.

## **Aim of the SCAMP**

This management plan aims to;

- Provide CA owners with support, education, regulation and facilities to accommodate their pets within the broader community and environment.
- Manage CA issues and encourage responsible pet ownership via education and the knowledge of services and provisions available.

## **Benefits to Council and Community**

Information obtained from other Councils that have implemented a SCAMP indicated a wide range of benefits, including;

- A reduction in the number of complaints being received due to an increased community awareness of the responsibilities of pet owners.
- The provision of guidance, support and procedures to groups that are involved with CA.
- A means to integrate CA issues into other Council departmental strategies.
- The use of community education programmes to more effectively target the concerns of pet owners who may lack knowledge and an awareness of their actions.
- The provision of a network to link the community with CA and animal welfare issues.

## **The Tamworth Region**

The Tamworth Regional Council covers some 9,655 square kilometres and has an estimated population of around 60,000 people. The major business centre is Tamworth but there are 22 other centres and villages within the regional boundaries.

The region boasts some of the richest agricultural country in the nation, supporting industries in; beef, sheep, poultry, fish, summer and winter crops, dairying, eggs, fruit vegetables and vineyards. There has also been an increase in boutique activities, such as olives, nuts, vines, berries, specialized game fowl, fish farming, goats, alpacas and buffalo.

It is estimated that over 307,000 hectares of land is devoted to agricultural production. This contrasts with productive native and planted forests linked by remnants of naturally vegetated steeper country, some of which have been declared as national parks or nature reserves.

Australia is one of the largest CA owning countries in the world, and in line with this trend, Tamworth Regional Council promotes the ownership of pets in a socially and animal welfare responsible manner.

# 1 STATEMENT AND OBJECTIVES

## Statement for Companion Animal Management

- To manage CA issues effectively.
- To generate voluntary compliance of pet owner requirements under the CAA.
- To encourage best practice in animal welfare.
- To maintain harmony between pet and non-pet owners, the environment and native wildlife in accordance with relevant legislation.

## Objectives for Companion Animal Management

- To encourage the permanent microchip identification and lifetime registration of all CA in the Tamworth region in order to achieve the efficient return of CA to their owners.
- To provide an effective and efficient service for people updating or registering details on the NSW Companion Animal Register.
- To maintain the existing pound facilities to encourage best practice care for impounded animals.
- To minimize the number of unwanted animals that are euthanased.
- To ensure that Council staff regard animal welfare as a high priority in interacting with the community and their CA.
- To encourage CA owners to provide appropriate physical and mental challenges for their animals, to improve animal welfare and reduce adverse impacts on the wider community.
- To improve community awareness of the importance of safety when dealing with CA.
- To improve the CA owner's awareness of their responsibility to maintain an effective control over their animals in public places.
- To ensure an efficient and effective response to reported dog attacks.
- To provide off-leash areas for dog exercise throughout the Tamworth region that are as safe as possible for dogs and humans.
- To raise the awareness of CA owner's to minimise the noise pollution caused by their animals.
- To minimize the impact of CA and their faeces on water catchments.
- To raise awareness and minimise the potential impact of CA on biodiversity.

The statement and objectives of the SCAMP will be identified under four primary headings:-

- Animal issues,
- Community issues,
- Environmental issues,
- Action plans, monitoring and review.

## **2 ANIMAL ISSUES**

### **2.1 IDENTIFICATION AND REGISTRATION**

The CAA outlines the provision for the compulsory identification and registration of CA. Part 2 of the CAA deals with the following issues;

- Identification required from 12 weeks of age and before sale.
- Registration required from age 6 months.
- Regulations may require registration.
- Unregistered companion animal.
- Notice requiring companion animal to be registered.
- Owner required to notify certain changes and events.
- Duties of Councils in relation to companion animals killed by traffic.

#### **Identification**

Under the CAA all CA that are sold or given away must be identified by a permanent microchip when ownership transfers, or by the age of 12 weeks. Cats that have been owned before 1<sup>st</sup> July 1999 must be identified by either a microchip or collar and tag. Authorised identifiers must return the Permanent Identification forms to Council within 3 days; this information will then be entered on the NSW Companion Animal Register (CAR).

Microchip identification is one aim of the CAA, and is designed to facilitate the efficient return of CA to their owners. This is a beneficial practice in 2 primary ways;

- It reduces stress being applied to the CA when seized.
- It allows an opportunity for the Rangers to offer some CA owners responsibility, education, and if necessary undertake enforcement action.

#### **Registration**

Under the CAA all CA must be lifetime registered by the age of 6 months, cats owned prior to 1<sup>st</sup> July 1999 are exempt. There are several advantages in having a state-wide lifetime registration system;

- It allows owners to move within the state without incurring further registration costs.
- The system allows declared dangerous dogs to be tracked throughout the state.
- The price differential of registration fees for an entire CA as compared with a desexed CA are designed to encourage desexing of animals at an early age.

#### **Current situation**

Within the Tamworth region, the message that CA are meant to be permanently identified and registered has not been understood entirely or complied with. It appears that the procedure of microchipping has been understood, but the registration step is being missed. The following data is for the period 2006-2011 calendar years;

- Total number of animals identified and registered
  1. Cats – 428
  2. Dogs – 3336
- Total number of animals identified only
  1. Cats – 2684
  2. Dogs – 10,081

### **Goals**

- ♦ To encourage the permanent microchip identification of all animals in the Tamworth region, in order to facilitate the prompt return of lost or roaming CA to their owners.
- ♦ To encourage the statewide lifetime registration of all CA in the Tamworth region in accordance with the CAA.
- ♦ To provide an effective and efficient service for people updating or registering details on the NSW Companion Animal Register.

## **2.2 IMPOUNDING**

The CAA outlines the procedure for dealing with seized or surrendered animals. Part 7 of the CAA deals with the following issues;

- Interpretation
- Seized animals must be delivered to owner, Council pound or approved premises.
- Owner of seized or surrendered animal to be notified.
- Seized animals detained at approved premises.
- Unclaimed seized animal may be sold or destroyed.
- Surrendered animals may be sold or destroyed.
- Fees and charges payable when animal detained or held.
- Owner not entitled to compensation for sale of animal.
- Recovery of fees and charges when animal destroyed.
- Reporting on pound activities.
- Offence of rescuing seized animal.
- Protection of Council and Council officers.

### **Current situation**

Council aims to return as many CA to their owners as possible, however, animals must be impounded when the owners are unknown or cannot be contacted. Seized animals may be sold or destroyed;

- After a period of 14 days if the animal is identified and registered.
- After a period of 7 days if there is no identification on the animal.

Council responds to complaints and actively patrols for animals straying in public places. When an animal is seized by a Ranger, the following actions are taken;

- The animal is scanned for identification (microchip).
- The contact details are accessed from the Register.
- Contact with the owner is attempted.
- The animal is returned to the owner's address if they are in residence, or
- The animal is transported to the pound facility, in accordance with the legislation.

There are a number of issues inherent in the current situation. These are;

- The difficulties in returning CA to their owners. Often owners are not contactable, not at home or have changed their address.
- The concern for disease transmission and stress factors on the animals when they are impounded.
- The significant costs for impounding and sustenance fees when animals have remained at the facility for extended periods.
- The high numbers of animals that are being euthanased when they are unclaimed or determined to be unsuitable for resale/rehome.

Council rangers will also arrange to pick up stray CA from persons at their homes or businesses. Persons that managed to restrain or have been befriended by stray CA, can elect to take the animal to Council's pound in Taminda or, by arrangement with Council's offices at Barraba and Manilla, to the local veterinarians in these towns. The response time for this type of service will vary depending on the rangers work commitments. Response times will be quicker in areas closer to the pound in Taminda, but time delays will be experienced with more distant locations. Rangers patrol areas in Tamworth, close to the Taminda pound daily, with once weekly patrols for Manilla. Barraba generally has fortnightly patrols with Nundle monthly. Moonbi/Kootingal is patrolled weekly or better with outer areas as required. Ideally, pick ups will occur to coincide with the regular patrols but there will be times when this will not be possible and delays will occur.

### **Goals**

- ◆ To facilitate the prompt return of animals to their owners, and reduce the number of animals that need to be impounded.
- ◆ To undertake research and design work for a new Pound facility, so that a best practice management procedure can be used for the transport and care of seized animals.
- ◆ To minimize the numbers of animals that are euthanased.

### **2.3 ANIMAL WELFARE/RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP**

All people who have animals in their care have a responsibility to ensure that they have adequate knowledge, training and skills to apply in the protection of the welfare of animals. Such people have an obligation to seek assistance where necessary to fulfill a duty of care for animals in their charge; this is called responsible pet ownership and includes the following;

- Attending to their pet's emotional and social needs.

- Attending to their pet's health and welfare including exercise, training and environmental enrichment as appropriate to the breed of animal.
- Confining dogs within the perimeter of the home to prevent roaming.
- Minimising any adverse effects of neighbours, such as excessive barking.
- Complying with relevant legislation (leash laws, removal of faeces from public places, maintaining dogs under effective control).

The success of responsible pet ownership relies on 2 components;

- The knowledge of pet owners of their responsibilities.
- The efforts of the owners to achieve these responsibilities.

Educational programs directed at the community of this region have the potential to raise awareness of the need for responsible pet ownership and what this entails. Some examples are;

- **Appropriate pet selection.** Problems can be avoided by selecting the type of animal, breed and sex to suit the owners lifestyle and circumstances.
- **Basic health and welfare principles.** Regular exercise, proper nutrition, water and shelter are crucial to the maintenance of animal health. Health care practices, such as worming and vet check ups, must be maintained.
- **Permanent identification and registration.**
- **Desexing.** This is a critical issue and has the capacity to reduce several unwanted animal behaviours, such as;
  - 1 Unwanted litters;
  - 2 Roaming by male animals;
  - 3 Territorial aggression and noise complaints;
  - 4 Potential life threatening complications (e.g. reproductive organ cancer or infection).

Desexing is encouraged under the CAA, by having a discounted registration fee for desexed CA.

- **Secure confinement and environmental enrichment.** Confining an animal reduces its risk of serious harm or death by misadventure. In addition, while this practice must be followed, there is the consideration of combating the boredom and frustrations that CA may feel while their owner is absent. Environmental enrichment is the inclusion of cognitive, dietary, physical, sensory and social stimuli to relieve boredom and frustration. If an animal is kept busy, it is less frustrated, less reactive and less of a potential nuisance (barking and roaming).
- **Socialisation, training and commitment.** Early socialization of CA is important to allow exposure to many different stimuli in the local environment (children/elderly people, other animals, noises, movement). Dog training is encouraged to ensure that owners have control of CA in public and private places; there are many programs available with Puppy Preschools, Canine Good Citizens and obedience training being highly recommended.

- **Attitude, care and philosophy.** Developing an attitude of love and respect for animals can help people to grow in their social and emotional relationships. Events such as the organization of dog fights, the theft of animals for fights and fur are illegal and should not happen in today's society. The commencement of the CAA provides cats and dogs with a legal status in animal management; education targeting intolerance for this type of activity will raise awareness within the Tamworth region.

### Current situation

The following information demonstrates that the majority of animals that enter the Council pound facility through being seized, dumped or surrendered by their owners are euthanased. With the education of the need for identification and registration, the rates of animals being returned to their homes would be higher. The increased practice of desexing animals would also reduce the number of unwanted animals and those that are seized while roaming.

Year	Seized		Dumped		Surrendered		Reclaimed by owner		Euthanised		Sold		Released to Organisations	
	Cats	Dogs	Cats	Dogs	Cats	Dogs	Cats	Dogs	Cats	Dogs	Cats	Dogs	Cats	Dogs
09/10	4	132	24	240	139	179	1	70	162	361	0	3	0	90
10/11	0	117	150	262	101	192	3	93	239	308	0	27	7	127

### Goals

- ♦ To encourage further education regarding responsible pet ownership with the Tamworth region.
- ♦ To promote the desexing of CA.
- ♦ To encourage CA owners to provide mental and physical challenges for their animals to improve the welfare of their animals and to reduce negative impacts on the local community.

## **3 COMMUNITY ISSUES**

Conflict between humans and animals is inevitable, this is particularly due to the close proximity of neighbouring dwellings. The type of issues raised by the community submissions reflects that this type of conflict is widespread, with the most common complaints being;

- Barking dogs,
- Roaming cats/dogs.
- Cat/dog faeces
- Number of animals per household.

### **3.1 PUBLIC SAFETY**

A safe community for everyone is a high priority and particular attention needs to be paid to safety in public places. Research indicates that dog attacks are more likely to occur at the animal's home or the near vicinity, and that these attacks are more common when a dominant, protective or injured dog is not adequately supervised with children or guests. These types of causes are usually not present when a dog is in the neutral territory of a park. Currently there are 2 designated leash-free areas within the Tamworth region;

- Jewry Street Park, along the Peel River - Tamworth
- Adjacent to the Showground cattle area, River Street – Manilla.

Sections 12 and 13 of the CAA state the general responsibilities of owners when their dogs are in public places. Dog owners are required to have their animal under the effective control of a competent person by means of an adequate chain, cord or leash when in public places. Council is required to provide at least 1 leash-free area, however, people using these facilities must have control of their animals.

#### **Prohibited Areas**

CA are also prohibited from some public places, this is stated in the CAA, Sections 14 and 30. Dogs are prohibited from;

- Being within 10 metres of a children's play area.
- Recreation and public bathing areas where dogs are declared to be prohibited.
- School grounds and child care centres and community event areas.
- Shopping areas where dogs are prohibited.

Cats and dogs are prohibited from;

- Wildlife protection areas (where prohibited);
- Food preparation or consumption areas.

#### **Bite Avoidance**

The majority of dogs do not bite people or other animals, however, all dogs have the potential to do this, irrespective of their breed, gender, temperament or history. Strategies for bite avoidance involve;

- Appropriate breed selection.
- Early socialisation.
- Training.
- Desexing.
- Confinement to prevent dogs from roaming.

Education strategies should focus on reading the body language of dogs (eyes, head position, backline, tail, posture and attitude) and dealing with potentially threatening situations. Some types of attacks can be caused by;

- Teasing.
- Rough playing.
- Interfering with feeding.
- Invading a dog's space.
- Predatory aggression caused by the victim running away from a dog.

### **Dangerous Dogs/Restricted Breeds**

Part 5 of the CAA states the requirements of owners of declared dangerous dogs, including having them desexed, muzzling them in public, and confining them in a childproof enclosure. A Council dangerous dog declaration has effect throughout the State and ACO have the ability to seize a dog if the requirements for maintaining a dangerous dog are not met.

Sections 55 – 58f of the CAA state the provisions for restricted dogs, whereby the owners are required to comply with similar requirements to the owners of dangerous dogs. The CAA defines restricted dogs as;

- American pit bull terrier or pit bull terrier,
- Japanese tosa
- Dogo Argentino (Argentinian fighting dogs)
- Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian fighting dogs)
- Any dog declared by Council to be a restricted dog.

### **Goals**

- ♦ To conduct further research in establishing more leash-free areas in the region.
- ♦ To improve community awareness of the importance of safety around CA and methods to avoid dog bites.
- ♦ To promote the awareness of dog training and keeping dogs under effective control at all times.
- ♦ To monitor dangerous dogs/restricted dogs throughout the Tamworth region.

## **3.2 ENFORCEMENT AND EDUCATION**

Research indicates that compliance with legislation is related to perceptions of fairness and levels of enforcement. Compliance is linked to the extent to which Council is prepared to undertake enforcement procedures. There are a number of reasons why necessary levels

are not occurring and most of them centre on the lack of resources available. Resulting from the difficulty in strongly enforcing legislation is the shift to encouraging voluntary compliance through educational programmes.

Suggestions for future education opportunities;

- Public safety, dog attacks, dangerous dogs and restricted breeds
- Barking dogs
- Desexing and unwanted litters
- Responsible pet ownership
- Appropriate pet selection
- Basic health, welfare and dietary needs
- Feral cats and dogs
- Disaster preparedness
- Roaming dogs
- Disease transmission
- Identification and registration
- Early socialization and regular obedience training
- Environmental enrichment
- Interaction between CA and native animals
- Environmental protection

In addition, target groups for raising awareness may include;

- CA owners
- Non-pet owners
- Schools/Pre-schools
- New pet owners
- Streets/localities with ongoing CA issues
- Community groups

### **Goals**

- ◆ To encourage the training and education of CA to facilitate their integration into the community.
- ◆ To promote changes in the behaviour of CA owners through education on the responsibilities of being a CA owner.
- ◆ To maintain links with professional animal industries to organise animal activities throughout the year.

## **4 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

CA can create negative impacts on the environment in a number of ways, some of which are;

- Noise pollution,
- Water pollution,
- Reduction to biodiversity - native animals.

By educating CA owners to be aware of the impacts that their CA may cause, as well as highlighting strategies to minimise adverse effects, a more sustainable relationship in the community will result.

### **4.1 NOISE POLLUTION – EXCESSIVE BARKING/MEOWING**

While all dogs bark, it is those that bark excessively that require management. Barking dogs account for a large number of complaints received by the Council.

Types of complaints received for October 2005 to end February 2012:-

Barking – 2557

Attacks – 873

Roaming – 2752

Barking dog complaints are extremely hard to resolve and often consume Council resources. The problems often recur and often involve unresolved neighbourhood disputes. Proceeding to a Nuisance Dog Order under the CAA or a Noise Abatement Order under the Protection of the Environment Operations Act, is time consuming and often complainants are unwilling to commit to this level of involvement.

Barking dogs are a significant community problem and can result in anxiety and depression. However, barking is a symptom of various issues facing the animal, some of which are;

- Territorial behaviour
- Boredom
- Playing
- Separation anxiety
- Visual stimuli/distractions
- Teasing

The noise of cats fighting in the middle of the night is reported less frequently than dogs, but it is still a cause of noise pollution. Education of CA owners is required in regards to; responsible pet ownership, training, diet, desexing, housing and confinement, as well as environmental stimuli, in order to assist with solutions.

Currently, Councils Rangers use a diary system regarding excessive barking complaints. This system has been effective in a number of ways; to determine if a legitimate complaint exists, it pinpoints the times of excessive barking, assists in providing solutions and builds a case if legal action is being sought.

## **Goals**

- ◆ To educate the community and mitigate excessive barking.
- ◆ To raise awareness of the availability of Council's anti-barking collars.
- ◆ To resolve barking complaints effectively with the resources at hand.

## **4.2 WATER POLLUTION – FAECES MANAGEMENT**

CA faeces management is a significant environmental and public health issue. The pollution of urban yards, footpaths, parks and reserves by animal faeces and the resulting pollution of waterways by stormwater run-off are of great environmental concern, particularly for the water catchments of the Tamworth region. Animal droppings contribute to high levels of phosphorous and other potentially harmful chemicals/bacteria in our waterways.

Organisms such as parasites, protozoa and bacteria can be transferred to people and animals via faecal matter and contaminated stormwater. There is also the potential for infection to be passed to humans from the animals themselves. Roundworm is the primary health concern, as this organism resides in the small intestine of dogs, and its eggs are passed to the outside environment in the faeces. The eggs may remain infective in the soil for a number of years. While humans do not develop adult roundworm, the migration of the larvae through tissues and organs can cause disease. Young children, active sports players and people confined to hand-activated wheel chairs have the greatest risks of exposure. At present, there is no legal requirement to remove cat faeces from a public place.

Whilst Council is required to provide appropriate rubbish receptacles for CA faeces in leash-free areas, they are very expensive to install and maintain. Council will undertake a 'pooch pouch' campaign within the Tamworth region to encourage people to take their own plastic bags for animal droppings when they are out in public places, and bins for this purpose will be positioned in the leash-free areas.. The CAA, Section 20 states the duty of dog owners to remove the animal's faeces and properly dispose of this material.

## **Goals**

- ◆ To minimise the impact of CA on the water catchment of the Tamworth region.
- ◆ To install rubbish receptacles in leash-free areas with signage stating their purpose for animal waste.
- ◆ To educate the community about the responsibilities of CA owners to remove their animal faeces from public places.
- ◆ To distribute 'pooch pouches' that attach to the leash which contain bags for the purpose of removing animal waste.

## **4.3 REDUCTION TO BIODIVERSITY – NATIVE ANIMALS**

Biodiversity can be described as 'the variety of life', it includes plants, animals and micro-organisms, the genes that they contain and the range of ecosystems that they form, on land, in the ocean and river systems. In 2005 more, than 40 species of animals, 30 species of plants, 1 population and 9 ecological communities were listed as threatened under the *NSW Threatened Species and Conservation Act 1995* or the *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. Added to this list are 3 fish species and 2 fish populations being listed as threatened under the *NSW Fisheries Management Act 1994*. It is vital that CA strategies be implemented to assist in the protection of these threatened environmental systems.

Community education will be implemented to emphasise that the dumping of unwanted animals in bushland, industrial estates or nature reserves is irresponsible, environmentally destructive and illegal. Feral cats, as well as free-ranging domestic cats, are responsible for a significant number of wildlife deaths each year. It is imperative that awareness be raised regarding the care and control of pet cats, to limit their nocturnal wanderings. Cats can be confined to a house for their entire life, if there is sufficient environmental stimulus. An example of this is the modular cat fun-park, which is a fully contained cage system that is situated in the CA owner's backyard.

### **Goals**

- ◆ To minimise the impact of CA on the biodiversity of the Tamworth region.
- ◆ To educate owners of cats about methods of safely confining their animals to the home.
- ◆ To raise awareness of Council's provision of cat-trapping equipment.
- ◆ To promote the desexing of CA to reduce roaming, territorial and aggressive behaviours.

## **5 ACTION PLANS, MONITORING AND REVIEW**

Council aims to monitor, review and continually improve the management of CA within the Tamworth region. Monitoring mechanisms have been built into the performance indicators of the action plans to modify strategies that are ineffective.

A CA external working group, comprising of concerned people such as veterinarians, animal welfare organisations, animals trainers/instructors, breeders and pet shop owners, has been formed to assist with the development of the SCAMP as well as implementing some of the performance indicators. This group will also serve to monitor the progress of the plan and suggest future changes that may be required.

The action plans have been collected into key issue areas that relate to the goals already established in the management plan. These areas are;

- Identification and registration
- Impounding
- Animal welfare/Responsible pet ownership
- Public safety
- Enforcement and education
- Noise pollution – excessive barking/meowing
- Water pollution – faeces management
- Reduction to biodiversity – native animals
- Review and monitoring

## 1 Identification and Registration

Action	Priority	Related Goals	Performance Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide media advertising, educational materials and events for the community of the Tamworth region to promote and encourage the permanent identification of CA</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To encourage the permanent microchip identification of all animals in the Tamworth region.</li> <li>To facilitate the prompt return of lost/roaming CA to their owners.</li> <li>To provide an effective and efficient service for people updating or registering details on the NSW Companion Animal Register.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase in the numbers of CA being microchipped.</li> <li>Increase in the number of CA being registered.</li> <li>Number of media advertising inserted into the local press.</li> <li>Production of brochures and stickers advertising the identification and registration procedure.</li> </ul>

## 2 Impounding

Action	Priority	Related Goals	Performance Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To advertise the services that the pound provides, such as the purchase of animals and opening times.</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To reduce the number of CA that need to be euthanased.</li> <li>To facilitate the prompt return of CA to their owners.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decrease in the number of CA being euthanased.</li> <li>Number of media advertising inserted into the local press.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide information and educational material at the site of collection of animals to increase awareness for the identification and registration of animals</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To facilitate the prompt return of CA to their owners.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Production of brochures and stickers advertising the identification and registration procedure.</li> </ul>

### 3 Animal Welfare / Responsible Pet Ownership

Action	Priority	Related Goals	Performance Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design and implementation of a publicity campaign to provide pet owners with information relating to responsible pet ownership.</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To encourage further education regarding responsible pet ownership in the Tamworth region.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of media advertising inserted into the local press.</li> <li>Conduct educational events at schools and community groups</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure that all animals rehomed from the pound are desexed.</li> <li>Encourage desexing of animals in all enforcement, education and public relations activities.</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To promote the desexing of CA.</li> <li>To promote the desexing of CA to reduce roaming, territorial and aggressive behaviours.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decrease in the number of complaints where CA display seasonal/mating aggression.</li> <li>Decrease in number of complaints regarding roaming animals.</li> <li>Decrease in the number of complaints about excessive seasonal noise from cats/dogs.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Treat incidences of dogs roaming as an issue warranting a high priority</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To encourage the permanent microchip identification of all animals in the Tamworth region.</li> <li>To reduce the number of CA that need to be euthanased.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decrease in number of complaints regarding roaming animals.</li> <li>Decrease in the number of CA being euthanased.</li> <li>Increase in the number of CA being returned to the owners.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the importance and benefits of training in all of Council's enforcement and educational activities</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To encourage further education regarding responsible pet ownership in the Tamworth region.</li> <li>To encourage CA owners to provide mental and physical challenges for their animals to improve their welfare and to reduce negative impact on the local community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decrease in number of complaints regarding roaming animals.</li> <li>Decrease in the number of complaints about excessive noise from dogs.</li> <li>Decrease in the number of dogs being surrendered.</li> </ul>

#### 4 Public Safety

Action	Priority	Related Goals	Performance Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the location of leash-free areas in the Tamworth region.</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To encourage CA owners to provide mental and physical challenges for their animals to improve their welfare and to reduce negative impact on the local community.</li> <li>To encourage further education regarding responsible pet ownership in the Tamworth region.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decrease in number of complaints regarding roaming animals.</li> <li>Number of media advertising inserted into the local press.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To conduct research into the provision of more leash-free areas in the Tamworth region.</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To conduct research into establishing more leash-free areas in the region.</li> <li>To create more leash-free areas in the Tamworth region.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research conducted.</li> <li>Design plans.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To visit primary schools in the region to demonstrate bite avoidance techniques.</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To improve community awareness of the importance of safety around CA and methods to avoid dog bites.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of schools visited.</li> <li>Decrease in the number of dog attacks reported.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To educate and enforce the provision that dogs should be under effective control (leash, cord or chain) in public places.</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To promote the awareness of dog training and keeping dogs under effective control at all times.</li> <li>To encourage further education regarding responsible pet ownership in the Tamworth region.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decrease in the number of dog attacks reported.</li> <li>Decrease in number of complaints regarding roaming animals.</li> <li>Number of media advertising inserted into the local press.</li> <li>Number of infringements issued.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the locations of dangerous and restricted dogs in the Tamworth region on a six monthly basis.</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To monitor dangerous dogs/restricted dogs throughout the Tamworth region.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decrease in the number of dog attacks reported.</li> <li>Compliance with dangerous/restricted dog control requirements.</li> </ul>

Action	Priority	Related Goals	Performance Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research previous dog attack incidents in the Tamworth region to determine specific recurrent local issues or seasonal trends. To implement education and enforcement accordingly.</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To monitor dangerous dogs/restricted dogs throughout the Tamworth region.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decrease in the number of dog attacks reported.</li> <li>Compliance with dangerous/restricted dog control requirements.</li> </ul>

## 5 Enforcement and Education

Action	Priority	Related Goals	Performance Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and implement an educational programme to promote responsible pet ownership throughout the Tamworth region.</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To encourage the training and education of CA to facilitate their integration into the community.</li> <li>To encourage further education regarding responsible pet ownership in the Tamworth region.</li> <li>To promote changes in the behaviour of CA owners through education on the responsibilities of being a CA owner.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft the educational programme.</li> <li>Implement the educational programme.</li> <li>Number of schools, community groups and animal organizations visited.</li> <li>Number of complaints and infringements decrease.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To proactively patrol leash-free areas and those where CA owners are known to frequent. To implement education and enforcement accordingly.</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To encourage the training and education of CA to facilitate their integration into the community.</li> <li>To encourage further education regarding responsible pet ownership in the Tamworth region.</li> <li>To promote changes in the behaviour of CA owners through education on responsibilities of being a CA owner.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of complaints and infringements decrease.</li> </ul>

Action	Priority	Related Goals	Performance Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To schedule regular quarterly meetings (February, May, August, November) with animal specialists within the community and implement special events.</li> </ul>	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To maintain links with professional animal industries to organise animal activities throughout the year.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of activities conducted.</li> <li>Number of meetings held.</li> </ul>

## 6 Noise Pollution – Excessive Barking/Meowing

Action	Priority	Related Goals	Performance Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the link between nuisance behaviour, such as barking, and animal welfare issues. Refer CA and owner to an animal behaviourist where possible.</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To educate the community and mitigate excessive barking.</li> <li>To encourage further education regarding responsible pet ownership in the Tamworth region.</li> <li>To promote the desexing of CA.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of complaints and infringements decrease.</li> <li>Number of media advertising inserted into the local press.</li> <li>Decrease in the number of complaints about excessive noise from dogs.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To promote the provision of Council's anti-barking collars for community use.</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To raise awareness of the availability of Council's anti-barking collars.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of media advertising inserted into the local press.</li> <li>Decrease in the number of complaints about excessive noise from dogs.</li> <li>Increase in the use of the anti-barking collars.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to implement the diary system for investigating excessive barking complaints.</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To resolve barking complaints effectively with the resources at hand.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decrease in the number of diarised barking incidences.</li> <li>Number of barking complaints handled.</li> </ul>

## 7 Water Pollution – Faeces Management

Action	Priority	Related Goals	Performance Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install rubbish bins for the provision of CA waste.</li> <li>• Promote the removal of CA faeces by the owner.</li> </ul>	<p>High</p> <p>High</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To minimise the impact of CA on the water catchment of the Tamworth region.</li> <li>• To install rubbish receptacles in leash-free areas with signage stating their purpose for animal waste.</li> <li>• To educate the community about the responsibilities of CA owners to remove their animal faeces from public places.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of bins installed.</li> <li>• Number of infringements issued.</li> <li>• Number of media advertising inserted into the local press.</li> </ul>

## 8 Reduction to Biodiversity – Native Animals

Action	Priority	Related Goals	Performance Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To promote community awareness as to the potential impacts that CA have on native wildlife.</li> <li>• To identify specific local threatened or endangered species that would benefit from a focused CA community education program</li> </ul>	<p>High</p> <p>High</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To minimise the impact of CA on the biodiversity of the Tamworth region.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of media advertising inserted into the local press.</li> <li>• Decrease in number of complaints regarding roaming animals.</li> <li>• Monitoring of local species that are threatened or endangered.</li> </ul>

Action	Priority	Related Goals	Performance Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To promote a community awareness campaign highlighting the advantages of keeping cats confined and voluntarily using a 'cat curfew'.</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To educate owners of cats about methods of safely confining their animals to the home.</li> <li>To encourage further education regarding responsible pet ownership in the Tamworth region.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of media advertising inserted into the local press.</li> <li>Decrease in number of complaints regarding roaming animals.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To promote the provision of Council's cat-trapping equipment for community use (only in the case of feral cats).</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To raise awareness of Council's provision of cat-trapping equipment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of media advertising inserted into the local press.</li> <li>Decrease in the number of complaints about feral cats.</li> <li>Increase in the use of the cat-trapping equipment.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To promote the desexing of CA.</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To promote the desexing of CA to reduce roaming, territorial and aggressive behaviour.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase in the number of CA being desexed.</li> <li>Number of media advertising inserted into the local press.</li> </ul>

## 9 Monitoring and review

Action	Priority	Related Statements	Performance Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To monitor and review the SCAMP in June 2015.</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To manage CA issues effectively.</li> <li>To generate voluntary compliance.</li> <li>To encourage best practice in animal welfare.</li> <li>To maintain harmony between pet and non-pet owners, the environment and native wildlife in accordance with the relevant legislation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduction in the number of complaints received.</li> <li>Reduction in the number of infringements issued.</li> <li>Increase in voluntary compliance to CA requirements.</li> <li>Continual improvements to the SCAMP that incorporate future developments and advances.</li> </ul>

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