



DOMESTIC **ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN 2021–25**





August 2021

Acknowledgements

Council acknowledges all language groups of the Kulin Nation as the traditional owners of these municipal lands. We recognise the first people's relationship to this land and offer our respect to their elders past and present.

Council acknowledges the legal responsibility to comply with the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* and the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010*. The *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* is designed to protect the fundamental rights and freedoms of citizens. The Charter gives legal protection to 20 fundamental human rights under four key values that include freedom, respect, equality and dignity.

For further information, or to receive a copy of this document in an alternate format, contact Council on 1300 179 944.



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



In accordance with section 68A of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* (the Act), councils are required to prepare and implement a Domestic Animal Management Plan (the “DAMP”) at four year intervals. The requirements of section 68A are given below.

68A Councils to prepare domestic animal management plans

(1) Every Council must, in consultation with the Secretary, prepare at 4 year intervals a domestic animal management plan.

(2) A domestic animal management plan prepared by a Council must—

- (a) set out a method for evaluating whether the animal control services provided by the Council in its municipal district are adequate to give effect to the requirements of this Act and the regulations; and
- (b) outline programs for the training of authorised officers to ensure that they can properly administer and enforce the requirements of this Act in the Council’s municipal district; and (c) outline programs, services and strategies which the Council intends to pursue in its municipal district—
- (i) to promote and encourage the responsible ownership of dogs and cats; and
- (ii) to ensure that people comply with this Act, the regulations, and any related legislation; and
- (iii) to minimise the risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals; and
- (iv) to address any over-population and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats; and
- (v) to encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats; and
- (vi) to minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance; and

- (vii) to effectively identify all dangerous dogs, menacing dogs, and restricted breed dogs in that district and to ensure that those dogs are kept in compliance with this Act and the regulations; and

- (d) provide for the review of existing orders made under this Act and local laws that relate to the Council’s municipal district with a view to determining whether further orders or local laws dealing with the management of dogs and cats in the municipal district are desirable; and

- (e) provide for the review of any other matters related to the management of dogs and cats in the Council’s municipal district that it thinks necessary; and

- (f) provide for the periodic evaluation of any program, service, strategy, or review outlined under the plan.

(3) Every Council must—

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

- (b) provide the Secretary with a copy of the plan and any amendments to the plan; and

- (c) publish an evaluation of its implementation of the plan in its annual report

Implementation of the objectives outlined in the DAMP should result in efficient management of domestic animal issues with a focus on community safety and compliance and responsible pet ownership.

The DAMP will undergo periodic evaluation including an annual review of implementation which will be reported in Council’s Annual Report.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the DAMP is to develop and implement a range of objectives that will:

- ensure that satisfactory levels of compliance with legislation and community standards are established and maintained
- comply with the relevant provisions of Act
- educate pet owners regarding responsible pet ownership
- increase the number of registered cats and dogs throughout the municipality
- improve the overall effectiveness of the animal management service
- improve outcomes for dogs and cats throughout the municipality
- minimise the effects of domestic pets on the population of native birds

The plan is required to specifically inform both the Victorian Government and interested parties on how Council has equipped and trained its authorised officers and provided processes for them to enforce the Act and associated regulations. The plan is not intended to regulate how the Council investigates or enforces its Local Laws or other policies that relate to animal management. The Hobsons Bay Community Local Law 2015 (the Community Local Law) and relevant policies may be referred to where they complement the DAMP and will be enforced in conjunction with the plan where appropriate.





PROCESS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLAN

In June and July 2021, Council sought feedback from both pet and non-pet owners throughout Hobsons Bay to capture community concerns and thoughts surrounding pet ownership, animal and community welfare and the environmental impact caused by domestic pets.

Council officers facilitated constructive discussions with community members during a virtual community drop-in session via Zoom and face to face pop ups in Cherry Lake, Wetlands and Strand wards.

Throughout the sessions, participants asked a range of questions and discussed topics relating to Council's existing animal management service and resourcing, how patrolling and enforcement is facilitated and what more can be done in these areas. Questions were also asked about responsible animal management including animal training, owner education and dogs off lead in on lead areas.

In addition to these sessions, Council received 322 online survey submissions via the project's webpage on Participate Hobsons Bay and five emails sharing feedback were received.

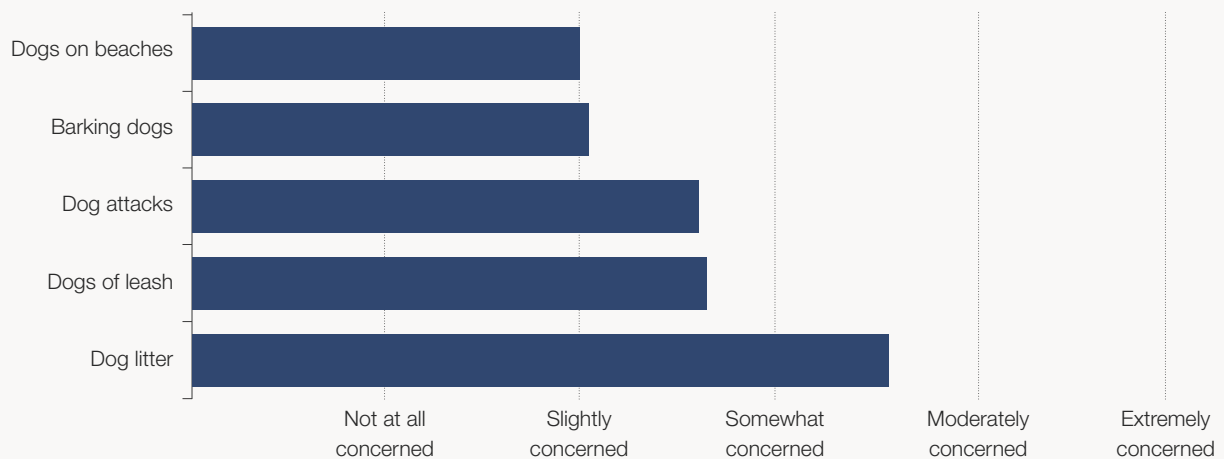
Council received feedback from residents located within all wards Hobsons Bay as well as two suburbs outside of the municipality. The majority of respondents were from Newport, Altona and Altona Meadows.

The majority of respondents were pet owners, with over half owning dogs, 20 per cent owning cats and almost 10 per cent percentage owning other pets. Almost 18 per cent of responses were provided by non-pet owners.

The community were asked to share any issues they had experienced. Most respondents had not experienced any issues, but of those who had, the top three areas of concern were dogs off lead in on-lead areas, ineffective animal control and dog litter.

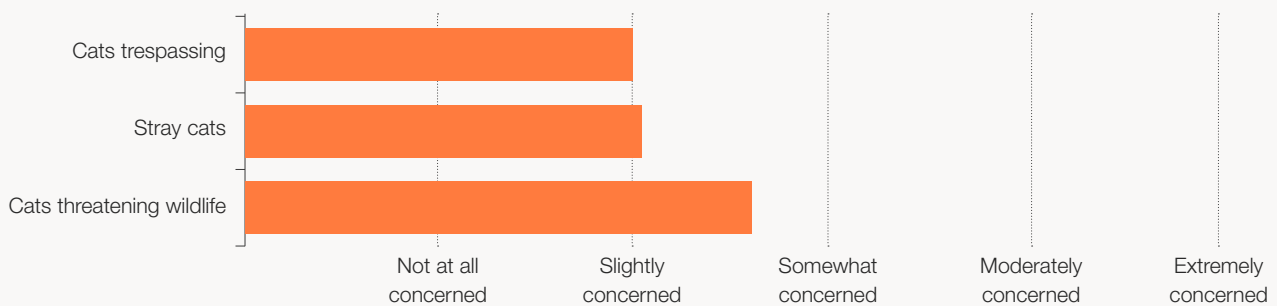
When asked to rank issues of most concern relating to dogs, dog litter was the most concerning among respondents, followed by dogs off-leash outside of designated off-leash areas.

In relation to concerns about dogs, please rate the following issues



When asked to rank issues of most concern relating to cats, cats threatening wildlife, particularly in conservation areas, was of the most concern among respondents, followed by stray cats.

In relation to concerns about cats, please rate the following issues



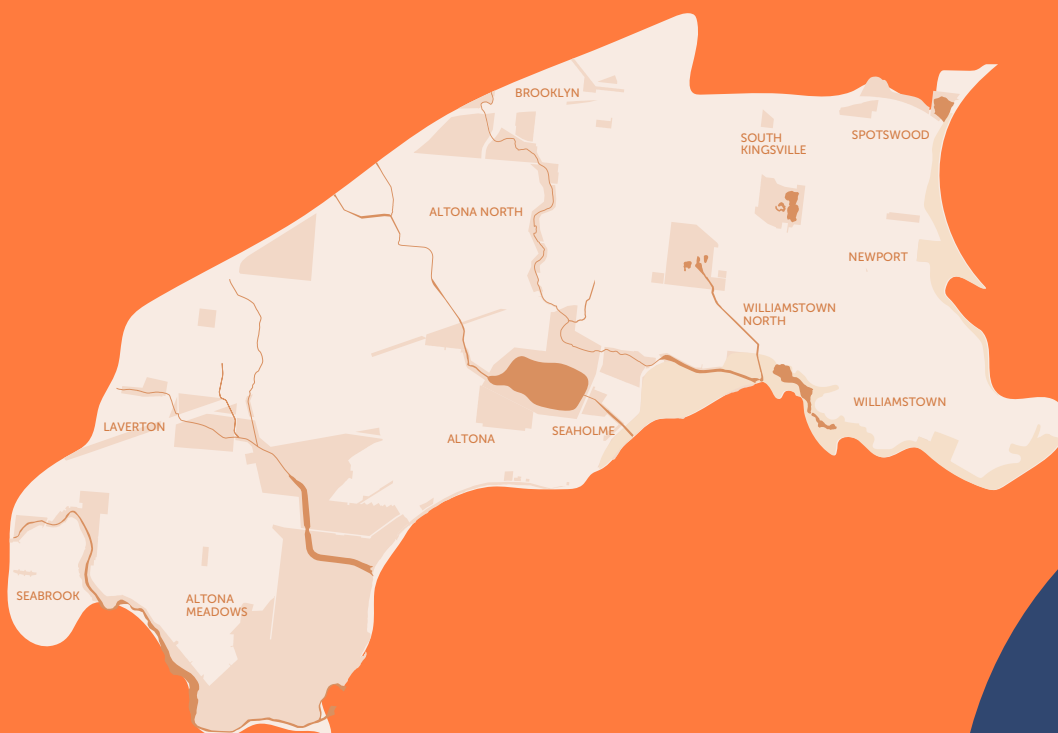
HOBSONS BAY CITY COUNCIL – DEMOGRAPHICS AND PROFILE

Hobsons Bay City Council covers 64 square kilometres at the northern end of Port Phillip Bay and is between seven and 20 kilometres to the south-west of central Melbourne, encompassing the suburbs of Altona, Altona Meadows, Altona North, Brooklyn, Laverton, Newport, Seabrook, Seaholme, Spotswood, Williamstown and Williamstown North.

The current estimated resident population is 98,189 an increase of 424 on the previous year. The population has grown by 5 per cent over the last five years and is expected to reach 107,031 by 2025.

One of Hobsons Bay's greatest assets is the rich variety of natural environment including more than 20 kilometres of beach and foreshore, including one off-leash dog beach and access for exercising of horses.

The local economy includes a growing number of manufacturing, transport and logistics companies together with a range of smaller warehouses, light industries and service industries. Areas of Altona North, Brooklyn, Newport, Spotswood and South Kingsville are becoming increasingly important centres of industry and freight. Hobsons Bay is also home to some of Victoria's major manufacturing industries and contains some of the state's largest industrial enterprises.



ANIMAL MANAGEMENT UNIT STAFFING AND STRUCTURE

The Animal Management unit is part of the Community Safety and Compliance team unit which is responsible for the administration of Council's Community Local Law 2015 and the majority of compliance functions, including parking, school crossings, local laws covering issues

such as litter, abandoned vehicles, unsightly properties, footpath trading and disabled and resident parking permits.

The Community Safety and Compliance team sits within the Corporate Services directorate of Council.



The Animal Management unit provides a service to the community from 8am to 7pm seven days a week with two Animal Management Officers available during this time.

Strategic rostering ensures that service provision to the community is consistent and in line with expectations. Additional services will require an increase in resourcing especially during seasonal peak periods to include summer monitoring during daylight savings.

The Animal Management unit is responsible for:

- promoting responsible pet ownership
- managing of complaints relating to pets

- impounding animals
- investigating dog attacks
- ensuring compliance with legislation and codes of practice's relevant to domestic animals and livestock
- animal registration processes
- management of domestic animal businesses
- providing education and advice to pet owners and the community
- returning animals directly to their owners where possible
- attending to after hours animal emergencies

CURRENT AND PLANNED TRAINING OF AUTHORISED OFFICERS

| Authorised Officer Training | Officers | Status |
|--|---|---|
| Certificate IV in Local Government (Animal Control and Regulation) | Coordinator | Completed |
| Certificate IV in Local Government (Statutory Compliance) | 3 x Officers | Completed |
| | 1 x Officer | Relevant industry experience |
| | Coordinator | Completed |
| | Team Leader | Completed |
| Animal Handling training | 5 x Officers | Completed |
| | Coordinator | Completed |
| | 2 x Team Leaders | Completed |
| OH&S training – conflict resolution | All Community Safety and Compliance staff | Refresher training to be conducted in house |
| Interview and Statement Taking refresher | 3 x Officers | To be scheduled |
| | 1 x Team Leader | To be scheduled |
| Identification of Restricted Breed Dogs | 2 x Officers | Completed |
| | Coordinator | Completed |
| | Team Leader | Completed |
| | 1 x Officer | To be scheduled |
| Writing for Compliance | All Officers | Completed |
| | Coordinator | Completed |
| | 3 x Team Leaders | Completed |



OUR PLANS

Objective 1.1: To ensure that Animal Management Officers have the required skills and knowledge to safely and effectively carry out the functions of the Animal Management Unit.

| Activity | When | Evaluation |
|---|------------------|---|
| Staff to complete refresher Interview and Statement Taking training | 2021–25 | Competency requirements evaluation Improvement in quality of evidence and investigations |
| Staff to complete refresher OH&S training | Bi-annually | Competency requirements evaluation |
| Individual skills gaps to be identified and addressed as part of regular performance management | Every six months | Training needs and skills gaps to be recorded and evaluated in six monthly reviews |

Objective 1.2: To ensure that the Animal Management unit is adequately resourced to respond to legislative requirements and community expectations around the management of dogs and cats.

| Activity | When | Evaluation |
|--|---------|---|
| Review of afternoon/weekend service provision | 2021–25 | Adequate provision of service through the span of operating hours |
| Investigate the possibility of a full-time pound attendant as the diversion program grows | 2021–25 | Number of kittens in the diversion program |
| Rotate adequately trained staff into Animal Management duties to ensure skills are maintained and workloads fairly distributed | 2021–25 | Adequate service provision |



REGISTRATION AND IDENTIFICATION

| Category | 2016–17 | 2020–21 |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|
| Registered dogs | 9,050 | 11,154 |
| Registered cats | 3,387 | 4,257 |
| Declared dangerous dogs | 12 | 4 |
| Restricted breed dogs | 6 | 5 |
| Declared menacing dogs | 8 | 5 |
| Guard dogs | 2 | 3 |

Registration of domestic dogs and cats is considered to be the most effective way to maximize compliance with the Act. Registration provides Council with an overview of the level of pet ownership in the community which assists with service planning and management.

Registered and identifiable animals are able to be reunited directly with their owners faster and more efficiently.

Registrations are renewed each year by 10 April in accordance with the Act. Registration notices are issued via post and payable online, by post or in person at the Hobsons Bay Civic Centre. Applications to register new animals are accepted by email, post or in person at the Civic Centre.

Registration fees contribute to funding the services provided by Council in relation to animal management. \$4.10 from each dog and cat registration and \$20 from each domestic animal business registration is paid to the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions to fund pet ownership and education programs. These levies are legislated under the Act.

An annual registration follow-up program is conducted where all unpaid registrations are audited to ensure the accuracy of the registration database and achieve maximum compliance. Council's website, on-hold messaging, mobile message boards, social media sites and SMS messages are some of the tools used to promote awareness around animal registration.

OUR PLANS

Objective 2.1 To increase the number of registered dogs and cats throughout the municipality

| Activity | When | Evaluation |
|---|----------|--|
| Ensure all impounded cats and dogs are registered prior to being returned to their owner in accordance with the Act | Ongoing | Number of current registrations |
| Develop online registration forms allowing new registration applications to be transacted via Councils website | 2022–25 | Development of suitable online form and payment technology |
| Conduct education campaigns to promote animal registration via school outreach and social media | Ongoing | Number of current registrations |
| Conduct routine registration checks when responding to customer requests and attending properties | Ongoing | Number of current registrations |
| Follow up on new animals adopted into the municipality to ensure registration | Ongoing | Number of current registrations |
| Issue SMS registration reminders to all account holders | Annually | Number of current registrations |
| Take enforcement action as required, including the issue of notice to comply, warnings and infringement notices | Ongoing | Number of current registrations |
| Conduct door knocks of all properties with unpaid animal registrations | Annually | Number of current registrations |

Objective 2.2 To increase the number of impounded animals returned directly to their owners

| Activity | When | Evaluation |
|---|---------|---|
| Ensure the animal registration database is up to date and accurate | Ongoing | Number of animals returned directly to their owners |
| Ensure staff have access to the registration database in the field | Ongoing | Number of animals returned directly to their owners |
| Use the Hobsons Bay Lost Pets Facebook page to advertise identifiable impounded dogs and cats | Ongoing | Number of animals returned directly to their owners |

DOG AND CAT NUISANCE

The Act, regulates the nuisances for both dogs and cats relating to noise, trespassing and wandering animals.

Hobsons Bay City Council has also introduced a number of local laws and orders to help minimise and prevent nuisances which are outlined below.

Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP)

Dogs in Public Places Policy

Hobsons Bay Community Local Law 2015

Hobsons Bay Community Local Law 2015

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Part 6, section 50 | No more than 2 dogs and/or 2 cats to be kept on a residential property or 1 for flats/units |
| Part 6, section 57 (2) (3) | Pet owners to remove dog litter from public places and carry a bag to collect dog litter at all times |
| Part 6, section 55 (1) | Pet owners to prevent unreasonable noise |
| Part 6, section 63 | Regulations relating to dogs on Altona and Williamstown beaches |
| Part 6, section 56 | Dogs must be on a leash in all public areas unless in a signed, designated off leash area. |

OUR PLANS

Objective 3.1 To investigate nuisance dog and cat complaints in accordance with Customer Service completion timeframes

| Activity | When | Evaluation |
|--|---------|-------------------------------|
| Review completion timeframes on the CHARM management system to ensure they are realistic | 2021–25 | Number of complaints resolved |

Objective 3.2 To reduce the number of nuisance noise and barking dog complaints

| Activity | When | Evaluation |
|---|---------|--|
| Encourage residents to resolve the nuisance issue by utilizing the services of the Dispute Settlement Centre Victoria (DSCV) prior to Council investigating | Ongoing | Information regarding DSCV provided at the time of complaint being submitted |
| Conduct education and awareness campaign via Councils social media pages | Ongoing | Reduction in number of complaints |
| Encourage dog owners to seek assistance from a dog trainer or behavior specialist | Ongoing | Reduction in number of complaints |



OUR PLANS

Objective 3.3 To reduce the number of nuisance cat complaints

| Activity | When | Evaluation |
|---|---------|--------------------------------------|
| Provide updated education materials via Council's website and social media pages regarding cat enclosures and confinement | 2021–25 | Reduction in number of complaints |
| Ensure wait times for hire of a cat trap are kept at a minimum of 2 weeks | Ongoing | Reduction in number of nuisance cats |
| Conduct education campaigns around conservation areas in conjunction with Councils Conservation team | 2021–25 | Reduction in number of complaints |

Objective 3.4 To increase the rate of compliance with the Domestic Animals Act 1994 and Councils Community Local Law 2015

| Activity | When | Evaluation |
|--|--------------|--|
| Conduct routine patrols of parks and reserves conducting education and enforcement | 2021–25 | Reduction in number of complaints |
| Conduct a targeted summer program at the beaches to enforce timed restrictions | Every Summer | Reduction in number of complaints |
| Use A-Frame and mobile Variable Message Signs (VMS) board to reinforce compliance messaging | Ongoing | Reduction in number of complaints |
| Conduct education campaign around dog litter via Councils social media pages | Ongoing | Reduction in number of complaints |
| Hold a desexing event in conjunction with local veterinary clinics to reduce unwanted breeding of cats | 2021–25 | Uptake of the program by the community and vet support |



DOG ATTACKS

In accordance with Part 5A, subsection, 68A (2) (c) (iii) of the Act, outline programs, services and strategies to minimise the risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals. Also addresses 68A (2) (a), 68A(2) (c) (i), 68A(2) (c) (ii), 68A(2) (d), 68A(2) (f).

| | 2016–17 | 2020–21 |
|--------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Number of reported dog attacks | 79 | 109 |

Animal Management Officers are responsible for the investigation of all reported dog attacks. These investigations can be lengthy and complex to manage, requiring cooperation from victims, witnesses, and dog owners.

Councils immediate priority when investigating dog attacks is to ensure ongoing community safety. In the case of serious attacks this can involve seizure of an offending dog, which may then be held until the conclusion of the investigation. Dogs are held at Council’s pound, the Lost Dogs’ Home, which comes at significant cost and is often unrecoverable.

The potential outcomes for a dog attack are subject to sufficient evidence being available and can include:

issue of infringements

menacing dog declaration

dangerous dog declaration

prosecution in Magistrates Court

seeking an order for destruction of the dog

no action

Hobsons Bay Community Local Law 2015

Management of Dogs in Public Places

designated restrictions on beaches

designated off leash areas



OUR PLANS

Objective 4.1 To conduct targeted education and compliance campaigns

| Activity | When | Evaluation |
|---|---------|---|
| Promote dog attack prevention messaging through Councils website and social media pages | 2021–25 | Reduction in number of dog attacks |
| Promote the Animal Welfare Victoria Responsible Dog Ownership course | 2021–25 | Reduction in incidences of non-compliance |

Objective 4.2 Implement programs that will reduce the likelihood of dog attacks in the community

| Activity | When | Evaluation |
|---|---------|---|
| Conduct regular patrols of beaches and reserves to monitor compliance | Ongoing | Reduction in incidences of non-compliance |
| Issue of infringements to dog owners who do not comply with the requirement for dogs to be on leash | Ongoing | Reduction in incidences of non-compliance |
| Provide a limited after-hours service | Ongoing | Reduction in number of dog attacks |

Objective 4.3 Investigate all reported dog attacks to a conclusion

| Activity | When | Evaluation |
|--|---------|---|
| Reports of dog attacks to be actioned same day | Ongoing | Number of investigations satisfactorily completed |
| All reported dog attacks to be investigated in line with Councils Dog Attack Procedure | Ongoing | Number of investigations satisfactorily completed |

DANGEROUS, MENACING AND RESTRICTED BREED DOGS

In accordance with Part 5A, subsection 68A (2) (c) (vii) of the Act, outline programs, services and strategies to effectively identify all dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs in that district and to ensure that those dogs are kept in compliance with this Act and the regulations. Also addresses 68A (2) (a), 68A (2) (c) (i), 68A (2) (c) (ii), 68A (2) (d), 68A (2) (f).

The Act defines restricted breed dogs as any one of the following breeds:

Japanese Tosa

Dogo Argentino

American Pit Bull Terrier or Pit Bull Terrier

Fila Brasileiro

Perro de Prasa Canario; and (or Presa Canario)

Owners of restricted breed dogs are required to abide by specific regulations, including provision of secure enclosures; provision of warning signs on premises; and animals to be muzzled in public and on-leash at all times.

The following is the number of declared dangerous, menacing, and restricted breed dogs within the municipality.

| | 2016–17 | 2020–21 |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|
| Declared Dangerous Dogs | 12 | 4 |
| Restricted Breed Dogs | 6 | 5 |
| Declared Menacing Dogs | 8 | 5 |
| Guard Dogs | 2 | 3 |

Council is required to register all dangerous, menacing, and restricted breed dogs with the Victorian Declared Dog Register (VDDR); this is a central database that records all declared dogs. Any dangerous and restricted breed dog entered into the VDDR is declared for the life of the animal and cannot be revoked.

All dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs must be inspected annually by Council's authorised officers for compliance with the keeping requirements under the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* annually by Councils authorised officers.

OUR PLANS

Objective 5.1 To ensure that registered owners of declared dangerous, menacing, and restricted breed dogs comply with the Act

| Activity | When | Evaluation |
|---|---------|-------------------------|
| Continue annual unplanned property inspections of all declared dogs | Ongoing | Compliance with the Act |
| Take enforcement action for all instances of non-compliance | Ongoing | Compliance with the Act |
| Check microchip numbers for all dogs involved in dog attacks against the VDDR | Ongoing | Compliance with the Act |
| Ensure staff are trained to identify restricted breed dogs | Ongoing | Compliance with the Act |

OVERPOPULATION AND HIGH EUTHANASIA

In accordance with Part 5A, subsection 68A (2) (c) (iv) of the Act, outline programs, services and strategies to address any over-population and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats. Also addresses 68A (2) (a), 68A (2) (c) (i), 68A (2) (c) (ii), 68A (2) (d), 68A (2) (f).

Over the period of the last four year plan Council has made significant progress in reducing the number of stray or wild cats throughout the municipality. This has been achieved by increasing the number of traps available and decreasing the waiting time for the trapping program, encouraging desexing of cats through a number of subsidized and low cost desexing events, and rehoming of kittens through Council's diversion program.

The kitten diversion program allows Council to divert eligible stray and

unidentified kittens through the program to be vaccinated, microchipped, desexed and ultimately rehomed.

There has been great community support for the program, which has seen the number of cats euthanised decrease by 52 per cent and the number of kittens rehomed increase by 140 per cent since the beginning of the last plan. The estimated cost savings created by rehoming eligible kittens in 2020–21 was \$25,795

| | 2016–17 | 2020–21 |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|
| Cats/kittens euthanised | 342 | 164 |
| Cats/kittens rehomed | 37 | 89 |

Whilst the kitten diversion program can be considered successful, there is a significant amount of resources that are required for it to run, including

- staff costs – animal attendant and cleaning
- veterinary costs – flea, worm, microchipping vaccination, desexing
- food and supplies

Council looks to expand the size of the diversion program over the next four years and would require an additional full-time authorised officer and part-time animal attendant.

Ensuring that cats are desexed and registered is vital in reducing the number of stray

cats within the community as it reduces the opportunity for breeding and allows wandering cats to be returned to their owners. Currently 72 per cent of registered cats in Hobsons Bay are desexed, with reduced fee registration available to all residents whose cats and dogs are desexed.

Thanks to the success of the return to owner program for stray and wandering dogs, euthanasia rates for dogs are not a concern in Hobsons Bay. Four dogs were euthanised during 2020–21, less than 1 per cent of impounds. The four dogs in question were euthanised were done either at the surrender of their owner or in response to the outcome of an investigation into a serious dog attack.

OUR PLANS

Objective 6.1 To reduce the number of stray and unowned cats in the municipality

| Activity | When | Evaluation |
|---|---------|---|
| Continue to encourage residents to participate in the trapping program | Ongoing | Reduction in the number of cats and kittens trapped |
| Provide education via Council's social media pages about feeding stray cats | Ongoing | Reduction in the number of stray and unowned cats |
| Work to identify properties with excess cats or potential hoarders | Ongoing | Compliance with the Community Local Law s50 |

Objective 6.2 To encourage desexing of cats and dogs within the community

| Activity | When | Evaluation |
|--|---------|------------------------------------|
| Continue to provide discount desexing vouchers through the Municipal Association of Victoria's program | Ongoing | Number of vouchers used |
| Hold discounted desexing events in partnership with The Lost Dogs Home and local veterinary clinics | Ongoing | Number of participating residents |
| Continue to provide reduced fee pet registration to residents with desexed dogs and cats | Ongoing | Number of registered, desexed pets |

Objective 6.3 To increase the number of unidentified kittens being rehomed

| Activity | When | Evaluation |
|---|---------|---|
| Expand the capacity of the kitten diversion program | 2021-25 | Number of kittens rehomed |
| Provide education via Council's social media pages about feeding stray cats | Ongoing | Reduction in the number of stray and unowned cats |
| Build further relationships with local rescues to rehome kittens | Ongoing | Number of kittens sent to rescue |
| Engage with local foster carers to ensure that they are compliant with relevant codes of practice and the Pet Exchange Register | Ongoing | Reduction in the number of stray and unowned cats |

DOMESTIC ANIMAL BUSINESS

In accordance with Part 5A, subsection 68A (2) (c) (ii) of the Act, outline programs, services and strategies which the Council intends to pursue in its municipal district to ensure that people comply with this Act, the regulations and any related legislation. Also addresses 68A (2) (a), 68A (2) (c) (i), 68A (2) (c) (ii), 68A (2) (d), 68A (2) (f).

The Act requires registration of Domestic Animal Businesses (DABs) with Councils. Types of businesses required to register as a DAB include:

breeding and rearing establishments (with three or more fertile females)

pet shops

boarding establishments

shelters and pounds

dog training establishments

The current breakdown of the current DABs registered within Hobsons Bay City Council is:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Breeding and rearing establishments | 0 |
| Pet shops | 1 |
| Shelters and pounds | 1 |
| Boarding establishments | 5 |
| Dog training establishments | 2 |

DAB are required to register with Council and are required to renew each year in April alongside pet registrations. Each registered DAB is then audited by an authorised officer to ensure compliance with the relevant codes of practice, the Act, and the Community Local Law 2015.

All enquiries for a new DAB registration are first directed to the Town Planning department to determine if the proposed location of the DAB is suitable and if a planning permit is required. Once a new application is received, a full inspection is

completed prior to being issued with a permit to trade.

Council will work in partnership with registered DABs to ensure that they are operating in accordance with the relevant code of practice and where minor non-compliance issues are detected authorised officers will assist the proprietor to rectify the issue. More serious breaches may result in the issue of infringement notices and/or a refusal to renew registration.

OUR PLANS

Objective 7.1 To ensure all Domestic Animal Businesses are compliant with relevant codes and legislation

| Activity | When | Evaluation |
|--|---------|--|
| Work with proprietors to ensure understanding of and compliance with of relevant legislation | Ongoing | Compliance with codes of practice, the Act and Community Local Law |
| Conduct annual audits of all registered domestic animal businesses | Ongoing | Compliance with codes of practice, the Act and Community Local Law |
| Follow up any unexpired registrations to determine if still operating | Ongoing | Number of registered DAB's |

Objective 7.2 To identify and register all eligible domestic animal businesses within Hobsons Bay

| Activity | When | Evaluation |
|---|---------|--|
| Investigate all complaints regarding domestic animal businesses | Ongoing | Compliance with codes of practice, the Act and Community Local Law |
| Verify registration of any advertised animal related business | Ongoing | Compliance with codes of practice, the Act and Community Local Law |



OTHER MATTERS

In accordance with Part 5A, subsection 68A (2) (e) of the Act, 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.

Pound arrangements

All stray and wandering animals which are not returned to their owners directly by Council officers or rehomed through the kitten diversion program are impounded at Council's pound. The current pound agreement for Hobsons Bay is with The Lost Dogs' Home in North Melbourne.

Impound of animals at The Lost Dogs' Home makes up a significant part of the unit's operating costs and while a range of strategies implemented in the last four years have resulted in ongoing cost savings, the use of a contractor means there is future risk involved regarding price fluctuation and service stability.



OUR PLANS

**Objective 8.1 To provide more clarity
around ongoing service costs**

| Activity | When | Evaluation |
|---|---------|---------------------------|
| Investigate a longer term agreement with Council's pound service provider | 2021-25 | Term of service agreement |



ANNUAL REVIEW OF PLAN AND ANNUAL REPORTING

In accordance with subsection 68A(3) of the Act, every council must review and, if appropriate, amend its DAMP annual. A copy of the DAMP and any amendments must be provided to the Secretary of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and Council must publish an evaluation of the implementation of the plan in its annual report.



OUR PLANS

Objective 9.1 To conduct annual reviews and reporting of the DAMP.

| Activity | When | Evaluation |
|---|----------|----------------------------------|
| Establish an annual timeline and program for reviewing the plan and evaluating its implementation | 2021 | Legislative requirements are met |
| Publish an evaluation of the implementation of the plan in the Council's annual report | Annually | Legislative requirements are met |
| Ensure that if the plan is amended, a copy is submitted to the Secretary | Ongoing | Legislative requirements are met |



**HOBSONS
BAY CITY
COUNCIL**



HOBSONS BAY CITY COUNCIL

115 Civic Parade, Altona
PO Box 21, Altona 3018
Phone 1300 179 944
NRS phone 133 677 and quote 1300 179 944
Email customerservice@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

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**HOBSONS BAY
LANGUAGE LINE**

9932 1212

INTERPRETER SERVICE FOR ALL LANGUAGES

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| Italiano | ကညီကျိာ် | Tiếng Việt |
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