



# ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

2016-2020

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**PREPARED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
BALANCING ACT ADELAIDE**

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BEHAVIOURAL TRAINER**

**AUGUST 2015**



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# **FOREWORD**

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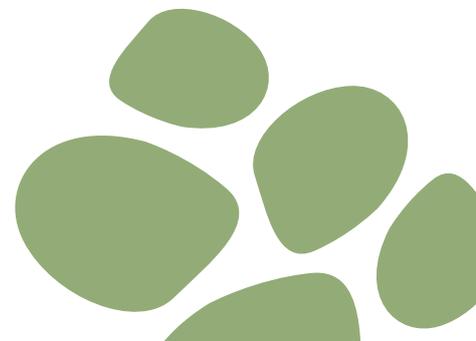
I love our dog Teddy! My little mate is such an important part of our life, he has taught us so much, really showing the many benefits of pet ownership.

Pets offer companionship and a unique unconditional love to their owners, especially to those who live alone but also any type of family. I know my Teddy, (just like many pets) has lowered my stress levels during anxious and difficult times. He loves going for a walk and getting into a park which has kept me more active and healthy. Whilst out he has been a catalyst for starting conversations, inadvertently helping to create connections within the neighbourhood. Our animals are integral to creating that wonderful sense of community that is felt across the City of Unley.

I am pleased to present this new Animal Management Strategy for the City of Unley. The Plan is consistent with Council's strategic directions and builds on Council's previous Plan in maintaining a safe environment for animals and the Community over the next five years.

Deciding to own a pet is a long-term commitment, and one that comes with much responsibility. Our policies explain how we keep pets and people safe, and outline your responsibilities as a pet owner. Our services ensure that you can meet your responsibilities as a pet owner and that your pet remains healthy, well-socialised and safe in our community.

Mayor Lachlan Clyne





# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



This Plan will guide the City of Unley's management of dogs and cats for the next five years (2016-2020). It has been prepared in accordance with Section 26A of the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* (the Act). The Act requires all councils in South Australia to prepare a plan relating to the management of dogs and cats in their area.

The Plan also encompasses the management of other animals including poultry, bees and wasps. However, it is important to note these animals are discussed separately as they are not covered under the same statutory requirements as dogs and cats.

The Plan includes some ongoing issues from the previous animal management plan and introduces new areas of interest such as pet-friendly communities and lifestyles, and industry best practice in animal management and behaviour.

The Plan has been developed in consultation with key stakeholders including the City of Unley's Elected Members and residents.

This Plan is divided into three parts: (i) overview and context (ii) priority areas and actions, (iii) other considerations and concludes with actions to implement the Plan.

**Part One** provides the contextual and background information on Council's roles and responsibilities under the Act. It also presents an overview of

Council's existing animal management services, a summary of key dog and cat statistics for the City of Unley and includes current research directions regarding companion animals.

**Part Two** identifies strategic priority areas and actions for Council over the next five years.

The strategic priority areas identified include:

- Dog registration
- Micro-chipping and de-sexing of dogs
- Dogs wandering
- Nuisance barking
- Community education
- Pet-friendly communities and lifestyles
- Cat management.

Addressing these priority areas will involve regular monitoring, updating where applicable and reporting to Council on the implementation actions identified in this Plan. It is anticipated that this Plan may need amending before 2020 pending the findings of the 2015 Review of the Act.

**Part Three** deals with a number of other considerations including poultry, wasps, bees and other animals and pests.

# **ANIMAL** **MANAGEMENT PLAN**

## **VISION**

**A CITY THAT  
ENCOURAGES A CULTURE  
OF RESPONSIBLE PET  
OWNERSHIP.**

## **MISSION**

**THE CITY OF UNLEY WILL WORK WITH  
COMMUNITY TO PROVIDE A HARMONIOUS  
ENVIRONMENT FOR PEOPLE AND PETS  
THROUGH LEADERSHIP AND EDUCATION IN  
ANIMAL MANAGEMENT.**

**ALL ANIMALS WILL BE TREATED WITH  
RESPECT AND IN A HUMANE MANNER.**



# OVERVIEW AND CONTEXT

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 PURPOSE

This Plan has been prepared to guide the City of Unley's management of dogs and cats for the period of 2016-2020.

The Plan fulfils Council's legislative requirements under the Act which requires all councils to prepare a plan of management relating to dogs and cats. These plans are commonly known as Animal Management Plans.

This Animal Management Plan replaces Council's existing Plan, which expires in April 2016. Under the Act, management plans are prepared every five years and approved by the Dog and Cat Management Board prior to their implementation.

While the majority of the Plan focuses on the management of dogs and cats, Council also manages a range of other animal related issues including poultry, wasps, bees and other animals and pests. These animals are not subject to the same statutory requirements under the Act and therefore they are addressed in a separate part of the Plan (Part Three).

## 1.2 METHODOLOGY

Preparation of the Plan included a review of the existing animal management plan and incorporated strategic priorities and actions that remain current. It also introduces current research directions, examines industry best practices and embraces views from stakeholders obtained through community engagement.

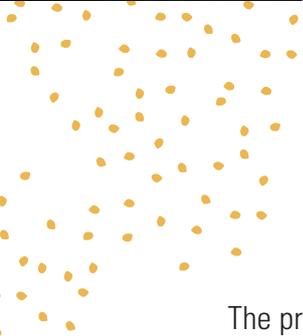
### Working with community

Council recognises the value of working with a wide range of external stakeholders to build partnerships with individuals, community groups and organisations for the management of animals within the City of Unley.

Some stakeholders identified as potentially having an interest in the management of dogs and cats within the City of Unley include:

- Local schools
- Dog and cat owners
- General public
- Local veterinary clinics
- Local businesses
- Animal Welfare League (AWL)
- RSPCA
- Australian Veterinary Association (AVA)
- Dog and Cat Management Board (DCMB)
- Local media
- Surrounding councils
- Dog training schools
- Sports clubs and park users.

This Plan also identifies areas where Council may need to develop partnerships and collaborations with external stakeholders.



The process for stakeholder and community engagement included:

### **Working Group**

An internal Working Group was established that included representation from Community Services, Regulatory Services, Environmental Health and Customer Services.

### **Elected Member Feedback**

Elected Members commented on the draft Plan either in writing and/or at meetings with Council staff, and given the opportunity to participate in the community consultation activities.

### **Community Consultation**

Community consultation was undertaken from 7 – 18 September 2015. Over this period, the public had the opportunity to comment on the draft Plan in the following ways:

- Online survey on Council website
- Hard copy of the survey available at Council outlets including Libraries and the Civic Centre
- POP-In Community Day
- Social media (Facebook).

### **POP- In Community Day**

The POP-In Community Day was held on Saturday 12 September 2015 from 10am – 1pm in the foyer of the Unley Library. The aim of the event was to hear the community's ideas and concerns regarding the management of dogs and cats in the City of Unley. The event featured educational information on responsible pet ownership and dog training tips.

Refer to Appendix A for more details on stakeholder and community engagement.

# 2 THE ACT

*The objectives of the Act are to encourage responsible dog and cat ownership; to reduce public and environmental nuisance caused by dogs and cats and to promote the effective management of dogs and cats (including through encouragement of the de-sexing of dogs and cats).*

## 2.1 COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibilities delegated to Council under the Act (Section 26) and relevant to this Plan include:

### Management of Dogs

- Maintain a register of dogs available for public inspection
- Provide information contained on the register to the Dog and Cat Management Board
- Appoint a Registrar
- Make arrangements for issuing and replacing certificates of registration and registration disks
- Appoint at least one full-time dog management officer or delegates
- Make satisfactory arrangements for the detention of dogs seized under the Act.

### Money Received

- Revenue received by a Council must be spent on the administration or enforcement of the provisions of this Act relating to dogs.

### Payment into Fund

- Under the Act, Councils must pay into the Dog and Cat Management Fund a percentage fixed as set out in the Dog and Cat Management Regulations 2010.

### Setting of Fees

- Councils have the responsibility of setting annual fees for dog registration and rebates for de-sexing, micro-chipping and training of dogs.

### Making By-laws

- Councils can make by-laws for the control or management of dogs and cats within their area (Section 90).

### Plans of Management

- Under the Act (Section 26A) each Council is required to prepare a plan relating to the management of dogs and cats within their area. These plans must contain provisions for parks where dogs may be exercised off-leash and on-leash and may include provisions for areas where dogs are prohibited.

Refer to Appendix B of the Act (Section 26).

### Cats

Under part 7 of the Act Councils can appoint a cat management officer. Council's can also make cat specific by-laws including:

- Registration of cats
- Limits on the number of cats
- Identification by micro-chip or collar and tag
- De-sexing
- Curfews
- Confinement and/or control
- Nuisance and wandering at large.

# 3 THE BIG PICTURE



**“TWO IN EVERY THREE HOMES IN AUSTRALIA HAVE AT LEAST ONE PET. WHEN YOU CONSIDER THAT LOT SIZES ARE GETTING SMALLER AND CENSUS DATA SHOWING AN INCREASE IN APARTMENT LIVING, PETS NEED TO BE CATERED FOR IN PARKS AND OTHER PUBLIC SPACES”**

(Planning Institute of Australia, 2012: n.p.).

## **Review of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995**

In April 2015, the State Government announced that it was undertaking a review of the Act. Pending the findings of the review, local council's roles and responsibilities under the Act may change regarding the management of dogs and cats.

If changes are made to the Act, then this Plan may be required to be amended earlier than 2020.

## **3.1 TRENDS AND DIRECTIONS**

Companion animals such as dogs and cats play an important role in the lives of many Australians. They can enrich our lives, provide physical and mental health benefits, companionship and facilitate social interactions within the community.

Local councils traditional role in the management of companion animals has mainly focused on regulating and enforcing local laws. However, the broader role that pets play in our community is starting to influence other areas within Council such as urban planning, community services, open space and recreation planning.

Some of these areas of influence are discussed below.

### **Benefits of pet ownership**

There is extensive research (ACAC, 2009, PIAS, 2010) that demonstrates the benefits of pet ownership including:

Pets are good for our general health

- People with dogs and cats make fewer visits to the doctor
- People with pets are at risk of lower cardiovascular disease than non-pet owners

Pets are good for an aging population

- Pets can increase the quality of life for elderly people including reduced confusion and increased feelings of interest
- Pets can boost activity levels in older people, helping to improve overall health
- Pets provide companionship for elderly people living alone

Pets are good for children

- Young children with pets are more likely to exercise
- Children or adolescents with pets have shown to have higher self-esteem

Pets are good for the community

- Pets can help people build social bridges in communities
- People with pets are more likely to have conversations with other people.

### **Pets and higher density living**

As block sizes get smaller and dwellings extend closer to fence lines and property boundaries, there is less private outdoor space available for companion animals leading to greater demand for public open space.

Almost a quarter of Australians live in medium to high-density housing. *“Between 1991 and 2001 the*

*number of separate houses in Australia increased by 18 % while the number of higher density dwellings increased by 37%”* (PIAS, 2010:5).

With this trend expected to continue, there will be new challenges as we learn to live in smaller spaces and compete for valuable public open space.

One of the challenges associated with a decrease in private outdoor space is the increasing importance of well-designed public open spaces in which to exercise and socialise dogs.

The design of apartments, townhouses and urban spaces for higher density living and communities will need to consider both human and pet needs. Design needs to provide an enriching environment for dogs and cats that minimises nuisance behaviours.

*“The need for pet friendly housing has become a design imperative rather than a general notion that designing with pets in mind is a good idea.”* (PIAS, 2010a:13).

### **Dogs out and about**

Recent research indicates a trend towards casual, unstructured activities with dog walking being in the top 10 activities.

*“Adults are moving away from structured sports to casual activities with dog walking being number three of the top 10 activities in Australia”* (One Eighty Degree, n.d.; p. 23).

As more dogs are out and about, walking with their owners, it is essential that the design of public spaces considers both human and dog needs. Traditionally, the design of public spaces has been undertaken from a human perspective. This has not embraced an appreciation of the interactions between dogs and people, or between dogs and dogs, which can lead to potential conflict in the public realm.

In addition, to designing with pets in mind, dogs should be effectively trained and socialised to cope with a range of different urban settings such



**“ONE OF THE CHALLENGES ASSOCIATED WITH A DECREASE IN PRIVATE OUTDOOR SPACE IS THE INCREASING IMPORTANCE OF WELL-DESIGNED PUBLIC OPEN SPACES IN WHICH TO EXERCISE AND SOCIALISE DOGS.”**

(Balancing Act, Adelaide, 2014)

as walking down a local street, visiting a cafe or playing in a dog park. Dogs that are trained and have good manners are less likely to cause a nuisance in public such as reacting to other dogs or jumping up on people.

Effective training of dogs is essential if pets are taken out in the public realm. This involves dogs being under effective control at all times by a responsible person. While the Act (Section 8) allows dogs to be tethered to a fixed object by means of a chain, cord or leash that does not exceed 2 metres in length. The practice of tethering a dog to a pole or any other object and leaving the dog unsupervised can cause stress to the dog and expose the dog to unnecessary risks.

## **4 THE LOCAL PICTURE**

*“Australia has one of the highest rates of pet ownership in the world with almost 36% of households owning a dog and 23% of households owning a cat.” (Australian Companion Animal Council, 2010: p. 7).*

### **4.1 THE CITY OF UNLEY**

The City of Unley is an inner metropolitan Council in Adelaide, South Australia. It is bounded by the City of Adelaide in the north, the City of Burnside in the east, the City of Mitcham in the south and the Cities of Marion and West Torrens in the west.

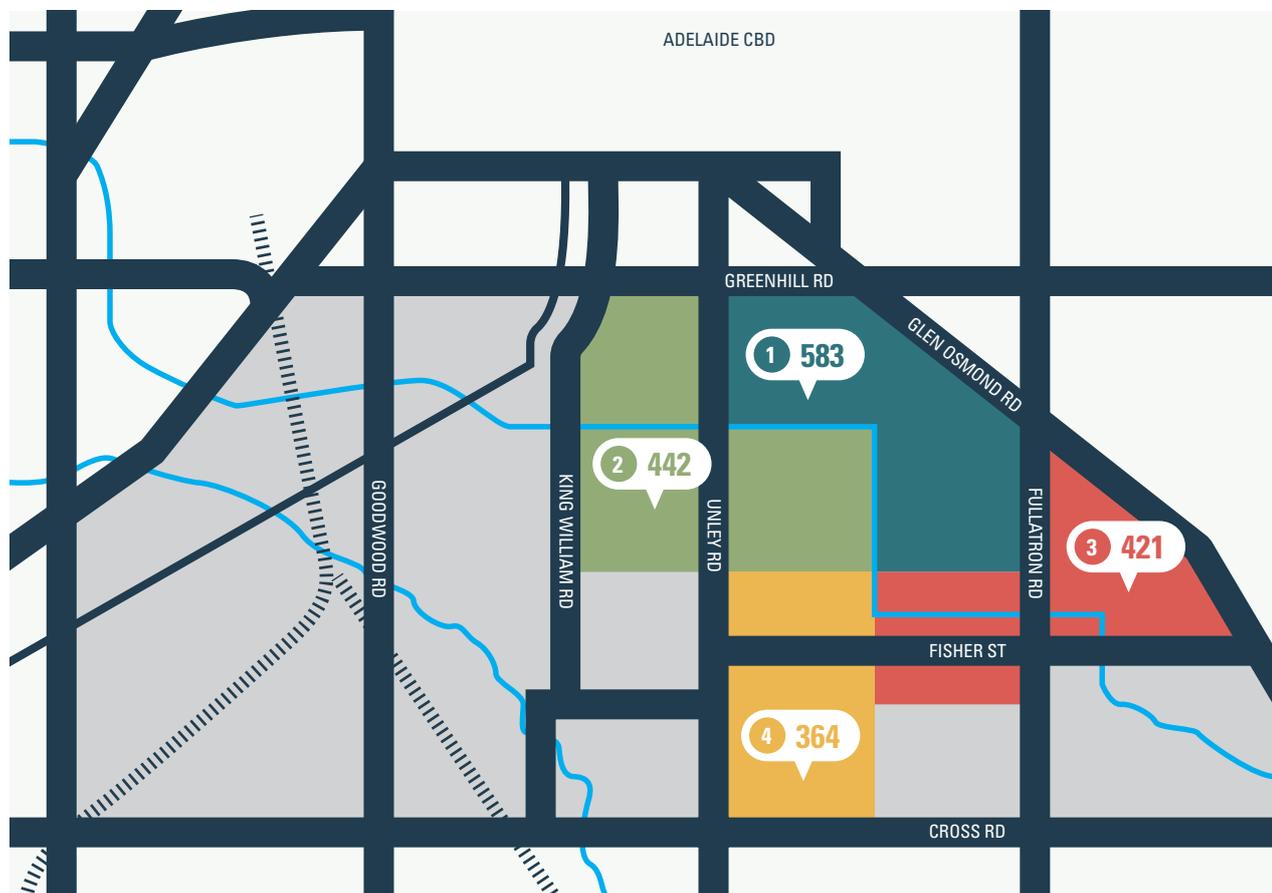
The City of Unley includes the suburbs of Black Forest, Clarence Park, Everard Park, Forestville, Fullarton, Goodwood, Highgate, Hyde Park, Kings Park, Malvern, Millswood, Myrtle Bank, Parkside, Unley, Unley Park and Wayville.

The City has a total land area of 14 square kilometres and a resident Population of 38,374 living in 15,200 households (City of Unley, Community Profile, 2011). Demographic trends for the City include an aging population, smaller households and higher number of people living in medium density housing (City of Unley, Animal Management Plan 2012-2016).

## 4.2 OVERVIEW OF DOG AND CAT STATISTICS AND MANAGEMENT

In 2014/15, there were 4509 registered dogs in the City of Unley and the most registered breed was a Maltese (504) followed by Poodle (457), Labrador (356) and Golden Retriever (206). This data includes cross breeds. The distribution of registered dogs in the City of Unley is shown in the map below.

Map 1: Distribution of registered dogs in the City of Unley, 2014/15



The suburbs with high numbers of dogs registered include:

1. **Parkside (583)**
2. **Unley (442)**
3. **Fullarton (421)**
4. **Malvern (364)**



## Summary - Dog and Cat Statistics, City of Unley Dogs

Dogs registered	2013/14	2014/15	change in number	change in percent
Number of registered dogs	4524	4509	15	-0.3%
Total number of registered dogs where de-sexing rebate claimed (84%)	3910	3790	120	-3.1%
Total number of registered dogs where training rebate claimed (16%)	754	728	26	-3.4%
Total number of registered dogs where microchip rebate claimed (75%)	3320	3374	54	+1.6%

Dogs impounded	2013/14	2014/15	change in number	change in percent
Number of dogs impounded by Council (i.e. dogs that cannot be identified or the owner cannot be located and dogs are officially impounded)	54	43	11	- 20%
Number of dogs returned to owner (i.e. Dogs that are impounded and subsequently returned to owner)	48	37	11	-23%
Number of dogs collected and returned to owner (i.e. Dogs that are wandering at large, collected by Council and returned to owner before impounded)	154	142	12	-8%

(2014/15 figures as of 30th June 2015)

In 2014/15, the total number of dogs registered with the City of Unley was 4,509. This is slightly less (15 dogs or -0.3%) than the previous year due to residents moving out of the area and dogs being deceased.

**THE FIGURES SHOW THAT 84% OF REGISTERED DOGS ARE DE-SEXED, 75% MICRO-CHIPPED AND 16% TRAINED.**

## Detention Facilities

Council will only hold dogs for a short period once contact is made with the owner and pick up can be arranged for the same day.

Council also uses the services of All Pets Boarding Village (Mt Barker Road, Mount Osmond) as a temporary holding facility. Dogs that are not claimed within 72 hours of being impounded are transferred to the Animal Welfare League (AWL) shelter at Wingfield.

## Cats

Cats	2013/14	2014/15
Number of cats impounded by Council	0	3
Number of cats euthanized	0	1

## Animal Management Services

Council's animal management services are funded by general rate revenue, dog registrations, expiation fees and fines for breaches of the Act.

Dog registration fees collected in 2014/15 totalled \$142,395. Twenty per cent (20%) of the fees are transferred to the Dog and Cat Management Fund. The Role of the Dog and Cat Management Board works closely with local government and State Government to improve dog and cat management in South Australia through research and ongoing review of the regulatory and legislative framework. The Board directly assists Council with information, education materials, interpretation and guidance in regards to the legislation and 3-yearly audits. The remaining funds are allocated to a range of Council activities, including:

- Reuniting lost dogs and cats with their owners
- Educating the community on responsible pet ownership
- Helping neighbours resolve animal related issues
- Delivering subsidized micro-chipping programs
- Delivering after-hours call-out services
- Investigating dog attacks and dog barking complaints.

Council has developed four standard operating procedures for a range of dog-related issues including:

- Dog wandering
- Dog attack and harassment
- Dog barking and noisy animals
- Destruction and control orders.

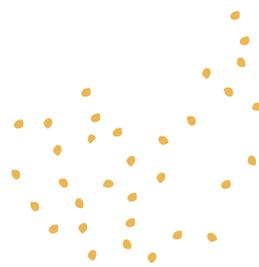
## By-laws

### Dogs

In August 2008, Council made by-law No. 4 (Dogs) to include provisions for the management of dogs in public places and limitations on the number of dogs kept on private premises.

In June 2015, Council reviewed the by-law to introduce limitations on the number of dogs on private premises (i.e. maximum of 2 dogs per premises regardless of size of dwelling). The new by-law also requires the person responsible for the dog to carry a bag or suitable container for the purposes of cleaning up after their dog. The new by-law will come into effect on 1st January 2016.

Refer to Appendix C for By-law No. 4 (Dogs).





### **Cats**

There are no by-laws for the control or management of cats in the City of Unley. Based on the review undertaken in June 2015, the City of Unley does not consider it necessary to introduce specific cat by-laws at this stage given the low number of cat complaints per year.

### **Summary - Dog and Cat Complaints, City of Unley**

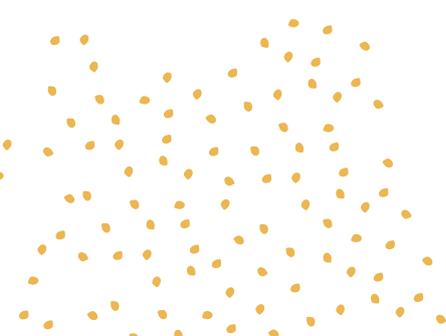
#### **Dogs**

<b>Complaints</b>	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>change in number</b>	<b>change in percent</b>
Dog attack and harassment	22	33	11	+33%
Barking Dogs	77	70	7	-9%
Impounded dogs	54	43	13	-30%
Dogs wandering	265	251	17	-6.7%
Unregistered dogs	2	2	0	0
Total	420	399	26	-6.5%

Note: Dog attack and harassment includes dogs rushing at people, troubling or annoying a person or another animal and dogs attacking other dogs and humans and causing physical injury. The increase in attacks and harassment is due to better recording of data and increased reports due to education. In 2014/15, 399 complaints were registered with the City of Unley. The top complaints in 2014/15 were dogs wandering (62%) followed by barking dogs (18%).

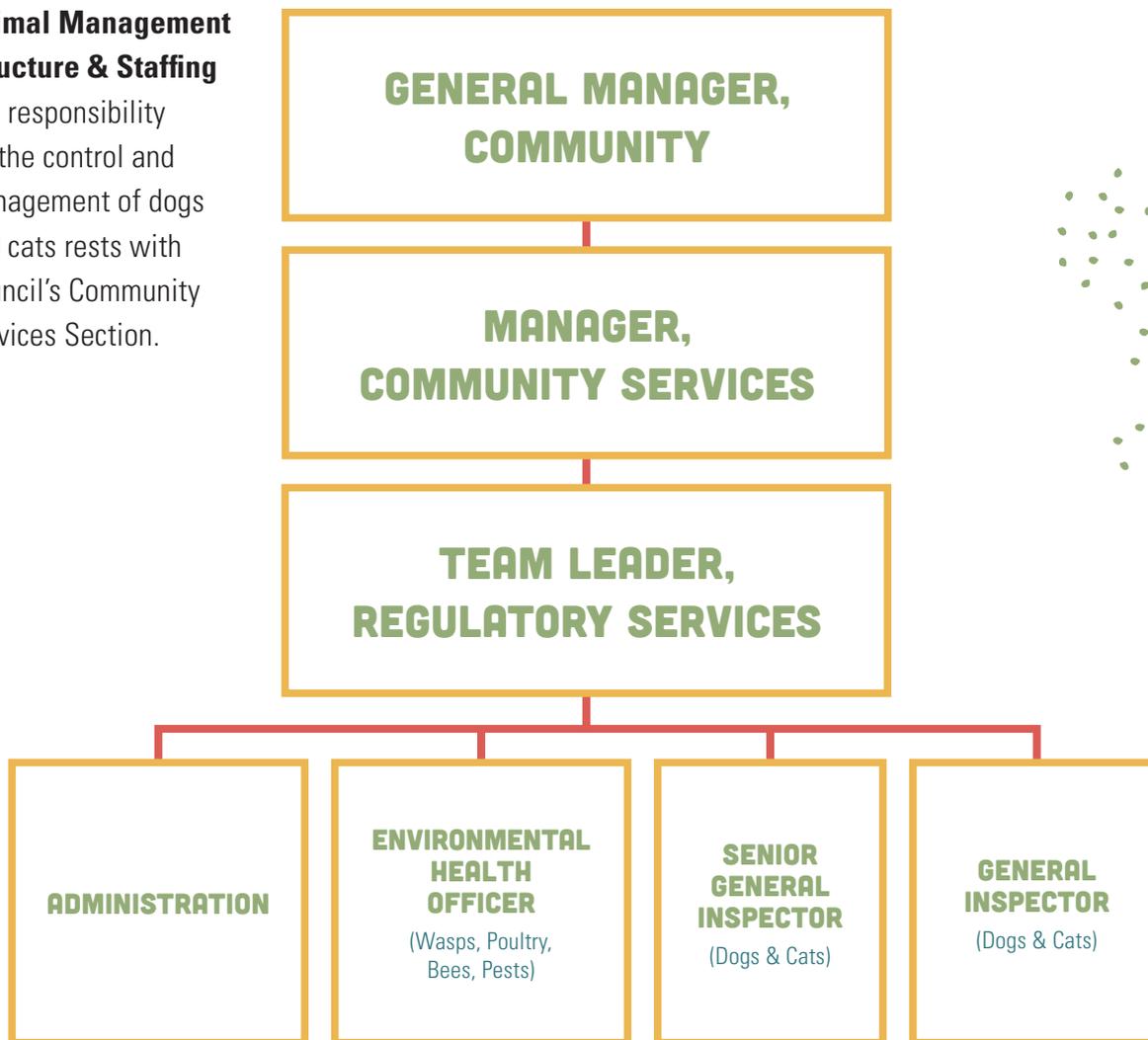
#### **Cats**

In 2014/15, there were a total of 19 cat complaints comprising of 14 enquiries and 5 requests that required a service by Council. The complaints included stray or feral cats, cats wandering into neighbouring properties, nuisance behaviours and cats attacking wildlife.



## Animal Management Structure & Staffing

The responsibility for the control and management of dogs and cats rests with Council's Community Services Section.



In Community Services, there are three staff who are appointed authorised persons for the purposes of dog and cat management (and this equals to 1 full time equivalent). The Manager of Community Services is the appointed Registrar as per the requirement under the Act (Section 26).

## 4.3 RELEVANT COUNCIL STRATEGIES AND PLANS

Council strategies and plans relevant to this Plan include:

- Community Plan 2033
- Living Active Sport and Recreation Plan 2015 - 2020
- Active Aging Strategy (draft)
- Living Well Regional Plan for Health and Wellbeing for the Cities of Unley and Mitcham.

The above plans have informed the content of the actions contained in section 5.0.

# CITY OF UNLEY COMMUNITY PLAN 2033

This Animal Management Plan supports a number of goals identified in the City of Unley's Community Plan including Living, Moving and Greening.

## Goal - Living

Strategic objective	Outcomes
Healthy and active community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We have a healthy community</li><li>• Recreation and wellbeing programs influence healthy living behaviours</li></ul>

**Discussion:** In 2011/12, 60% of Australian adults were not getting their recommended amount of physical exercise per day (Australian Government, 2015). Encouraging people to get out-and-about with their dogs leads more people to be active, reducing their risk of heart disease – Australia's biggest single killer. Pets can provide a range of physical and mental health benefits to their owners and to the wider community. Therefore, planning for dogs and their owners needs is becoming more important than ever.

## Goal - Moving

Strategic objective	Outcomes
An integrated, accessible pedestrian-friendly City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pedestrians can move through our City freely and safely</li><li>• Improved connectivity and ease of movement between precincts</li></ul>

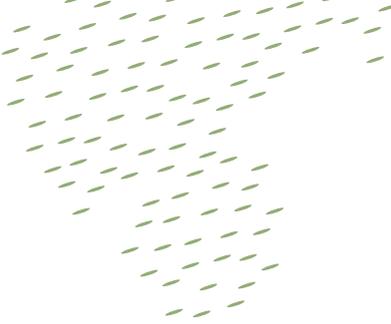
**Discussion:** Pedestrian movement should include pet owners walking their dogs. Research shows there is a trend "away from structured sports for adults to casual activities with dog walking being number three of the top 10 activities in Australia" (One Eighty Degree).

A pedestrian friendly city needs to consider the movement and accessibility of dogs and their owners along main and local streets given the popularity of dog walking.

## Goal – Greening

Strategic objective	Outcomes
Functional open green space throughout the City of Unley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Our parks are a feature of the City</li></ul>

**Discussion:** In urban areas, it is more important than ever that the planning and design of public parks address the multiple needs of city dwellers including the needs of their pets. The provision of parks in the City of Unley is to include a range of public open spaces for dogs including on-leash and off-leash areas.



# CITY OF UNLEY LIVING ACTIVE, SPORT AND RECREATION PLAN 2015–2020

The Animal Management Plan supports a key strategic direction in the Living Active, Sport and Recreation Plan 2015-2020.

## Theme 3 – Partnerships

**Discussion:** This theme highlights the development of a regional dog park in the south Park Lands in partnership with Adelaide City Council.

*“Actively work with Adelaide City Council to provide guidance and advocate for the development of the Adelaide Park Lands to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes. Priority projects include a regional dog park ...” (p. 31).*

*The Plan also identifies the need for places for social connection including “places where people can socialise while walking their dog” (p. 18).*

# CITY OF UNLEY ACTIVE AGEING STRATEGY

The Animal Management Plan supports a key strategic direction in the Active Ageing Strategy.

## Social Participation: Strategy 4 - Reduce Isolation

- Include interaction with animals as part of the Community Visitor Scheme program

- Explore the establishment of a Pets as Companions program
- Explore programs to assist residents to walk dogs.

**Discussion:** Pets play an important role in the general health, well being and quality of life for elderly people in the City of Unley. The Active Ageing Strategy recognises the benefits of pets in providing companionship and physical activity for older people living in their own home.

# LIVING WELL REGIONAL PLAN FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING FOR THE CITIES OF UNLEY AND MITCHAM

The Animal Management Plan supports a key priority of the Living Well Regional Plan.

## Priority 2 – Increasing Opportunities for Healthy Living, Healthy Eating and Being Active

Action 2.9 - Integrate community health considerations into Council Animal Management Planning (recognising the benefits of dog ownership to increasing physical activity).

**Discussion:** The benefits of pet ownership are well documented. Pets can provide a range of physical and mental health benefits to their owners and to the wider community. Planning for dogs and their owners needs is becoming more important than ever in urban areas.



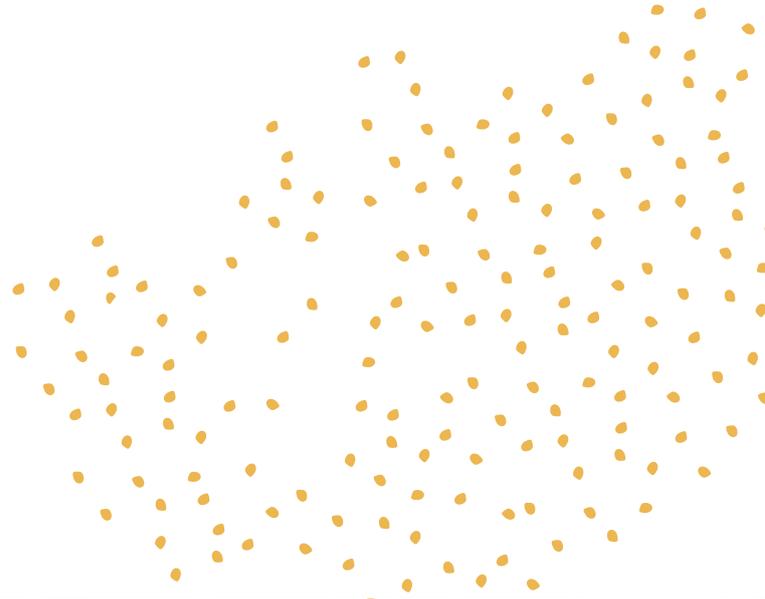
# **PRIORITY AREAS AND ACTIONS**

# **5 PRIORITY AREAS AND ACTIONS**

This section identifies strategic priority areas and actions that will guide the implementation of Council's animal management directions for dogs and cats over the next five years.

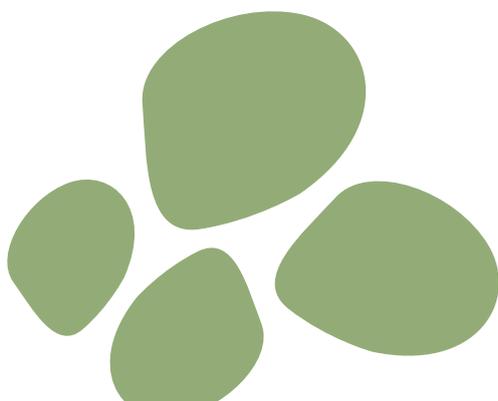
Priority Areas identified for this Plan include:

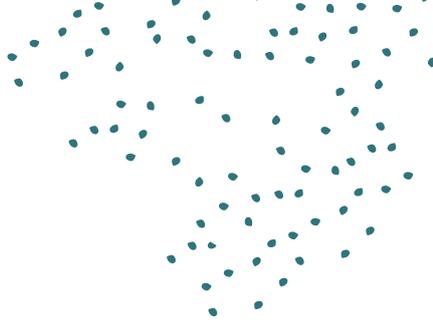
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- 5. COMMUNITY EDUCATION**
- 6. PET-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES AND LIFESTYLES**
- 7. CAT MANAGEMENT**



Key performance indicators and measures have been developed in the Plan to measure progress towards the objectives and actions. The Plan includes qualitative and quantitative performance indicators and measures. The quantitative indicators are outlined below.

No.	Key Performance Indicators	2014/15	Each Year of the Plan
1	Percentage of registered dogs (15,200 households/100 X 36%)	80%	80%
2	Percentage of micro-chipped dog (3374 micro-chipped /4509 registered x 100)	75%	75%
3	Percentage of de-sexed dogs (3790 de-sexed /4509 registered x 100)	84%	85%
4	Percentage of trained dogs (728 trained/ 4509 registered x 100)	16%	20%
5	Percentage of dogs wandering (251 wandering/4509 x 100)	5.5%	5%
6	Percentage of dog attack/harassment complaints (33 attacks/4509 x100)	0.7%	0.5%
7	Percentage of barking dog complaints (70 barking/4509 x 100)	1.6%	1.5%
8	Dog reclaim rate (37 dogs returned /43 impounded)	86%	90%





## **PRIORITY AREA 1: DOG REGISTRATION**

In 2014/15, the total number of dogs registered in the City of Unley was 4,509. Based on 2011 census data, there are 15,200 households in the City of Unley and the average rate of dog ownership is around 36% per household across Australia (Australian Companion Animal Council, 2010: p. 7). Therefore, there are around 5,470 dogs. This indicates that some 82% of dogs are registered in the City of Unley.

It is important to register a dog as this assists Council to identify lost and missing pets, and ensures a quicker return to the owner, resulting in less stress to the owner and animal.

Registration also provides Council with an understanding of the level of dog ownership in the area, which is useful in guiding the development of services such as dog exercise areas.

Some common reasons for people not registering their dog(s) include: not understanding the difference between registration (i.e. an annual activity) and micro-chipping (i.e. a lifetime activity), not knowing the age at which dogs require registering, people moving from interstate not understanding the South Australian requirements and those who cannot afford the registration fees.

### **Management initiatives**

The Act requires all owners of a dog to register their pet when they reach 3 months of age, and failure to do so is an offence. There is a standard (annual) registration fee, and rebates are given for dogs that are de-sexed, micro-chipped and/or trained under a program recognised by the Dog and Cat Management Board.

Some of Council's existing initiatives regarding dog registrations that will continue over the life of this Plan include:

- Online dog registration renewals
- Follow-up registration reminders to dog owners via mail outs
- Media coverage to promote dog registration
- Infringement notices and penalties to owners with unregistered dogs
- Follow up owners who do not re-register their dogs.

Council intends to introduce a City-wide door knock campaign to identify unregistered dogs, facilitate registration and to collect data for a more accurate picture of dog ownership in the City of Unley.

Further information on dog registration is available from Council's website.



**Objective:** Maintain or increase rate of dog registrations

No.	Actions	Timelines	Key Measures	Resources (refers to existing or requires new resources)
1	Continue with current registration practices including new registrations, renewals and collection of data	Year 1 & ongoing	Review uptake of dog registrations completed	Existing
2	Investigate free 1st year registration scheme for dogs adopted through AWL or RSPCA animal shelters	Year 2	Scheme endorsed by Council via Fee + Charges Schedule	Existing
3	Develop a brochure or fact sheet on dog registration requirements in the City of Unley. Distribute to local real estate agents and vets (including puppy pre-schools) for them to provide to their clients	Year 2	Fact sheet completed and distributed to real estate agencies and vets	Existing
4	Continue to prepare media releases on the need for and benefits of dog registration and implications of having an unregistered dog  This may include information in Unley Life Magazine, local Messenger and Council's website and Facebook page	Year 1 & ongoing	Media release completed and inserted into Council publications	Existing
5	Investigate feasibility of a citywide door knock campaign to identify unregistered dogs, ensure registration and collect data on dog ownership	Year 2	Proposal scoped and budget determined	Existing
6	Review SOP regarding registration of impounded dogs when returned to owners	Year 3	SOP reviewed + updated	Existing

## PRIORITY AREA 2: MICRO-CHIPPING AND DE-SEXING OF DOGS

### Issues

Micro-chipping and de-sexing of dogs have reasonably high rates of participation in the City of Unley.

In 2014/15, the number of dogs micro-chipped was 3,374 or 75% of dogs registered. Permanent identification of dogs such as micro-chipping is important as it helps dogs (and cats) reunite with their owners more quickly, with less stress to the animal.

In the same period, the total number of dogs that were de-sexed was 3,790 or 84% of registered dogs. Research shows that de-sexed dogs are less likely to wander, which also lessens the animal being injured or causing injury.

*“RSPCA shelters take in 160,000 animals every year and many of these unwanted animals are the result of unplanned breeding. De-sexing is an effective strategy to prevent unwanted pregnancies. It can also reduce behaviour problems such as roaming, aggression and urine marking in males. In females, it prevents mating behaviour*

*and false pregnancy. Reducing the desire to roam also reduces the risk of being in a traumatic accident such as being hit by a car.” (RSPCA, 2015)*

Although it is not compulsory to microchip or de-sex a dog under the Act at present, the Dog and Cat Management Board, RSPCA Australia and the Australian Veterinary Association recommend that all dogs be de-sexed and micro-chipped.

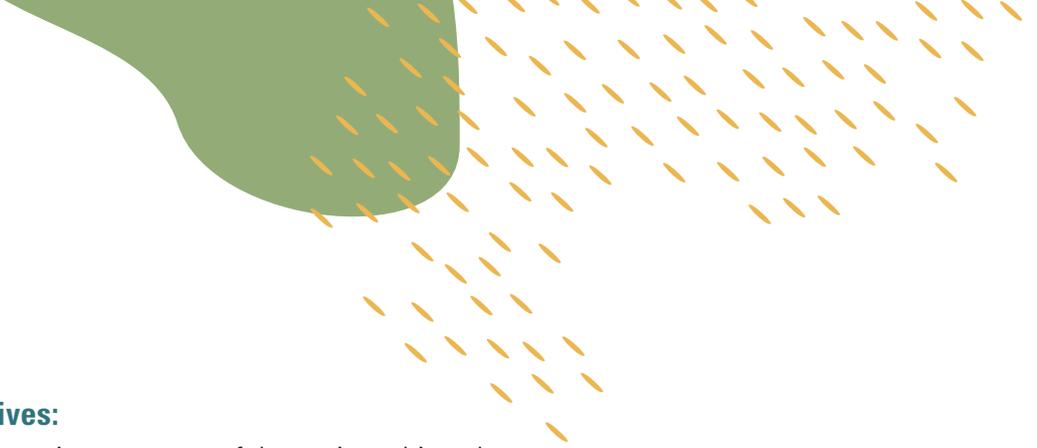
### Management initiatives

Council promotes de-sexing and micro-chipping of dogs by offering registration rebates. It is interesting to note that registration rebates for dog training do not have the same high rates of participation as de-sexing and micro-chipping at only 16%.

Council intends to develop a new micro-chipping voucher scheme that provides residents with an accessible service all year round.

Further information on micro-chipping and de-sexing of dogs is available from Council’s website.



**Objectives:**

Maintain or increase rate of dogs micro-chipped

Maintain or increase rate of dogs de-sexed.

No.	Actions	Timelines	Key Measures	Required Resources (refers to existing or requires new resources)
1	Continue with current registration rebates to promote micro-chipping	Year 1 & ongoing	Microchipping rates maintained or increased	Existing
2	Continue with current registration rebates to promote de-sexing	Year 1 & ongoing	Desexing rates maintained or increased	Existing
3	Develop a voucher scheme to promote micro-chipping of dogs in conjunction with local vets	Year 1	Scheme implemented by 2016	Existing \$ 2000
4	Continue to prepare media releases on the need for and benefits of micro-chipping of dogs  This may include information in Unley Life Magazine, local Messenger and Council's website and Facebook page	Year 1 & ongoing	Media release completed and inserted into Council publications	Existing
5	Continue to prepare media releases on the need for and benefits of de-sexing dogs.  This may include information in Unley Life Magazine, local Messenger and Council's Facebook page	Year 1 & ongoing	Media release completed and inserted into Council publications	Existing

## PRIORITY AREA 3: DOGS WANDERING

### Issues

Between 2013 and 2015, the most common complaints in the City of Unley were dogs found wandering at large, followed by nuisance barking. Dogs wander for a variety of reasons including poorly maintained or inappropriate fencing, gates not properly secure or left open or dogs frightened by loud noises, including thunder and fireworks.

*“Dogs that wander on the streets or in public areas without an owner present are referred to as dogs “wandering at large.” These dogs cause a nuisance, are often distressed and may attack or harass people or other animals. In some cases they cause road accidents resulting in injury to the dog and on occasion to vehicle occupants and may cause property damage – all of which becomes the responsibility of the owner of the dog” (DCMB, 2014).*

Currently, in the interest of public safety and for the welfare of the animal, dogs found wandering at large are picked up by Council and detained until their owners can be identified and reunited with their pet or transferred to a temporary holding facility.

A quick return of the dog to its owner causes much less stress to the dog, makes the process simpler and less stressful for the owner and prevents the animal being impounded at a remote location which has further implications.

To improve the return of lost dogs to their owners, Council will consider the introduction of the RSPCA’s ‘Found Pets’ mobile application, which is a digital service helping owners reunite with their lost pets (Appendix D).

Council is also considering the use of a LED notice board to identify lost pets in the City of Unley.

### Management initiatives

Council has developed a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for dealing with dogs found wandering at large. If a dog cannot be identified Council will transfer the animal to All Pets Boarding Village (Mt Barker Road, Mount Osmond), a temporary holding facility. Dogs that are not claimed within 72 hours of being impounded are then transferred to the Animal Welfare League (AWL) shelter at Wingfield.

Further information on dogs wandering is available from Council’s website.

**Objective:** Maintain or decrease the number of dogs wandering at large

No.	Actions	Timelines	Key Measures	Required Resources (refers to existing or requires new resources)
1	Review agreement with All Pets Boarding Village as a temporary holding facility	Year 1	Review completed by June 2016	Existing
2	Review and update Standard Operating Procedure for Dog Wandering	Year 3	SOP reviewed and updated	Existing
3	Prepare fact sheet and checklist for owners on 'how to keep your dog safe and property secure'	Year 2	Fact sheet completed and placed on Council website	Existing
4	<p>Prepare media releases on the need and benefits of keeping dogs safe and secure and implications if they wander</p> <p>This may include information in Unley life Magazine, local Messenger, Council's website and Facebook page</p>	Year 1 & ongoing	Media release completed and inserted into Council publications	Existing
5	<p>Investigate initiatives to promote quick return of dogs to owners. Options to consider include:</p> <p>Procure RSPCA "Found Pets" mobile application</p> <p>Use of outdoor LED screen at Civic Centre to advertise lost/ impounded dogs picked up by Council</p>	Year 2	Proposal scoped and future actions determined	Existing

## PRIORITY AREA 4: NUISANCE BARKING

### Issues

In 2014/15, the City of Unley received 70 complaints of nuisance barking. Although barking is a natural behaviour for dogs, barking excessively can be annoying to their owners and very annoying to neighbours. The cause of dogs barking can vary between individuals however, if the barking is to be managed successfully, the cause of the barking needs to be identified.

*"... Dogs bark for a variety of reasons and it is important to work out why your dog is barking excessively. Once the underlying cause and 'triggers' for the barking are identified, training techniques can be used to treat the excessive barking."* (RSPCA, 2015a online)

Common causes of dog barking include:

- Territorial behaviour
- Boredom
- Anxiety
- Attention seeking
- Playtime enthusiasm
- Reaction to something in the environment such as a bird or cat
- Dementia, particularly in older dogs.

### Management initiatives

Council has developed a Standard Operating Procedure 'Dog barking and noisy animals', which outlines the processes to record and manage barking complaints including the use of a diary system to record nuisance barking.

The City of Unley issues bark activity counters to owners to record nuisance barking activities. The maintenance and servicing of these counters is becoming more difficult to arrange in South Australia and Council intends to investigate the use of different barking counters. Other counters

are available on the market with the Petsafe model endorsed by leading animal behaviour consultant Dr. Ian Dunbar.

Although the existing Animal Management Plan (2012-2016) promotes the use of citronella collars as an anti-barking device to modify a dog's behaviour, the RSPCA Australia and the Australian Veterinary Association do not endorse this practice (AVA 2015).

*"There are some products on the market that are aimed at preventing dogs from barking such as sound collars (collars that emit a high-pitched sound when the dog barks), electronic collars (collars that deliver an electric shock to the dog when it barks) and citronella collars (collars that spray the dog's face with citronella scent when it barks).*

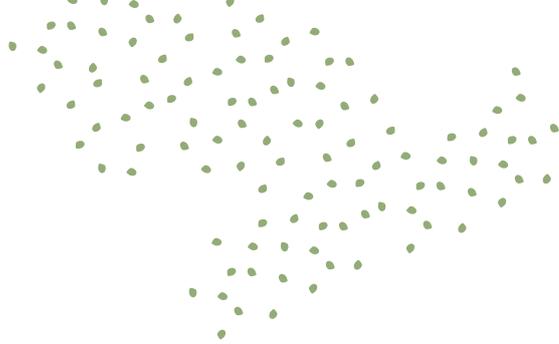
*This type of training is called 'punishment' as the dog is effectively punished by the collar for every bark. Punishment, as a method of training, is often ineffective as dogs often do not associate the punishment (the citronella spray, sound or shock) with the behaviour."* (RSPCA, 2015b)

Council intends to review and update the 'Dog barking and noisy animals' Standard Operating Procedure, discontinue the use of citronella collars and instead actively promote positive reinforcement dog training as a way to modify nuisance barking.

Council will also use the RSPCA (South Australia) Force-Free List of Dog Trainers to refer dog owners to, who are seeking help with their dog (Appendix E).

Further information on barking dog procedures is available from Council's website.





**Objective:** Maintain or decrease the number of barking dog complaints

No.	Actions	Timeline	Key Measures	Resources (refers to existing or requires new resources)
1	Discontinue use and hire of citronella collars as an anti barking device. This device does not comply with RSPCA and AVA best practice	Year 1	Citronella collars phased out by May 2016	Existing
2	Review and update neighbour letter and barking tips sheet including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removal of reference to use of anti-barking collars</li> <li>• Include link to RSPCA list of Force-Free Dog Trainers in letter for information to dog owners</li> <li>• Fact sheet 'tips for reducing barking' to be modified and based on Dr. P. McGreevy, Ethology of Barking (Appendix F)</li> </ul>	Year 1	Updated information on Council website by May 2016	Existing
3	Procure one (1) new bark activity counter to replace existing model and trial its effectiveness. Based on outcome of trial procure 2 more counters	Year 2	Procured 1 new bark counter	Existing
4	Prepare media releases on the reasons 'why dogs bark and ways to reduce excessive barking'  This may include information in Unley Life Magazine, local Messenger and Council's Facebook page	Year 1 & ongoing	Media release completed and inserted into Council publications	Existing

## PRIORITY AREA 5: COMMUNITY EDUCATION

### Issues

Education plays a key role in the effective management of dogs in the community and includes educating the public, dog owners and prospective dog owners.

Education needs to focus on the importance of responsible dog ownership, dog training and appropriate socialisation, pet selection and safe interactions between children and dogs.

Council believes that building partnerships with external stakeholders is vital to promote responsible pet ownership within the community. Working with other stakeholders could include visits to schools, public seminars and events to promote responsible pet ownership.

It is also important to have educational material available at the point of contact with pet owners such as pet shops, veterinary clinics, puppy pre-schools, dog training schools, animal shelters and at council.

There are various dog training schools and it is important to understand that there are different dog training methods. The RSPCA, the Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) and the Dog and Cat Management Board (DCMB) of South Australia all promote positive reinforcement (also known as Force-Free) as the preferred method for training a dog.

*“The use of positive reinforcement is the most humane and effective training method as it avoids undesirable behavioural side effects. Positive reinforcement makes training more enjoyable and helps improve the bond between the trainer and the pet.” (AVA)*

The RSPCA (South Australia) has developed a list of Force-Free dog trainers, which Council can refer dog owners to for dog training services.

### Management initiatives

Council has previously partnered with the Australian Veterinary Association to deliver the *Pets and People Education Program* (PetPEP). Under this program, relevant Council staff gave presentations to local primary school children on responsible pet ownership.

Although this aspect of the program is no longer available, the program continues in an ‘online format’, as a website providing a free resource to teachers and other educators.

As educating children on appropriate behaviour around dogs is important, the benefit of these types of programs need to be recognised, and the wider promotion of them further investigated.

Council will initiate public awareness programs to promote and support responsible pet ownership and collaborate with external stakeholders to deliver programs. These programs could focus on the importance of dog selection, appropriate training, puppy socialisation and good dog etiquette in public places.

**Objective:** Promote responsible pet ownership through education

No.	Actions	Time Frames	Key Measures	Resources (refers to existing or requires new resources)
1	<p>Investigate development of education programs in collaboration with external stakeholders including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dog selection, appropriate training, puppy socialisation and good dog etiquette in public places</li> </ul>	Year 3	Scope completed and budget determined	Existing
2	Increase registration rebate to encourage dog training	Year 1	Rebate increased	Existing
3	<p>Promote benefits of positive reinforcement, Force-Free dog training as Council's preferred method including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inclusion of link to the RSPCA Force-Free dog trainers list on Council's website</li> </ul>	Year 1 & ongoing	Council website updated including link to RSPCA Force-Free list by June 2016	Existing
4	Consider Council's participation in community events that celebrate pets and their contribution to Unley life	Year 4	Scope completed and participation in 2 or more community events	Existing
5	Investigate an annual display in Council's Libraries, Community Centres and Museum on pet ownership in Unley in lead up to dog registration period	Year 3 & annually	Scope completed and displays set up in at least 2 locations	Existing



6	<p>Develop an information kit on responsible pet ownership for Council outlets including Unley Library and community centres for residents to access. This kit could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• DCMB publications (Dogs Owners Handbook, Good Cats Play at Home, We are Family)</li><li>• Link to RSPCA Force-Free dog trainers list</li><li>• Puppy socialisation</li><li>• Selecting a pet</li><li>• Kids and dogs</li></ul>	Year 4	Kit developed and distributed to Council outlets in collaboration with Library and Community Centre	Existing
7	<p>Prepare media releases on the importance of dog training and appropriate puppy socialisation.</p> <p>This may include information in Unley Life Magazine, local Messenger and Council's website and Facebook page</p>	Year 1 & ongoing	Media release completed and inserted into Council publications	Existing
8	<p>Promote DCMB's Living Safely with Pets Program to local schools in the City of Unley</p>	Year 1 & ongoing	Distribution of promotional materials	Existing



## PRIORITY AREA 6: PET-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES AND LIFESTYLES

### Issues

Pet-friendly communities and lifestyles is a new priority area that considers the roles and needs of pets in the wider community and the behaviour of dogs in public places and spaces.

This priority area has strategic implications for the planning and design of spaces and supporting infrastructure for pets and their owners. It also has consideration for the role and management of pets in an ageing community such as the City of Unley.

The City of Unley recognises the health and social benefits that dogs can bring to ageing residents in the Active Ageing Strategy (see Section 4.3). Some issues for an ageing community include owners needing support to look after their pets in their own home and space to exercise their pets as they downsize.

Under the Act, councils are required to provide parks where dogs can exercise off-leash and on-leash and can designate areas where dogs are prohibited. As open space is limited in the City of Unley other, appropriate places, where people can socialise while walking with their pets needs to be considered (see Section 4.3).

Good dog etiquette requires that the person responsible for the dog is to clean up any faeces when in a public place such as a street or park. Dog owners are actually required to carry a bag or scoop

to remove dog faeces whenever they are walking their dog in a public place under Council's new by-law for dogs (effective 1 January 2016).

The provision of pet-friendly communities often involves other stakeholders such as local businesses who cater for dogs including:

- Cafes and outdoor dining areas
- Domestic dog businesses (i.e. veterinarian clinics, dog walking, dog grooming, dog day care and dog training services)
- Pet-friendly accommodation (i.e. apartments, hotels and rentals).

### Management Initiatives

In order to provide parks where dogs can exercise off-leash, Council has a range of full-time off-leash dog areas and time-share off-leash areas where dogs are allowed between 5 pm and 10 am.

In all other public areas including local streets dogs are to be on leash and restrained by a leash no more than two (2) metres in length.

A list of all off-leash and on-leash areas, and areas where dogs are prohibited is available on Council's website and in Appendix G.

Some of Council's other initiatives include:

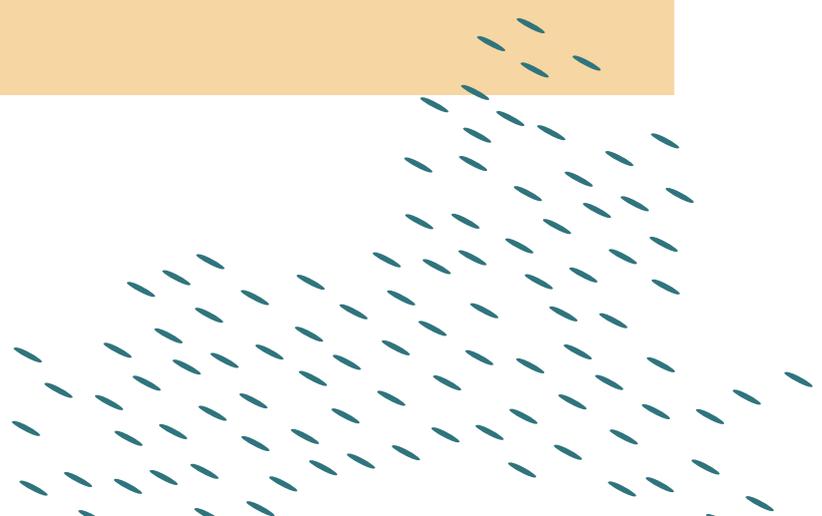
- 23 dog bag dispensers in parks and reserves
- Negotiations with the City of Adelaide for the development of an enclosed dog park in the South Parklands.

Further information on pet-friendly communities and dog exercise areas is available from Council's website.



**Objective:** Promote the City of Unley as a Pet-Friendly City

No.	Actions	Time Frames	Key Measures	Resources (refers to existing or requires new resources)
1	Continue to negotiate with Adelaide City Council to develop a dog park in the South Parklands	Year 1 & ongoing	Negotiations continued	Existing
2	Review and update Council's fact sheet, Dog Exercise Areas	Year 4	Updated and placed on Council website	Existing
3	Investigate installation of supporting infrastructure for people walking their dogs e.g. drinking bowls/fountains along main streets  <i>Note: supporting infrastructure does not include tethering stations where dogs are left alone and unsupervised</i>	Year 3	Scope completed and budget determined	Existing
4	Consider support programs to assist elderly people to live at home with their pets	Year 4	Scope completed and budget determined	Existing
5	Develop pet-friendly principles and incorporate into planning and design of medium density housing	Year 3	Principles developed	Existing



6	Facilitate engagement of Animal Management Officers (AMO) in planning and design of public parks/reserves that cater for dogs and their owners	Year 1 & ongoing	AMO's engaged in planning and design meetings	Existing
7	Review criteria for installing dog bag dispensers in Council's parks/reserves and service levels for replenishing supply of bags	Year 4	Review undertaken and service levels determined	Existing
8	<p>Prepare media releases to promote requirements in new by-law (Dogs) including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responsibility to carry a bag or suitable container to pick up after dogs</li> <li>• New limits on number of dogs on private premises</li> </ul>	Year 1	Media release completed and inserted into Council publications	Existing





## PRIORITY AREA 7: CAT MANAGEMENT

### Issues

Cats are companion animals for an estimated 23% of Australian households however, for every one domestic cat; there are an estimated seven feral cats at large in the environment (Gotsis, 2014). There are around half a million un-owned cats in South Australia with thousands of stray cats and kittens euthanized by animal shelters every year (Homeless Cats SA).

One of the main causes of the high numbers of stray or feral cats is that people do not de-sex their animals. Feral cats pose risks to native wildlife through predation and disease transmission.

Unlike dogs, that require registration under the Act, the regulation of cats is left to the individual Council to introduce cat specific by-laws at present.

In 2014/15, Council received 19 complaints comprising of 14 enquiries and 5 requests that required a service. The complaints included stray or feral cats, cats wandering onto neighbour's properties, nuisance behaviours and cats attacking native wildlife. Council is also aware of issues relating to cat hoarding, which is the 'practice of keeping 'more than the usual number of animals' at less than the expected standard of care" (AVA).

### Management Initiatives

The City of Unley currently has no by-laws specific to cats.

Council does promote practices including:

- Cats are to be de-sexed (if they are not intended for breeding)
- Cats are to be identified with a tag or microchip
- Cats are to be selected and trained to become 'home loving'
- Owners are to impose a night-time curfew.

Council's initiatives regarding cat management include:

- Financial contribution to Cats Assistance To Sterilise (CATS) Incorporated who provide advice and low-cost de-sexing of cats to residents
- Free cage trapping service for low income residents to assist with removal of unidentified cats
- Collection and maintenance of data on cat complaints.
- Further information on cat management is available from Council's website.

## Actions

**Objective:** Promote responsible cat ownership

No.	Actions	Time Frames	Key Measures	Resources (refers to existing or requires new resources)
1	Review services provided by CATS Inc.	Year 3	Review completed	Existing
2	Continue to collect and maintain data on cat complaints	Year 1 & ongoing	Ongoing	Existing
3	Review cage trapping service of cats	Year 4	Review completed	Existing
4	Develop a Fact Sheet to address nuisance cats including hoarding	Year 4	Fact Sheet developed and placed on Council website	Existing
5	Prepare media release on the need and benefits of de-sexing, identification of cats and implications if they wander.  This may include information in Unley life Magazine, local Messenger, Council's website and Facebook page	Year 2	Media release completed and inserted into Council publications	Existing



# **OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

# 6 OTHER ANIMALS AND PESTS

Although the majority of animal complaints to Council relate to dogs and cats, other complaints received included poultry, bees, European wasps and other animals and pests.

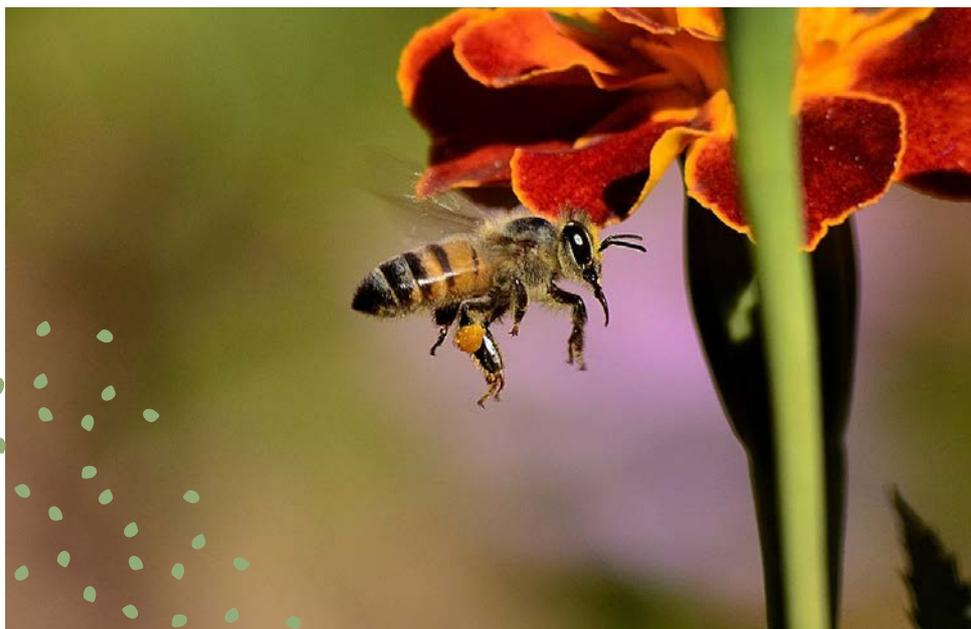
Discussion of these animals is included separately as they are not covered by the same statutory requirements as dogs and cats. However, under the Local Government Act 1999 (Section 254) animal owners are required to keep animals in such a way as not to cause nuisance or a hazard. Councils have the power to issue orders to require animal owners to abate a nuisance or hazard caused by animals including poultry and bees.

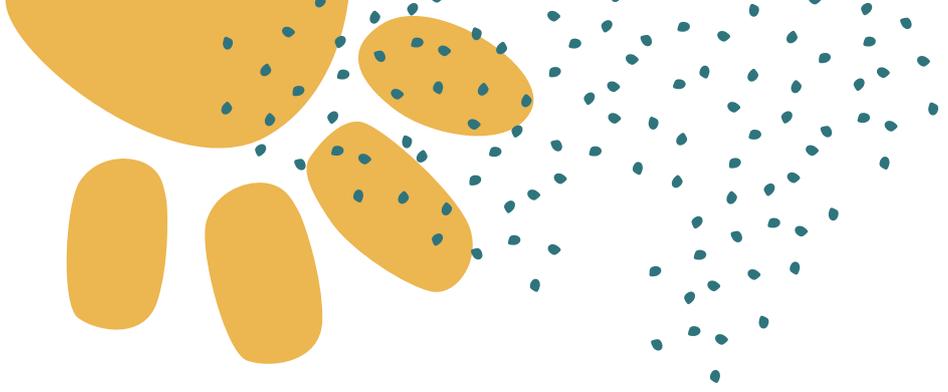
Animals discussed in this section include:

- Poultry (includes all fowls, geese, turkeys and ducks)
- European wasps
- Bees
- Other animals and pest management including: farm animals, birds (other than poultry) bats, bed bugs, foxes, fruit fly, koalas, mosquitoes, pigeons, possums, rats and mice and snakes.

The animal related issues in this section will be further developed over time.

Management of these animals is the responsibility of the City of Unley Environmental Health Section.





# POULTRY

The benefits of backyard poultry includes the provision of fresh eggs, and the reduction of waste to landfill with chickens eating garden weeds and food scraps.

The City of Unley has developed guidelines for keeping of poultry and backyard chickens. The guidelines identify Council’s expectations in relation to the keeping of poultry including enclosure size and location, number of chickens, care for chickens, keeping of roosters, and the prevention of nuisance including noise, vermin and smell. The keeping of backyard chickens also supports Council’s wider sustainability agenda, particularly sustainable gardening practices.

Further information on the keeping of poultry is available on Council’s website.

No.	Actions	Time Frames	Key Measures	Resources <small>(refers to existing or requires new resources)</small>
1	Collect and maintain data of other animal related requests/ complaints to help guide development of future policies and strategies	Year 1 & ongoing	Database established for collection and recording	Existing
2	Review and update Guidelines including identification of relevant legislation and industry best practice	Year 3	Guidelines updated and placed on Council website	Existing
3	Investigate purchase of books and other resources for Unley Library on keeping backyard chickens to promote sustainable living in the City of Unley	Year 4	Proposal and budget submitted	Existing

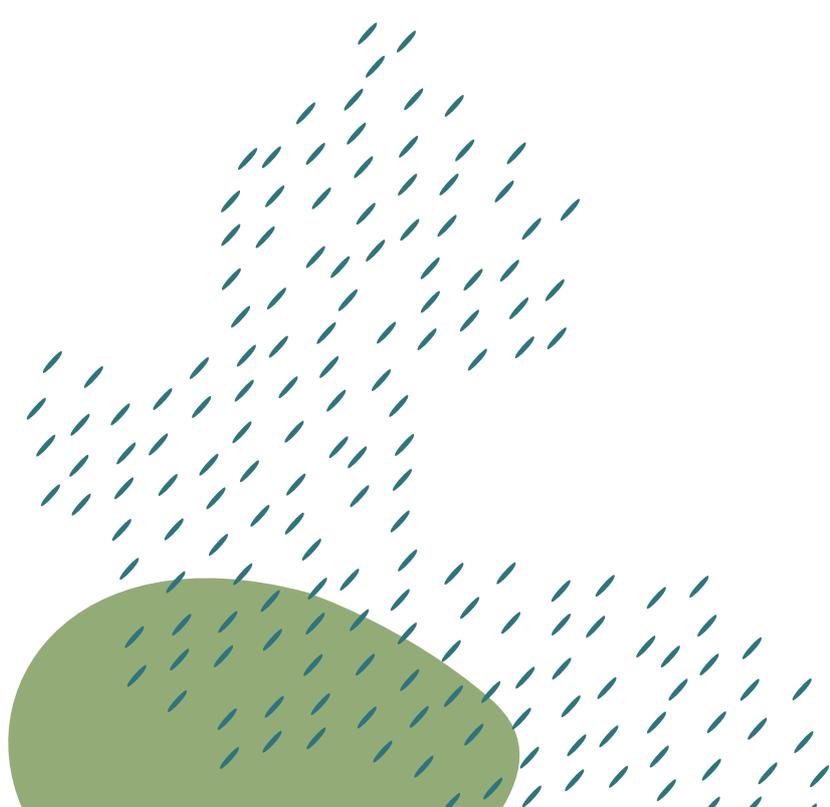
# EUROPEAN WASPS

The European Wasp Control Program is a Local Government initiative that has been adopted by State and Local Government, affected industries and the community.

Under the Program, Council provides a free service to all residents in the City of Unley, upon request will locate the European wasp nest and arrange for its removal.

Further information on wasps is available on Council's and the Local Government Association (SA) websites.

No.	Actions	Time Frames	Key Measures	Resources (refers to existing or requires new resources)
1	Review Council's approach to requests and services in view of changes to the overall European Wasp program (i.e. subsidy)	Year 2	Review completed	Existing
2	Prepare a fact sheet for residents on European Wasps including Council's services, where to go for help and links to useful resources	Year 3	Fact sheet prepared and placed on Council website	Existing



# BEES

Bees play an important role in our ecosystem and food security.

“80% of the food we eat relies on pollination somewhere down the line and, globally, we no longer have enough bees to pollinate our crops. Toxic pollutants, the loss of habitat and lack of biodiversity diminish the health of our honey bee population and this threatens our own food security” (Adelaide Bee Sanctuary, 2015).

Backyard bee-keeping complements Council’s sustainability initiatives, particularly sustainable gardening practices and community gardens. Other Councils also collaborate with the Adelaide Bee Sanctuary in efforts to promote sustainable living.

Further information on bees is available on Council’s websites.

No.	Actions	Time Frames	Key Measures	Resources (refers to existing or requires new resources)
1	Prepare guidelines on Council’s expectations on backyard bee-keeping including: number of hives, location in yard, when to handle, swarming and legal requirements	Year 4	Guidelines prepared and placed on Council website	Existing
2	Investigate collaborations with Adelaide Bee Sanctuary to promote sustainable living in the City of Unley and link to Council’s community gardens	Year 4	Investigation completed with future actions determined	Existing

# OTHER ANIMALS AND PESTS

Further information on other animals and pests is available on Council's website, and from the organisations listed below.

Animal	Responsible Organisations	Phone	Website
Farm animals	Department of Primary Industries and Regions SA	8226 0995	<a href="http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/">http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/</a>
Birds (other than poultry)	Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources	8204 1910	<a href="http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/Plants_Animals/Permits_licences/Native_animals_in_captivity/Keep_Sell_Permits/Keep_Sell_Permit_Basic">http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/Plants_Animals/Permits_licences/Native_animals_in_captivity/Keep_Sell_Permits/Keep_Sell_Permit_Basic</a>
Bats	Department for Environment and Heritage	8204 1910	<a href="http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/Home">http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/Home</a>
Bed Bugs	South Australian Department of Health	8226 6000	<a href="http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public+content/sa+health+internet/home">http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public+content/sa+health+internet/home</a>
Foxes	Department of Primary Industries and Regions SA	8226 0995	<a href="http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/">http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/</a>
Foxes	Natural Resources Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges	8234 7255	<a href="http://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/adelaidemtlofyranges/home">http://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/adelaidemtlofyranges/home</a>
Fruit Fly	Department of Primary Industries and Regions SA	Hotline 1300 666 010	<a href="http://pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/fruit_fly">http://pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/fruit_fly</a>
Mosquitoes	South Australian Department of Health	8226 6000	<a href="http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public+content/sa+health+internet/home">http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public+content/sa+health+internet/home</a>
Pigeons (feral)	South Australian Department of Health	8226 6000	<a href="http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public+content/sa+health+internet/home">http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public+content/sa+health+internet/home</a>

Possums	Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources	8204 1910	<a href="http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/Plants_Animals/Living_with_wildlife/Possums/Trapping_possums">http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/Plants_Animals/Living_with_wildlife/Possums/Trapping_possums</a>
Koalas	Fauna Rescue of South Australia Inc.	7226 0017	<a href="http://www.faunarescue.org.au">http://www.faunarescue.org.au</a>
Native Animal Rescue	Fauna Rescue of South Australia Inc.	8289 0896	<a href="http://www.faunarescue.org.au">http://www.faunarescue.org.au</a>
Rats and Mice	South Australian Department of Health	8226 6000	<a href="http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public+content/sa+health+internet/health+topics/health+conditions+prevention+and+treatment/bites+burns+cuts+and+pests/rats+and+mice">http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public+content/sa+health+internet/health+topics/health+conditions+prevention+and+treatment/bites+burns+cuts+and+pests/rats+and+mice</a>
Snakes	Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources	Snake-Away Services 0413 511 335 (24 hrs)  Adelaide Snake Catchers  0413 635 373 (24 hrs)	<a href="http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/plants-and-animals/Living_with_wildlife/Snakes">http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/plants-and-animals/Living_with_wildlife/Snakes</a>
Wildlife	RSPCA	1300 477 722	<a href="http://kb.rspca.org.au/How-can-I-help-wildlife-during-a-heatwave_560.html">http://kb.rspca.org.au/How-can-I-help-wildlife-during-a-heatwave_560.html</a>
Pets during Heatwaves	Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources	8204 1910	<a href="http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/Home/Full_newsevents_listing/News_Events_Listing/140114-hot-weather">http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/Home/Full_newsevents_listing/News_Events_Listing/140114-hot-weather</a>



## 7 IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN

Implementing this Plan will involve regular monitoring, updating and reporting on the actions to Council. It should be noted that the Plan may need updating prior to 2020, pending the findings of the 2015 Review of the *Dog and Cat Management Act, 1995*.

No.	Actions	Time Frames	Key Measures	Resources (refers to existing or requires new resources)
1	Assign overall responsibility for implementation of the Plan to the Team Leader of Regulatory Services	Year 1	Inserted into job role and responsibilities	Existing
2	Submit the Plan to the Dog and Cat Management Board for approval	Year 1	Plan submitted by Jan 2016	Existing
3	Assign staff responsibilities for the implementation of individual actions	Year 1	Responsibilities assigned by Feb 2016	Existing
4	Collect and record relevant dog and cat statistics and provide data to Dog and Cat Management Board as required	Year 1 & ongoing	System in place to record and collate data	Existing
5	Investigate new technology and mobile IT devices to assist Animal Management Officers in daily duties and data collection (e.g. Found Pets mobile application)	Year 3	Proposal to be scoped and budget submitted	Existing
6	Prepare annual report on progress of actions in Plan and submit to Council	Year 1 & annually	Report submitted to Council	Existing

Endorsed by the City of Unley:

Approved by the Dog and Cat Management Board:

Review Date: 5-Years from approval date:

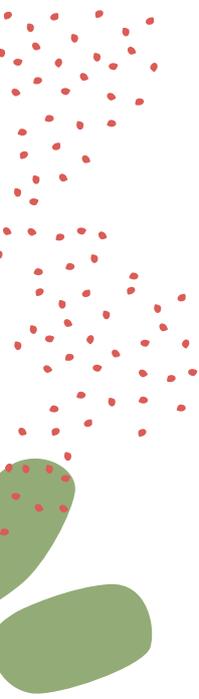


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# APPENDICES

## APPENDIX A

### STAKEHOLDER AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Working Group members included:

- Manager, Community Services
- Team Leader, Regulatory Services & Project Manager
- Senior General Inspector
- General Inspector
- Administration staff
- Environmental Health Officer
- Consultant, Balancing Act Adelaide

Summary of key issues include:

- Working with other stakeholders (e.g. vets, groomers)
- Dog training and education for dog owners
- Kids and dogs education
- Interpretation signs around playgrounds
- Places where people can socialize with dogs
- Off-leash and on-leash areas

- Other animals on private property
- Ageing population & links with dogs
- Sharing of dogs (registration)
- Force-free dog training (best practice)
- Puppy socialisation
- Education of internal staff regarding companion animals
- Design of parks and surrounding activities
- Microchip program in partnership with vets
- Barking counters
- Review of SOP with reference to aversive measures
- Review by-laws for dogs
- DCMB reduced service re: publication "barking problems solves"
- Donation to CATS Inc.
- De-sexing of dogs and cats
- Pet friendly community

# APPENDIX B

## DOG AND CAT MANAGEMENT ACT 1995 (SECTION 26)

Part 3—Administration of provisions relating to dogs

26—Council responsibility for management of dogs

(1) Each council is required to administer and enforce the provisions of this Act relating to dogs within its area and for that purpose must—

(a) maintain a register of dogs containing the information required by the Board (which may be kept in the form of a computer record) that is to be readily available for public inspection; and (ab) ensure that the Board is provided with information contained in the register as required by the Board from time to time; and

(b) appoint a suitable person to be Registrar; and

(c) make satisfactory arrangements for issuing and replacing certificates of registration and registration discs; and

(d) appoint at least one full-time dog management officer or make other satisfactory arrangements for the exercise of the functions and powers of dog management officers; and

(e) make satisfactory arrangements for the detention of dogs seized under this Act; and

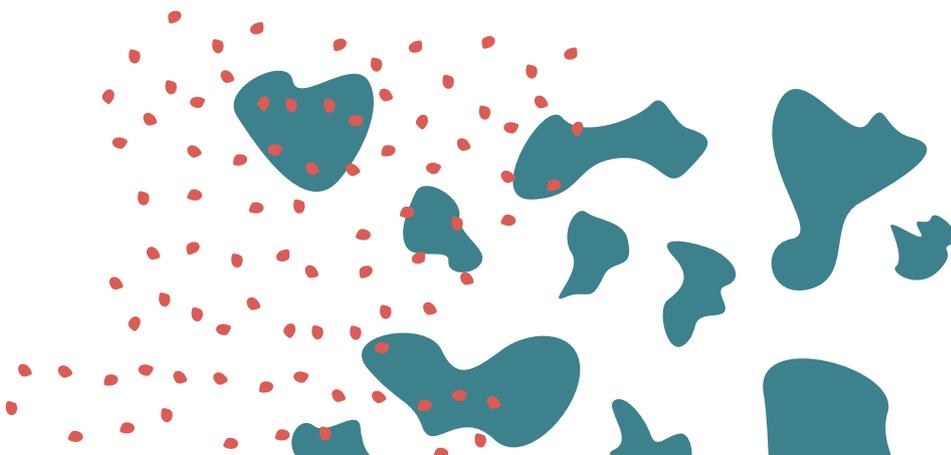
(f) make satisfactory arrangements for fulfilling other obligations under this Act.

(2) The arrangements made by a council under this section must be satisfactory to the Board.

(3) Money received by a council under this Act must be expended in the administration or enforcement of the provisions of this Act relating to dogs.

(4) Each council must keep separate accounts of money received under this Act and of money expended in the administration and enforcement of the provisions of this Act relating to dogs.

(5) A council must pay into the Fund the percentage fixed by regulation of the dog registration fees received by the council



# APPENDIX C

## BY LAW NO. 4 (DOGS)

- [http://www.unley.sa.gov.au/getmedia/67e54cf0-d49c-4fee-875d-e087fd5fc40e/2008\\_By-law\\_4\\_Dogs.aspx](http://www.unley.sa.gov.au/getmedia/67e54cf0-d49c-4fee-875d-e087fd5fc40e/2008_By-law_4_Dogs.aspx) (to be updated 1 January 2016).

# APPENDIX D

## FOUND PETS INITIATIVE (RSPCA)

- [http://mobileawards.com.au/MA2012/entry\\_details.asp?ID=10843&](http://mobileawards.com.au/MA2012/entry_details.asp?ID=10843&)

# APPENDIX E

## RSPCA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA LIST OF FORCE-FREE DOG TRAINERS

- <http://www.rspcasa.org.au/force-free-dog-trainers/>
- <http://www.rspcasa.org.au/the-issues/lead-by-example/>

# APPENDIX F

## DR. P MCGREEVY, ETHOLOGY OF BARKING

Training tips for excessive barking

### Step 1

Determine if the dog's behavioural needs are being met.

Behavioural needs that may be poorly served in dogs that bark excessively include:

### Exercise – is the dog adequately exercised?

Owners should try to take their dog for a good walk in the morning before they leave for work. This can help to tire the dog out and reduce anxiety levels thereby reducing barking behaviour during the first part of the day.

### Company – is the dog being left alone for long periods of time?

Organising a dog 'walker' or dog 'minder' to visit the dog during the middle of the day is highly recommended. Owners may also consider trying to walk their dog in their lunch break. This provides the dog with physical and mental stimulation and is a good way of preventing barking. Owners should also look into 'doggy day care' services in their area. Dogs are social animals and generally do not like being on their own.

### Stimulation – is the dog likely to be bored when barking occurs?

Owners need to ensure that their dog has opportunities to be physically and mentally stimulated during the day. This may mean organising a walk during the day or dropping the dog off at doggy day care or a friends place for company during the day.

### Oral needs – does the dog have food toys/toys to preoccupy it?

Providing chew toys and Kong toys with food treats stuffed inside them can help to preoccupy a dog for some time. Providing a raw meaty bone can also provide hours of chewing time for the dog. Please



read the knowledgebase article “What should I feed my dog?” for tips about raw bones.

Once the owner ensures that the dog’s behavioural needs are being met they can proceed to Step 2.

## Step 2

Put in place a mechanism for making the dog actively quiet. This involves:

- a) Taking the rewards away when barking occurs
- b) Training an “off-switch”

**a) Taking the rewards away.** If the rewards for barking are identifiable it is usually possible to remove them. This allows a process of non-reward to extinguish the barking – i.e. an extinction programme.

Here are a few examples: For attention seeking barking, we can construct humane, unwelcome outcomes for barking when the owners are present. For example, if every time the dog barks for attention the owners get up and walk out of the room, or silently turn their backs, the dog will eventually learn that barking is counter-productive. Owners need to be aware that the dog may tend to try even harder to get noticed in the early stages of this training.

Similarly, if the owners resolve to never enter the home when the dog is actively barking the dog will never associate barking with the return of their owner.

**b) Training an “off-switch”.** Only when an extinction programme is in place (part a), is it time to think of ways of stopping the barking that remains.

The 8 Point Plan for training dogs to stop barking

8. Find a way of encouraging the dog to bark.  
You may find it will bark out of excitement in response to the door bell or if you hold its food bowl up in the air, or you may only need to use a food reward or a toy.
9. When, with a bit of friendly teasing, your dog does bark, praise it and start to repeat the

word ‘speak!’ during the vocalisation.

10. Repeat the exercise until the dog associates the word ‘speak’ with the act of barking and is vocalising merrily for rewards.
11. Reserve praise and rewards for times when the dog has barked only after having heard the command to speak. This places the bark under stimulus control (i.e. puts it on command).
12. Introduce the word ‘quiet!’ or ‘stop!’ while your dog is barking on command, and give it a toy or food treat as soon as it stops barking.
13. Reserve praise and rewards for times when the dog has stopped barking only after having heard the command to be ‘quiet!’ or ‘stop!’ This places the termination of barking under stimulus control.
14. Repeat step 6 whenever the dog is barking without being told to speak. This links the signal to be quiet with the cessation of spontaneous barking. Reward liberally for all appropriate responses at this stage ....of course!
15. Issue your friendly neighbours with a supply of rewards and instruct them to repeat step 6 whenever the dog is barking.

Note: Anti-barking collars constitute a form of punishment and are an unreliable remedy – they do not address the cause of the problem and are easy to abuse. Your dog will be punished for every bark, some of which will be appropriate, and he will not learn an alternative, acceptable behaviour. RSPCA Australia does not recommend the use of these collars.

Finally, please do consult with your vet for further advice.

Reference: Ethology of barking -Why Do Dogs Bark? Dr P McGreevy, Urban Animal Management Conference Proceedings 2004. [Online, accessed 03 August 2015]

[http://kb.rspca.org.au/My-dog-is-barking-excessively-what-can-i-do\\_375.html](http://kb.rspca.org.au/My-dog-is-barking-excessively-what-can-i-do_375.html)

# APPENDIX G

## DOG EXERCISE AREAS, CITY OF UNLEY

### Dog Exercise Areas

The City of Unley has 3 types of Dog Exercise Areas:

- Off Leash At All Times;
- Off Leash between 5pm and 10am; and
- On Leash At All Times

### Off Leash At All Times

Dogs may be exercised off leash at all times (except during organised sporting activities) at:

- Goodwood Oval, Millswood;
- Ridge Park (oval area); Myrtle Bank;
- The Orphanage (oval areas), Millswood; and
- Unley Oval, Unley

### Off-Leash Between 5pm and 10am

Dogs may be exercised off leash between 5pm and 10am at:

- Everard Park Reserve, **Everard Park;**
- Forestville Reserve, **Forestville;**
- Fraser Reserve, **Myrtle Bank;**
- Fullarton Park, **Fullarton;**
- Heywood Park (western sector);
- Howard Florey Reserve, **Parkside;**
- McLeay Park, **Unley;**
- Page Park, **Clarence Park;**
- Scammell Reserve, **Myrtle Bank;**
- Soutar Park (open play area and south of the east west path), **Goodwood;**
- Village Green, **Unley;**
- Wayville Reserve, **Wayville;**

Please check for signs indicating designated dog off leash areas.

### IMPORTANT:

Dogs can be exercised off their leash provided:

- No organised sporting activities are taking place; and
- The person responsible for the dog maintains 'effective control' at all times.

Effective control means:

- The dog is restrained by a leash of not more than 2 metres in length; and/or;
- The dog responds to command, is in close proximity to the person and the person is able to see the dog at all times.

### On-Leash At All Times

Dogs must remain on-leash in the following areas:

- Charles Walk – Linear Walk **Unley;**
- Ferguson Avenue Reserve, **Highgate;**
- Fern Avenue Reserve, **Fullarton;**
- Glen Osmond Creek – Linear Walk **Unley;**
- Hackett Reserve, **Parkside;**
- Haslop Reserve, **Malvern;**
- Henry Codd Reserve, **Parkside;**
- Heywood Park, **Unley** Park 9 (eastern sector);
- Leicester Street Playground (open area), **Parkside;**
- Morrie Harrell Playground Reserve (open area), **Unley;**
- North Unley Playground Reserve (open area), **Unley;**



- Simpson Parade Reserve, **Wayville**;
- Soldiers Memorial Gardens, **Unley**;
- Soutar Park, **Goodwood** (north of east-west path);
- Windsor Street – Linear Walk **Unley**; and
- Yeo Avenue Reserve, **Highgate**.

Please check for signs indicating designated dog off leash areas.

### **Prohibited Areas**

It is prohibited to allow your dog:

- Within any enclosed area where there is children’s play equipment;
- Within 3 metres of children’s play equipment (if area is not enclosed);
- In areas listed on sign posts that prohibits dogs; and
- In areas set aside by the Unley Council for organised game playing.



THE CITY *of*  
*Unley*



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