



5 Year Animal Management Plan 2017 - 2022

Approved by Dog and Cat Management Board:

16 August 2017

Date Plan comes into effect:

30 December 2017

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30 December 2021

**DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ELLISTON ANIMAL MANGEMENT PLAN
2017 – 2022**

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The District Council of Elliston is situated approximately 700km from Adelaide on the western seaboard of South Australia on the Eyre Peninsula.

Within the district Council area, the two largest townships are the communities of Elliston and Lock with six smaller towns being Port Kenny, Venus Bay, Bramfield, Sheringa, Tooligie and Murdinga.

This Animal Management Plan has been developed after a review of the previous Plan and is required pursuant to section 26A of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995. The Plan will be effective for the next 5 year period 2017 to 2022 and will set strategic direction for dog and cat management within the District.

Mission Statement

“To promote responsible pet ownership within the District whilst ensuring the needs of animals and their owners are accommodated and recognising the differing needs of non- pet owners”.

Aims

The Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 was enacted in 1995 and brought in a new legal framework to South Australia covering both dogs and cats. The AIMS OF THE District Council of Elliston are:

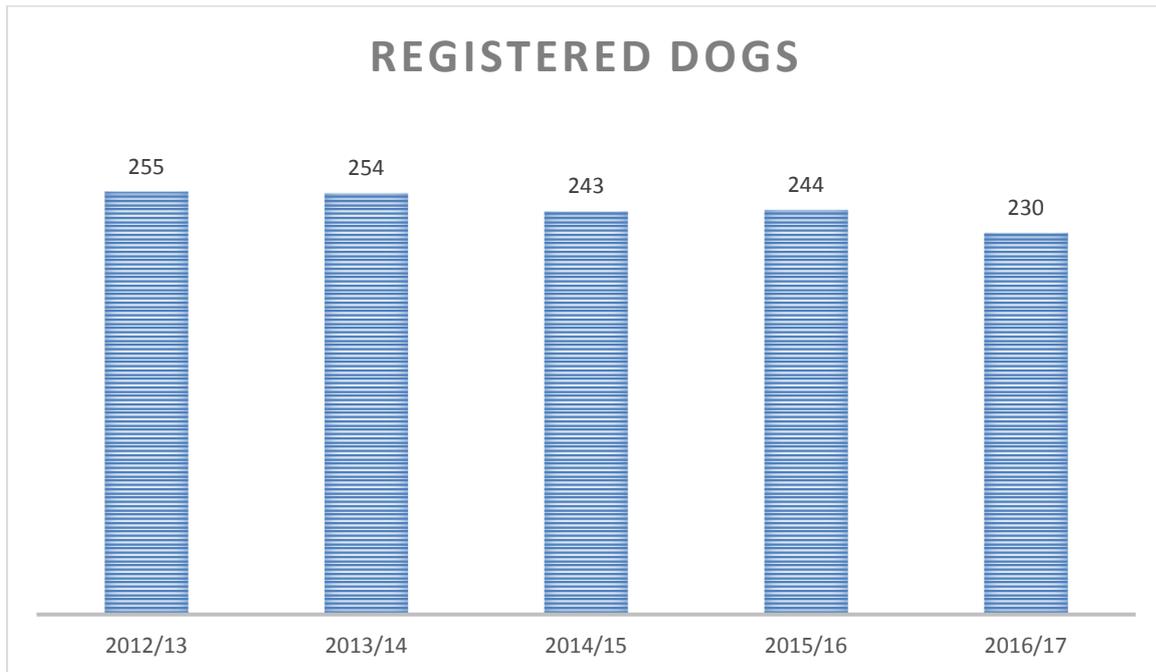
- *Provide effective management and a suitable environment for dogs and cats*
- *Encourage responsible dog and cat ownership*
- *Increase public safety through the reduction of public and environmental nuisance caused by dogs and cats*
- *Provide for the welfare and safety of dogs and cats*
- *Acknowledge the importance of dogs and cats in society*
- *Encourage the enjoyment of and benefits from dogs and cats by people*
- *Ensure public safety and amenity in relation to dogs and cats*
- *Protect native fauna and flora from the impact of dogs and cats*
- *Ensure the expenditure of registration fees address the needs of pet owners as well as domestic animal management issues*

2. BACKGROUND

Animal control has widened into a greater array of contexts following the introduction of the Act. Knowledge of both animal and human behaviour is now a requirement of working in the field. There is growing recognition that enforcement of laws will not, on its own, result in lasting, voluntary changes in behaviour. It needs to be supplemented by a range of non-regulatory approaches such as public education and promotion.

Significant changes to the Act came into force on 1st July 2017 (increase in fines and expiation fees for example) and further changes come into force 1st July 2018.

There is now considerable evidence to support our understanding of the benefits of owning pets so it is essential that Council take a strategic approach to managing domestic pets. This strategy will provide Council with a sound basis and direction from which it can plan, coordinate and make future decisions to meet the needs of the community over the next 5 years.



3. THE LAW/GUIDELINES

The responsibilities for dog and cat management in South Australia are prescribed in the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995. Under the Act, Councils are required to administer and enforce the provisions relating to dogs within its area. Prescribed responsibilities include the appointment of a Registrar, maintenance of a Dog Register, the appointment of an Authorised Officer and to make arrangements for dogs seized, and its other obligations under the Act. A Council is also able to make By-Laws relating to the management of dogs and cats within its area.

The Act also provides for the appointment of the Dog and Cat Management Board, which has responsibilities to plan, promote, and advise on effective management of dogs and cats in the State, to monitor Councils management of their responsibilities, to issue Guidelines for Councils, to advise and assist Councils to undertake their responsibilities. The Board also has a role to provide advice to the Minister, to keep the Act under review, to undertake research into companion animal management and to provide education programs for an authorised officer and community awareness information. The Act also provides that a Council may appoint an authorised officer for Dog and Cat Management.

While these provisions provide the legal framework for the Council's responsibilities and the penalties that can be imposed on dog owners for non-compliance, this Plan seeks to implement a balanced approach that caters for everyone's needs that will not only benefit dogs and their owners as a group with legitimate needs but also the wider community as well as those charged with the responsibility of animal management.

Substantial changes to the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 were passed in Parliament during July 2016. The main changes relate to:

- *Microchipping – introducing a requirement for all dogs and cats to be microchipped by the age of 3 months from 1st July 2018.*
- *Desexing – introducing a requirement to desex all dogs and cats after the proposed date of 1st July 2018 and by the age of six months unless exemptions apply.*

- *Breeders – introducing a requirement that a person must not sell a dog or cat they have bred unless they are registered as a breeder with the Dog and Cat Management Board from 1st July 2018.*
- *Sellers – introducing a requirement for certain information to be provided to the buyer from 1st July 2018.*
- *Council Powers – providing Councils, which are responsible for dog and cat management in their local areas with greater powers to administer and enforce the Act and introducing increase expiation fees and fines from 1st July 2017.*
- *Assistant Dogs – changing who can accredit animals.*

4. REVENUE

Section 26(3) of the Dog and Cat Management Act requires all revenue to be expended on the management of dogs and cats within the district area.

Section 26(6) enables Council to set dog registration fees. Council reviews dog registration fees each year, including any discounts offered to the community.

5. COUNCIL'S MANAGEMENT OF DOGS

Dogs in Public Places

Council implements the following measures to manage dogs within the district

- *Annual Dog registration*
- *Wandering at large dogs are detained and housed at councils holding facility*
- *By-laws which promote and regulate the control and management of dogs within the Council area*
- *Relationships are maintained with adjoining Councils to provide support and effective sharing of information and past experiences.*
- *The provision of 'on-leash' and 'off-leash' areas within the district.*
- *Providing and encouraging the use of faeces bags for in public areas*

6. COUNCIL'S MANAGEMENT OF CATS

01 July 2018 brings new laws to South Australia for the management of cats.

Council implements the following measures to manage cats within the district

- *Encourage the microchipping of all cats which will be compulsory from 1st July 2018*
- *All cats (and dogs) born after 1 July 2018 to be desexed (exemptions apply)*
- *Propose to introduce By-laws which promote and regulate the control and management of cats within the Council area.*
- *Relationships are established with Natural Resource Management for a partnership in the management of cats*
- *Education provided to the community of cat ownership/cat behaviour*

7. OBJECTIVES/STRATEGIES/MEASURES (KPI)

OBJECTIVE 1

Council Operations

Council staff have the capacity to administer, regulate and enforce the Dog and Cat Management Act.

Strategy

- *Provisions for an Authorised Officer to receive ongoing training in line with Board Policies*
- *Administrative staff provided with up to date training and educational material*
- *Provisions for a relief officer trained and authorised to administer the responsibilities of the Dog and Cat Management Act and to provide support during absence*
- *Access to standard operating procedures in place*
- *Education of the community*
- *Effective reporting and management structures*

KPI'S

- *Council staff to provide accurate and efficient response to all (including emergency) situations, to the community and animal management area.*
- *The development of operating procedures for the administration of various sections of the Act*

OBJECTIVE 2

Dog Management

Creating an environment which encourages responsible pet ownership, where people and pets integrate safely and harmoniously within the community. Recognising the needs of pet owners and non-pet owners alike.

Strategy

- *Educate pet owners of new regulations and facilitate services to help owners meet their legislative requirements of registration and microchipping – collect data from Veterinary clinics in the area*
- *Educate and encourage responsible pet ownership and responsibilities pursuant to the Dog and Cat Management Act through regular items in Council newsletters*
- *Maximise dog registration and encourage identification*
- *Minimise the number of dogs wandering at large by increasing patrols*
- *Limit the number of dogs per dwelling to 2 non-working dogs*
- *Provide faeces bags around townships and encourage dog owner responsibility with regard to the picking up of faeces to reduce the threat of associated disease*
- *Increase public safety through education and encouraging the community to report of dog attacks and harassments*
- *Provide suitable on and off leash areas for dogs*
- *Advocate dog owners to socialise and train their dogs*

KPI'S

- *100% of dogs wandering at large are returned to owner due to being registered.*
- *A reduction of dogs reported for public nuisance or safety*

- Increase of identification and registration of dogs
- All new generation dogs are desexed and microchipped from 01 July 2018

OBJECTIVE 3

Cat Management

Encouraging responsible pet ownership, where people, pets and the environment live together safely and respectfully.

Strategy

- Educate pet owners of the new regulations and facilitate services to help owners meet their legislative requirements of desexing and microchipping
- Encourage identification of cats
- Encourage cats to be kept indoors between dusk and dawn
- Education of community cat ownership and cat behaviour
- Develop cat by-laws
- Develop standard operating procedures to manage cats in the community
- Facilitate the registration of cats housed within the district
- Implement cat registration

Measure

- Registration of cats within district increasing annually as people are educated
- Reduction of cats wandering at large
- Increase of cats displaying identification
- All new generation cats are desexed and microchipped from 01 July 2018
- A reduction of cats reported for public and environmental nuisance
- Cat by-laws will be introduced from 1st July 2018

8. ON - LEASH AND OFF – LEASH AREAS

Pursuant to the Act, all dogs in public places are required to be on a leash except in areas deemed to be an “off leash area” where effective control of the dog still needs to be maintained by either physical restraint or by command whereby the dog is in close proximity to the person and the person being able to see the dog at all times.

“Off leash area” means a suitable area designated by Council for dog owners to exercise their dogs safely; off leash activity areas are beneficial to the success of animal management.

The ‘off leash’ areas within the District Council of Elliston are the public areas known as;

ON LEASH PARKS AND AREAS	COMMENTS
<i>All public parks and foreshore areas except those shown below as Off Leash Parks and Areas</i>	
OFF LEASH PARKS AND AREAS	
ELLISTON	
<i>Waterloo Bay Recreational Beach</i>	<i>Elliston boat ramp to jetty</i>
<i>Cliff top Drive</i>	
<i>Little Bay beach</i>	

TALIA	
Monument beach	
SHERINGA	
Sheringa recreational beach area	
VENUS BAY	
South Head walking trail	
PORT KENNY	
Western town parklands	
LOCK	
Council land	<i>Between North Tce and Hitchcock street</i>
Silo Road	

Unless otherwise prescribed by the Council, the above mentioned areas and foreshores are considered “off leash”, and all other public places are “on leash”.

Dogs in “off leash” areas must still remain under effective control (e.g. by command).

PROHIBITED DOG AREAS

‘Public place’ means a place to which the public has access (whether an admission fee is charged or not) and includes streets, roads, footpaths, car parks, ovals, sporting arenas, foreshore and coastal camping areas where dogs must be restrained effectively and all members of the community must have the ability to use the amenities without fear of harassment by uncontrolled dogs.