Bayside City Council

Domestic Animal Management Plan

2026-2029

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Bayside
CITY COUNCIL

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

Bayside City Council proudly acknowledges the Bunurong People of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land, and we pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

Council acknowledges the Bunurong's continuing relationship to the land and waterways and respects that their connection and spiritual identity is maintained through ancient ceremonies, songlines, dance, art and living culture.

Council pays tribute to the invaluable contributions of the Bunurong and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island elders who have guided and continue to guide the work we do.

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1. Introduction and context

This Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) provides a framework for activities, services and programs that Bayside City Council will deliver over the next four years, to support and encourage responsible dog and cat ownership within the municipality.

Bayside City Council is located south of Melbourne, along Port Phillip Bay, which forms the western boundary of Bayside, while the Nepean Highway and the Melbourne to Frankston railway line forms most of the eastern boundary. The northern boundary, along Glen Huntly Road, is just eight kilometres from Melbourne's central business district. The city, covering an area of 37 square kilometres, comprises the former cities of Brighton and Sandringham, and parts of the former cities of Mordialloc and Moorabbin. Bayside City Council was created on 14 December 1994 and is home to more than 106,118 individuals and almost 15,000 dogs and cats.

1.1 Purpose of Domestic Animal Management Plan

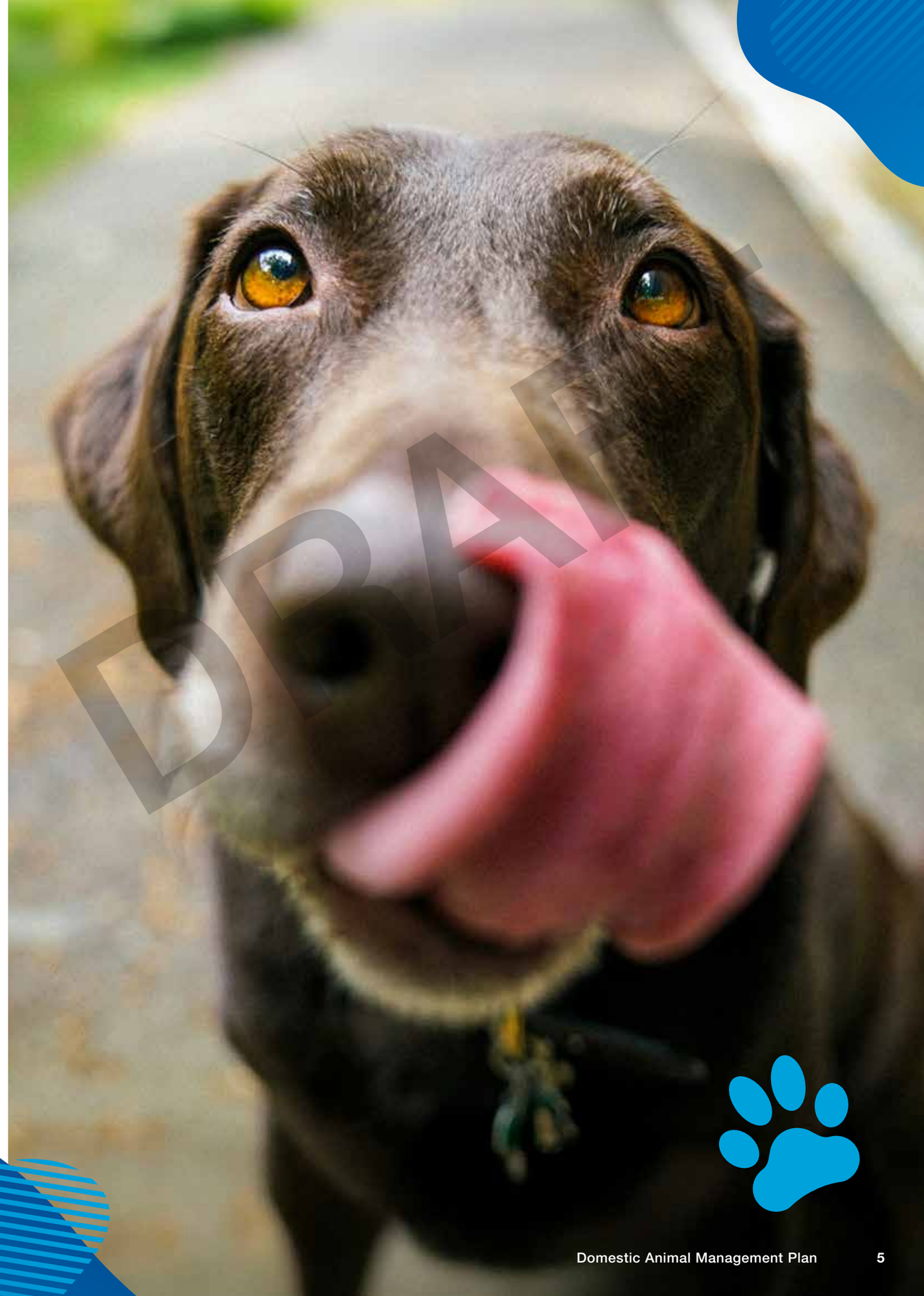
The Domestic Animals Act 1994 (the Act) requires Council to prepare a DAMP every four years.

The DAMP must set out a method for evaluating whether the animal management services provided by Council are adequate to give effect to requirements of the Act and the Domestic Animal Regulations 2015 (the Regulations) along with an outline of programs for the training of authorised officers and management of key focus areas of the Act.

Accordingly, this DAMP follows the following structure:

Section	Theme
1	Context and method for evaluating the DAMP
2	Training of authorised officers
3	Programs to promote and encourage responsible pet ownership and compliance with legislation
4	Programs to address over-population rates and any high euthanasia rates
5	Registration and identification
6	Nuisance
7	Dog attacks
8	Dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs
9	Domestic animal businesses
10	Annual review of the Plan and annual reporting

Council is also required to annually review and, where appropriate, amend the Plan and publish an evaluation of the implementation of the Plan in the Council annual report.



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1.2 Process applied in developing the Plan

In preparing the DAMP the following methodology has been applied:

- A strategic review was undertaken of Council plans and strategies that might be relevant to animal management.
- Existing animal management operations were reviewed including existing procedures, Local Laws, Council Orders and service resources.
- Analysis of data (customer contact/complaints, registrations etc.) over the past years to help understand emerging trends

An extensive community engagement and research program was delivered in two main stages:

- Stage 1 (16 January – 23 February 2025):
  More than 2,060 participants shared feedback on dog beach restrictions and priorities for the new draft DAMP. Engagement methods included online surveys, pop-up sessions, and other interactive activities. Input was also sought from the Bayside Healthy Ageing Reference Group (BHARG)..
- Stage 2 (20 August – 22 September 2025):
  Consultation on the draft DAMP was conducted to understand community views on proposed changes, particularly improvements to signage, increased patrols, and education initiatives. This stage attracted 1,190 participants.
- *Fetching Feedback* focus group:
  At key points in the process, a community focus group of 20 members met in four 3-hour workshops to review dog beach rules and key elements of the DAMP, providing detailed recommendations.

For more details, visit yoursay.bayside.vic.gov.au/pets.

1.3 Domestic animal statistics

Dog statistics	2016/17	2020/21	2024/25
Number of dogs registered	12,332	12,481	12,113
Number of registered declared dogs	1	3	4
Number of impounded dogs	202	97	67
Number of impounded dogs returned to owner	199	91	55
Number of dogs rehoused	2	4	6
Number of dogs euthanised	1	2	6

Cat statistics	2016/17	2020/21	2024/25
Number of cats registered	4,202	3,659	3,028
Number of impounded cats	78	43	69
Number of impounded cats returned to owner	23	17	12
Number of cats rehoused	14	12	25
Number of cats euthanised	41	14	32

Service statistics	2016/17	2020/21	2024/25
Animal infringements for dogs and cats	462	256	773
Dog poo complaints	19	19	18
Animal registration enquiries	699	2758	3,134
Cat trapping, delivery of cat cages	74	101	68
Dog attack on person / animal	91	109	86
Dog rush complaints	17	22	29
Complaints relating to dogs barking	362	310	246
Complaints regarding dogs on foreshore	14	29	14
Complaints regarding dogs off leash	115	182	205
Dogs picked up by Council or pound	265	123	97
Complaints relating to dogs wandering	86	77	59
Feral/domestic cats to be collected	47	20	25
Other general animal complaints	288	110	221
Calls seeking educational information	52	57	29

Number of initiated prosecutions	43	11	50
Number of successful prosecutions*	38	9	47

*Unpaid animal infringements are lodged with Fines Victoria. Non-infringeable and court elected infringements are prosecuted

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1.4 Rolling evaluation of adequacy of the Plan

To meet the requirement in the Act that its animal control services are adequate to give effect to the requirements of the Act and the Regulations, Council adopts a rolling review of data to monitor compliance and allocate resources on an as-needed basis.

Over the past four years, key service statistics including reduced impounding and euthanasia numbers, customer complaint numbers, and reduced service response times indicate this approach is performing well. It also suggests high levels of awareness of and compliance with pet ownership obligations.

Council's annual Community Satisfaction Survey 2025 and Local Government Performance Reporting Framework indicators for Animal Management remain strong including a satisfaction rating of 7.6 out of 10, which is categorised as a 'Very Good' level of satisfaction with 60% of respondents 'very satisfied' and only 5% 'dissatisfied'.

The community research survey revealed that majority of participants do not experience any challenges with complying with regulations (65.4%), while some stated the cost of registration is an issue (20%).

Over 80% of survey respondents reported occasionally or frequently noticing people not picking up their dogs waste, dogs off-leash where they shouldn't be, and not having effective control of dogs.

Over this DAMP period, it is anticipated that barking dogs and dogs off-leash in areas where restrictions apply will continue to be key issues of community concern, along with uncollected dog waste and cats trespassing.

Community engagement survey in early 2025 revealed that programs and activities in this DAMP seek to build on many of the current programs and activities to support new pet owners.

The number of registered cats continues to decline as a longer-term trend.

1.5 Action plan

Based on the success of the rolling review of adequacy from the previous DAMP period, the following actions are proposed.

Objective: Council's animal controls adequately addresses the requirements of the Act and the Regulations

Activity	Schedule	Evaluation
Review data against the actions set out in this DAMP	Ongoing	Statistics will reflect desired behavioural change of relevant action
Make changes to resources, training and programs based on analysis of data	Ongoing	Increase in compliance, continued decrease in infringements

Did you know?

Council provides around **3 million dog poo bags** in public dispensers to encourage responsible pet ownership.

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2. Training of authorised officers

2.1 Context

Council recognises the complexity of managing often-divergent community demands, opinions, and expectations in relation to domestic dogs and cats.

The functions and responsibilities of animal management are delivered by Bayside City Council's Local Laws team, which forms part of the Amenity Protection Department. There are six Local Laws Officers, a Local Law audit/reliever and a Local Laws (School Crossing) Officer, who all report to a Team Leader, who reports to the Local Laws and Parking Coordinator.

There are two additional Local Law Officers engaged over the summer period (Nov-April), to assist with extra patrols of Council's parks and reserves (including the foreshore reserve).

All officers are multi-skilled and provide animal management, as well as general Local Laws services. These officers perform the following roles:

- Registration of dogs and cats and registration compliance through targeted door knocks to identify unregistered animals.
- Providing advice to pet owners and information to the wider community.
- Managing neighbourhood issues and complaints relating to pets.
- Ensuring streets, parks and beaches are patrolled to educate and enforce responsible pet ownership.
- Inspections of domestic animal businesses and applying State legislation and Council policies to the management of pets and pet related businesses and activities.
- Responding to animal welfare issues.
- Operation of the pet day care centre (day holding facility) and liaison with Council's pound provider.

In addition to the animal management services provided during business hours, an after-hours service is also provided to collect stray dogs and transport them to The Lost Dogs Home.

2.2 Planned training for evaluation for authorised officers

Part of the purpose of the DAMP is to ensure that staff engaged in animal management have the skills necessary to support the community and effectively perform their regulatory role.

At present, Council adopts a continuous improvement approach to maintaining staff training and education levels to ensure staff are regularly refreshing knowledge and skills as well as keeping apprised of emerging issues and ideas in the space.

Data derived from completed and ongoing work can be monitored to highlight trends and areas of concern or topics which may require greater public awareness.

As such, each officer has an annual performance and development plan which is tailored to their specific skills and circumstances. This allows Council to:

- Create an individualised plan that includes goal setting, performance targets and regular review points over the course of each year; and
- Evaluate and make changes to continuous improvement based on the review of live data throughout the year.

The training and development regime for this DAMP period is as follows:

Objective: Ensure Local Law Officers have the skills necessary to support the community and effectively perform their regulatory role.

Authorised Officer Training	Plan	Frequency
Certificate IV in Animal Control and Regulation	Completed by all officers	Newly appointed officers to achieve if required
Certificate IV in Government (Statutory Compliance)	As needed	Identified as a development opportunity through performance planning with officer
Industry training – animal handling/investigation/customer service	Ongoing	Officers to attend when required
Animal Welfare Victoria – training and information days	Ongoing	Officers to attend when required
Training on relevant subject matter e.g. brief preparation, statement taking	Ongoing	Officers to attend training as needs are identified
In-house training and e-learning modules (i.e. Code of Conduct, Fraud & Corruption, Negotiation and Conflict, Child Protection, Diversity and Inclusion, Indigenous Cultural Awareness)	Ongoing	Officers to attend training as needs are identified
Induction program for new staff	Ongoing	Requirement for all new officers

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3. Programs to promote and encourage responsible pet ownership and compliance with legislation

The rolling review of data generated by enquiries and referrals provides insights into emerging trends, changes in behaviour and potential new issues.

These insights are used to provide information and services which encourage responsible pet ownership, funded by registration fees. Additionally, the feedback received through consultation on the DAMP focussed on Council continuing to play an active role in providing services that encourage responsible pet ownership, particularly off-leash spaces at parks and beaches, signage to explain responsible pet requirements including leash restrictions, and dedicated secure (fenced) dog parks, along with enforcement activities:

- Signage to explain responsible pet requirements including leash restrictions (1,054, or 64.0%)
- Dedicated secure (fenced) dog parks (999 or 60.6%)
- Using enforcement to encourage more responsible dog ownership behaviours, particularly in relation to:
  - Dogs being off-leash where they shouldn't be (38.2%)
  - Not watching dogs in off-leash areas (33.7%)
  - Not having effective voice control or commands of a dog (32.7%)
  - People not picking up their dog's waste (31.2%)

3.1 Animal management programs and services

Council currently delivers a range of animal management programs and services as outlined in the following table:

Program/Service	Service Level
Dog and cat identification and registration	• Website information • Online registration process • High levels of pets reunited with owners • Prompt reactive investigations • Park patrols • 11,871 dogs and 3,028 cats (as of June 2024)
Identification and registration	• Annual registration renewal process • Annual registration audit checks • Doorknock follow-up campaigns
Response to low-risk domestic animal complaints and service enquiries	• Prioritised based on risk • Average response time in 2023/024 was 4.3 days.
Response to high-risk domestic animal complaints	• Immediate
Declared Dangerous or Menacing dogs	• Annual audits
Routine street / park patrols	• Daily on weekdays • Complaint locations monitored • Dedicated proactive patrols over summer • Targeted and random patrols over winter weekends for sports grounds and the foreshore • Dedicated proactive patrols when beach restrictions change and sport seasons commence

Program/Service	Service Level
Education and promotion	• Publication of responsible pet ownership newsletter • Council website and weekly e-newsletter • Council bi-monthly magazine • Social media • SMS and direct email • Signage and notifications
Pound services	• Mon–Thu 10am–5:30pm • Fri 10am–4:30pm • Weekends 9am–12:30pm weekends
Dogs on/off leash	• Order in place restricting dogs off leash in designated areas • 29 designated dogs off leash areas
Cat trap program	• Cat traps available to the community • Mandatory desexing of all cats • Night-time cat curfew in place
After hours emergency service	• Collection and impounding of stray dogs • Dog attack attendance / calls taken
Provision of dog poo bags at parks	• All year

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3.2 Plan to increase responsible pet ownership

Objective: Increase responsible pet ownership behaviour and compliance with the law through education, communication, incentives and effective enforcement.

Activity	Schedule	Evaluation
Develop a strategic annual education and communication program that educates dog owners about their responsibilities through information, social media campaigns, workshops, training programs, and signage. Provide clear guidelines for on-leash rules, effective control, dog waste disposal, and behavioural expectations. Outline the impacts of dog waste on hygiene and environmental health	Annually	Delivery of plan relative to performance indicators to measure effectiveness
Review information provided to new pet owners	Annually	Information raises knowledge and understanding of responsible pet ownership issues and reduces non-compliance
Develop new education material to educate owners about where and when dogs can be off-leash and how on-leash rules protect wildlife, people, other dogs, and environmentally sensitive areas.	Year 1	New education material is developed and rolled out across different media and channels
Continue program to encourage training of dogs through awareness, education and incentives	Year 1	Monitor number of new pet owners who undertake dog training
Review education material for cat owners who ignore the cat curfew to improve understanding and compliance	Annually	Program developed and communicated with cat owners

Objective: Increase responsible pet ownership behaviour and compliance with the law through education, communication, incentives and effective enforcement.

Activity	Schedule	Evaluation
Promote Animal Welfare platforms, that are consistent with this Plan	Annually	Higher views recorded against webpage link Likes on social media
Continue regular pop-up stands at Council and community events to support engagement, education, registration and feedback	Annually	Four events per annum resulting in constructive feedback from attendees
Review policies, procedures and resourcing to ensure officer patrols are targeted and enforcement action is firm and proportionate	Annually	Patrols are prioritised and enforcement action affirms the importance of compliance with the law especially where safety or amenity issues pose a risk to the community, other animals or the environment
Continue approaches to recognise and promote positive behaviour of dog owners doing the right thing	Ongoing	Improve community perceptions and measure the number of positive observations
Continue the use of outdoor lights at selected sportsgrounds over winter to expand access to open space for dogs off-leash purposes	Annually	Insights from ground users and sports clubs
Review, improve, upgrade and increase instructional signage and path markings	Year 1	Signs updated along foreshore
	Year 2	Clear instructional signage developed outlining expected behaviours at the park (Pick up after your dog and fill holes (sports ovals), dogs to be on lead when club organised sport is on, if sport is on, dog on leash)

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3.3 Relevant orders, local laws, council policies and procedures

Council has several Orders made under the Act and Council's Local Laws which seek to protect the safety and amenity of the community, protection of the environment and prevention of nuisance and domestic animal overpopulation.

Order No. 5
Made under section 26 of the DAA
(Effective 3 September 2015)

Key requirements under the order:

- Prescribes area where dogs are prohibited (prohibited areas), allowed off-leash (designated areas), and requires dogs to be on a leash in all other areas.
- In dog off-leash areas dogs must be under effective control of their carer and must not in any way interfere with other people or dogs.
- Dogs must be on a leash when within 20 metres of a playground, an area where a sporting event or practicing of the sporting event is taking place, permanent barbeque or picnic area, area where a public meeting is being held, and signed on-leash areas around lakes, ponds or other water courses.
- Restricts the number of dogs a person can have control over in a reserve, public place or designated area to four dogs.

The order provides a schedule of designated off-leash areas and hours of access that apply to these areas.

Order No. 25
Made under Section 25 of the DAA
(Effective 22 December 2011)

Key requirement under the order:

- Cats must be confined to their property between the hours of 9pm and 6am in daylight saving time and between 8pm and 6am at other times of the year.

Order No. 10A
Made under Section 10A of the DAA
(Effective 22 December 2011)

Key requirement under the order:

- Any cat being registered for the first time must be desexed.

Bayside Neighbourhood Amenity Local Law 2021, sections 25-27 (Effective 1 July 2021)

Key requirements under the local law:

- Section 25 (Keeping of Animals) stipulates the number and type of animals that can reside at any one household without the need for a permit.
- Section 26 (Accommodation of Animals) stipulates the requirement to adhere to accommodation requirements associated with keeping 'excess animals' accommodation requirements.
- Section 27 (Animal Excrement) stipulates that people in charge of animals must remove their animal's litter and must carry a device for doing this; and prohibits animals digging Council land other than sand at a beach.

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4. Programs to address over-population rates and any high euthanasia rates

Council is committed to supporting the humane treatment of animals and to reduce the number of unwanted or unowned pets in the community.

In 2010, mandatory desexing for cats was introduced in Bayside as part of the strategy to address the cat overpopulation challenge and to reduce euthanasia rates.

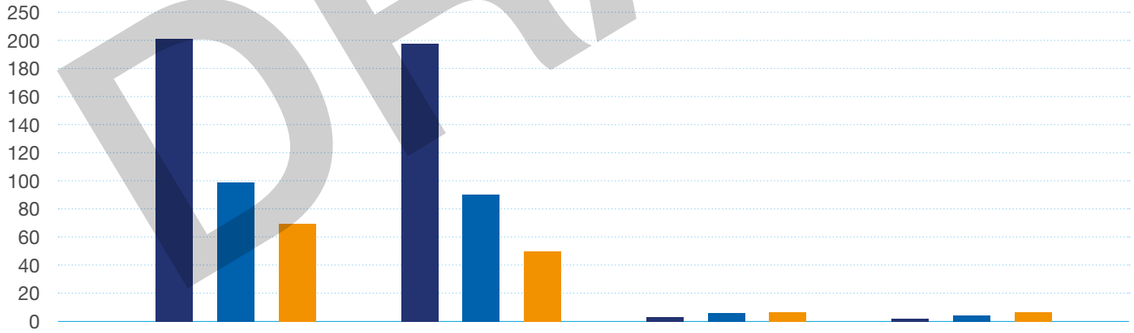
Unowned cats run the risk of not being desexed or carrying disease which results in unwanted litters, a poor state of health for these animals and impacts on wildlife.

4.1 Context and current situation

Data from the previous DAMP period indicates a high return rate to pet owners and low euthanasia rates. This has been achieved through education, enforcement and promotion of responsible pet ownership, including through registration and re-homing unwanted or impounded animals.

Impounded dog statistics

From 2016/2017 until 2024/25, the number of impounded dogs has reduced each year.

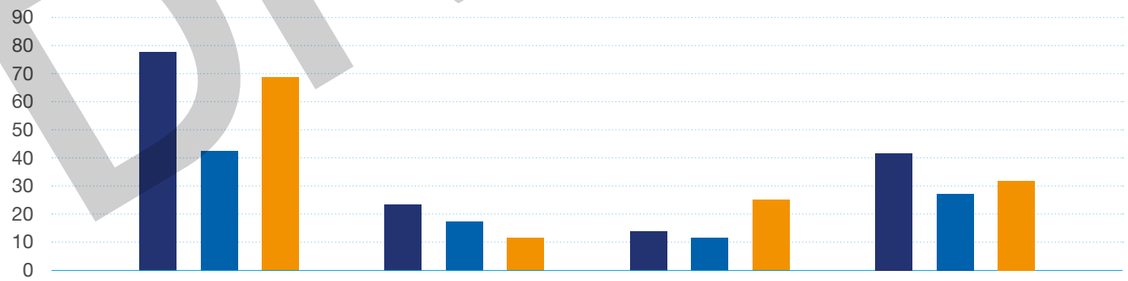


	Impounded dogs	Dogs returned to owner	Dogs rehomed	Dogs euthanised
2016/17	202	199	2	1
2020/21	97	91	4	2
2024/25	67	55	6	6

2016/17 2020/21 2024/25

Impounded cat statistics

Your cat's night-time curfew starts at 9pm during daylight saving time and 6pm during standard time in winter.



	Impounded cats	Cats returned to owner	Cats rehomed	Cats euthanised
2016/17	78	23	14	41
2020/21	43	17	12	28
2024/25	69	12	25	32

2016/17 2020/21 2024/25

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4.2 Plan to manage pet populations and minimise euthanasia

In addition to other programs offered by Council, the following is intended to specifically address over-population and high euthanasia rates:

Objective: 1. To ensure pet populations do not increase due to unwanted litters from dogs and cats at large

2. Reduce the number of cats and dogs euthanised, by encouraging pet desexing, and compliance with laws.

Activity	Schedule	Evaluation
Limit on the number of animals that can reside within any one household	Ongoing	Reduction in backyard breeding establishments and instances of animal hoarding
Provide positive information on desexing during events and through various communication channels	Ongoing	Regular articles on the topic included
Patrols to collect stray and feral cats	As required	Data on collections
Enforcement of cat curfew	Ongoing	Complaints and enforcement data
Continue to provide free cat traps for nuisance and trespassing cats	As required	Number of trap requests and impounded cats
Investigate backyard breeding establishments and animal hoarding	As required	Number of investigations

4.3 Relevant orders, local laws, council policies and procedures

CURRENT ORDERS

Order 10A
Made under Section 10A of the DAA

Requires that a cat being registered for the first time must be desexed.

Order No. 25
Made under Section 25 of the DAA

Requires that Cats are confined to their property between the hours of 9pm and 6am in daylight saving time and between 8pm and 6am at other times of the year.

CURRENT LOCAL LAWS

Bayside Neighbourhood Amenity Local Law 2021

Stipulates the number and type of animals that can reside at any one household without the need for a permit.

CURRENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- If an animal is impounded and registered, without prior history, all reasonable efforts are made to return the pet to their owner.
- If the pet is unregistered or has prior history, the pet will be impounded at Council's Day Stay facility for 24 hours, and released, once impound fee and pet registration has been paid.
- If the pet has ongoing prior history or owner is unable to be contacted, Council will impound the animal at our pound service provided, until owner can collect their pet or look at alternative for the animal, if no owner located.

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5. Registration and identification

Importantly, registration and microchipping support the quick return of pets to their owners which, in turn, minimises the pet's distress from being confined in an unfamiliar environment waiting for their owners.

Under the Act, all dogs and cats are required to be registered with Council at 3 months of age, which includes a requirement to be microchipped. Registration and microchipping also provides insights to assist with planning local services, programs, and infrastructure and avoids risks of rehoming or euthanasia of an owned pet.

5.1 Context and current situation

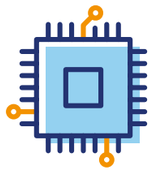
The overall number of dogs and cats registered within Bayside in 2023/2024 has decreased by approximately 8.3 per cent (1,241 animals) from 2020-2021. For this period, the number of registered dogs has decreased by approximately 5.1 per cent (610 dogs) decreasing from the peaks seen during COVID-19. The number of cats registered has also continued to reduce by 9.7 per cent (631 cats) in comparison to 2022-2023 with a more gradual reduction over the past two years.

A high-level analysis of dog and cat registrations against community engagement survey responses received in research undertaken in late 2021, indicates that around 20% of households who said they have a dog and/or cat haven't registered their animal (down from one third in 2017). The incidence of having an unregistered animal is slightly higher for households with cats (29%, compared to 36% in 2017) than households with dogs (18%, compared to 29% in 2017). This equates to potentially 9% of all households in Bayside with an unregistered animal.

Current activities:

Annual promotion & reminders at registration renewal time

Door knocks



Microchip database searches

Enforcement of unregistered animals

Regular patrols of parks reserves & foreshore

5.2 Plan to increase and maintain high levels of pet registration

In addition to ongoing actions, the following is intended to increase and maintain high levels of pet registration and permanent identification and improve promotion of pet registration and responsible pet ownership.

Objective: To increase and maintain high levels of pet registration and permanent identification and improve promotion of pet registration and responsible pet ownership

Activity	Schedule	Evaluation
Conduct annual door knocks throughout the municipality to ensure dogs and cats are registered	Annually	Review door knock results, to see if any unregistered pets identified leads to increase in registration
Improve accuracy of Council pet registration database by contacting microchip registries to obtain details of pets in the municipality that are microchipped. Cross reference Council's registration data with the microchip registry to identify unregistered animals	Annually	Review data, to see if any unregistered pets identified leads to increase in registration
Provide Domestic Animal Businesses and Veterinarians with information on registration and identification responsibilities	Annually	Information on responsible pet ownership provided to DABs and vets.
Check pet registrations when undertaking park patrols to ensure details are current	Ongoing	Review data, to see if any unregistered pets identified during patrols

5.3 Relevant orders, local laws, council policies and procedures

CURRENT ORDERS

Bayside Neighbourhood Amenity Local Law 2021

Section 25 Keeping Animals:
Keeping of Animals controls overpopulation of animals in Bayside by restricting the number of permitted animals. It requires an annual permit from Council from to keep more than two dogs or two cats.

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6. Minimising potential nuisance

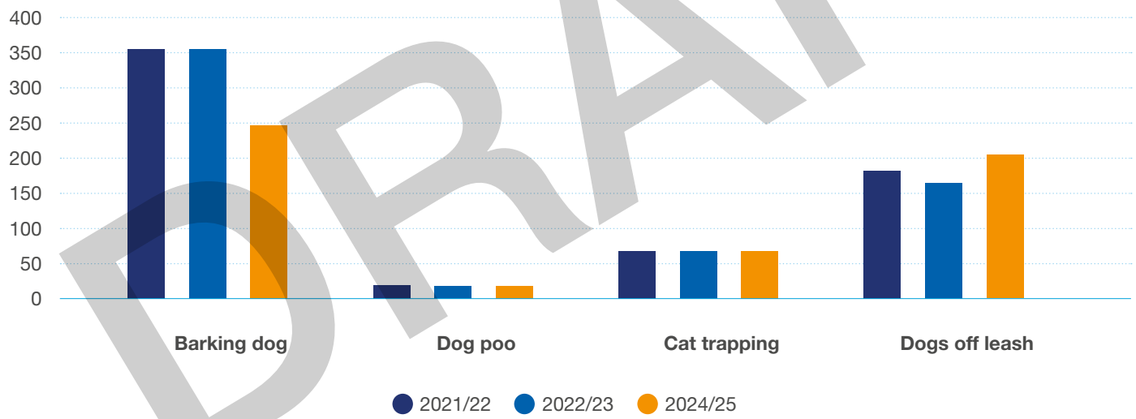
Bayside has extensive programs to promote and encourage responsible pet ownership and compliance with legislative and/or regulatory requirements.

Information is provided through a variety of methods including signage, pamphlets, *Let's Talk Bayside* magazine delivered to all households, Council's website and weekly e-newsletter and social media.

6.1 Context and current situation

Council receives four typical types of nuisance complaints: barking dogs, dogs off leash in on-leash areas, dog litter/waste, and requests for cat traps.

Nuisance complaints



Community engagement findings 2025

- The majority of animal owner respondents (65.4%) indicated they do not face any challenges with complying with local domestic animal regulations. While 20% stated a challenge of complying was the cost of registration.
- Participants showed support for all services that Council provides to ensure and encourage responsible pet ownership. The following were selected as the most important services Council provides for responsible pet ownership:
  - Off-leash areas at parks and beaches (68.5%)
  - Signage to explain responsible pet requirements including leash restrictions (64.0%)
  - Dedicated secure (fenced) dog parks (60.6%)
- Overall, participants stated they were frequently likely to notice
  - Dog off-leash where they shouldn't be (38.2%)
  - Owners not watching dogs in off-leash areas (33.7%)
  - Owners not having effective voice control or commands (32.7%)
  - People not picking up after their dogs (31.2%)
- Participants provided a range of suggestions to improve the safety and welfare of pets, people and environment, the most frequently referenced themes were:
  - Increasing animal management monitoring, surveillance and enforcement (403 participants).
  - Providing adequate dedicated dog off-leash spaces (353).
  - Increasing dog-related amenities to support responsible pet ownership and dog welfare (135).
  - Reviewing, improving, upgrading and increasing instructional signage and path markings (113).

6.2 Plan to reduce nuisance complaints

Objective: Ensure Council's education, communication and compliance activities reduce nuisance complaints

Activity	Schedule	Evaluation
Include nuisance issues in the strategic annual education and communication program to help the community better understand the issues, impacts and ways to comply. This may involve pop-up events, brochures, handouts, social media, articles and website information	Annual	Annual education program implements and delivered
Address excessive dog noise and barking and provide support to affected residents or neighbours	Year 1	Review of complaints information on Council website
Provide education material about cat enclosures and nuisance issues to cat owners in registration information packs each year.	Annual	New cat owners receive information on registration of their pet More support for use of cat traps and associated enforcement
Conduct targeted enforcement patrols to encourage/promote effective control and ensure compliance with regulations in streets, parks, beaches, and other public areas and dogs off-leash in on-leash areas, especially around playgrounds, beaches, and walking paths. Address uncontrolled dogs in public spaces especially in the summer months and enforce curfews for roaming cats to protect wildlife.	Ongoing	Patrols recorded and higher visibility noted by the community with attendance to relevant events/ complaints.

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6.3 Relevant orders, local laws, council policies and procedures

CURRENT ORDERS

Order No. 5
Made under section 26 of the DAA
(effective 3 September 2015)

Key requirements under the order:

- Prescribes area where dogs are prohibited (prohibited areas), allowed off-leash (designated areas), and requires dogs to be on a leash in all other areas.
- In dog off-leash areas, dogs must be under effective control of their carer and must not in any way interfere with other people or dogs.
- Dogs must be on a leash when within 20 metres of a playground, an area where a sporting event or practicing of the sporting event is taking place, permanent barbeque or picnic area, area where a public meeting is being held, and signed on-leash areas around lakes, ponds or other water courses.
- Restricts the number of dogs a person can have control over in a reserve, public place or designated area to four dogs.
- The order provides a schedule of designated off-leash areas and hours of access that apply to these areas.

CURRENT LOCAL LAWS

Section 27
Animal excrement and conduct:

Dog owners are required to pick up after their animal and always carry litter removal devices. Dog owners must also ensure their animal does not dig on any part of Council land except sand at a beach.

CURRENT COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

- Park patrols
- Door knocks
- Cat trapping program
- Investigate, education and enforcement
- Poo bag dispenses in parks and pooch pouches (for carrying litter devices) handed out for free
- Ensuring microchip records are up to date when releasing impounded animals

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7. Dog attacks

Preventing inappropriate behaviour of dogs, towards people, other dogs and wildlife is a vital role played by Council and community. Council promotes a range of strategies to the community to help minimise the risk of injury from dogs.

7.1 Context and current situation

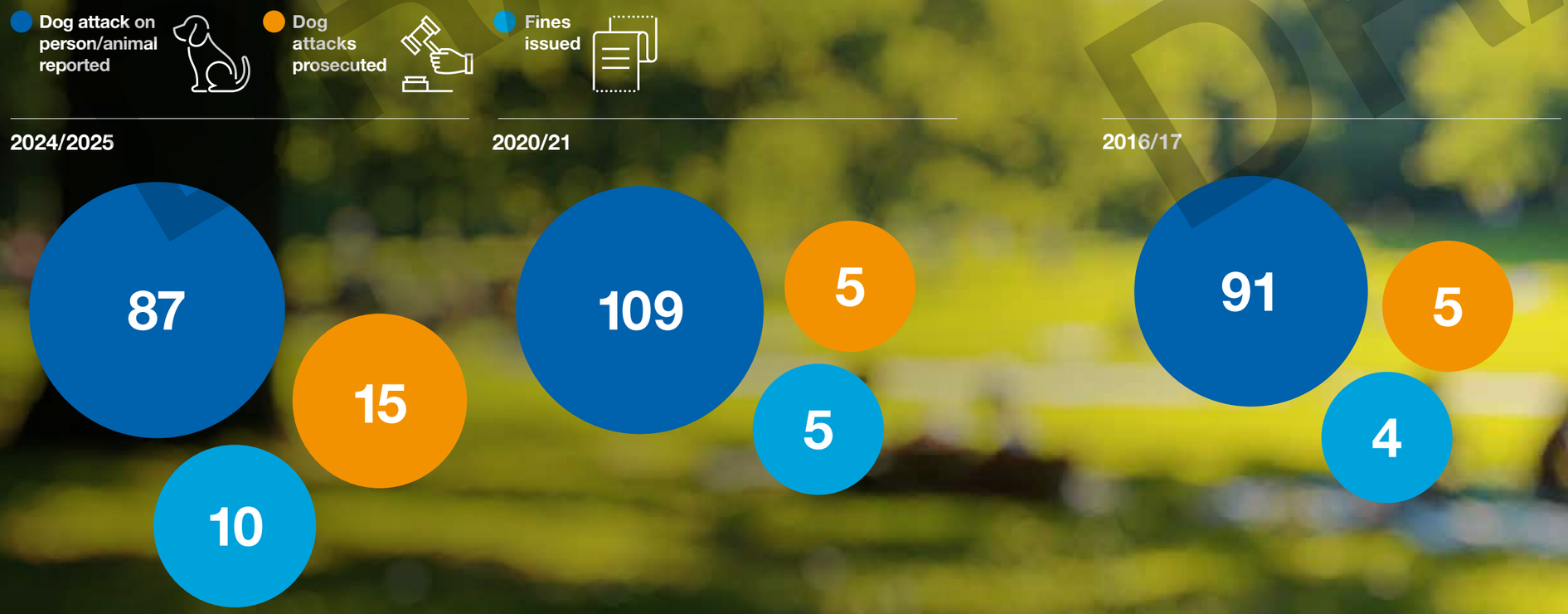
All reports of dog rush or dog attacks are fully investigated by Council's Local Laws team.

Council Pound Services also ensures that dogs rehomed from the pound are temperament tested to ensure they are suitable for adoption.

To reduce the risk of dog attacks, officers regularly patrol the municipality for wandering or at-large dogs and identify owners that are not complying with animal management requirements. The risk of dog attacks can also be minimised through dog owners complying with legislation.

Council will continue its current efforts in educating dog owners on effective control and the benefits of training.

Dog attacks in Bayside recorded for 2017-2025



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7.2 Plan to manage and reduce risk of dog attacks

Objective: Reduce and minimise the risk of dog attacks in the community

Activity	Schedule	Evaluation
Promote the State 'Dangerous Dogs Hotline' 1300 101 080	Ongoing	Information on Council website
Regular patrol reserves and foreshore and educate dog walkers	Ongoing	Dog owners educated regarding pet ownership and effective control.
Publicise key dog attack prevention messages (e.g. confinement of dogs to property, leash laws etc.) through media articles, website and social media information and targeted patrols.	Ongoing	Compare number of reported dog attack incidents pre and post campaign. Number of media articles published. Number of patrols conducted
Where appropriate, utilise media releases or other means to inform the community about successful prosecutions of serious dog attacks	Ongoing	Number of successful prosecutions promoted
Run responsible dog ownership course and highlight ways of minimising the risk of dog attacks	Years 1-4	Program planned and implemented
Review of data systems to enhance detailed data collection and analysis for dog attack and harassment incidents to inform tailored education and enforcement activities.	Year 1	Tailored education/ enforcement activities undertaken for root cause of attacks.

7.3 Relevant orders, local laws, council policies and procedures

CURRENT ORDERS

Order No. 5
Made under section 26 of the DAA
(effective 3 September 2015)

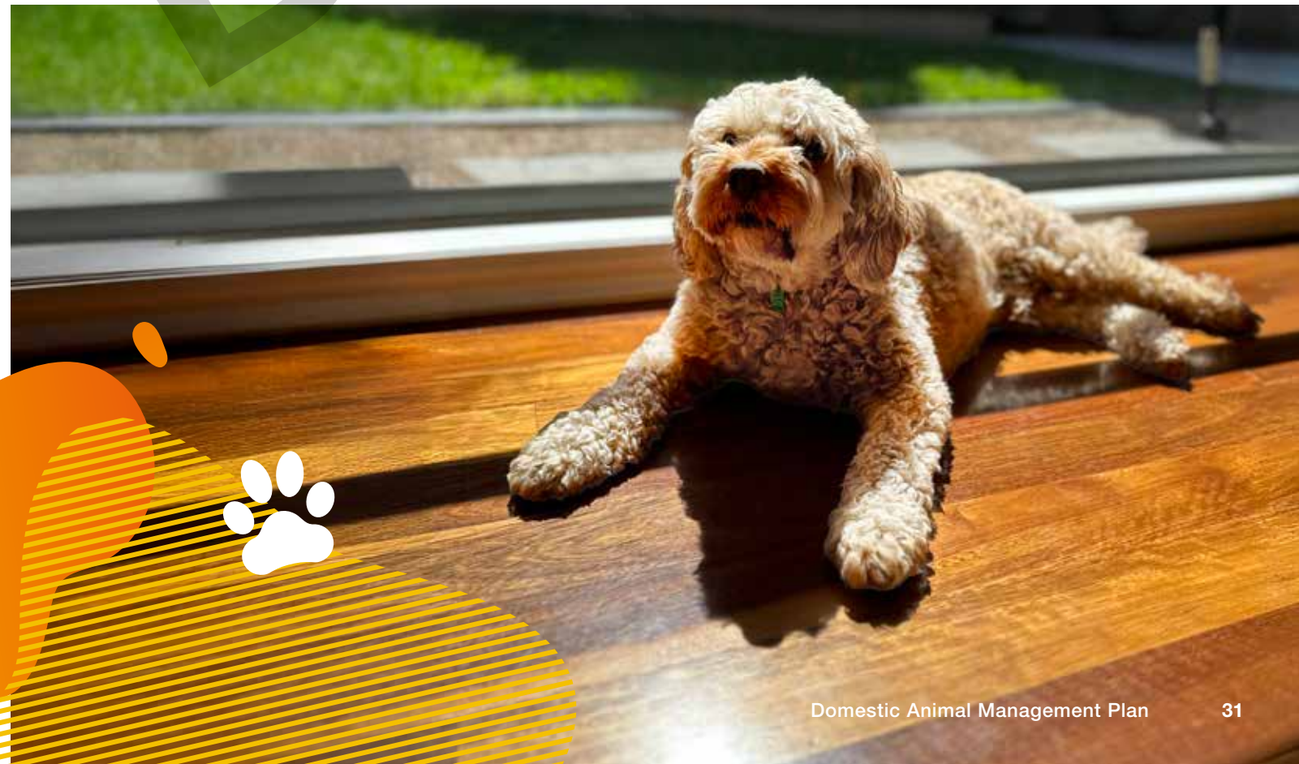
Key requirements under the order:

- Prescribes area where dogs are prohibited (prohibited areas), allowed off-leash (designated areas), and requires dogs to be on a leash in all other areas
- In dog off-leash areas, dogs must be under effective control of their carer and must not in any way interfere with other people or dogs
- Dogs must be on a leash when within 20 metres of a playground, an area where a sporting event or practicing of the sporting event is taking place, permanent barbeque or picnic area, area where a public meeting is being held, and signed on-leash areas around lakes, ponds or other water courses
- Restricts the number of dogs a person can have control over in a reserve, public place or designated area to four dogs.

CURRENT COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

Authorised officers routinely:

- Conduct patrols with a specific focus on high-risk areas
- Promote responsible pet ownership to new and existing dog owners to promote dog training and socialisation
- Educate dog owners about the need for dogs to be under effective control, at all times, including in off leash areas.
- Promote the need to always secure dogs at their property so they are not at-large
- Investigate complaints, educate, and enforce laws and restrictions
- Promote the need to supervise children when dogs are present
- Use declaration/destruction powers of the DAA consistent with legislation and proportionately.



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8. Dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs

The *Domestic Animals Act 1994* defines dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs.

- **Menacing dogs**: A dog declared by Council that has inflicted a non-serious bite to a person or animal; shown aggressive behaviours (snarling, growling, raised hackles) when rushing up to a person; or chased a person.
- **Dangerous dogs**: A dog declared by Council that has caused serious injury or death to a person or animal by biting or attacking. Dogs can also be declared as dangerous if the owner has received 2 or more infringement notices for the dog being menacing and hasn't complied with restraint requirements. A dog can also be declared dangerous under corresponding legislation in another state or territory. A dog that is kept for the purpose of guarding non-residential premises (guard dog) is automatically a dangerous dog under the Domestic Animals Act 1994.
- **Restricted breed dogs**: Dogs of the following breeds are defined by Victorian Government legislation. These dogs have not necessarily shown any dangerous behaviours, but have been classified by the Victorian Government as a higher risk to community safety than other breeds
  - Japanese Tosa
  - Fila Brasileiro
  - Dogo Argentino
  - Perro de Presa Canario (or Presa Canario)
  - American Pit Bull Terrier (or Pit Bull Terrier).

8.1 Context and current situation

Council currently has three declared menacing dogs. All three dogs have been declared by Bayside City Council to limit risk against the community for past offending behaviours of these dogs. Council currently does not have any declared dangerous dogs within the municipality.

Council is committed to ensuring owners of any of these types of dogs are aware of their responsibilities, and actions they can take to minimise the likelihood of inappropriate behaviours in their dogs.

Council currently does not have any declared dangerous dogs nor restricted breeds within the municipality.

8.2 Policies and procedures

Current policies and procedures

Council's animal registration process requires all owners of dogs to declare that the dog's breed has been correctly identified and confirm it is or is not a restricted breed, declared dangerous or declared menacing dog.

All declared dangerous/menacing dogs are placed on the Victorian Declared Dog Registry.

Current compliance activities

Each year, Council Officers inspect each property that contains a restricted dog breed or declared dangerous dog.

8.3 Plan to manage dangerous, menacing and restricted dog breeds

Objective: Identify and register all Declared Dogs in the municipality

Activity	Schedule	Evaluation
Review process for declaration of dangerous and menacing dogs in order to improve alignment with changing legal requirements and community expectations	Year 4	Procedure updated and implemented
Educate the community about what is a declared dangerous or menacing dog	Ongoing	Information available on website and social media articles distributed

Objective: Inspect and audit all declared dog premises annually to ensure they are following the keeping requirements.

Activity	Schedule	Evaluation
Conduct random property inspections of declared dogs to ensure compliance	Annually	Review of inspection reports and updates to the registration database.

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9. Domestic animal businesses

Domestic animal businesses (DABs) are establishments such as animal shelters, pet shops, animal breeding and/or rearing establishments, boarding and/or training facilities that are run for profit.

9.1 Context and current situation

There are currently five registered domestic animal businesses known to be operating in Bayside.

- 1 dog training establishments
- 4 boarding establishments

Current education/promotion activities

Activity	Schedule
Verbal information provided at time of audit	Annual
Animal Welfare Victoria written material	Annual

Current management and compliance activities

Activity	Schedule
Registration of DABs	Annual
Auditing of DABs	Annual
Issuing/enforcement of infringement notices/notices to comply	As required
Patrols and follow-up of suspected unregistered/new DABs	As required
Unannounced inspections to ensure compliance generally and with relevant registrations of animals etc.	As required

9.2 Our policies and procedures

- Provide relevant mandatory Code of Practice to proprietors/staff of existing and proposed domestic animal businesses
- Ensure DAB is registered and audited annually
- Investigate all reported complaints about domestic animal businesses.

9.3 Plan for DABs

A review of the presence of animal businesses will be undertaken to ensure information is accurate and DABs operate in line with state government and Council's requirements.

Objective: Ensure all Domestic Animal Businesses operating in the municipality are registered

Activity	Schedule	Evaluation
Review all DABs in the municipality and ensure they continue to be registered with Council	Annually	All DABs maintain up to date registration
Undertake an investigation to identify any non-registered DABs operating in the municipality and take appropriate action to ensure registration and compliance with requirements	Annually	Numbers of DABs that are found to be unregistered as a result of the investigation
Consider (as part of a review of Council's Local Law) introducing permit requirements for professional dog walkers	Year 1	Decision made on whether or not to introduce permits

Objective: Ensure DAB compliance with relevant requirements

Activity	Schedule	Evaluation
Conduct compliance inspections on DABs	Annually	Compliance rates of DABs.

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10. Annual review of the Plan and annual reporting

A review of this DAMP will be conducted annually. The review will evaluate the activities listed under each objective in this plan to determine whether they have successfully been activated, are in progress or otherwise. In each case, action or non-action should be commented on.

The annual evaluation of this DAMP will be published in Council's Annual Report & provided to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning Secretary together with any amendments to the Plan.

10.1 Evaluation of implementation of the DAMP

Complete for each activity	Yes/No
Was each activity completed?	Annually assess as appropriate
Describe any changes you will make if you do that activity again.	Annually assess as appropriate
Was an activity not done or is now not planned to be done?	Annually assess as appropriate
If an activity was unsuccessful and you don't plan to do it again, outline insights you have into why it didn't work.	Annually assess as appropriate
Complete for each objective	Yes - annually assess as appropriate
Did you meet your objective by carrying out the planned activities?	Yes/No
Describe your level of success/progress in meeting the objective.	Annually assess as appropriate

10.2 Provision for review of orders and local laws

Activity	Schedule	Evaluation
Review current Local Laws and Orders made pursuant to the Act and consider any possible improvements	As required	Controls are adequate to administer Local Law and Orders made pursuant to the Act
Identify and review any other matters not specifically provided for in the DAMP related to the management of dogs and cats in Bayside	Annually	Emerging issues are effectively managed and reflected in controls

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Bayside
City Council

Corporate Centre
76 Royal Avenue
Sandringham

Phone
9599 4444

Website
bayside.vic.gov.au

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CITY COUNCIL