

GANNAWARRA SHIRE COUNCIL

DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

2022-2025

Amendment Details

Plan no.	Page	Description	Date	Amendment details
2022.01	All	Adoption	<< Date >>	Domestic Animal Management Plan adopted by Council
2022.01	All	Submission to Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR)	<< Date >>	DAM Plan submitted to DJPR

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1 Introduction and context

1.1 PURPOSE OF DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

The *Domestic Animals Act 1994* (**the Act**) requires Council to prepare a Domestic Animal Management Plan (**DAM Plan or the Plan**) every four years.

The Plan 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 Plan must also outline programs for the training of authorised officers along with programs, services and strategies to:

- ensure that people comply with the Act, the regulations and any related legislation; and
- minimise the risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals; and
- address any over-population and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats; and
- encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats; and
- minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance; and
- effectively identify all dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs in that district and to ensure that those dogs are kept in compliance with this Act and the regulations; and
- provide for the review of existing orders made under this Act and local laws that relate to the Council's municipal district with a view to determining whether further orders or local laws dealing with the management of dogs and cats in the municipal district are desirable; and
- provide for the review of any other matters related to the management of dogs and cats in the Council's municipal district that it thinks necessary; and
- provide for the periodic evaluation of any program, service, strategy or review outlined under the plan.

Council is also required to review and where appropriate amend the plan and publish an evaluation of the implementation of the plan in Council Annual Report.

1.2 PROCESS APPLIED IN DEVELOPING THE PLAN

The Plan was developed by Council's Local Laws staff with information from the annual reviews of the 2017-2021 DAM Plan and observations of trends in complaints to Council and incidents involving domestic animals in the Gannawarra Shire. Local vet clinics were also consulted regarding issues that they believe are important to local residents and animal owners. The Local Laws team have aimed to set realistic objectives which have measurable goals.

The DAM Plan was available for public consultation after the draft was approved at the Council meeting in August 2022. This consultation involved face to face meetings, newspaper content and social media posts.

1.3 DEMOGRAPHIC AND PROFILE OF COUNCIL

Gannawarra Shire is a three hour drive from Melbourne and has an area of 3,736 square kilometers, bordered by the Murray River to the north. Gannawarra is a diverse agricultural region within the Loddon Murray Region of northern Victoria and strategically located along the Murray River between Echuca and Swan Hill. It includes the main service centers of Kerang, Cohuna and Koondrook along with the villages of Murrabit, Quambatook Lalbert, Macorna, Lake Charm, Leitchville and Mystic Park. Gannawarra Shire's population is approximately 10,500, including around 4,200 households with a median household income of \$908 per week.



1.4 CONTEXT AND CURRENT SITUATION

Program/Service	Service Level
Identification & registration - dogs	2,047.5 dogs registered (average over past 4 years)
Identification & registration - cats	406.5 cats registered (average over past 4 years)
Identification & registration - door-knock campaigns	Due to limited resources in Local Laws department this activity has not occurred over the past DAM Plan period.
Domestic animal complaints	Approvals and inspections etc. within 10 days General non urgent complaints within 5 days Urgent issues within 2 days
Dangerous Dogs complaints	Response time - within 48 hours
Routine street patrols	Demand driven
Pound	8 hours per day / 5 days per week by appointment
Microchipping and/or desexing programs	Being developed for 2022/23
RPO School information sessions	As requested
After hours emergency service	On call 365 days per year

1.5 DOMESTIC ANIMAL STATISTICS

The domestic animal statistics and charts summarised below are shown in the relevant section of the DAM Plan.

Content and data	Section and title
Registered dogs / cats	Section 5 Registration and identification
Declared dogs	Section 8 Dangerous, Menacing and Restricted breed dogs
Registered domestic animal businesses	Section 9 Domestic Animal Businesses
Animals seized or surrendered	Section 4 Overpopulation and high euthanasia
Cats and dogs reclaimed, rehomed or euthanased	Section 4 Overpopulation and high euthanasia
Complaints relating to cats and dogs	Section 6 Nuisance animals

2 TRAINING OF AUTHORISED OFFICERS

This section outlines current qualifications and future training programs for authorised officers to ensure that they can properly administer and enforce the requirements of this Act in the Council's municipal district. *Compliant with Section 68A(2)(b) of the Act.*

2.1 CONTEXT AND CURRENT SITUATION

Gannawarra Shire Council currently employs the following animal management staff:

Current staff			
Officer	EFT	Position	Training and qualifications (completed)
Officer 1	1 EFT	Local Laws Coordinator / Ranger (Authorised Officer)	Diploma of Leadership and Management BSB519 Cert IV Government Investigations PSP40416 Cert III Rural Operations AHC32816
Commenced in position February 2021			Work in Public Safety Organisation – PUATE004C Contribute to Community Safety PUACOMO14B Conduct Community Safety Activities PUACOM015B Risk Management BSBRK401 Harassment & Bullying - Hazcon Pty Ltd Managing Peoples Performance - Pro-Focus Pty Ltd Authorised Persons Workshop - LGA of Qld Bark Busters QLD – Animal Psychology Firearm Safety and Training Council AHCPMG304
Officer 3	0.6 EFT	Local Laws Administration Officer	Cert IV in Animal Control and Regulation Cert IV in Local Government (Statutory Compliance) ATC Court Procedure and Prosecutor Course Management Systems Auditing Course
Commenced in position in 2010			Privacy Awareness training K9 Self Preservation and Harm Reduction Strategies Assertive communication skills
Recruitment in process			
Officer 2	1 EFT	Local Laws Officer / Ranger (Authorised Officer)	Local Laws Officers are required to hold or be undertaking the relevant training of Certificate IV in Local Government (Statutory Compliance) and Certificate IV in Animal Control and Regulation or equivalent qualification.

2.2 OUR PLANNED TRAINING FOR AUTHORISED OFFICERS

Authorised Officers are required to be suitably qualified with a sound understanding and knowledge of a range of legislation including the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*. Apart from being able to administer and enforce the legislation, officers need to be able to communicate with all members of the community, defuse difficult situations and safely handle animals.

Authorised Officer Training	Planned (2021-2025)
Cert IV in Animal Control and Regulation or equivalent qualification*	Any new Officers (if not already qualified) to commence within first 12 months
Cert IV in Local Government (Statutory Compliance) or equivalent qualification*	For any new Officers (if not already qualified) to commence within first 12 months
Cert IV in Government Investigations	For any new Officers (if not already qualified) to commence within first 12 months
Online Induction Compliance Training <i>Occupational Health & Safety, Information Privacy; Fraud and Corruption; Workplace Bullying and Harassment; Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities & Child Safe Standards</i>	For any new Officers Comprehensive induction within first week and rest of required modules within first three months.
Traffic control - animals on roads	New staff within first 12 months with annual refresher training
OH&S - Dealing with aggressive customers	Any new Officers (if not already qualified) to commence within first 12 months
Industry Training - prosecutions	Optional / senior staff training
Firearms Training	Licensing and safety course are required for any Officer required to use a firearm
First Aid	As scheduled by Council's HR department

2.3 OUR PLAN

Local Laws Officers are to receive relevant training to ensure tasks are performed in a safe and effective manner and within relevant legislation.

Objective 2.1 New and Relief Local Laws Officers to receive induction training		
Activity	When	Evaluation
New and Relief Local Laws Officers undertake Councils induction programs for new staff	Upon commencement	Employee completes standard inductions
Staff to undertake and complete role specific induction programs for Local Laws Officers.	During first 2 weeks of employment, then annual reviews.	Inductions completed and records stored in Personnel file with Human Resources

Objective 2.2 Ensure animal management officers have the skills necessary to support the community and effectively perform their regulatory role		
Activity	When	Evaluation
Identify minimum required skills for Local Laws Officers	Prior to commencement of new staff, then annually to meet needs.	All role specific deficiencies and requirements are identified
Source specific training to increase Local Laws Officers skill levels	As required	Training successfully completed
Officers to complete all required relevant training, including upskilling.	As required	Copy of completion certificates for training kept on file with HR

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

This section outline programs, services and strategies which the Council intends to pursue in its municipal district to promote and encourage the responsible ownership of dogs and cats.
Compliant with Section 68A(2)(c)(i) of the Act.

3.1 CONTEXT AND CURRENT SITUATION

Local Laws Officers frequently provide one on one education and information to ensure animal owners fully understand their obligations and liabilities should their animals cause any incident.

For those who refuse to adjust their behaviors regarding compliance Local Laws Officers can first issue verbal or written warnings, however if issues are ongoing they can escalate actions with Notices to Comply and Infringements being issued as a last attempt to gain compliance from pet owners prior to advancing to sterner measures such as prosecution.

3.2 OUR ORDERS, LOCAL LAWS, COUNCIL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Local Law No. 1 – Community Amenity / Part 5 – Your Property, Trees and Animals

Clause 37 - Keeping Animals

Local Law regulating the numbers of dogs and/or cats that can be kept at a property

Clause 39 - Adequate Fencing

Local Law requiring Private Land to be fenced in a way that will prevent animals from straying or escaping

Clause 40 - Animal Excrement

Local Law requiring dog owners to carry a Litter Device and remove and dispose of faeces deposited by their dogs in public places

Clause 41 - Animal and Bird Noise

Local Law regarding prevention of any Animal or Large and/or Noisy Birds on the Private Land from sounding noise at unreasonable times

Council Policy No. 068 / Dogs & Cats – Designated Areas

Policy to:

- prohibit dogs from certain areas;
- prohibit cats from certain areas; and
- permit dogs in certain areas, but only on a leash.

3.3 OUR PLAN

Objective 3.1	Promote 'Safe Cat, Safe Wildlife' messaging among residents	
Activity	When	Evaluation
Display of Safe Cat, Safe Wildlife education material (brochures) at Customer Service counters	Commencing by end of June 2022	Reduction in number of cats impounded overall with focus on numbers in the month following the targeted Facebook posts
Social media promotion via link on Council website to www.safecat.org.au	Before end May 2022	
Facebook post and information in Gannawarra News page	November, February, May and August	

Objective 3.2	Education campaign on the importance of registering and microchipping dogs and cats	
Activity	When	Evaluation
Facebook post and information in Gannawarra News page	March, June, September and December	Map trends on registered dogs and cats from data in Synergy database
GSC brochure on keeping contact details up to date with microchip registry to be distributed to animal owners with registration tag	Brochure to be updated by end July 2022 Ongoing from August 2022	Map trends of microchipping in animals impounded by Council

4 OVERPOPULATION AND HIGH EUTHANASIA

This section outline programs, services and strategies which the Council intends to pursue in its municipal district to address any over-population and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats.

4.1 CONTEXT AND CURRENT SITUATION

Council makes every effort to reunite lost pets prior to impounding them.

However, current registration and up to date contact details on the pet's microchip records are vital for this to be truly successful. Far too many owners of lost microchipped animals cannot be contacted because phone numbers have been disconnected or the microchip is still under the breeder's or last owner's name.

Unidentified animals are impounded and advertised on Council's website and Facebook page for eight days. Animals that are claimed by owners are required to be registered and microchipped before they can be released from the pound. After 8 days any unclaimed animals that are suitable to be rehomed are transferred to a rehoming organisation via a section 84Y agreement.

Stray and feral cats continue to be an issue in the municipality. Issues we experience range from uncontrolled breeding to attacks on domestic cats and ongoing wildlife predation. Council assists with cat trap hire to remove unwanted and unowned cats with the vast majority of stray or wild cats being caught in a Council provided trap.

It is important that community members are educated and take responsibility for their cats by registering, microchipping, de-sexing and securely confining them to their property. Because of this over the next 4 years Councils intends stepping up public awareness campaigns to try and rectify many of these issues.

Our current data

Dogs & Cats Impounded & Euthanased	2018	2019	2020	2021
Dogs impounded	76	45	39	39
Dogs Euthanased	11	11	5	1
Domestic Cats Impounded	43	61	27	43
Domestic Cats Euthanased	0	1	1	2
Wild-cats trapped & Euthanased				
Wild-cats trapped	79	109	60	96
Wild-cats Euthanased	79	109	60	96

4.2 OUR ORDERS, LOCAL LAWS, COUNCIL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Local Law No. 1 – Community Amenity / Part 5 – Your Property, Trees and Animals

Clause 37 - Keeping Animals

Local Law regulating the numbers of dogs and/or cats that can be kept at a property.

Clause 39 - Adequate Fencing

Local Law requiring Private Land to be fenced in a way that will prevent animals from straying or escaping.

Under the *Act*, a reduced registration fee is applicable to sterilised dogs and cats.

Our current education/promotion activities

- Provide education on responsible pet ownership and on confinement of cats
- Promote microchip identification and de-sexing of animals

Our current compliance activities

- Operation of a domestic animal pound for impounded animals
- Advice to public regarding animals currently in the Council Pound on the Council website and Facebook page
- Council trapping program for wildcats
- Rehousing of suitable animals under Section 84Y agreement
- Investigate reports of unregistered breeders

4.3 OUR PLAN

To increase levels of responsible pet ownership of cats, reduce unwanted and uncontrolled breeding in domestic animals and retain low euthanasia rates for impounded animals.

Objective 4.1 Provide education on responsible pet ownership and on confinement of cats		
Activity	When	Evaluation
Owners of trapped cats to be made aware of responsibilities of cat ownership	Ongoing	Reduction of reoccurring offences of impounding of cats
Media releases - newspaper, Facebook Website links to AWV information	Ongoing but focus on times of increased cat breeding cycles	Record number of media releases and Facebook posts Information placed onto website

Objective 4.2 To educate community regarding wildcat population / reduce wildcat population		
Activity	When	Evaluation
Purchase additional cat traps	December 2023	Increase total number of cat traps owned by Council
Investigate (and instigate if viable) Council Order to confine cats	December 2022	Council Order in place
Investigate (and instigate if viable) cat de-sexing program	Ongoing	Assessment of viability of cat de-sexing program completed. If viable, apply for grant and if successful, implement program. Data reported in DAM Plan.

Objective 4.3 To continue Section 84Y agreement/s with approved animal rescue organisation/s		
Activity	When	Evaluation
Maintain current 84Y agreements	Ongoing	Agreements renewed
Investigate and instigate additional 84Y agreements	As required	Suitable agreements implemented

5 Registration and identification

This section outline programs, services and strategies which the Council intends to pursue in its municipal district to encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats.

Compliant with Section 68A(2)(c)(v) and Section 68A(2)(a),(c)(i),(c)(ii),(d),(f) of the Act

5.1 CONTEXT AND CURRENT SITUATION

Our current data

Animal registration	2018	2019	2020	2021
No. of registered dogs	2063	2046	1923	2158
No. of registered cats	402	415	383	426
No. of registered declared dogs	2	2	1	1

Infringements issued	2018	2019	2020	2021
Failure to register dog or cat	0	5	3	1
Failure to renew registration of dog or cat	0	0	0	0

Fee Structure 2022/23

Full fee Unsterilised dog or cat \$130.00

Full fee Dangerous Menacing Dog \$130.00

Councils Registration Concessions.

Reduced fee – Sterilised. 46.00

Reduced Fee – Aged dog or cat (over 10 years) \$46.00

Reduced Fee – Applicable organisation \$46.00

Reduced Fee – Obedience trained dog \$46.00

Reduced Fee – Working dog \$46.00

Reduced Fee – Eligible pensioner 50% of applicable fee

5.2 OUR ORDERS, LOCAL LAWS, COUNCIL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Local Law No. 1 – Community Amenity / Part 5 – Your Property, Trees and Animals

Clause 37 - Local Law regulating the numbers of dogs and/or cats that can be kept at a property

Procedures

Animal registration timeline	
1-Mar	approximate date renewals for animal registration will be posted to animal owners
1-Mar	information on local radio regarding animal registration renewals due on 10 April
1-Apr	information in Gannawarra News page of the Gannawarra Times regarding animal registration renewals due on 10 April
10-Apr	Renewals for animal registration due
18-Apr	Reminder letters to be generated including late payment fee
18-Apr	Late payment fee to be charged on animal registration renewal payments
10-May	Phone calls to follow up on un-renewed animal registration.
June	Infringements to be generated for 'Failure to renew registration' under <i>Domestic Animals Act 81/1994 S.10(2) - 2747</i>

Our current education/promotion activities

- Education of pet owners to continually check and update contact details at microchip registries
- Provision of Council animal registration application and link to online registration form to owner by vet clinic when an animal is microchipped
- Education and information provided to animal owners on an ad hoc basis

Our current compliance activities

- Registration and identification for domestic animals (dogs and cats)
- Registration renewal notices sent in March with follow up reminder notices sent during April
- Follow up with animal owners who fail to renew registration of their domestic animals
- Follow up on registration of animals adopted from Rehousing Organisations or purchased from domestic animal breeding businesses
- Follow up and correction of all information in Council's animal registration register
- Registration and identification of dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs
- Mandatory registration and microchipping of animals prior to release from pound
- Permanent identification number registration tags
- Investigation and compliance service

5.3 OUR PLAN

To increase the number of registered dogs and cats in the Municipality by 3 – 5%.

Objective 5.1 Increase in the number of animal registrations each year		
Activity	When	Evaluation
Targeted inspections of both urban and rural areas	As resources allow	Data analysed to show total number of animals identified as registered/unregistered and compliance after follow up
Return to home incentives for registered and microchipped pets found wandering for the first time.	Ongoing	To be assessed from impound numbers.

Objective 5.2 Education regarding awareness of requirement for Council registration		
Activity	When	Evaluation
Media releases - newspaper Facebook	January & July each year January & July each year	Record number of media releases Record number of Facebook posts
Links on Council website to AWV information	Ongoing	Maintain links on the Council website to the following: AWV, Dogs Cats Neighbours & you, and RSPCA Victoria.
Issue warnings prior to penalties so residents are unafraid to approach Council and ask information or assistance.	Permanent ongoing practice	Observe registration numbers and reduction in wandering pets.

6 NUISANCE ANIMALS

This section outlines programs, services and strategies which the Council intends to pursue in its municipal district to minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance.

6.1 CONTEXT AND CURRENT SITUATION

The most common complaints received by Council's Local Laws Department relate to roaming and/or stray dogs and cats with noise a significant second.

Nuisance categories (complaints)	2018	2019	2020	2021
Dog at large	108	128	67	93
Cat at large (cats impounded plus wildcats)	122	170	87	139
Animal noise/nuisance (dogs & cats)	76	83	73	57
Dog excrement	2	0	2	2

Our current education/promotion activities

- Use of Council's website to educate pet owners
- Education and information services provided, as resources and opportunity allow
- Education and information provided to increase community awareness of Council's on-leash policy
- Media and promotion regarding responsible pet ownership

Our current compliance activities

Current programs in place to minimise the incidence of nuisance animals include:

- Routine vehicle patrols across the municipality on a daily basis
- Operation of a domestic animal pound for impounded animals (capacity of eight dogs / three cats)
- Community education regarding responsible pet ownership
- Provision of cat cages for trapping nuisance cats (currently 40 traps owned by Council)
- Council trapping program for wildcats
- Barking dog noise log record sheets provided to complainants
- Respond to all nuisance complaints and follow up on compliance within 48 hours

6.2 OUR ORDERS, LOCAL LAWS, COUNCIL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Clause 39 - Adequate Fencing requiring private land to be fenced in a way to stop animals escaping.

6.3 OUR PLAN

Objective 6.1 Reduce number of cats at large		
Activity	When	Evaluation
Provision of cat traps to residents as required	Ongoing	Data re cat trap use collected in Shelter Manager program
Access grants to allow Council to provide financial assistance to residents for de-sexing of dogs and cats	Submit application to AWV by 27 April 2022 and ongoing when grants are available	Data collected in Synergy Soft Customer Request (SSCR) program

Objective 6.2 Educate community regarding wildcat population / reduce wildcat population		
Activity	When	Evaluation
Link on Council website to AWV information regarding wildcats / feral cats	Website to be updated by end September 2022	Information available on website
Media releases on the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cat traps available • Rules for cat trap use • Legislation about cats at large • Unowned cats 	Quarterly	Quantity and details of media releases are available from Council's Communications and Media Officer

Objective 6.3 Increase community awareness and understanding regarding on-leash and restricted areas for domestic animals.		
Activity	When	Evaluation
Media awareness	Twice yearly	Observed reduction in offences.
Maps showing off leash areas	September 2022	Council website updated to show locations

Objective 6.4 To reduce domestic animal excrement in public places and educate animal owners of the requirement to carry a litter device		
Activity	When	Evaluation
One on one education	Ongoing	Reduction in excrement complaints
Map of location of receptacles for excrement litter bags on Council website	December 2022	Website updated with map

7 Dog attacks

This section outlines programs, services and strategies which the Council intends to pursue in its municipal district to minimise the risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals.

Compliant with Section 68A(2)(c)(iii) and Section 68A(2)(a),(c)(i),(c)(ii),(d),(f) of the Act.

7.1 CONTEXT AND CURRENT SITUATION

Our current data

	2018	2019	2020	2021
No. of reported dog on animals attacks	8	9	10	8
No. of reported dog on people attacks	4	10	5	6
No. of reported dog on livestock attacks	8	6	5	4
TOTAL	20	25	20	18

Infringements issued	2018	2019	2020	2021
Non-serious injury caused by dog attack	2	0	0	0

Confinement of dogs is a priority because the instances of wandering dogs increases risk to other pets, humans and livestock, and consumes time and resources of Local Laws officers.

Often when a dog attack is reported, officers find that it is a recurrence of an offence that went unreported previously. Had initial attacks been reported, subsequent attacks may have been averted.

Education is still required to encourage community members to report dogs at large, dogs rushing and dog attacks of all types (minor or serious).

7.2 OUR ORDERS, LOCAL LAWS, COUNCIL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Local Law No. 1 – Community Amenity / Part 5 – Your Property, Trees and Animals

Clause 39 - Adequate Fencing

Local Law requiring Private Land to be fenced in a way that will prevent animals from straying or escaping

Council Policy No. 068 / Dogs & Cats – Designated Areas

Policy to:

- prohibit dogs from certain areas;
- prohibit cats from certain areas; and
- permit dogs in certain areas, but only on a leash.

Our current education/promotion activities

- Provision of education and information to community about responsible pet ownership
- Encourage dog de-sexing to assist in reducing the incidence of wandering animals

Our current compliance activities

Current programs in place to minimise the incidence of dog attacks include:

- Respond to notification of dog attack (immediate - including 24 hour emergency service)
- Investigation of reported attacks, and follow up on compliance

7.3 OUR PLAN

Objective 7.1	Awareness campaign for both property/stock owner and animal owner re: potential destruction of dog found in paddock with stock	
Activity	When	Evaluation
Media release (newspaper, Facebook and website)	February August	Record number of media releases

Objective 7.2	Education regarding responsible pet ownership with focus on dogs at large	
Activity	When	Evaluation
Media releases	ongoing	Record number of media releases Information placed onto website
Educate owners about liabilities from dogs wandering.	ongoing	Record number of media releases Information placed onto website

Objective 7.3	Obtain data from external sources regarding dog attacks	
Activity	When	Evaluation
Public awareness to inform owners of process to report attacks.	Ongoing	Increased information and reports received.

8 Dangerous, Menacing and Restricted breed dogs

This section outlines programs, services and strategies which the Council intends to pursue in its municipal district to effectively identify all dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs in that district and to ensure that those dogs are kept in compliance with this Act and the regulations. *Compliant with Section 68A(2)(c)(vii) and Section 68A(2)(a),(c)(i),(c)(ii),(d),(f) of the Act.*

8.1 CONTEXT AND CURRENT SITUATION

Our current data

There is currently one declared dangerous dog, no declared menacing dogs and no restricted breed dogs in the Gannawarra Shire.

Animal registration	2018	2019	2020	2021
No. of registered dogs	2063	2046	1923	2158
No. of registered declared dogs	2	2	1	1

8.2 OUR ORDERS, LOCAL LAWS, COUNCIL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs are controlled by the Act.

Our current education/promotion activities

- Education and information services provided, as resources and opportunity allow

Our current compliance activities

- Registration and identification of declared dangerous dogs, declared menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs including renewal.
- Ensure compliance with the requirements for keeping dangerous dogs
- Investigation and compliance
- All declared dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs to be listed on the Victorian Declared Dog Registry (VDDR)

8.3 OUR PLAN

To minimise the risks of dog attack to the community from declared and restricted breed dogs and to ensure that those dogs that are declared dangerous, menacing and those of restricted breed are kept in accordance with the legislation.

Objective 8.1	Increase Officer awareness of location of declared dangerous, declared menacing dogs or restricted breed dogs to improve safety when attending premises	
Activity	When	Evaluation
All locations where declared dangerous, declared menacing or restricted breed dogs are kept will be identified on Council's mapping system	September 2022 and ongoing Council's Data Analyst to update mapping system as required	Council's mapping system identifies properties where declared dangerous, declared menacing or restricted breed dogs are kept

Objective 8.2	Ensure that declared dangerous dogs, declared menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs kept in Gannawarra Shire are kept in compliance with the Act and relevant Regulations	
Activity	When	Evaluation
Regular inspections of properties where declared dangerous, declared menacing or restricted breed dogs are kept to ensure compliance with the Act and Regulations	Quarterly in February, April, July and October	Inspections entered to SSCR as a task and copy of inspection report saved as an attachment to this SSCR record.

9 Domestic Animal Businesses

This section outlines programs, services and strategies which the Council intends to pursue in its municipal district to ensure that people comply with this Act, the regulations and any related legislation. *Compliant with Section 68A(2)(c)(ii) and Section 68A(2)(a),(c)(i),(c)(ii),(d),(f) of the Act*

9.1 CONTEXT AND CURRENT SITUATION

Our current data

Types of Domestic Animal Business (DAB) include a Council pound, a dog and/or cat breeding business, a dog training establishment, a pet shop, an animal shelter, an establishment boarding dogs or cats or an establishment that is rearing dogs or cats.

Other than the Council Pound, Council currently has no registered DABs.

9.2 OUR ORDERS, LOCAL LAWS, COUNCIL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Clause 37 - Keeping Animals

Local Law regulating the numbers of dogs and/or cats that can be kept at a property

Our current education/promotion activities

- Supply and distribution of information related to DABs and the relevant codes of practice

Our current compliance activities

Council's programs/activities working with domestic animal breeding businesses include:

- Annual registration and renewal of Councils DAB permit
- Conduct regular audits of the Council pound facility to ensure compliance with regulations

9.3 OUR PLAN

To work in partnership with DABs to meet the requirements under the Act and approved Codes of Practice.

Objective 9.1 Identify unregistered DABs in the Gannawarra Shire		
Activity	When	Evaluation
Follow up on registration of possible DAB's identified	Ongoing	Identified DAB to be registered with Council

Objective 9.2 Ensure registered DABs are compliant with legislation		
Activity	When	Evaluation
Planning information to be provided to all applicants or interested parties to ensure that compliance with the Act and relevant codes are met when DABs are being established	As required	Quantity of Planning permits issued for Keeping of animals Annual permit renewals are sent to existing DAB in March each year for issue of permit by 10 April.

Objective 9.3 DAB information and application on Council website		
Activity	When	Evaluation
Update Council website to provide online application form	By end September 2022	Website contains current Council application form for DABs
Council website to contain current information available from AWV regarding DABs including a link to the Code of Practice for the Operation of Breeding and Rearing Businesses (2014) and Puppy farm legislation	By end September 2022 Ongoing	Website contains link to current information available from AWV regarding DABs

10 Other matters

This section provides for the review of any other matters related to the management of dogs and cats in the Council's municipal district that it thinks necessary.

Compliant with Section 68A(2)(e) of the Act.

10.1 CONTEXT AND CURRENT SITUATION

Relevant programs, strategies and services implemented or proposed by Council have been already detailed in previous sections of this Plan.

10.2 OUR POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Current policies and procedures

Council's Policy No. 068 Dogs & Cats – Designated Areas is an Order made under Section 26 of the Act. It requires dogs to be under effective control by means of a leash in a reserve or public place except where it is a Designated Area or a Prohibited Area. The Schedule to the Order lists the reserves and public places that are Designated or Prohibited Areas. The Policy is due for review in 2026.

Current compliance activities

An infringement for Dog/Cat Found in Prohibited Public Place can be issued for offences under section 26(1) of the Act relating to Council's Policy No. 068 Dogs & Cats – Designated Areas.

Offences under the Council Local Laws can result in the following infringements:

- Keeping Animals contrary to Local Law
- Keeping Animals without required accommodation
- Failure to provide adequate fencing
- Animal excrement remaining on Council land
- Failure to carry a suitable animal litter device

10.3 OUR PLAN

Objective 10.1	Information regarding emergency planning for domestic animals available to residents	
Activity	When	Evaluation
Council website to contain information about emergency planning for domestic animals	December 2022	Website updated to contain relevant information
Objective 10.2	To reduce community misunderstanding regarding Council Policy No.068 and provide clear information regarding off leash areas in the Gannawarra Shire	
Activity	When	Evaluation
Council Policy No.068 to be incorporated into the Council Local Laws - create new local law regarding designated areas for domestic animals (including maps)	Prior to sunset date of Local Law No. 1 – Community Amenity	Included in new local law adopted by Council
Objective 10.3	Council Local Laws to reflect changing community needs and include changes in relevant legislation.	
Activity	When	Evaluation
Monitor and amend Local Laws to ensure they are consistent with community needs and reflect changes in relevant legislation.	Ongoing	Local Laws are consistent with community needs Local Laws reflect changes in relevant legislation

11 Annual review of Plan and annual reporting

This section provides for the annual review of the Plan and annual reporting to provide assurance that the targets in the DAMP are being met.

Compliant with Section 68A (3)(a)(b)(c) of the Act

68A Councils to prepare domestic animal management plans

(3) Every Council must—

- (a) review its domestic animal management plan annually and, if appropriate, amend the plan
- (b) provide the Secretary with a copy of the plan and any amendments to the plan
- (c) publish an evaluation of its implementation of the plan in its annual report.

As required by DJPR, this DAM Plan will be reviewed annually and submitted to Council with any necessary amendments made. The amended version will then be forwarded to the Secretary of the DJPR as required under legislation.

A review of performance under the DAM Plan is required to be included in Council's Annual Report.

Measurements should relate to activities and evaluations in this Plan and should include educational programs, increased registration of domestic animals, reduction of animals at large, decreased numbers of dog attacks and increases in compliance and levels of community satisfaction as a measure of success.

It should be noted that if performance under the DAM Plan is not sufficient, further revision of the Action Plan and its methods may be required and should be recommended.

