



**City of Charles Sturt
Animal Management Plan
2021 - 2025**

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1. Vision

To support pet owners, to create an environment where people and pets integrate safely and harmoniously.

2. Executive Summary

This plan builds on the solid foundations established through the implementation of previous animal management plans to support our community in being responsible pet owners and continuing to enable an environment where people and pets integrate safely and harmoniously within the City of Charles Sturt community. Council's 2021-2025 plan sets the direction for the management of domestic companion animals, specifically dogs and cats, within our community over the next 5 years as required under the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 (the Act).

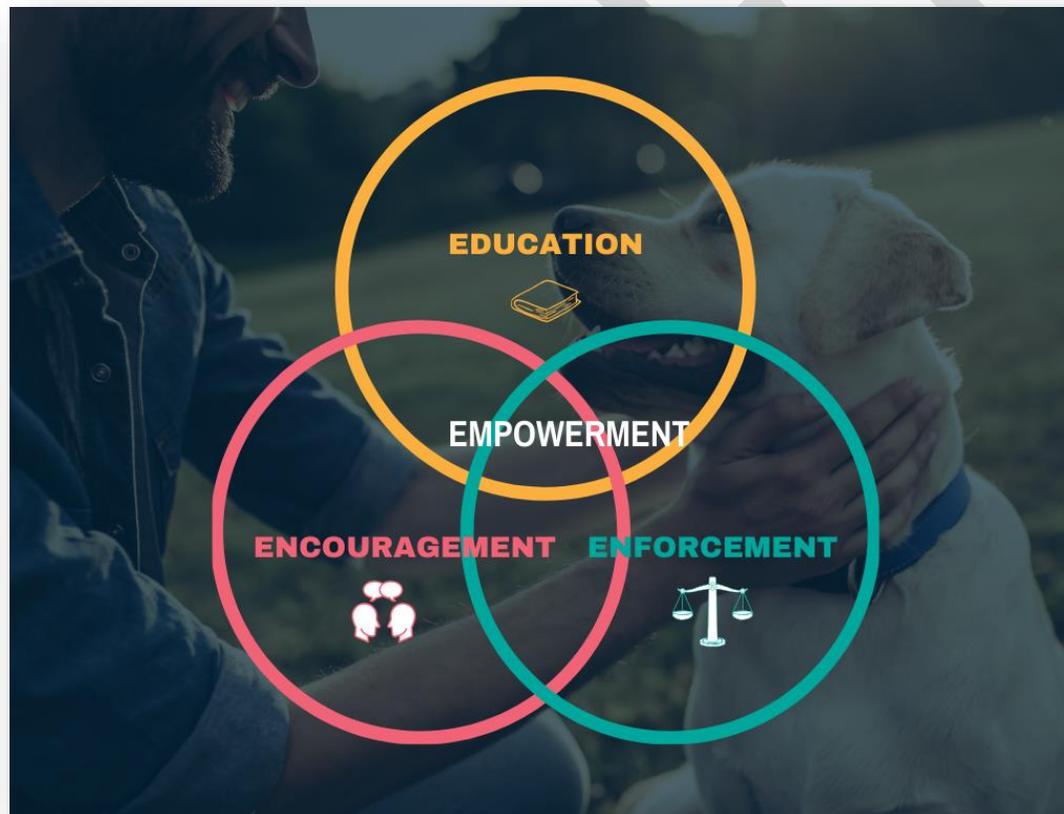
Education, Encouragement and Enforcement are the three strategic themes identified within the Plan. Education is a key priority in changing attitudes, behaviours and clarifying what is meant by the term 'responsible pet ownership' now and in the future. At the same time Council must be proactive in investigating and implementing preventative measures where possible by empowering our community to make sustainable and positive choices on responsible pet ownership which will result in an increase in compliance with legislation and policies.

This plan contains a wide range of actions to be undertaken by the Council under 3 key strategic theme areas and provides a sound basis and direction from which Council can plan and make future decisions over the plans 5-year lifespan. The plan will be reviewed annually to ensure its ongoing alignment to Council's broad strategic directions and emerging animal management trends.

3. Strategic Themes

This plan has adopted three strategic themes; namely education, encouragement and enforcement. The actions under each of these themes are to be enacted collectively and are focussed on the responsibilities of the pet owner, the community and Council.

The implementation of the 3 themes in synergy will result in an **empowered** community. In particular it is anticipated that the knowledge of pet owners will be enhanced to facilitate a responsible and proactive population cohort to make positive informed choices in respect to pet ownership, and more broadly, the awareness of our whole community on effective animal management practices will be improved. This in turn is anticipated to achieve our vision of people and pets integrating safely and harmoniously within the City of Charles Sturt community.



Education

What is it?

- The development of innovative, proactive and educational approaches to animal management.
- A deep understanding of the expectations as a pet owner.
- Promoting, engaging and advocating for responsible animal ownership within the community.

What does this look like?

- A variety of approaches to increase awareness of what responsible pet ownership means including providing support, guidance and resource materials to pet owners.
- An engaged community who connect with us via events, social media, our website or publications or direct contact with our team.
- The development of self-governance for dog behaviour management and regulations in shared community spaces.
- Happy and healthy pets
- An informed community on legislative requirements surrounding animal ownership and an increase in positive choices made surrounding domestic companion animal complaints including;
 - Persistent dog barking
 - Dog attack or harassment reports
 - Dogs wandering at large
 - Owned cat nuisance behaviour
 - Ensuring pet owners comply with the requirements set out in the Act.

How it can be achieved?

- Regular promotion of positive animal management strategies
- Engaging the community
- Continually seeking innovative and technological advancements that will assist in the achievement of our objective
- Working collaboratively with the community, surrounding Councils and State bodies
- Making relevant resources readily available to our community



Encouragement

What is it?

- Active engagement of pet owners and the broader community.
- Ongoing support and motivation of positive animal management strategies.
- Displaying empathy to individual circumstances.

What does this look like?

- A confident community with a clear understanding of pet ownership expectations.
- A mutual understanding of expectations and a strong trusting relationship

How it can be achieved?

- Influence and motivate our community to make positive choices in animal management and ownership.
- Working together and tailoring strategies to meet individual needs where possible.
- Providing pet owners with clear directions and time frames so they can comply with the Act and so that they are aware of best practice in terms of animal management techniques or where they can source further advice from trained professionals.



Enforcement

What is it?

- Administration of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 (the Act) and Council's By-Laws as they relate to pet ownership.

What does this look like?

- Professional enforcement of the requirements stipulated within relevant legislation in accordance with Councils Enforcement Policy.

How it can be achieved?

- Enforcement is the last resort in the overall guidance to positive pet ownership. It is achieved by the issuing of expiation notices, control orders and/ or prosecution proceedings where education and encouragement strategies have not resulted in a behaviour modification of the pet owner to comply with legislative obligations, or where the seriousness of an offence warrants enforcement as an appropriate first approach.



4. Legislative Context

Under Section 26A of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 (the Act), all councils in South Australia are required to develop and implement a plan which covers a 5-year period for the management of dogs and cats in their local area.

<p>26A—Plans of management relating to dogs and cats</p> <p><i>(1) Each council must, in accordance with this section, prepare a plan relating to the management of dogs and cats within its area.</i></p> <p><i>(2) A plan of management must include provisions for parks where dogs may be exercised off-leash and for parks where dogs must be under effective control by means of physical restraint, and may include provisions for parks where dogs are prohibited</i></p> <p><i>(3) A plan of management must cover 5 year periods and each plan must be prepared and presented to the Board at least 6 months before it is to take effect.</i></p> <p><i>(4) A plan of management must be approved by the Board before it takes effect.</i></p> <p><i>(5) A Council may, with the approval of the Board, amend a plan of management at any time during the course of the 5 year period covered by the plan.</i></p>	<p>Summary of additional Council responsibilities under the Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Part 4, section 33 (1) the Act – Ensure all dogs are registered from 3 months of age;• Section 9 of The Dog and Cat Management Regulations 2017 (the Regulations) – Ensure that all dogs are identified by an identification tag;• Section 26 of the Act – Council to maintain a register of dogs containing the information required by the Dog and Cat Management Board (The Board) (which may be kept in electronic form) and that is to be readily available for public inspection; and ensure that the Board is provided with information contained in the register as required by the Board from time to time;• <i>Section 26 (1) (b) of the Act –</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">Appoint a suitable person to be Registrar; andAppoint the equivalent of one full-time animal management officer or make other satisfactory arrangements for the exercise of the functions and powers of animal management officers; andMake satisfactory arrangements for the detention of dogs seized under the Act; andMake satisfactory arrangements for fulfilling other obligations under the Act, which include:• Section 43 of the Act – management and control for dogs found to be wandering at large;• The issuing of expiations where a person responsible for a dog has failed in their responsibilities under the Act and/or Regulations; including:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Investigation and management of barking (nuisance);Investigate chase, harass or attack complaints
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4.1 Action Plans and Strategies

Working with our community				
Strategic Themes	Community Plan Goal	Action	Key Performance Indicators and Time Frames	Responsibility
Education Encouragement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Liveability • Our Leadership • Our Environment • Our Community 	1.1.1 Council's Open Space and Recreation Portfolio will ensure that any request for dog parks are collaboratively considered in line with Charles Sturt Dog Park Guidelines.	Consultation on 100% of new dog parks developed or upgraded to ensure alignment with Charles Sturt Dog Park Guidelines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Space Planner • Project Officer Public Health and Safety
		1.1.2 Investigate the provision of new purpose-built dog parks across the City, considering the directions of the Open Space Strategy, community demand and access to other locations for dog exercise	Investigation undertaken as required.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team Leader Community Safety • Project Officer Public Health and Safety
		1.1.3 Review dog noise complaint procedures and investigate the use of technology and educational material to assist with concerns raised.	Updated barking dog complaint SOP developed – February 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Safety Officers
		1.1.4 Review and adapt our internal processes to ensure they are in line with any new Council By-laws identified for introduction - November 2021.	Internal processes and guidelines updated prior to implementation of new By-laws – November 2021	
		1.1.5 Develop education strategies to help make the community more aware of the limit on pet numbers allowable within residential properties.	Annual promotion of By-law requirements associated with acceptable pet numbers permissible within our City. Ongoing.	

Promotion and education of 'best' or 'recommended' animal management practices				
Strategic Themes	Community Plan Goal	Action	Key Performance Indicators	Responsibility
Education Encouragement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Liveability • Our Leadership • Our Environment • Our Economy • Our Community 	1.2.1 Continue to research 'best practice' methodology for dealing with animal management issues.	Annual reduction in overall animal management related complaints. Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team Leader Community Safety • Project Officer Public Health and Safety • Community Safety Officers
		1.2.2 Continue the Beach Education Officer position to educate the community on responsible animal management along our foreshore during the daylight savings period.	Annual decrease in the number of foreshore dog complaints received. Ongoing.	
		1.2.3 Effective use of statistics when making decisions and influence policy directions.	Relevant statistics used to drive projects and new initiatives. Ongoing.	
		1.2.4 Trial new initiatives focusing on educational approaches to animal management.	Best practice methodology identified and shared with Community Safety Officers and other Business Units of Council. Ongoing.	
		1.2.5 Continue to share Council's existing and newly developed educational material at veterinary clinics, pet shops, libraries and community centres and via social media.	Ongoing review of promotional material including Dog and Cat Management Board material. Ongoing.	

		<p>1.2.6 Share relevant information including the promotion of stakeholder social and print media and participation in relevant community events.</p>	<p>Links on Council’s website and other appropriate websites, including the Dog and Cat Management Board, Animal Welfare League, Woodville Community Dog Training Centre and force free dog training organisations. Continue to share posts on our Pets of Charles Sturt Facebook page. Ongoing.</p>	
		<p>1.2.7 All Community Safety staff to take ownership of an education, encouragement and enforcement approach to their day to day interactions within the community.</p>	<p>Approach included within all new staff induction and reinforced within regular Community Safety Officer meetings. Ongoing.</p>	
		<p>1.2.8 Work across divisions of Council and neighbouring Council’s to collaboratively address animal management issues.</p>	<p>Look for opportunities for collaborative work between neighbouring Councils. Ongoing.</p>	
		<p>1.2.9 Liaise with other Local Government Authorities to share resources related to “Animal Promotional” Campaigns.</p>	<p>Look for opportunities for promotion within Local Government. Ongoing.</p>	

To increase public safety through the reduction of public and environmental nuisance caused by owned dogs and cats

Strategic Themes	Community Plan Goals	Action	Key Performance Indicators	Responsibility
<p>Education Encouragement Enforcement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Liveability • Our Leadership • Our Environment • Our Economy • Our Community 	<p>1.3.1 Continue the active promotion of “dogs on leash on streets, roads and footpath” as stated within the Act.</p>	<p>Annual Reduction of number of dogs wandering at large relative to dog population.</p> <p>Ongoing. Review Annually.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team Leader Community Safety • Project Officer Public Health and Safety • Community Safety Officers
		<p>1.3.2 Trial new innovative strategies for dogs that require a short-term hold as a result of being located wandering at large, to increase local reclaim opportunities.</p> <p>Explore and implement a long-term solution for 72 dog impound holds, focussing on effective management of financial costs and customer centricity.</p>	<p>Annual increase in dog reclaiming rates within the first 8 hours of hold</p> <p>Long term solution scoped and implemented where feasible (collaboration project)</p>	
		<p>1.3.3 Explore ways to reduce the instances of dog attacks/harassments.</p>	<p>Annual Reduction in dog attacks relative to dog population increase.</p> <p>Ongoing. Review Annually.</p>	
		<p>1.3.4 Investigate the option of creating a ‘Dog Attack Reporting’ pack to assist the victims in reporting the correct information in the instance where a dog attack may have occurred – June 2021.</p>	<p>Appropriate action is taken in response to Dog Attack reports including all incidents are captured in Dogs and Cats Online and Control Orders are issued where appropriate.</p> <p>Incidents are reported on across the state annually by the Board.</p>	

		1.3.5 Look at ways to provide further clarification on the meaning of “effective control”.	Reduction of reports of dogs not being under “effective control” . Ongoing.	
		1.3.6 Continue to work with universities and research facilities to implement best practice strategies to animal management.	Partnerships developed and strategies implemented.	
		1.3.7 Investigate partnering and promoting with Force Free training organisations Dog safety program for school aged children e.g. Canine Interaction Dog Stars.	Training program or resources created or sourced for School aged children.	

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Working on 'us'				
Strategic Themes	Community Plan Goals	Action	Key Performance Indicators	Responsibility
Education Encouragement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Leadership • Our Community 	1.5.1 Community Safety Officers to attend Community, Council and Conference events where possible for ongoing professional development and awareness of contemporary animal management practices.	Officers attend at least one event annually where relevant.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team Leader Community Safety • Project Officer Public Health and Safety • Community Safety Officers
		1.5.2 Increase involvement with professional networks.	Network/relationships established. Ongoing.	
		1.5.3 Foster an environment whereby pet owners are comfortable in approaching Community Safety Officer's for education and general advice.	Active Community Safety Officer promotion undertaken to clarify the officer's role and community image. Ongoing.	
		1.5.4 Actively Promote Community Safety Officers and their role.		
		1.5.5 Customer Contact Staff training on procedures, standard responses and educational material, recognition of opportunities to reach dog and cat owners and transferring accurate information.	Customer Contact Officer induction includes partnering with Community Safety and ongoing opportunities for training and development recognised and implemented Regular update of the customer contact knowledge base system. Ongoing.	
		1.5.6 Identify training needs through individual staff training plans.	Individual training needs identified and included for individual future planning. Ongoing.	

		1.5.7 Participation from Community Safety Officers taking ownership and involvement in the implementation and monitoring of identified actions within this plan.	Community Safety Officers actively consulted and taking ownership in identified actions in the plan. Ongoing.	
		1.5.8 Continue to focus on customer experience training for all Community Safety Officer's.	Ongoing customer experience training offered and included within individual training plans.	
		1.5.9 Encourage mediation skill development for all Officers.	SOP's reviewed and updated Annually.	
		1.5.10 Council Officers to develop Emergency Management Protocol for animal management to be utilised on Emergency Management situations.	Emergency Management Protocol for animal management developed. June 2022	

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To have healthy active pets and owners in our City				
Strategic Themes	Community Plan Goals	Action	Key Performance Indicators	Responsibility
Education Encouragement Enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Liveability • Our Leadership • Our Environment • Our Economy • Our Community 	2.1.1 Actively promote the benefits of regular vet visits for pets.	Collaborative promotion established with local vets. 2021.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team Leader Community Safety • Project Officer Public Health and Safety • Community Safety Officers
		2.1.2 Promote dog and cat nutrition through Council social media channels, including the Pets of Charles Sturt Facebook page.	Active promotion undertaken through Council social media channels. Ongoing.	
		2.1.3 Promote the benefits of exercise for both dogs and their owner.	Active promotion undertaken through Council social media channels. Ongoing.	
		2.1.4 Continue the delivery of free 'Responsible Pet Owner' information sessions, to cover issues like prevention versus cure.	Implement one responsible pet owner information session annually.	
		2.1.5 Encourage and promote the use of public facilities suitable for dogs i.e. shared paths/dog parks/foreshore.	Actively encouraged through Charles Sturt dedicated animal management Facebook page "Pets of Charles Sturt". Ongoing.	
		2.1.6 Increase awareness of known fireworks and thunderstorm events to dog owners and encourage dogs to be confined inside during these events.	Notification sent through Charles Sturt dedicated animal management Facebook page "Pets of Charles Sturt" and direct SMS notification where appropriate to surrounding dog owners. As required.	

		2.1.7 Build into Community Safety Officer's work procedures all possible options for attempting to return wandering dogs back to their owners before they are impounded.	Procedures updated. 2022.	
		2.1.8 Promote the consequences of dogs wandering at large.	Active promotion undertaken through all Council media channels.	

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Maximise desexing, microchipping and registration requirements mandated within the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995

Strategic Themes	Community Plan Goals	Action	Key Performance Indicators	Responsibility
<p>Education Encouragement Enforcement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Liveability • Our Leadership • Our Economy • Our Community 	<p>Desexing and Microchipping</p>	<p>At least bi-annual educational campaign implemented on desexing/microchipping requirement. Twice per Financial Year.</p> <p>Annual education, encouragement and enforcement campaigns following up dogs/cats not meeting desexing/microchip requirements of the Act.</p> <p>Annual increase in % of desexed and microchipped dogs and cats.</p> <p>Annual increase in the number of dogs compliant with the desexing and microchipping requirement.</p> <p>Decrease in the number of animal management related complaints received.</p> <p>Implement one educational microchipping/ registration day annually (ie. Community Doggy Day Event)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team Leader Community Safety • Project Officer Public Health and Safety • Community Safety Officers
		<p>2.2.1 Encourage desexing and microchipping through active education, encouragement and enforcement activities.</p>		
		<p>2.2.2 Promote the welfare benefits of desexing for dogs and cats in the community.</p>		
		<p>2.2.3 Promote low cost desexing and microchipping.</p>		
		<p>Registration and Identification</p>		
		<p>2.2.4 Provide free dog registration for the first year for all dogs obtained from authorised charity organisations.</p>		
<p>2.2.5 Obtain maximum registration and identification, re-uniting pets to owners where possible.</p>				

		2.2.6 Promote Dogs and Cats Online as a convenient way to register dogs and cats easily 24/7 via any smart electronic device.	Annual increase in number of payments received online for dog registration renewals. Ongoing.
		2.2.7 Investigate incentives (non-financial) for dog registration payments made prior to the due date with the intention of providing an added incentive to re-register.	Annual increase in the number of dogs re-registered by the due date. Ongoing.
		2.2.8 Identify suburbs where compliance relating to registration, desexing and microchipping is low and implement targeted approach to increasing compliance within these areas.	Annual increase in desexing and microchipping compliance.
		2.2.9 Encourage keeping cats inside at night, desexing and identification and increase the awareness of the impacts of cat ownership on the community. Continuously monitor and provide input into the proposal of a State-wide model cat by law aimed at night cat confinement.	Annual decrease in the number of cat complaints received relating to owned cats. Ongoing.
		2.2.10 Continue dog registration follow up survey and doorknock programs to maximise dog registration and assist with maintaining accurate data.	Dog registration door knock program implemented annually
		2.2.11 Continue to deliver a “pensioner assistance program” to assist pensioners to maximise opportunities to enable them to receive relevant concessions for their dog including assisting with financial hardship where identified.	Annual increase in the number of dogs re-registered by pensioners. Ongoing.
		2.2.12 Promote lawful requirement of dog and cat identification.	Annual increase in microchipping compliance.

Achieve happy dogs through dog socialisation and ethical 'force-free' training

Strategic Themes	Community Plan Goals	Action	Key Performance Indicators	Responsibility
<p>Education Encouragement Enforcement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Liveability • Our Leadership • Our Economy • Our Community 	<p>2.3.1 Promote RSCPA encouraged 'Force- Free' dog training methods.</p>	<p>Annual increase in % of trained dogs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team Leader Community Safety
		<p>2.3.2 Support and promote Force-Free community dog training organisations.</p>	<p>Through promoting force-free only training events and incorporating Force-Free only training organisations within our Dog Community Education Events.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Officer Public Health and Safety
		<p>2.3.3 Continue to work proactively with the Woodville Dog Training Club and other partnerships to further their capacity to deliver services to the residents of Charles Sturt such as Dog Training Sessions.</p>	<p>Woodville Dog Training Club continues to achieve an active membership.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Safety Officers
		<p>2.3.4 Continue to deliver a "pensioner assistance program" that assists pensioners and low-income owners to receive concessions for force-free dog training.</p>	<p>Program maintained and effectively administered. Ongoing.</p> <p>Increase in the number of successfully completed force-free dog training courses by dogs owned by Pensioners.</p>	
		<p>2.3.5 Continue to deliver the City of Charles Sturt's annual Doggy Day at the Beach and Doggy Day on the Green community events to further promote responsible and ethical dog ownership.</p>	<p>Two events delivered annually</p>	
		<p>2.3.6 Continue the partnership between Council's Community Safety and Community Care Departments to deliver the Companion Animal Project which provides senior members</p>	<p>Program continued on an ongoing basis.</p>	

		of our community the option of volunteer assistance with their pets.	Number of participants increases annually (both volunteers and pet owners).	
		2.3.7 Promote Council run events as “pet friendly” where appropriate.	Promote the inclusion of pet friendly events across the Council as appropriate.	
		2.3.8 Investigate partnering with local Force-Free dog training providers to utilise Council reserves to conduct classes at discounted rates to residents – Council assistance with commercial permits and related permit fees.	Partnering opportunities investigated and implemented if appropriate.	
		2.3.9 Continue to deliver free dog training workshops as part of the annual Doggy Day on the Green event.	Workshops delivered annually.	

Educate and encourage responsible pet ownership.

Strategic Themes	Community Plan Goals	Action	Key Performance Indicators	Responsibility
<p>Education Encouragement Enforcement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Liveability • Our Leadership • Our Environment • Our Economy • Our Community 	<p>3.1.1 Continue striving towards a proactive responsible pet ownership culture using “education, encouragement and enforcement” principals.</p>	<p>Incorporated within team meetings, planning days and relevant strategic documents.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team Leader Community Safety
		<p>3.1.2 Look for opportunities to participate with other agencies and internal departments to educate and encourage responsible pet ownership.</p>	<p>Partner with one agency a year.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Officer Public Health and Safety
		<p>3.1.3 Promote the benefit of registration and identification to re-unite pets to owners.</p>	<p>Monitor number of dogs registered in Dogs and Cats Online on an Annual basis.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Safety Officers
		<p>3.1.4 Recognise and promote the large percentage of responsible pet owners within our community.</p>	<p>Actively promoted through competitions and engagement via Charles Sturt dedicated animal management Facebook page “Pets of Charles Sturt”. Ongoing.</p>	
		<p>3.1.5 Target events to promote responsible pet ownership including dog registration, force free dog training, etc..</p>	<p>Look for opportunities to attend any appropriate local events. As required</p>	
		<p>3.1.6 Council to utilise the following methods to encourage and educate on responsible pet ownership - ongoing;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Corporate brochures, ○ Website, ○ Social Media – Pets of Charles Sturt Facebook page 	<p>Annual increase in compliance relating to dog ownership</p>	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Printed information kits provided upon request where online options are not available/ suitable ○ Council’s newsletter ‘Kaleidoscope’ ○ Customer Contact Centre, ○ Community Centres & Libraries, ○ Promotional banners, magnets and mascots. 		
		3.1.8 Investigate an appropriate platform for developing a one stop location for all animal management related educational material i.e. Pets of Charles Sturt Facebook page and/or enhanced content on Council’s website.	Identified audit conducted	
		3.1.9 Periodically review Council’s policies concerning all domestic animals in our community.	Review completed annually	
		3.1.10 Audit of all education material to ensure information is in line with revised Council By-Laws.	Review completed prior to implementation of revised By-Laws. – November 2021	
		3.1.11 Review how “new owner kits” are requested and add an option for a request for Animal Management Kits to be sent at the same time. Implement the distribution of this information electronically as a priority prior to mailing hard copy resources to minimise the impact on the environment.	Review completed and procedure updated if identified as required. – June 2021	
		3.1.12 Educate and encourage responsible cat ownership through various methods, including social media, Council’s Kaleidoscope magazine, website and community events–.	Education campaign implemented. Ongoing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Project Officer Public Health and Safety
		3.1.13 Encourage use of cat runs as a means of containing cats on private property.	Specific cat education campaign implemented.,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Community Safety Officers

Highlight the potential impacts of domestic animals on natural resources

Strategic Themes	Community Plan Goals	Action	Key Performance Indicators	Responsibility
<p>Education Encouragement Enforcement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Liveability • Our Leadership • Our Environment • Our Economy • Our Community 	<p>3.2.1 Continue to aid and support Animal Management Volunteers with refilling dog waste dispensers.</p>	<p>Program continued. Ongoing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team Leader Community Safety • Project Officer Public Health and Safety • Community Safety Officers
		<p>3.2.2 Continue to promote individual packs of degradable dog waste bags and ‘pooch pouches’ for sale to the public and promote owner responsibility.</p>	<p>Continue the sale of the packs at Civic Centre front counter and introduce to sale of the pack to libraries where possible. Ongoing.</p>	
		<p>3.2.3 Promote the Animal Management Volunteers role in the community.</p>	<p>Ongoing active promotion via Councils media and dedicated animal management events. Ongoing.</p>	
		<p>3.2.4 Continue to educate dog owners on the impact of dog waste on the environment.</p>	<p>Incorporated within animal management educational material and dedicated Facebook page “Pets of Charles Sturt” a dedicated social media campaign. Ongoing but focus in November each year.</p>	
		<p>3.2.5 Investigate innovative ways of educating dog owners on their responsibility to pick up after their dog and the carrying of a dog waste bag to minimise reliance on Council’s dog waste dispensers.</p>	<p>Investigate creative and innovative ways to encourage compliance and implement the new strategy. Ongoing.</p>	
		<p>3.2.6 Implement Education, Encouragement, Enforcement program and target areas of concern associated to ineffective management of dog waste collection.</p>	<p>Strategy developed & implemented. Ongoing.</p>	

		3.2.7 Highlight the environmental impact of feeding un-owned cats and allowing cats to roam.	Through Council media and dedicated Facebook page "Pets of Charles Sturt" – a dedicated social media campaign. Ongoing.	
		3.2.8 Encourage cats to be kept inside at night and within the owners' property.	Through Council media and dedicated Facebook page "Pets of Charles Sturt" – a dedicated social media campaign. Ongoing.	

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4.2 Risk Management

Risk management is an intrinsic factor in Council operations and has also been identified by the Dog and Cat Management Board as an important issue. The following commitment is given over the life of this plan:

- To undertake risk management analysis where appropriate and address highest risks.
- The continual development and training of Officers to ensure appropriate investigation and action is facilitated.

4.3 Service Levels

Council's Animal Management area is part of the Community Safety department of the Public Health & Safety Portfolio within the City Services Division of the City of Charles Sturt. The Council's Customer Contact Team handles general enquiries during office hours and our Afterhours service contractor manages all other out of office enquiries. The current staffing levels include:



On road after hours coverage is as follows:

Monday to Friday _____ 5pm to 10:30pm

Saturday _____ 9am to 10:30pm

Sundays and public holidays _____ 8am to 8pm

Two officers work on late shift during the warmer months and one during winter to provide adequate coverage of the City and response to emergency matters. An authorised officer is available 24 hours for emergencies.

4.4 Other Urban Animals - Roosters, chickens, birds, bees and other animals

While Council predominately manages dog and cat matters within the community, from time to time it also receives complaints relating to 'other animals' within our City. All animal owners are required to keep animals in such a way as not to cause a nuisance or a hazard. The Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act identifies an offence for causing a local nuisance, with a nuisance including (amongst other things) being defined as having an adverse effective on an amenity value of an area that is caused by animals, whether dead or alive, that does or is likely to unreasonably interfere with the enjoyment of area. Examples of some circumstances could include:

- Keeping an excessive number of insects, birds or other animals
- Keeping bees in close proximity to another property
- Keeping animals so as to generate excessive noise, dust or odours, or to attract pests or vermin
- Failing to deal with a European wasp nest

Owners who keep animals also have responsibilities under the South Australian Public Health Act 2011 to ensure the property is kept in a clean and in a sanitary condition and not causing a risk to human health. Council's Environmental Health Officers can issue Notices where the keeping of animals is causing a risk to public health.

Council By-Law No. 6 – Domestic Livestock Management

This By-Law outlines the management, limits and prescribed standards for the keeping of livestock (if approved by Development) and Poultry and Pigeons.

Under Schedule 3 of the Development Regulations 1993, the keeping of domestic animals is not considered as development. However, the keeping of domestic animals for commercial purposes and the keeping of non-domestic animals (i.e. horses, sheep, cattle, pigs, goats or other livestock) requires a development application to Council. Public consultation may be sought, taking into consideration any impacts which the proposed development may have beyond the boundaries of a property. Consideration is given to representations received under the public consultation process in determining the appropriateness of the application by Council prior to making a decision. Approval of the application may as a result be subject to conditions determined by Council, under the development process.

Where an application is not approved by Council the applicant has the right of appeal to the Environment, Resources and Development Court. It should be noted that Council is generally reluctant to grant approval for the keeping of non-domestic animals and commercial breeders within metropolitan residential areas.

Horse stables within the City of Charles Sturt maintain their existing use rights, however the following applies:

Council By-Law No.3 – Local Government Land

A person must not, without permission, on any local government land:

4.24 Horse and Cattle

Ride, lead, herd, exercise or drive any horse, cattle or sheep, except where the Council has set aside a track or other area for use by or in connection with the animal of that kind;

"Horses on the Foreshore" policy requires owners and trainers of horses to apply for a permit to take their horse onto the foreshore.

Vermin

The City of Charles Sturt provides a number of services to reduce the prevalence of vermin on private and public land. Council maintains a pest control contract to manage vermin and other pests on Council land. The provisions of limited free rat bait is available to assist our residents where they are in hardship with the control of vermin on their properties. Council's Environmental Health Officers also assist by performing site inspections and sending general educational material in response to complaints of rats and insanity conditions.

European Wasps

Council provides a free service to residents where they identify a European wasp nest of their property. The resident simply contacts Council's Customer Contact Team, and once the staff are confident the wasp is a European species, Council's contractor eradicates the nest generally within 2 business days.

4.5 Community Consultation

The general content and direction of this Animal Management Plan has not altered significantly from the 2016 - 2020 Urban Animal Management Plan, maintaining a mix of 'education, encouragement and enforcement' activities. A draft of the Plan will be provided to Elected Members, key stakeholders and the broad community to provide feedback via community consultation strategies to then be considered and incorporated where appropriate into the final Animal Management Plan 2021-2025.

4.6 Policy Content & Strategic Drivers

This Strategic Animal Management Plan is in line with Council's Strategic Drivers and Community Plan and contributes to a community which is socially, environmentally and economically sustainable in the long term by focussing on responsible animal ownership. The Plan clearly outlines the direction to be pursued by Council as well as more specific goals and key actions regarding animal management.

The development and implementation of the Animal Management Plan is an integral part of the Community Safety Team's Business Plan, which identifies the broader responsibilities and strategies of the entire Department and the organisation. This Plan highlights the team's key role to ensure statutory adherence with the Dog and Cat Management Act and to encourage and educate pet owners to be responsible, setting a new direction for the management of pets in our community with increased emphasis on responsible ownership.

Other Council Policies and local laws which impact on the area of animal management are:

- [Council's By-Laws Register](#)
- [Council's Enforcement Policy](#)
- [Council's Expiation Notice Review Policy](#)
- [Council's Public Consultation Policy](#)

These policies and Bylaws should be read in conjunction with this document

5. Implementation and Strategies

5.1 Reporting Structure

Performance on achievement of the strategies and key performance indicators set in this Plan will be reported quarterly to Council via End of Quarter Reports and a summary report will be developed at the completion of the life of this Plan.

5.2 Action Plan

An annual action plan will be developed and incorporated with the broader Community Safety Business Plan. Actions from within the Animal Management Plan will be selected based on corporate strategies, community requirements and emerging trends, however a commitment is provided that each action will be assessed and implemented where applicable throughout the Plans 5-year life.

5.3 Resources

The funding to implement the actions identified within this Plan, identifying again the Plan is a statutory requirement under the Dog and Cat Management Act, will be sourced via Councils' Annual Business Plan and Budget process.

Section 26(3) of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 requires that *"money received by a Council under this Act must be expended in the administration or enforcement of the provisions of this Act relating to dogs and cats"*.

Council's funding sources to effectively administer the Act is derived from four principal sources, namely new and renewal dog registration income, expiation fees, court imposed fines for breaches of the Act and general rate revenue. Dog registration fees and expiation fees are applied by Regulations under the Act, whilst fines are applied as a result of prosecution outcomes.

5.4 Partnerships

To achieve optimum outcomes, partnerships with existing stakeholders within the community are valued and will be maintained and pursued where possible.

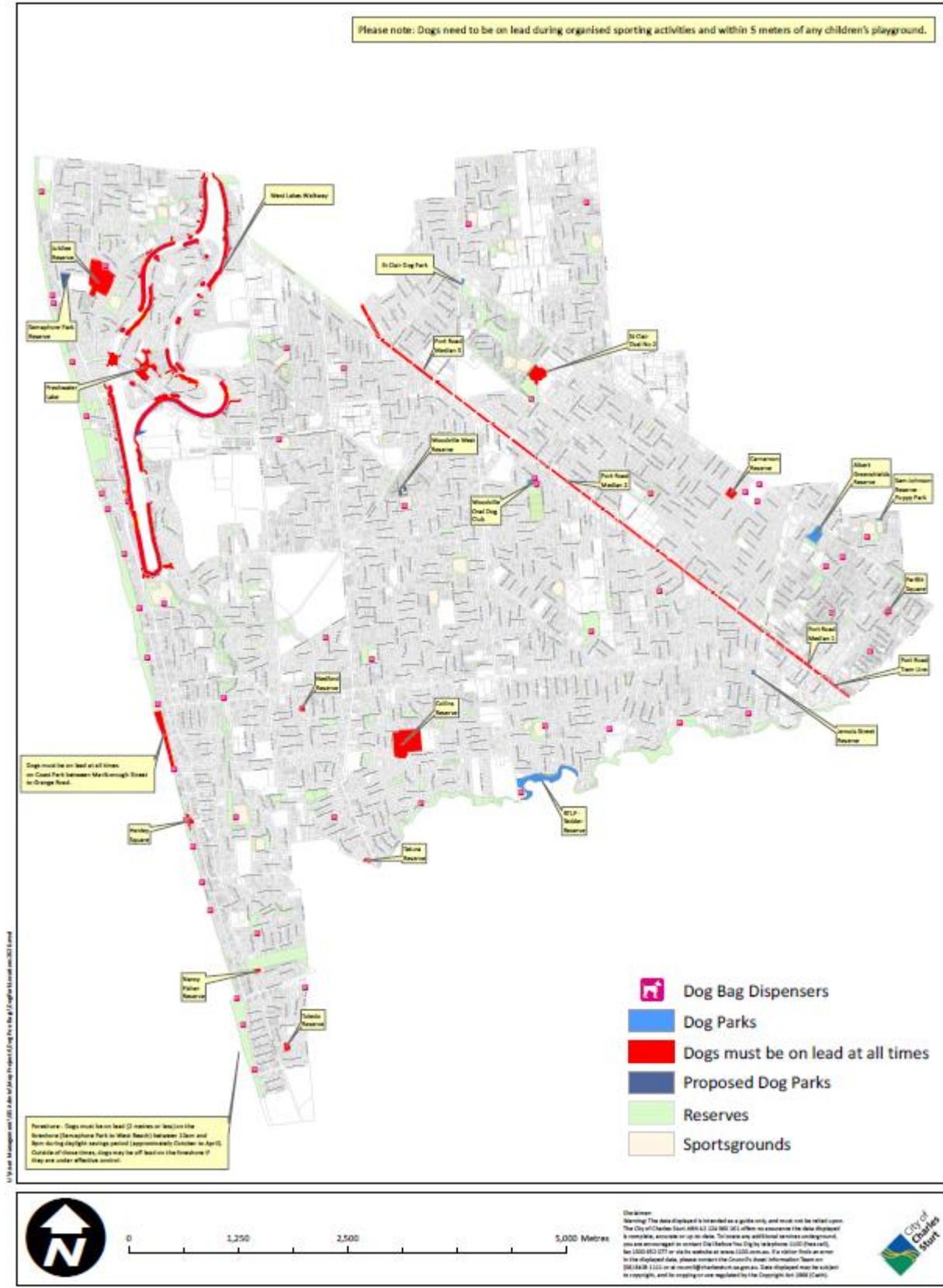
Stakeholder groups can make a significant contribution to the success of Council's aims and objectives within this Plan and we will continue to work with and assist them to grow and develop.

6. Dog on and off leash areas in Charles Sturt

Dog Park and Bag Dispenser Locations

Date: 23/06/2020

Please note: Dogs need to be on lead during organised sporting activities and within 5 meters of any children's playground.



Off Leash

In the City of Charles Sturt, dogs are allowed to be off leash but under effective control (by means of physical restraint; or by command, the dog being in close proximity to the person and the person being able to see the dog at all times) in most parks, gardens and reserves.

Dogs on Leash Areas within the City of Charles Sturt

Currently fourteen public parks, gardens and reserves in the City of Charles Sturt have been designated as **on leash** areas. They are:

- **Collins Reserve**, Valetta Road Fulham Gardens
- **Carnarvon Reserve**, Kingsley Avenue West Croydon
- **Nedford Reserve**, Nedford Crescent Fulham Gardens
- **Jubilee Park**, Bartley Terrace West Lakes Shore (during organised sporting activities)
- **Parfitt Square**, Drayton Street Brompton
- **Nancy Fischer Reserve**, Hurcombe Street West Beach
- **Tatura Crescent Reserve**, Tatura Crescent Fulham Gardens
- **West Lakes walking path** (walkway abutting lake)
- **Port Road median strip area**
- **Freshwater Lake** duck pond, West Lakes Boulevard West Lakes
- **Toledo Reserve**, Toledo Avenue West Beach
- **Henley Square**, Henley Square
- **Coast Park (Marlborough Street to Grange Road)**
- **St Clair Oval 2**, Woodville Road Woodville [Map of St Clair Ovals](#)