



Tatiara
the good country

TATIARA DISTRICT COUNCIL

Animal Management Plan

2022 – 2027



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Animal Management Plan has been reviewed and amended by the Tatiara District Council after consultation with the Dog and Cat Management Board. A plan must be approved by the Board before it can take effect, as required by the Act.

Tatiara District Council recognises the importance of developing and implementing services that maximize the social, economic, residential, and environmental benefits to the people of the district.

Understanding both animal and human behaviour is essential, as it is recognized there is a growing recognition law enforcement will not, in isolation result in long term, voluntary changes of behaviour in animal management. It is necessary for Councils to take a strategic approach to managing, enforcing and harnessing the knowledge of animal and human behaviour of both pet and non-pet owners in the community.

The 2022-2027 Animal Management Plan identifies strategies and actions to implement aims and objectives for animal management and create an environment which encourages responsible pet ownership, where people and pets integrate safely and harmoniously within the district.

The Plan also aims to:

- Encourage responsible dog and cat ownership.
- Reduce public and environmental nuisance caused by dogs and cats.
- Promote the effective management of dogs and cats, whilst focusing on the need to educate the community in respect of the law relating to dogs and cats.
- Harness the benefits of dog and cat ownership and ensure that the expenditure of registration fees addresses dog and cat management issues.

VISION STATEMENT

Promote responsible pet ownership in the region while minimising the adverse effects, recognising the differing needs of non-pet owners in the general community and protecting the environment.

BACKGROUND

In 2004 significant changes to the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 were implemented and as part of these legislative provisions, Councils were required to develop and maintain Animal Management Plans for the management of dogs and cats within the community.

Council at its meeting held on 13 June 2006, adopted its first Animal Management Plan 2006 - 2011 which was prepared after consultation with the other councils in our region. ie., Wattle Range Council, Naracoorte Lucindale Council, District Council of Grant, City of Mount Gambier, District Council of Southern Mallee, District Council of Robe, District Council of Kingston, and Coorong District Council.

A review of this plan was completed in early 2015 to determine the outcomes achieved. A further review has been recently undertaken and a report with recommended amendments presented to Council for consideration adoption in August 2021.

Council considered the current Plan at the September 2021 Council meeting and resolved to forward the draft Animal Management Plan 2022 – 27 to the Dog and Cat Management Board for their approval.

At the last review in 2018 the main changes were:

- Microchipping – introducing the requirement for all dogs and cats over three months of age to be microchipped.
- Desexing – introducing the requirement for all new generations of dogs and cats over six months of age to be desexed.
- Breeders – introducing a requirement for anyone who breeds dogs and cats for sale, to register as a breeder with the Dog and Cat Management Board.
- Sellers – introducing a requirement for certain information to be provided to the buyer.
- Council Powers – Councils to have greater powers to administer and enforce the Act, including increases in some expiations and penalties.
- Assistance Dogs – changes to who can accredit assistance dogs.

THE LAW/GUIDELINES

The Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 (the Act) and Dog and Cat Management Regulations 2017 provides the legislative framework in relation to the management of dogs and cats within the community.

The Council delegates powers under the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 to the Chief Executive Officer who in-turn, with the approval of Council, sub-delegates these powers to relevant Officers within the organisation.

The General Inspector reports directly to the Director of Development and Environmental Services.

Enforcement Provisions:

- The Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 requires the Council to enforce the provisions of the Act in the area of the Council. The approach of the Council in the first instance will be to encourage people to accept their responsibilities of pet ownership and comply with the provisions of the Act voluntarily.
- However, the community has an expectation that public places are monitored to ensure the provisions of the Act are complied with and appropriately trained and authorised persons are available to respond to the concerns of the community and serious breaches of the Act and Council By-Laws.
- Council will allocate appropriate resources to provide after hour services to meet the community's expectations, however after hour's services will only be provided for emergency situations at the discretion of the Authorised Officer.
- The Director of Community and Corporate Services is appointed as the Registrar and Council employs one full time General Inspector.

- Council will respond to calls/complaints from members of the public regarding possible non-compliance with the provisions of the Act and Council By-Laws.

REVENUE

Pursuant to Section 25 of the Act the Dog and Cat Management Board administer the Dog and Cat Management Fund. Tatiara District Council is required to contribute 12% of revenue raised through dog registration fees to the Dog and Cat Management Board.

Council annually determines its proposed dog fees and then advises the Dog and Cat Management Board of the proposed fee structure. The fee structure is available within Council's Fees and Charges Register which is on Council's Website.

OBJECTIVES

- 1 Increase public safety and provide effective management, information and a suitable environment for dogs and cats within the community**
 - Operate in accordance with the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 and Regulations.
 - Ensure Council policies and By-laws concerning dog and cats are adequate.
 - Provide specific areas where dogs must be 'on leash' and 'prohibited' zones such as Don Moseley and Tolmer Parks.
 - Ensure that there is adequate signage where there are 'prohibited zones'
 - Manage nuisance caused by barking and wandering.
 - Reduce the number of dog attacks and harassment on humans and livestock through education and encourage the reporting of all dog attacks.
 - Reduce the number of dogs wandering at large to minimise public nuisance and increase public safety.
 - Continue to foster relationships, attend regional meetings, and consult with other stakeholders to share expertise and support.
 - Investigate new initiatives and alternative approaches to animal management.
 - Support the concept of humane trapping of feral & non-owned cats
- 2 Promote and encourage responsible dog and cat ownership**
 - Provide community education and information relating to responsible pet ownership.
 - Support and encourage pet obedience and socialisation programs.
 - Continue to promote the requirement that all dogs and cats (including current generations) must be microchipped.
 - Promote the requirement that all new generations of dogs and cats (born from 1 July 2018) must be desexed.
 - Obtain maximum registration and identification of pets to facilitate re-uniting of pets with owners where possible.
 - Where appropriate encourage the selection of a pet to suit lifestyle circumstances and appropriate provisions for the keeping of pets.
 - Promote the welfare of dogs and cats in the community.

- Encourage the keeping of cats inside at night, confined to premises during the day, desexing and identification and increase the awareness of the impacts of cat ownership on the community.

3 Provide for and ensure the welfare and safety of dogs and cats

- Encourage desexing of older generations of dogs and cats.
- Maintain adequate local impounding facilities for temporary protection of lost or unowned animals if necessary, and/or policing of regulations regarding standards of local companion animal businesses, breeding establishments or boarding facilities.
- Ensure the provision of prompt veterinary attention to sick or injured animals in Council's care.
- Enforce the provisions of Dog and Cat Management Act 1995.
- Enforce the identification and registration of dogs to enable reunion of lost pets with their owners and control of un-owned dogs.
- Encourage pet owners to undertake routine preventative health measures such as vaccinations, de-worming, heartworm protection and other forms of parasite control.

ANIMAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

1. Promote and educate the community on animal management

A combination of education, encouragement and enforcement is seen to be the most successful method of animal management. The Dog and Cat Management Board promote this method and has developed many educational initiatives based on a careful assessment of the needs of the whole community.

The Board maintains regular media advertising campaigns which promote key issues such as education of pet owners and their families as well as training of the pets and educating other people about how to behave around dogs. A singular method of enforcement cannot provide a full solution to dog owners and dog problems.

Strategies:

Educate the community by-

- Providing information on dog obedience training classes in the community, provide information to educate members of the public on how they should act around dogs, information to educate pet owners and non-pet owners of their rights and responsibilities, education on the need to exercise dogs for successful pet management and dogs in public places.
- Providing information in relation to on-leash and off-leash areas, policies, and Council by-laws.
- Distributing resource material to veterinary clinics, caravan parks, Council, and school libraries, and ensure these localities are regularly supplied with up-to-date materials.
- Providing advice to the community on the Council website which shall include links to organisations such as RSPCA, Dog and Cat Management

Board (www.dogandcatboard.com.au), Animal Welfare League, newsletters from Dog Association and Obedience Clubs and other relevant websites.

- Promoting the reporting of all dog attacks in public places and private property.
- Advertise in the community –
 - The due date for dog registrations
 - Responsible pet ownership
 - Dogs 'off leash' and 'on leash' provisions
 - Signs for "on leash" areas
 - Amendments to legislations, policies, and by-laws
 - Use of Fact Sheets – via Dog and Cat Management Board website.

2. Registration and identification of dogs

Increasing dog registrations and microchipping will assist in identifying dogs therefore it is envisaged more dogs will be reunited with owners and less dogs placed in shelters. All dogs must have a collar with a registration tag when off premises.

Strategies:

- Promote responsible dog and cat ownership.
- Enforce legal requirements such as registration.
- Promote the reduction in dog registration fees for Standard Dogs.
- Promote information on Council's policy and legislative requirements concerning dog registration.

3. Desexing of dogs and cats

All dogs born after 1st of July 2018 must be desexed by a registered veterinary surgeon before it is 6 months of age; or

Within 28 days after the owner takes possession of the dog; or

If the owner is granted an extension of time before the day specified in the exemption.

Owners of older generations of dogs and cats should be encouraged to have their pets desexed.

Desexing has the following benefits:

- Reduction of unplanned breeding
- Reduction of aggressive behaviour, predominantly in male dogs, improved temperament
- Reduction of life-threatening diseases
- Improve temperament
- Barking reduction
- Less inclined to wander
- Decreased visits to the vet
- Financial benefits

Strategies:

- Encourage all Veterinary Surgeons in the Council area to promote the benefits of pet desexing, whether male or female animals.
- Promote reduced fees for a Standard Dog.

4. Dogs in Public Places – ‘On-leash’, ‘Off-Leash’

It is a legislative requirement that all dogs are to be on a leash when in a public place, such as streets, roads, footpaths, shopping centre car parks, ovals, and sporting arenas. Public places do not include parks, reserves, gardens, and foreshores unless prescribed by Council as an ‘on leash’ area.

However, dogs are still required to be under effective control of a person by command, the dog being in close proximity to the person and the person being able to see the dog at all times.

Strategies:

- Council to develop criteria/guidelines to select “dog on-leash” areas.
- Conduct community consultation where appropriate.

NOTE Council has attached an appendix identifying Councils By-Laws regarding dogs on leashes and prescribed off-leash areas. Minor changes to Council By-Laws can be made by way of a resolution.

5. Faeces Management

As dog owners are legally required to retrieve and dispose of their dogs’ faeces, we will continue to encourage dog owners to pick up dog faeces from public places in order to reduce the amount of dog faeces harming our environment and spoiling the enjoyment of others.

Strategies

- Promote pet owners to carry their own dog tidy bags to enable faeces to be retrieved
- Ensure bins are available within public places for the collection of dog faeces
- Dog tidy bags are provided at strategic locations in the townships

6. Dogs Wandering at Large

A dog is deemed to be wandering at large while the dog is in a public place (other than a park) or a private place without the consent of the occupier, and no person is exercising effective control of the dog by means of physical restraint; or the dog is in a park and no person is exercising effective control of the dog either—

- i. by means of physical restraint; or
- ii. by command, the dog being in close proximity to the person and the person being able to see the dog at all times.

The owner, or person responsible for the dog wandering at large, has committed an offence and can be expiated under the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995. Dogs wandering at large can be a threat not only to other dogs but also to the community, as serious attacks can arise in these circumstances.

Strategies:

- Council where appropriate will respond to calls from the general public of a dog wandering at large.
- Ensure officers have access to dog registration details to enable return of the dog to the owner at all times.
- Un-identified dogs will be impounded in accordance with the Act.
- Owners are made aware of their responsibilities to register their dog, provide an adequate enclosure within the property boundary, and keep their dog under effective control when in a public place.
- Encourage pet owners to confine their pets during firework and thunderstorm events.
- Promote the consequences of dogs wandering at large.
- Encourage dog obedience training and socialisation.
- Undertake a Job Safety Analysis for Animal Control.

7. Barking Dogs

Barking complaints make up a significant percentage of complaints received by Council and are often complex and very difficult to deal with effectively. Education is recognised as the key strategy to reduce this nuisance in the long term.

Strategies:

- Investigate options that provide neighbours with options to resolve this issue prior to Council becoming involved.
- Respond to calls from the general public.
- Encourage the complainant to keep a diary of the incidents.
- Assist owners to determine the cause of the barking and an appropriate remedy before enforcement procedures commence.
- Improve awareness of owner responsibilities to prevent the dog repeating the behaviour.
- Encourage dog obedience training.
- Encourage the dog owner to seek advice from an animal behaviourist and also to instigate the recommendations.
- Consider providing an incentive for the dog owner to seek advice from an animal behaviourist rather than expiation where appropriate.

8. Dog Attacks on Humans and Other Animals

Dog attacks and harassment are a great concern to the community particularly against children and the elderly. All dogs have the potential to bite, regardless of size, age, breed or temperament, particularly in situations where they are frightened, dominant or protective.

Strategies:

- In conjunction with the reporting requirements to the Dog and Cat Management Board, collate statistics and examine the type and breed of dogs involved in attacks to determine any trends.
- Promote and encourage the reporting of all dog attacks on humans and livestock.

- Educate children on safety around dogs.
- Encourage dog obedience training.

9. Dog Obedience Training

There are many health and social benefits of owning pets, they have been shown to stimulate conversation between strangers and they improve people's sense of security, both in their home and with their owner in public places. Pets are wonderful companions helping to combat loneliness and social alienation. The benefits are as important for the elderly and single person households as they are for households with children. The decision to acquire a pet is a very important for the owners, animals and the community in general. All too often unwanted dogs become statistics, being given away, abandoned or relinquished to shelters. Councils endeavour to encourage dog owners to socialise and train their dogs to an acceptable level within the community.

It is recognised that some dog owners and their pets are in need of assistance with training. Training has the potential to overcome most behavioural problems and should be promoted as part of responsible ownership along with education.

Training programs which include the following are extremely beneficial and are promoted:

- Human & animal bond
- Animal behaviour and training
- Dog behaviour
- How dogs learn
- Equipment for dog training and management
- Enriching the lives of dogs
- Responsible ownership – managing your dog's behaviour
- Puppy School

Strategies:

- Support and promote Dog Obedience Training.

10. Management of Cats

Tatiara Council receives very few complaints regarding cat problems. Instead cat management should focus on public education. Tatiara District Council adopted a Cat By-Law in September 2016 with the key objectives of the By-Law being:

- to promote responsible cat ownership;
- to reduce the incidence of the public and environmental nuisance caused by cats;
- to protect the comfort and safety of members of the public; and
- for the good rule and government of the Council area.

Strategies:

- Promote desexing and microchipping of cats as a means of cat control.
- Review the use of cat trap cages, and user pay policies.

- Encourage owners to be responsible for their cats' behaviour and take positive timely action to avoid nuisance to neighbours, impacts on wildlife and damage to property.

11. Animal Management Officer/Training

A strategy to ensure all Council staff involved with animal management are adequately trained to respond to all aspects of animal management in the community, to improve community recognition and understanding of the role and services provided by Council staff.

Strategies:

- Authorised Persons – Engage with training and education opportunities offered at various times.
- Authorised Persons undertaking Dog Behavioural Training as required.
- Continued involvement with network relationships.
- Encourage mediation skill development for all Officers.

12. Other Species

The keeping of other animal species should not impair the health, amenity and living standards of the community and be located to minimise any adverse impacts on the natural environment including existing and proposed land uses in the district.

Other species relate to the management of animals creating a nuisance or impact on the community or in the advent of a danger to the safety of that animal. Most Local Government authorities located in rural areas face issues which may include stock on roads, keeping of poultry and other animal related issues. Animal owners are required to keep animals in such a way as not to cause a local nuisance or a hazard.

The Local Government Act 1999 and the Impounding Act 1920 provide powers to issue orders or seize and detain animals which may cause a nuisance or safety concern for the community. Specific matters pertaining to other species, identifying animals, feral animals, protected animals, poultry, vermin, fish and ungulates are identified in this plan.

Council advocates for animals to have some form of identification where practical to enable their safe return to owners and provide identification in enforcement situations. Specific forms of identification seen as desirable are branding, tagging, tattooing or microchipping.

Feral Animals

Feral animals are referred to as introduced domesticated animals that have reverted to a wild state. Council recognises that populations of introduced animals can affect natural ecosystems, endanger natural plant and animal species, jeopardise agricultural production and can harbour pests and diseases. Any measures taken to reduce populations of feral animals must require the same level of consideration for their welfare as that given to

domestic and native animals. Deer are now considered feral if there is no ear tag present.

Poultry and Other Birds

Owners are required to keep poultry and other birds in such a way as to not cause a nuisance or a hazard to the community. The Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016 gives Council the power to issue an Order to require animal or bird owners to abate a nuisance or hazard caused by poultry and other birds.

Owners who keep poultry and other birds also have responsibilities under the South Australian Public Health Act 2011 to ensure the property is kept in a clean and sanitary condition.

Other Domestic Exotic Animals

Owners are required to keep animals in such a way as to not cause a nuisance or a hazard to the community. The Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016 gives Council the power to issue an Order to require animal owners to abate a nuisance or hazard caused by domestic exotic animals.

Owners who keep domestic exotic animals also have responsibilities under the South Australian Public Health Act 2011 to ensure the property is kept in a clean and sanitary condition.

Vermin

Owners of properties infested by vermin should ensure appropriate action is taken to control or eradicate any rat or mouse infestation to minimise the potential for disease or health impacts within the community. Owners of properties have responsibilities under the South Australian Public Health Act 2011 to ensure the property is kept in a clean and sanitary condition.

Wasps, Bees and Other Insects

Owners of properties who have problems with wasps, bees and other insects can contact Council's General Inspector for assistance and advice in relation to the above.

Ungulates

Animal owners are required to keep animals in such a way as not to cause a nuisance or a hazard. The Impounding Act 1920 and the Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016 provide the power to seize and contain or issue Orders to abate a nuisance or hazard caused by animals.

Animals kept in the district solely for the domestic needs, or the enjoyment of the occupants of a dwelling, or for farming, or for commercial needs have a responsibility to the community to ensure they do not become a nuisance or danger to the public.

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 sanitary condition.

Strategies:

- Promote responsible animal ownership in the community
- Council supports the identification of animals within the district to enable the safe return of animals to their owners
- Encourage owners to ensure that their animals are managed, immunized, kept free of parasites and are fed/watered, provided with adequate shelter and prevented from roaming
- Encourage owners to be responsible for their animal's behaviour and take positive timely action to avoid nuisance to neighbours, impacts on wildlife and damage to property.

RESOURCES

Revenue is derived from two principle sources, registrations and expiation fees for breaches to the provisions of the Act. Council has little scope to increase revenues from these sources other than by achieving a higher level of dog registrations and enforcement action for breaches of the Act.

The Act requires that revenues raised from the provisions of the Act must be expended in the administration or enforcement of the provisions of the Act relating to dogs and cats.

Council staff will monitor and analyse various Key Performance Indicators during the term of the Animal Management Plan and consider options for improvements where deemed necessary.

The following table provides an overview of key areas for the past five years. It is interesting to note that a majority of Expiations were issued for unregistered dogs in the first year of the new on-line system. It may be co-incidence, but wandering and barking dog complaints have escalated during Covid-19 and there has been an increase in dog ownership.

	20/21	19/20	18/19	17/18	16/17
	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY
DISTRICT COUNCIL OF TATIARA					
Total number of expiations issued	27	48	104	5	9
Number of court cases won	0	0	0	0	0
Number of court cases lost	0	0	0	0	0
Total court actions for the year	0	0	0	0	0
Number of official barking dog complaints received	16	10	4	3	14
Number of official wandering dog complaints received	25	22	15	6	30
Number of dogs collected and returned to owner before impounded	12	20	21	7	12
Total number of dogs impounded	30	38	31	31	37
Total number of dogs impounded and subsequently returned to the owner	28	33	25	26	30
Number of reports of dog harassment to humans	4	3	5	6	6
Number of reports of dog attacks on humans	1	1	2	2	6
Number of reports of dog harassment to animals	6	4	7	3	8
Number of reports of dog attacks on animals	2	4	4	2	6
Number of authorised officers	1	1	1	1	1
Number of cat complaints	13	20	24	14	16
Number of registered businesses involving dogs	6	6	6	0	5

Objectives, Strategies & KPI's

Dog and Cat Management		
Mandatory Microchipping		
Objective	Strategies	Key Performance Indicators
Educate residents about the mandatory microchipping requirements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Council website and social media to post information about mandatory microchipping. • Place articles in local newspapers about the new microchipping requirements. • Conduct a survey (eg. via Survey Monkey and/or a mail out) to determine resident's knowledge about microchipping requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of times educational information distributed. • Number of different formats used to distribute information. • Percentage of residents surveyed who indicate awareness and correct understanding of the microchipping requirements.
Increase the proportion of microchipped dogs and cats in the local Council area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide posters, brochures, and other information to vets, shelters, pet shops, dog training schools and other places where dog and cat owners visit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage increase of microchipped dogs and cats in the Council area over time.
Enforce compliance with the mandatory microchipping requirements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorised Persons to randomly monitor parks/other locations commonly used by dog owners, and conduct microchip scan checks to identify non-compliance (issue advice to owners re the need to microchip, issue warnings or expiations to owners who are non-compliant). • Work with local vets to promote the mandatory microchipping requirement for all dogs and cats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage reduction in the number of dogs and cats found to be non-microchipped, over time. • Percentage reduction in numbers of non-microchipped dogs and cats arriving in the pound/shelter used by Council, over time.

Mandatory Desexing		
Objective	Strategies	Key Performance Indicators
Educate residents about mandatory desexing requirements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Council website and social media to post information about mandatory desexing. • Conduct a survey (eg. Survey Monkey and/or a mail out) to determine resident's knowledge about desexing requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased knowledge by residents of the desexing requirements. Number of different formats used to distribute information.
Increase the proportion of desexed dogs and cats in the local Council area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with the local vets to offer discounted desexing (eg. for low income earners, pensioners, other concession card holders). • Include information about National Desexing Network on Council's website. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the percentage of dogs and cats that are desexed in Council area, over time. • High proportion/percentage of all dogs and cats (born after 1 July 2018) are desexed. • Reduction in the percentage of dogs or cats registered in the 'non-standard' registration category.
Monitor compliance with the mandatory desexing requirement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor the 'Standard dog' registration rebate by requiring proof of desexing for the rebate. • Work with local vets to promote the mandatory desexing requirement for all new dogs and cats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in the number of expiations issued for non-compliance with mandatory desexing requirements, over time. • Percentage reduction in numbers of non-desexed dogs and cats arriving in the pound/shelter used by Council, over time.

Breeder Registration		
Objective	Strategies	Key Performance Indicators
Educate residents about breeder registration requirements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advertise breeder registration on Council's website and social media (Facebook). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in the number of identified non-compliances with breeder registration, over time.
Enforce compliance with the breeder registration requirements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor adverts in local newspapers and local websites to check if dog and cat sales advertisements contain a breeder registration number. Inspect the premises of breeding businesses to ensure the number of dogs/cats on the premises matches the number approved by Council. Combine inspections with a representative of the RSPCA, to monitor <i>Animal Welfare Act</i> issues (including breeding standards). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in the number of expiations issued for non-compliance with breeder registration, over time. Inspections of breeder premises show an increased rate of compliance, over time.
Responsible Dog and Cat Ownership		
Objective	Strategies	Key Performance Indicators
Increase community knowledge of dog and cat ownership laws.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct an annual dog and cat owner survey (eg. online Survey Monkey) to test resident's knowledge of dog and cat laws and to identify areas of potential non-compliance to focus on. Place the survey on Council's website and social media. Display information about dog and cat laws at Council premises and on Council websites. Use social media for monthly posts on different dog/cat laws (eg. topics such as "Did you know that all dogs must be kept on a leash...?", "All dogs and cats must be microchipped"). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over time, a higher percentage of dog and cat owners giving accurate answer to questions on the survey. Reduction in the percentage of certain expiations over time (eg. off-leash expiations, public defecation expiations etc.). Number of times educational information distributed. Number of different formats used to distribute information.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Display links to the Board's websites from Council's websites and social media. Share relevant posts from Board's social media.	
Promote awareness/benefits of cat confinement in the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Display information about cat confinement in Council premises, vet practices, pet shops etc.• Provide information to owners of seized/impounded cats about the benefits of cat confinement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduction in the number of complaints about wandering cats/nuisance cats.

Cat Management		
Arrangements for the Detention of Seized Cats/Impounded Cats		
Objective	Strategies	Key Performance Indicators
Educate the community on dealing with unowned cats.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hire out cat-traps to the community so that residents may capture unidentified cats and deliver them to an appropriate facility. Work with a local vet to re-home or euthanise unowned cats, as appropriate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of unidentified cats handed in to the facility. Number of cat-traps hired by residents. Number of unowned cats re-homed or euthanised.
Owned Cat Management		
Objective	Strategies	Key Performance Indicators
Increase management of owned cats in the local area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep records of all complaints received about nuisance cats. Conduct a resident survey about cats (eg. online via Survey Monkey, mail out) to identify cat management issues in the community and what steps the community believes Council should take on cat management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of complaints received about cats. Reduction in the number of complaints about nuisance cats. Reduction in the number of owned cats being impounded/detained over time. Number of survey responses received.
Educate the community on responsible cat ownership.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage cat owners to keep their cat inside at night, or at all times. Educate the community about how to deal with a nuisance owned cat in the neighbourhood (eg. conflict resolution strategies, cat deterrents). Conduct a social media campaign about the benefits (health, safety, environmental) of keeping cats confined. After the campaign, survey cat owners to find out if their attitudes to cat confinement have changed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in the number of complaints about nuisance cats. Percentage of cat owners surveyed who indicate they keep their cat confined or would be willing to do so.

Proactively manage feral cat colonies within the local Council area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with a local residents to manage cat colonies.• Offer cat trap hire to residents (where appropriate). Nominate an appropriate facility where residents may delivered captured unowned cats.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduction in the number of cat colonies in the local area.• Reduction in the number of complaints about feral cats.
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Dog Management		
Dog Registration		
Objective	Strategies	Key Performance Indicators
Increase/maintain the number of registered dogs in the local Council area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Display information about dog registration laws at Council premises and on Council website. • Display signs in prominent locations (shopping centres, main streets, libraries, Council premise) to advertise when dog registrations are due. • Hold a 'registration amnesty' (eg. January to February) to encourage owners of unregistered dogs to come forward and register them, without receiving an expiation for an unregistered dog. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the percentage of registered dogs in the local Council area. • Reduce the number of complaints received about unregistered dogs. • Decrease in the number of expiations issued over time for unregistered dogs.
Dog Faeces		
Objective	Strategies	Key Performance Indicators
Reduce the public and environmental nuisance caused by dog faeces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install 'doggy bag' dispensers in parks and areas where people frequently walk dogs. Advertise the locations of these dispensers. • Send 'Authorised Persons' to randomly monitor parks/footpaths where faeces are a problem (issue warnings or expiations to owners who do not pick up after their dog). • In areas where faeces are an identified issue, install signage advising it is an offence not to clean after your dog. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in the numbers of complaints received about dog faeces over time. • Visual inspection of parks/footpaths indicates a reduction in the levels of faeces left in problem areas over time. • Survey results indicate high percentage of dog owners are aware of the requirement to clean up after their dog.

Dog Incidents/Attacks		
Objective	Strategies	Key Performance Indicators
Minimise the risk of dog attacks/incidents in the local Council area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all dog incidents/attacks are recorded via DACO. • Require dogs and owners subject to any Control Order to attend approved training courses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of dog attacks/harassments reported. • Once training received, likelihood of the animal re-offending minimised.
Dogs Wandering at Large		
Objective	Strategies	Key Performance Indicators
Reduce the number of dogs found wandering at large.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform the community (via social media and other methods) about events that may cause their dogs to wander (eg. fireworks, severe weather etc.). • Provide owners with educational materials about their responsibilities to properly fence their property and keep their dog under effective control in public places. • Install signage to advise whether an area is an on-leash or off-leash area. • Authorise Persons to patrol dog parks to ensure that dog owners are keeping their dogs under effective verbal control in off-leash areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce number of dogs found wandering at large. • Reduce number of complaints about wandering dogs. • Number of complaints about dogs not under 'effective control' in off-leash areas.

Dog Barking		
Objective	Strategies	Key Performance Indicators
Reduce the impact of barking dogs in the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Investigate barking dog complaints in accordance with the LGA's Standard Operating Procedure.• Provide educational materials to dog owners to assist them with changing dog's barking behaviour in the event of a complaint regarding their dog.• Include educational information in the local newspaper or community newsletter about why dogs bark and how to address/avoid the issue.• Educate the community about how to deal with a nuisance barking dog in the neighbourhood (eg. conflict resolution strategies, Council investigation process).• Issue expiation notices to owners in breach of a Control (Barking Dog) Order.• Where appropriate, require attendance at an 'approved training course' for dogs and owners subject to a control (Barking Dog) Order.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number of complaints received and resolved.• Number of barking re-offenders identified.• Reduction in the number of barking complaints, over time.

Other Areas		
Authorised Persons		
Objective	Strategies	Key Performance Indicators
Ensure Authorised Persons acting under the <i>Dog and Cat Management Act 1995</i> have appropriate training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff to attend training relevant to Authorised Persons (eg. animal handling, conflict resolution). Review skills of staff to identify areas where additional training would be of benefit to the staff and Council. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved skills for staff that attend appropriate training.
Emergency Animal Management		
Objective	Strategies	Key Performance Indicators
Provide education to the community about preparing for emergencies and provide support with the management of dogs and cats during/after an emergency.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide proactive messages to the community about ensuring that owners account for the management of their pets in their personal emergency plans and preparations for emergencies. Provide advice and information about emergency preparations via Council's website, social media, and at Council offices. Identify places in local government area that might be used as refuges/place of last resort by dog and cat owners. Allocate resources to manage potential increase in stray dog and cats during/after emergencies. Share emergency warnings/notifications via Council's social media (eg. bushfire, flood, thunderstorm warnings from the CFS, Bureau of Meteorology, and Alert SA etc.). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Areas identified in the local government area where people can take their dogs and cats during an emergency. Number and types of information provided to the community about emergencies.

APPENDIX: Table of on-leash, off-leash and dog prohibited areas

ON-LEASH PARKS	
Location/Address	Comments
Dogs must be kept on a strong leash (not exceeding two metres in length) at any park or reserve during times when organised sport is being played.	<p>Assistance dogs that are required to remain off-leash in order to fulfil their functions are excepted.</p> <p>Under clause 8 of the Dogs By-law 2016, Council may designate other places to be on-leash areas (eg. local government land or a public place). Don Moseley Park, Keith and Tolmer Park, Bordertown.</p>
OFF-LEASH PARKS	
Location/Address	Comments
Parks in the Council area.	<p>Dogs must remain under effective control at all times.</p> <p>Under clause 7 of the Dogs By-law 2016, council may determine any other area of local government land as a dog exercise area. Council has not determined any additional dog exercise areas.</p>
DOG PROHIBITED AREAS	
Location/Address	Comments
Any children's playground on local government land.	<p>Accredited assistance dogs excepted.</p> <p>A children's playground refers to an enclosed area in which equipment (such as slides, swings, or similar devices) is installed for the purpose of children's play or, within 5 metres of such equipment if it is not in an enclosed area.</p> <p>Under clause 9 of the Dogs By-law 2016, Council may determine other places to be dog prohibited areas (eg. on any other local government land or public place). Council has not determined any additional dog prohibited areas.</p>

ATTACHMENT – Council’s Dogs By-Law

TATIARA DISTRICT COUNCIL

Dogs By-law 2016



TATIARA DISTRICT COUNCIL

DOGS BY-LAW 2016

By-law No. 5 of 2016

A by-law for the management and control of dogs in the Council area.

PART 1 – PRELIMINARY

1. Title

This by-law may be cited as the *Dogs By-law 2016*.

2. Objectives

The object of this by-law is to control and manage dogs in the Council area:

- 2.1 to reduce the incidence of environmental nuisance caused by dogs;
- 2.2 to promote responsible dog ownership;
- 2.3 to protect the convenience, comfort and safety of members of the public; and
- 2.4 for the good rule and government of the Council area.

3. Commencement

This by-law comes into operation four months after the day on which it is published in the *South Australian Government Gazette*.

4. Application

4.1 The Council's *Permits and Penalties By-law 2016* operates in respect of:

- 4.1.1 permissions required by or given under this by-law; and
- 4.1.2 penalties for breach of this by-law.

4.2 Subject to clause 4.3, this by-law applies throughout the Council area.

4.3 Clauses 8.1 and 9.2, of this by-law only apply in such part or parts of the Council area as the Council may, by resolution determine in accordance with section 246(3)(e) of the Act.

5. Interpretation

5.1 In this by-law, unless the contrary intention appears:

- 5.1.1 **Act** means the *Local Government Act 1999*;

- 5.1.2 **approved kennel establishment** means a building, structure or area approved by a relevant authority, pursuant to the Development Act 1993 for the keeping of dogs on a temporary or permanent basis;
- 5.1.3 **assistance dog** means a dog trained and used for the purpose of assisting a person who is wholly or partially disabled;
- 5.1.4 **children's playground** means an enclosed area in which equipment (such as slides, swings or similar devices) is installed for the purpose of children's play or, within 5 metres of such equipment if it is not in an enclosed area;
- 5.1.5 **Council** means the Tatiara District Council;
- 5.1.6 **dog** has the same meaning as in the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*;
- 5.1.7 **effective control** means a person exercising effective control of a dog either:
- (a) by means of a physical restraint (as defined under the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*); or
 - (b) by command, the dog being in close proximity to the person and the person being able to see the dog at all times;
- 5.1.8 **keep** includes the provision of food or shelter;
- 5.1.9 **premises** includes land, whether used or occupied for domestic or non-domestic purposes, except an approved kennel establishment;
- 5.1.10 **small dwelling** means a self-contained residence that is:
- (a) a residential flat;
 - (b) a strata unit;
 - (c) on an allotment less than 450 square metres in area;
 - (d) a community title; or
 - (e) without a secure yard of at least 100 square metres in area;
- 5.1.11 **working dog** means a dog used principally for droving or tending livestock.
- 5.2 This by-law is to be interpreted as being subject to the Act, other Acts and the general law of South Australia.

PART 2 – LIMITS ON DOG NUMBERS

6. Limits on dog numbers in private premises

- 6.1 Subject to clause 6.3, a person must not, without the Council's permission keep:
- 6.1.1 in a township, more than one dog in a small dwelling;

TATIARA DISTRICT COUNCIL

Dogs By-law 2016

- 6.1.2 more than two dogs in any premises other than a small dwelling in any township; and
- 6.1.3 more than three dogs in any premises outside any township (other than working dogs);
- 6.2 For the purposes of clause 6.1, 'dog' means a dog that is three months of age or older or, a dog that has lost its juvenile teeth.
- 6.3 Clause 6.1 does not apply to:
 - 6.3.1 any approved kennel establishment provided it is operating in accordance with all required approvals and consents; or
 - 6.3.2 any business involving the keeping of dogs provided that the business is registered in accordance with the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* and is operating in accordance with all required approvals and consents.
- 6.4 No dog is to be kept on any premises where, in the opinion of an authorised person, there is no secure or appropriate area where a dog may be effectively confined.

PART 3 – DOG CONTROLS

7. Dog exercise areas

- 7.1 Subject to clauses 8 and 9 of this by-law, a person may for the purpose of exercising a dog enter:
 - 7.1.1 a park in the Council area; or
 - 7.1.2 any other area of local government land designated by the Council as a dog exercise area.
- 7.2 Where a person enters a park or other area of local government land designated as a dog exercise area for the purpose of exercising a dog, he or she must ensure that the dog is under his or her effective control at all times.

8. Dog on leash areas

A person must not, without the Council's permission, allow a dog under that person's control, charge or authority (except an assistance dog that is required to remain off-lead in order to fulfil its functions) to be or remain:

- 8.1 on local government land or a public place to which the Council has determined that this clause applies; or
- 8.2 on any park or reserve during times when organised sport is being played,

unless the dog is secured by a strong leash not exceeding 2 metres in length which is either tethered securely to a fixed object capable of securing the dog or held by a person capable of controlling the dog and preventing it from being a nuisance or a danger to other persons.

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9. Dog prohibited areas

A person must not allow a dog under that person's control, charge or authority (except an accredited assistance dog) to enter or remain:

- 9.1 on any children's playground on local government land; or
- 9.2 on any other local government land or public place to which the Council has determined that this clause applies.

10. Dog faeces

No person is to allow a dog under that person's control, charge or authority to be in a public place or on local government land unless that person has in their possession a bag or other suitable container for the collection and lawful disposal of any faeces that the dog may deposit (for the purpose of complying with their obligation to dispose of dog faeces deposited in a public place under section 45A(6) of the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*).

PART 4 – ENFORCEMENT

11. Recovery of expenses

If a person breaches this by-law and does not comply with an order made against them by an authorised person pursuant to section 262(1) of the Act, the Council may recover expenses incurred in carrying out the order under section 262(3) of the Act from the person who failed to comply with the order as a debt by an action in a court of competent jurisdiction pursuant to section 144(1) of the Act.

This by-law was duly made and passed at a meeting of the Council held on 13 September 2016 by an absolute majority of the members for the time being constituting the Council, there being at least two thirds of the members present.



Robert J Harkness
Chief Executive Office

ATTACHMENT – Council’s Cats By-Law

TATIARA DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cats By-law 2016



TATIARA DISTRICT COUNCIL

CATS BY- LAW 2016

By-law No. 6 of 2016

A by-law for the control and management of cats within the Council’s area.

PART 1 – PRELIMINARY

1. Title

This by-law may be cited as the *Cats By-law 2016*.

2. Objects

The object of this by-law is to control and manage cats in the Council area:

- 2.1 to promote responsible cat ownership;
- 2.2 to reduce the incidence of the public and environmental nuisance caused by cats;
- 2.3 to protect the comfort and safety of members of the public; and
- 2.4 for the good rule and government of the Council area.

3. Commencement

This by-law comes into operation four months after the day on which it is published in the *South Australian Government Gazette*.

4. Application

- 4.1 The Council’s *Permits and Penalties By-law 2016* operates in respect of:
 - 4.1.1 permissions required or given under this by-law; and
 - 4.1.2 penalties for breach of this by-law.
- 4.2 This by-law applies throughout the Council area.

5. Definitions

- 5.1 In this by-law:
 - 5.1.1 **Act** means the *Local Government Act 1999*;
 - 5.1.2 **cat** means an animal of the species “*felis catus*” which is at least 3 months of age or has lost its juvenile canine teeth;

- 5.1.3 **Council** means the Tatiara District Council;
- 5.1.4 **keep** includes the provision of food or shelter;
- 5.1.5 **nuisance** means:
 - (a) unreasonably interfering with the peace, comfort or convenience of a person;
 - (b) causing injury to a person's real or personal property; or
 - (c) being obnoxious, offensive or hazardous to health; and
- 5.1.6 **premises** includes land and a part of any land whether used or occupied for domestic or other purposes except land that is used for an approved cattery operating in accordance with all required approvals and consents.
- 5.2 This by-law is to be interpreted as being subject to the Act, other Acts and the general law of South Australia.

PART 2 – LIMIT ON CAT NUMBERS

6. Limit on cat numbers

- 6.1 Subject to clause 6.2, a person must not keep more than 3 cats on any premises without Council's permission.
- 6.2 Clause 6.1 does not apply to premises comprising a business involving the keeping of cats provided that the business is operating in accordance with all required approvals and consents.

7. Cats not to be a nuisance

An owner or occupier of premises is guilty of an offence if a cat kept or allowed to remain on the premises causes a nuisance by reason of:

- 7.1 noise or odour created by the cat;
- 7.2 wandering from the land; or
- 7.3 the aggressive nature of the cat.

PART 3 - ENFORCEMENT

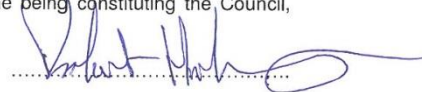
8. Recovery of expenses

If a person breaches this by-law and does not comply with an order made against them by an authorised person pursuant to section 262(1) of the Act, the Council may recover expenses incurred in carrying out the order under section 262(3) of the Act from the person who failed to comply with the order as a debt by an action in a court of competent jurisdiction pursuant to section 144(1) of the Act.

TATIARA DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cats By-law 2016

This by-law was duly made and passed at a meeting of the Council held on 13 September 2016, by an absolute majority of the members for the time being constituting the Council, there being at least two-thirds of the members present.



Robert J Harkness
Chief Executive Officer