

DISTRICT COUNCIL OF KIMBA

2.12 Plan of Management Relating to Dogs and Cats



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1. DOCUMENT APPROVAL

This document has been endorsed and approved for use by:

Deb Larwood
CEO District Council Kimba

Date

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Kimba is situated 450km west of Adelaide, Kimba has a population of approximately 1045 people and is well recognised as the 'Halfway across Australia' being the Gateway to the Gawler Ranges.

This Plan of Management has been prepared by the District Council of Kimba (the Council), to provide a planned approach to undertaking its responsibilities pursuant to the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*. Consultation has also been undertaken with the wider community to provide an opportunity for their input into the preparation of the Plan.

The Dog and Cat Management Board must approve the Plan of Management before it takes effect.

This Plan contains a wide range of initiatives to be implemented over a 5 year period and is seen as a vital tool in the promotion and management of responsible dog and cat ownership throughout the district.

The Plan 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; and
- harness the benefits of dog and cat ownership and ensure that the expenditure of registration fees addresses dog and cat issues.

Mission Statement:

"To create an environment, which encourages responsible pet ownership, where people and pets integrate safely and harmoniously within the District Council of Kimba. To recognize that companion animals are an important part of the community and to ensure that the needs of animals and their owners are accommodated while recognising the differing needs of all members of the community such as non-pet owners".

2. BACKGROUND

In 2004 significant changes to the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* were implemented. 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.

Significant legislative changes to the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* were passed by Parliament in July 2016. The main changes to the Act are:

- Microchipping –from 1 July 2018, it will be compulsory for all dogs and cats over three months of age to be microchipped.
- De-sexing – introducing the requirement for all new generations of dogs and cats (born after 1 July 2018) to be de-sexed by six months of age.
- 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 animals.

3. THE LAW/GUIDELINES

The *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* (the Act) and *Dog and Cat Management Regulations 2017* provides the legislative framework to be adhered to 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.

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 that the provisions of the Act are complied with and that appropriately trained and authorised persons are available to respond to concerns of the community and serious breaches of the Act.
- Council will allocate appropriate resources to provide after hour services to meet the community's expectations, however after hours services will be provided for emergency situations or animal injury purposes, at the discretion of the on-call officer.
- The Chief Executive Officer is appointed as the Registrar. After hours support is provided by Council officers as required.
- Council will respond to calls/complaints from members of the public regarding possible non-compliance with the provisions of the Act.

4. REVENUE

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

Council annually determines its dog registration fees. The fee structure is available within Council's Fees and Charges Register and is available on Council's Website under 'The Council' – 'Council Documents' – 'Registers'.

5. COUNCIL'S MANAGEMENT OF DOGS

5.1 *Dog Registration*

Pursuant to Section 33 of the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*, dogs of or over 3 months of age must be registered. Expiation fees apply to unregistered dogs so it is very important that dog owners ensure that their dog/s registration is up to date and renewed by the due date. From 1 September each year, Council will apply the expiation fee of \$170 plus registration fee to all dogs that have not had their registrations renewed by the due date of 31 August each year and are caught wandering at large and \$750 for any dangerous dogs caught wandering at large plus registrations fees.

District Council of Kimba offers a number of dog registration discounts and these are available for perusal on Council's website under 'The Council' – 'Council Documents' – 'Registers' – 'Fees and Charges'.

5.2 Detention arrangements of dogs seized

Council has a secured holding area for all seized dogs at the Animal Pound, Council Depot Railway Tce Kimba. Dogs seized are advertised on Council's website, the Council's Facebook page and the noticeboard outside the Kimba Institute to ensure visibility to the public out of working hours, which assists in ensuring that dogs are returned to their owners as soon as possible.

When a dog is found wandering at large and is seized, Officers endeavour to identify the owner of the dog by checking for a microchip or any other visible signs, such as a dog name tag with contact details or alternatively a Council Dog Registration Disc. If the owner can be identified immediately contact will be made with the owner to collect their pet from the Pound. Alternatively, if the owner cannot be identified, the dog will be held at the Pound for 72 hours, after which Officers will, if the dog is suitable to be rehomed try to rehome the dog or pass it onto a Pet Rescue group. If owner identification is not able to be ascertained and the dog is not able, for whatever reason, to be rehomed, the dog will be transferred to the Council's local service provider to be euthanized.

When a dog is taken to the Pound without identification, all efforts will be made to locate the owner by way of:

- 1) Notice placed at the Council's Noticeboard
- 2) Council's Facebook Page
- 3) Council's website
- 4) Other social media forums, as appropriate

Dog owners will be required to desex all new generations of dogs born after 1 July 2018 and by the age of six months. Owners will not be required to desex dogs born before 1 July 2018.

From 1 July 2018, it will be a requirement for all dogs to be microchipped by the age of three months. Owners will also be required to keep the microchip details up to date.

5.3 By-laws

District Council of Kimba has no Dog By-Law.



6. COUNCIL'S MANAGEMENT OF CATS

6.1 *Detention arrangements for cats seized*

All cats caught by Council are delivered to Council's local service provider and all unidentified cats are euthanized or rehomed at their discretion. The owners of any cats identified by a microchip or other identification on the cat will be notified by the Council's local service provider or Council Officers of collection arrangements. If the cat is assessed as being friendly and well cared for every effort will be made to find the owner, however if this is not possible, within a 72 hour period the Council's local service provider may try to rehome the animal or alternatively euthanize it.

Unlike dogs, cats are not provided a window of opportunity (e.g. 72 hours) to find owners, and to protect the lives of cats, it is in the best interest of the owner, to ensure that cats are microchipped and registered with the chip registration body, so that they can be returned home quickly and safely. Cat owners will be required to desex all new generations of cats born after 1 July 2018 and by the age of six months. Owners will not be required to desex cats born before 1 July 2018.

From 1 July 2018, it will be a requirement for all cats to be microchipped by the age of three months. Owners will also be required to keep the microchip details up to date.

6.2 *Services available from Council*

Council offers a cat trap hire and disposal service to the Community. The fee charged is one of \$20 for the hire of the cat trap with a \$10 deposit refunded when trap is returned. Cat Traps are available from the Council depot on Railway Tce Kimba or by phoning the Council Office to arrange collection.

If the cat has a microchip or identified by a collar and tag, it is returned to the owner at which time the owner is reminded of their responsibility to keep their cat from causing a nuisance and will also be provided some cat enclosure literature.

6.3 *By-Laws*

District council of Kimba has no Cat By-Law.



PLAN OF MANAGEMENT RELATING TO DOGS AND CATS

7. OBJECTIVES/STRATEGIES/MEASURES (KPI)

| 7.1 COUNCIL OPERATIONS | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| a) Council Authorised Officers have capacity to administer and enforce the Dog and Cat Management Act | | | |
| | Objective | Strategies | Measures |
| i. | Appropriately Trained Workers. | Staff undertake training, as required, relating to new legislative provisions under the Dog and Cat Management Act. | Type and number of training sessions attended. |
| b) Education of the community | | | |
| | Objective | Strategies | Measures |
| i. | Greater knowledge of the dog and cat legislative provisions. | Promotion of the need for breeders to be registered with the Dog and Cat Management Board. | Number and type of promotional activities. |
| ii. | | Promotion of introduction of legislation requiring all new generations of dogs and cats over 6 months of age to be desexed. | Number and types of promotional activities Undertaken. Number of new generation dogs and cats de-sexed annually. |
| iii. | | Promotion of introduction of legislation requiring all dog and cats three months of age or older to be microchipped. | Number and types of promotional activities Undertaken. Number of dogs and cats three months of age or older microchipped annually. |
| iv. | Proactive education of pet owners to ensure they are aware of their responsibilities. | Implement various campaigns, such as Wandering Dog Campaign, to highlight various issues relating to responsibility pet ownership. | Number and type of campaigns undertaken annually. Annual reduction in Dog Wandering at Large. Annual reduction in dogs and cats found not microchipped or desexed. |
| vii. | Ensure up-to-date promotional materials available. | Regularly review and update promotional material to ensure it is accurate. | Types and promotional material provided. |

| Effective Reporting and Management Structures | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Objective | Strategies | Measures |
| i. | Maintain appropriate reporting mechanisms for all reporting requirements under the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 to ensure timely reporting to the Board. | Implement reporting system for compliance with regulatory provisions. Ensure council's dog incidents reports are uploaded to the DCMB Dog Incident System. | Reporting System developed and implemented. Number and type of reports generated. |
| c) Community awareness of pet ownership benefits and responsibilities | | | |
| | Objective | Strategies | Measures |
| i. | Establish a Council's Local Rescue Groups and 'Responsible Pet Ownership Scheme'. | Undertake community awareness activities, using various communication mediums, to highlight the benefits and responsibilities of pet ownership. | Types of communication mediums used to advertise. |
| ii. | Provide links on Council's Website to other appropriate websites about dogs and cats to facilitate access to relevant services and | Links to other animal websites provided to ensure community aware of services available to them. | Number of links listed on Council Website and names of Groups/Services. |
| iii. | Community adequately informed of Dogs On-Leash, Off-Leash and Prohibited areas. | Review and update the Dogs On-leash, Off-leash and Prohibited areas. | Schedule of On-Leash, Off-Leash and Prohibited areas reviewed and attached to Animal Management Plan and advertised on Council's Website. |
| d) Visitor Information/Facilities | | | |
| | Objective | Strategies | Measures |
| i. | Provide relevant information to various services within Kimba to ensure visitors are aware of Dog and Cat Management services that are available. | Supply brochures to accommodation facilities including caravan/cabin parks on dog on-leash, off-leash and prohibited areas within the area. | Number of facilities provided with brochures. |
| e) Registration of Dog and Cat Breeders | | | |
| | Objective | Strategies | Measures |
| i. | Promote the new legislative requirements for all breeders to be registered with the Dog and Cat Management Board. | Actively investigate any puppy or kitten litters identified for sale and ensure that the owners are registered with the Dog and Cat Management Board. | |
| ii. | | Provide links on Council's Website to other appropriate websites about dogs and cats to facilitate access to relevant services and information. | Number of promotional activities undertaken. Number of expiation notices issued for breach of the Act. |

PLAN OF MANAGEMENT RELATING TO DOGS AND CATS

| 7.2 DOG MANAGEMENT | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| a) Dog Registration | | | |
| | Objective | Strategies | Measures |
| i. | High level of dog registration achieved. | Promote dog registrations annually. | Annual reduction in dogs not registered. |
| ii. | Increased knowledge of legislative provisions around registration by community. | Undertake door knocks to identify and ensure any unregistered dog is registered. | Number of Door Knocks undertaken and number of dogs identified and registered as a result. |
| b) Mandatory Microchip Identification | | | |
| | Objective | Strategies | Measures |
| i. | Provide incentives to the community to assist in microchipping programs. | Partner with Council's local service provider to offer discounted microchipping days. | Discount microchipping day held annually At least 2 discount microchipping days held |
| ii. | Officers to undertake microchipping to reduce fines. | Authorised Officers trained in microchipping will implant microchips in dogs found wandering at large that aren't already microchipped, at the discretion of the Officer. In such cases, the council may choose to | Number of dogs microchipped to ensure future identification. |
| c) Mandatory De-sexing | | | |
| | Objective | Strategies | Measures |
| i. | Provide incentives to the community to assist in desexing programs. | Partner with Council's local service provider to offer discounted de-sexing days. | Annual re Number of dogs desexed through discount desexing days"duction in the number of dogs |
| ii. | Increase awareness of benefits of de-sexing. | Encourage Council's local service provider to promote the benefits of dog desexing. | Promotional material provided by Council. |
| d) Wandering At Large | | | |
| | Objective | Strategies | Measures |
| i. | Reduced number of dogs wandering at large. | Respond to complaints regarding wandering dogs to ensure safety of the public. | Number of reports followed up regarding wandering dogs. |
| ii. | Identification of dogs wandering at large. | Continue to conduct random patrols of all public places and detain dogs found to be wandering at large. | Number of dogs seized. |
| iii. | Return of registered or identified dogs found wandering at large to their owners. | Use all avenues available to identify and return dogs wandering at large to owners. | Number of dogs return to owners. |
| iv. | Advertise events where fireworks, defence force manoeuvres or weather could impact on numbers of dogs wandering at large. | Proactively promote events and other activities as a reminder to pet owners to secure their pets, as necessary. | Types of advertising undertaken. This is undertaken bi-annually |

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| e) Faeces Management | | | |
| | Objective | Strategies | Measures |
| i. | Dog owners remove all faeces from public places when exercising their pets. | Provide and promote facilities to ensure collection of faeces in public spaces by pet owners. | Types of facilities provided. Number of different locations where facilities are provided. |
| f) Barking Dogs | | | |
| | Objective | Strategies | Measures |
| i. | Reduction in the number of complaints regarding barking dogs. | Provide information to owners of dogs where a complaint has been received regarding their pet barking and highlight various methods to control barking. | Number of complaints received and resolved. Identify number of reoffending complaints. |
| g) Attacks and harassments reporting | | | |
| | Objective | Strategies | Measures |
| i. | Decrease in dog attacks. | Promote the consequences of dog attacks and prevention strategies. | Number of dog attack reports. Types of prevention strategies information provided. |
| ii. | Dog attacks and harassment as reported and acted upon. | Promote and encourage the reporting of all dog attacks and harassment whether in a public place or on private property. | Number of attacks reported. |
| h) Exercise and enrichment of dogs | | | |
| | Objective | Strategies | Measures |
| i. | Provide effective management and a suitable environment for dogs within the community. | Establish an off leash area within the council area. | Established and recommendation to Council the Recreation Res be an off leash area. |
| i) Impounded Dogs | | | |
| | Objective | Strategies | Measures |
| i. | Continue to promote the rehoming program. | Advertise any dogs suitable for rehoming through Councils rehoming program if seized and not claimed. | Number of dogs successfully rehomed. |
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| i. | | | |

| 7.3 CAT MANAGEMENT | | | |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| a) Mandatory Microchip Identification | | | |
| | Objective | Strategies | Measures |
| i. | Provide incentives to the community to assist in microchipping programs. | Partner with Council's local service provider to offer discounted microchipping days. | Discount microchipping day held annually At least 2 discount microchipping days held |
| b) Mandatory De-sexing | | | |
| | Objective | Strategies | Measures |
| i. | Provide incentives to the community to assist in desexing programs. | Partner with Council's local service provider to offer discounted de-sexing days. | Contact local veterinarians to provide bulk desexing days. Number of cats desexed through discount |
| ii. | Increase awareness of benefits of de-sexing. | Encourage Council's local service provider to promote the benefit of cat desexing. | Promotional material provided by Council. |
| c) Owner responsibility | | | |
| | Objective | Strategies | Measures |
| i. | Appropriate surrender of kittens. | Promote the surrender of kittens, which will be free of charge provided that the mother cat is desexed at the time of surrender. | Kittens can be surrendered at the Council Depot Railway Tce Kimba between the hours of 7 am – 5 pm Monday - Thursday |
| ii. | Increased awareness of owner responsibility and types of enclosures available to reduce wandering cats. | Pamphlets provided to owners of seized cats to enable them to consider an appropriate enclosure to secure their pet onsite. | Number of pamphlets issued. |
| d) Cat Trap Hire | | | |
| | Objective | Strategies | Measures |
| i. | Proactively manage feral and wandering cat issues within the township. | Cat Traps are available for hire as required. | Number of cat traps hired annually. Number of cats trapped. |
| ii. | | Cat Traps made available, at Authorised officers discretion where feral cat infestation is high. | Number of times cat traps set by council officers |
| e) Receiving seized cats and impounding Cats | | | |
| | Objective | Strategies | Measures |
| i | Appropriate management of cats trapped. | Enter in contract with a local service provider who will endeavour to identify the cat and either return, rehome or euthanize the animal as determined on a case by case basis. | Number of cats trapped. Number of cats returned, rehomed or euthanized annually. |
| | | | |
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| i. | | | |

APPENDIX A: ON-LEASH, OFF-LEASH AND DOG PROHIBITED AREAS

| ON-LEASH PARKS | |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Location/Address | Comments |
| <i>Sunnyside Beach</i> | <i>Dogs must be on-leash from 9:00am to 8:00pm during daylight savings time. Off-leash at all other times.</i> |
| <i>Gumtree Reserve, 5 Meadow Circuit</i> | <i>Dogs must be on-leash at all times.</i> |

| OFF-LEASH PARKS | |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Location/Address | Comments |
| <i>Canine Park, 15 Street Avenue</i> | <i>Dogs permitted off-leash at all times.</i> |
| <i>Eucalyptus Reserve, 99 Road Crescent</i> | <i>Dogs permitted off-leash between 10.00am and 12.00pm each day.</i> |

| DOG PROHIBITED AREAS | |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Location/Address | Comments |
| <i>Redgum Park Playground, 1 Smith Street</i> | <i>Dogs prohibited at all times.</i> |
| <i>Football Oval, 85 Avenue Rd</i> | <i>Dogs prohibited during sporting events.</i> |