



# Colac Otway Shire

## Domestic Animal Management Plan

2017 to 2021



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## Part 1. STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

A four year Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAM Plan) is a statutory requirement for every Victorian municipality under the *Domestic Animal Act* 1994. It is intended to provide Colac Otway Shire Council with a management plan for all dogs, cats and domestic animal businesses within the municipality. Colac Otway Shire Council's existing DAM Plan was adopted by Council in 2013. This current plan is expected to operate from 2017 through to the end of 2021.

The plan addresses responsible pet ownership and animal welfare by focussing on registration, identification, dog attacks, nuisance behaviour, dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs, and animal businesses. It also deals with Council's domestic animal control services, authorised officer training, emergency management and matters relating to the enforcement, compliance and evaluation of the Council's control measures.

The *Domestic Animal Act* 1994 sets out the following requirements:

- 68A Councils to prepare domestic animal management plans
- (1) Every Council must, in consultation with the Secretary, prepare at four year intervals a domestic animal management plan.
  - (2) A domestic animal management plan prepared by a Council must—
    - (a) set out a method for evaluating whether the animal control services provided by the Council in its municipal district are adequate to give effect to the requirements of this Act and the regulations; and
    - (b) Outline programs for the training of authorised officers to ensure that they can properly administer and enforce the requirements of this Act in the Council's municipal district; and
    - (c) Outline programs, services and strategies which the Council intends to pursue in its municipal district—
      - (i) To promote and encourage the responsible ownership of dogs and cats; and
      - (ii) To ensure that people comply with this Act, the regulations and any related legislation; and
      - (iii) To minimise the risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals; and
      - (iv) To address any over-population and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats; and
      - (v) To encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats; and
      - (vi) To minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance; and
      - (vii) to effectively identify all dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs in that district and to ensure that those dogs are kept in compliance with this Act and the regulations; and
    - (d) provide for the review of existing orders made under this Act and local laws that relate to the Council's municipal district with a view to determining whether further orders or local laws dealing with the management of dogs and cats in the municipal district are desirable; and
    - (e) provide for the review of any other matters related to the management of dogs and cats in the Council's municipal district that it thinks necessary; and
    - (f) provide for the periodic evaluation of any program, service, strategy or review outlined under the plan.
  - (3) Every Council must—
    - (a) review its domestic animal management plan annually and, if appropriate, amend the plan; and
    - (b) provide the Secretary with a copy of the plan and any amendments to the plan; and
    - (c) publish an evaluation of its implementation of the plan in its annual report.

## **Part 2. INTRODUCTION**

### **2.1 Colac Otway Shire – Brief Overview**

The Colac Otway Shire is a rural community of approximately 20,000 people centred on the townships of Colac, Apollo Bay, Birregurra, Cressy and other smaller townships. The city of Colac has a population in excess of 10,000 and the next largest centre is Apollo Bay with a population of over 1000. Apollo Bay and the coastal area have a population that swells to over 10,000 in the holiday period. All other centres are small rural towns with populations of less than 1000. The Shire's economy centres on the beef, dairying, agricultural production and agro-forestry industries.

During the financial year (2016-2017) the Council registered 4196 dogs and 1412 cats. During this period 195 dogs were returned to their owners via pound release, 25 unclaimed or surrendered dogs were re-homed and unfortunately 3 dogs were euthanised as they were unsuitable or unable to be re-homed. 7 cats were returned to their owners and 62 were re-homed and 74 were euthanised. The 74 cats that were euthanised included diseased and feral cats. There were a total of 366 Impoundments for the year.

Since the mandatory introduction of micro-chipping of animals in 2007, many animals found at large are able to be reunited with an owner instead of being impounded. This applies to non-habitual offenders and would account for in excess of 200 dogs being returned to owners without having to be impounded.

### **2.2 Local issues in Domestic Animal Management**

The Colac Otway Shire has a number of issues relevant to domestic animal management within the shire. These have been identified by the Local Laws Team to be of particular concern and are:

- Lack of compliance in regard to registration of dogs and cats
- Dogs at large;
- Barking dog issues; and
- Nuisance and feral cats

### **2.3 Structure of this Plan**

The structure of this plan is compliant with the 2012 Template provided by the then Bureau of Animal Welfare of the Department of Primary Industries.

*Part 1* of this DAM Plan outlines the legislative requirements for this Plan.

*Part 2* gives Council and the community a summary of the municipality, local issues in domestic animal management, a note on the previous Plan, existing controls and services, performance statistics, and the local priorities established.

*Part 3* identifies strategies, current situation, future objectives and service activities to be undertaken to achieve Council's priority goals over the next four years.

### **2.4 Consultation**

There has been constant communication, consultation and interviews with stakeholders including Veterinary Clinics, RSPCA Geelong, Vic Rangers Web Site, South West Authorised Officers Group and the Department of Primary Industries (Bureau of Animal Welfare), now known as the Domestic Animal Unit, which is part of the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources.

The Domestic Animal Management Plan will be released for public comment prior to finalisation.

## 2.5 Previous Plan

The last iteration of the DAM Plan was developed for the Colac Otway Shire Council in 2013. Council's existing comprehensive animal management services, outlined in part 2.6 below, operated under the now expiring DAM Plan. Council is now required to prepare a new four year DAM Plan prior to 3 November 2017.

The existing DAM Plan correctly focused Colac Otway Shire Council's limited resources on the key issues confronting the Shire. These included unregistered dogs and cats, dogs at large and dog attacks on people and livestock, cats – both wild and nuisance. These key issues have not altered and remain a priority for Colac Otway Shire Council. Immediate emergency call-out for all dog attack related incidents has been actively operating.

## 2.6 Existing Domestic Animal Controls

### 2.6.1 Domestic Animals Act

Council's authorised officers enforce the provisions of the *Domestic Animal Act* 1994 in relation to such matters as dogs and cats at large, dangerous and menacing dogs, restricted breed dogs, registration and identification, animal nuisance and registration of domestic animal businesses. There are multiple offences under the *Domestic Animal Act* 1994 and Council officers seek compliance of this legislation by advice and requests, official warnings, infringement notices and prosecution. It is important that compliance with all sections of the *Domestic Animal Act* 1994 is encouraged in the community, preferably by education rather than enforcement. Council undertakes extensive advertisements both in the print media and radio concerning animal compliance such as registration and nuisance offences.

### 2.6.2 Council Local Laws

Local Law number 2. (General) addresses animals at section 73 (Part 5) and this section requires persons not to allow dog excrement to remain on a road or Council land and further requires persons to carry a suitable device to collect same when in charge of a dog on a road or Council land. Section 101 to 107 (Part 7) deals with the keeping of animals and section 105 specifically deals with the smell or noise that is created by animals that may be a nuisance.

Our current local law **now** controls the maximum numbers of domestic animals on certain size allotments and excess animal permits. A copy of the control is as follows, (Section 129 of Colac Otway Shire Local Law No. 2)

An *owner* or occupier of land must not without a permit:

keep or allow to be kept any more in number for each type of *animal* as is set out in the following table:

	Animal	Property Size up to .25 (ha)	Property Size .25 (ha) to 1(ha)	Property Size 1 (ha) and above
a	Dogs	3	4	5 (other than dogs kept for working stock/primary production)
b	Cats	3	4	5
c	Poultry	10	20	No Permit Required
d	Roosters	Permit Required	Permit Required	No Permit Required
e	Pigeons	10	20	No Permit Required
f	Sheep or Goats	Permit Required	8	No Permit Required
g	Cattle/Horses & other large animals	Permit Required	4	No Permit Required
h	Pigs	Permit Required	Permit Required	No permit required
i	Reptiles	Subject to the issuing of a license by the Department of Sustainability & Environment (DSE) or relevant authority		

### **2.6.3 Council Orders**

Council has had an Order made under Section 26 of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*. It requires dogs to be under effective control by means of a chain, cord or leash in specified areas. The schedule to the Order lists the specific areas and a copy of the Order appearing in the Government Gazette is attached herewith.

## **2.7 Existing Domestic Animal Services**

Colac Otway Shire, through its Local Laws Department, provides the following domestic animal services to the community:

- Registration and identification for domestic dogs and cats, including renewal follow-ups;
- Registration and identification of menacing and restricted breed dogs including renewal and random inspections;
- Dog attack (immediate response - including 24 hour emergency service) and dog at large (as available) call-out services;
- Cat trap hire services;
- Vehicle patrols and nuisance complaint response;
- Re-homing of unwanted or unclaimed pets;
- A domestic animal pound for impounded animals;
- Euthanasia services where no alternative occurs;
- Registration and audits of domestic animal businesses;
- Prevention of cruelty to animals authorisation and initial response for the RSPCA;
- Infringement notice system and where required, prosecution services; and
- Educational and informational services provided, as resources and opportunity allow.

## **2.8 Domestic Animal Management Statistics**

### **2.8.1 Comments on Table 1 (Below)**

Council's key animal management statistics are provided in Table 1 (below). Colac Otway Shire Council's performance is compared to an average of several rural Councils (2011 Statistics), Victoria's major animal welfare agency, the RSPCA (2011 Statistics), ten like Councils (in Western Victoria 2008), the State average (2008 most recent figures available).

Recent 2011 statistics from rural Councils and the RSPCA identify that Council is in line with the State average, we acknowledge further improvement relating to rehousing figures would be desirable. Council registration rates appear close to other areas. These numbers are based on a formula estimate, making it difficult to make comparisons on small differences.

### **2.8.2 Comments on Table 2 (Below)**

Table 2 (below) compares the performance of Colac Otway Shire Council in 2013 at the commencement of the existing DAM Plan with the last full year figures of 2016-17.

It can be seen that impoundments have reduced significantly with a 26.65% decrease in impounded dogs (304 down to 223) and a 18.3% reduction in the number of impounded cats (175 down to 143) and there have been noticeable improvements on matters of animal welfare. Registration of dogs is lower, although this could be attributed to removing deceased and relocated animals from the data base.

There has been a pleasing decrease in the percentage of euthanised dogs from 21 to 3 (from 6.9% to 1.3%) and a significant decrease of cats euthanised from 147 to 74. The statistics relating to cat euthanasia include diseased and feral cats which have no prospect of re housing. Colac Otway Shire now has a relationship with one of the local Veterinarian Practices which has a Cat Adoption program and as a result many of the cats from the pound are rehoused through this program. It is expected this will result in an extra number of about 50 to 70 cats being rehoused annually. In the period July 2016 to June 2017, 47 cats were rehoused via this program. Feral and diseased cats should not factor in the statistic as they cannot be re-housed and only serve to distort the true figures and efforts by Council.

There was 1 prosecution for dog attack on an animal and one for dog rush on a person in 2016-2017 and both were successful. There were 8 prosecutions for dog at large and unregistered dog relating to unpaid infringements.

### **2.8.3 Comments on Table 3 (Below)**

Table 3 (below) indicates the actual numbers for various categories for the Colac Otway Shire for 2016 and have been used as a benchmark for the targets of the identified priorities for the animal management program.

### **2.9 Summary Comments**

Being a smaller rural council, Colac Otway Council animal management services continue to be under pressure due to resourcing issues. Registration numbers appear to be stable along with offences of dogs at large. In 2012 there was a concerted effort in regard to compliance for unregistered animals and this has been maintained each year. A substantial number of infringements were issued to identified owners resulting in a substantial drop in offences of dogs at large with impoundments falling dramatically.

Priority actions identified from Table 1 and 2 include increased focus on welfare outcomes for impounded animals, including return to owner which has been maintained and re-housing options which have improved, in particular the number of cats rehoused. There has been an on-going focus on dogs at large, a more rigorous enforcement program, better education and positive incentive programs to achieve greater compliance.

**Table 1 Animal Management Statistics**

	Colac Otway Shire 2016-2017	Average selected rural Councils 2011 <sup>@</sup>	RSPCA All Sites 2011	Ten like Western Victorian Councils 2008 <sup>#</sup>	State Average 2008 - Latest Figures (Includes-Metro Stats)
Population	20,255	34,882	N/A	9,887	58,400
Area	3,433km <sup>2</sup>	2,695 km <sup>2</sup>	N/A	3,865 km <sup>2</sup>	3,200
No. of Households	8874-2016 projections	18,014	N/A	N/A	N/A
No. of EFT Authorised Officers (4 x50%)	2	Figures unavailable	N/A	1.83	2.98
Hours training per EFT p.a.	50	N/A	N/A	38	62
No. of registered dogs. 2016-2017	4196(82%)	5,845 (73%)	N/A	2,404 (90%)	7,384
Estimated owned dog population *	5111 - 2016 figures	7,955	N/A	2,685	576 per 1000 households
No. of registered cats 2016-2017	1412(41.6%)	1,400 (25%)	N/A	689 (53%)	3,324
Estimated owned cat population *	3392 – 2016 figures	5,572	N/A	1,295	382 per 1000 households
No. of registered declared dogs	Restricted breed dogs(Nil) Danger. dogs 8 Menacing dogs 10	Figures unavailable	N/A	1.1	N/A
No. of Infringements issued	171 (3.04%)	590 (8%)	N/A	N/A	2% of registered animals
No. of prosecutions completed in	10	N/A	N/A	1.3	N/A
No. of successful prosecutions	10	N/A	N/A	1.3	N/A
No. of impoundments (dogs).	223	516	16,872	132	485
No. of dogs returned to owner	195(87.44%)	335 (65%)	8,851 (81%)	67 (51%)	53.0%
No. of dogs rehoused	25(11.21%)	80 (15%)	4,665 (27%)	18.5 (14%)	13.0%
No. of dogs euthanised	3(1.34%)	100 (19%)	2,893 (17%)	46.9 (36%)	34.0%
No. of impoundments (cats)	143	238	14,885	116.1	269
No. of cats returned to owner	7(4.9%)	29 (12%)	819 (5%)	12 (10.3%)	11.5%
No. of cats rehoused	62(43.35%)	22 (30%)	4,668 (31%)	18 (15.5%)	15.5%
No. of cats euthanised	74(51.75%)	140 (59%)	8,527 (55%)	91 (78%)	73.0%

**Notes on Table 1**

Blank spaces mean figures are not available or not applicable.

\*Department of Primary Industry has developed a formula for calculating the numbers of domestic animals per household to assist in calculating domestic animal numbers to be registered with Council.

**DPI Formula**

Number of dwellings X 1.44 X 40% for dogs.

Applied to Colac Otway Shire

8874 X 1.44 X 40%= 5111.

Actual Registered Dogs = 4196(2016-17)

Number of dwellings X 1.47 X 26% for cats.

8874 X 1.47 X 26%= 3392.

Actual Registered Cats = 1412(2016-17)

<sup>#</sup>Statistics from Harlock and Jackson's 2008 survey (including BIS Shrapnel report of 2006) as in DAM Plan of 10 western Victorian Councils, including Colac Otway Shire Council. This survey matches the latest state figures available (July 2012 correspondence from Bureau of Animal Welfare, DPI).

<sup>@</sup>Latest 2011 statistics obtainable from the following rural Councils: Campaspe and Bass Coast  
Staffing and Organisational Structure are provided within the document.

**Table 2 Colac Otway Shire 2010-11 to 2015-16 compared**

	Colac Otway Shire 2010-11	Colac Otway Shire 2016-2017	Difference
No. of registered dogs.	4821	4196	13% decrease
Estimated owned dog population *	4711	5111	
No. of registered cats	1485	1412	4.92% decrease
Estimated owned cat population *	3126	3392	
No. of registered declared dogs	14	18	28.6% increase
No. of prosecutions completed in	8	10	25% increase
No. of successful prosecutions	8	10	25% increase
No. of impoundments (dogs).	304	223	26.6% decrease
No. of dogs returned to owner	245	195	20.4% decrease
No. of dogs rehoused	38	25	34.2% decrease
No. of dogs euthanised	21	3	85.7% decrease
No. of impoundments (cats)	175	143	18.3% decrease
No. of cats returned to owner	10	7	30% decrease
No. of cats rehoused	18	62	344.4% increase
No. of cats euthanised	147	74	50% decrease

**Table 3 Colac Otway Shire Council 2015 – 2016**

Activity	Total Number
Number of registered dogs	4196
Number of registered cats	1412
Number of reported dog on dog attacks	8
Number of reported dog on people attacks	1 (Dog Rush)
Number of reported dog on livestock attacks	1
Number of reported cats wandering at large	N/A
Number of reported dogs wandering at large	N/A
Number of wild cats caught or reported	74
Number of registered animal breeding businesses	0

## 2.10 Priorities in Domestic Animal Management

Council's priorities were made clear in community, stakeholder and internal consultation. The Council's statistical performance relative to neighbouring and like Councils, State Averages and the RSPCA reinforces these priorities. Despite limited resources and a large geographical area, the following priorities were identified for the period of the new DAM Plan.

- To Improve animal management officer training;
- To decrease number of unregistered dogs and cats;
- To decrease dogs and cats wandering at large;
- To decrease wild cat population;
- To encourage de sexing of domestic animals;
- To decrease the risks of attacks by dogs on people and animals;
- To decrease the euthanasia rates for dogs and cats;
- To ensure registration of all domestic animal businesses; and
- To monitor, evaluate and report performance.

These priorities underlie Part 3 of this Plan, the Action Plan (which uses the 2012 template provided by the then Animal Welfare Bureau of the Department of Primary Industries). Measurable and achievable targets, as well as proposed implementation actions are given in the Four Year Action Plan in Part 3.

## Part 3. ACTION PLAN

The following four year Action Plan is structured according to the 2012 Template provided by the then Bureau of Animal Welfare or the Department of Primary Industries. The Action Plan is focused on the following nine areas:

- Training of Officers;
- Registration and Identification of animals;
- Nuisance animals;
- Dog attacks;
- Dangerous, Menacing and Restricted Breed Dogs;
- Overpopulation and high Euthanasia;
- Domestic Animals Businesses;
- Other matters (Emergency Management Plans); and
- Annual Review of Plan and Annual Reporting.

Colac Otway Shire is a rural Council with limitations on resources. Each of Council's Animal management staff have many other responsibilities, both administrative and in the community, including Local Laws, Parking enforcement, Livestock compliance, Environment Protection compliance, Permit processing and Prosecution duties. In part 2 of this plan the number of Officers are described as 4 Officers who spend half their time on Domestic Animal Management. This equates to 2 full time Domestic Animal Management Officers (Table 1).

The heavily committed Local Laws Unit has limited opportunity and resources to undertake additional service activities. Maintaining the existing services is of itself an ongoing challenge.

This Action Plan is targeted to provide the maintenance and improvement of basic animal management services and controls within the municipality as outlined in the priorities identified in Part 2.9 above.

### 3.1 TRAINING OF AUTHORISED OFFICERS

This section outlines programs for the training of authorised officers to ensure that they can properly administer and enforce the requirements of this Act in the Council's municipal district.

Compliant with 68(A)(2)(b) of the *Domestic Animals Act* 1994.

#### 3.1.1 CURRENT SITUATION

All Animal Management Officers are suitably qualified and all hold a Certificate IV in Animal Control and Regulation and a Certificate IV in Statutory Compliance. Two officers have extensive history and experience with the Victoria Police with over 53 years combined experience including a combined period of 35 years as qualified Detectives.

One officer has in the past completed a Diploma of Government (Investigations) and successfully completed the Court Procedure and Prosecutors Course conducted by Associated Training Consultants. Officers have a diverse background in a variety of fields such as Dairying, Beef farming, Dog Breeding and horse handling/training.

Officers are members of the Vic Rangers group and actively participate and access the educational and problem solving web site in order to deal with a variety of situations. Officers also attend conferences conducted by the South West Authorised Officer Group that are educational and informative with a variety of presentations and many guest speakers.

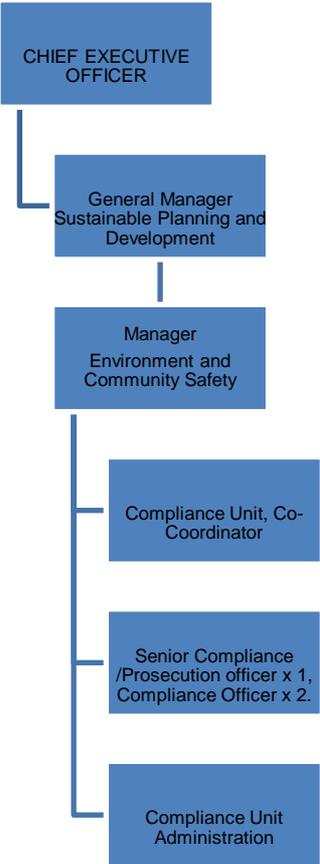
Below is the current organisational structure and the list of relevant staff

#### Staff

Compliance Unit Co Coordinator (1)  
Compliance Unit Officers (3)  
Compliance Unit Administration (1)

Duties of all officers include responsibilities under a large variety of legislation. Domestic Animal Management services forms only a part of each role. These responsibilities includes Local Laws, parking control, Livestock controls, Litter controls, footpath permits, Infringement prosecutions, administration duties, operation of the pound, fire prevention , and numerous other activities.

**COLAC OTWAY SHIRE'S – ANIMAL MANAGEMENT STAFFING & OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE**



### 3.1.2 CURRENT AND PLANNED TRAINING

Authorised Officer Training - Basic	2016	Planned (state when)
Certificate IV in Animal Control and Regulation (RUV40104) Officer 1 Officer 2 Officer 3 Officer 4	All staff Qualified	
OH&S training – dealing with aggressive customers Officer 1 Officer 2 Officer 3 Officer 4	Provided to all staff	Ongoing and when required
Customer service training – conflict resolution, telephone speak  Officer 1 Officer 2 Officer 3 Officer 4	Provided to all staff	Ongoing and when required
Bureau of Animal Welfare – training and information days Officer 1 Officer 2 Officer 3 Officer 4	Training and information days attended to by selected staff	Attend relevant Courses
Induction program for new staff Officer 3	Provided and completed	
Diploma in Government (Investigations) PSP51704  Officer 2	Qualified	
Certificate IV in Government (Statutory Compliance) PSP 41404 Officer 1 Officer 2 Officer 3 Officer 4	Qualified Qualified Qualified Qualified	
Industry training – time management Officer 1 Officer 2 Officer 3 Officer 4	Provided to all staff	
Court Procedure and Prosecutors Course – Associated Training Consultants Officer 2	Qualified	
Canine Anatomy and Identification Training Day Officer's 1,2,3 and 4 attended	All qualified	
DNA training for all officers to be undertaken as per Domestic Animals Act 1994	To attend course when same becomes available	As soon as possible

### 3.1.3 OUR PLANS

**Objective 1:** Council will maintain the current skills and qualifications of Authorised Animal Management Officers and will encourage further study and enhancement of current skills and qualifications and where opportunity exists attend relevant courses, conferences and seminars

Activity	When	Evaluation
Review and Benchmark Current training levels Provide relevant training as identified/required in consultation with Manager of Environment and Community Safety	Dec 2018 and then annually	Evaluation/Report – Measure and report on results The annual review of this plan and the benchmarking with others will assist in identifying required or improved skills or qualifications relevant to the position
Community – Ensure Best Practice is applied to improve customer relations Aim to improve/enhance customer relations	Dec 2018 and then annually	Evaluation/Report- Monitor, record and report on results
Workload – Identify a relevant and sustainable workload within the limitations of the resources available	Dec 2018 and then annually	Evaluation/Report- Monitor, record and report on results The annual review of the plan will identify shortfalls in the ability to deliver the required service by the Officers and what additional training/resources are required

## 3.2 REGISTRATION AND IDENTIFICATION

This section outlines programs, services and strategies to encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats.

Compliant with Section 68A(2)(c)(v) of the *Domestic Animals Act* 1994, - also addresses 68A(2)(a),(c)(i),(c)(ii),(d),(f)

### 3.2.1 CURRENT SITUATION

#### 3.2.1.1 Our current data

Colac Otway Shire Council 2011 to 2016 compared (see full Table in Part 2.8 above)

	Colac Otway Shire 2010-11	Colac Otway Shire 2016-2017	Difference
No. of registered dogs.	4821	4196	- 13%
Estimated owned dog population	4711	5111	
No. of registered cats	1485	1412	- 4.92%
Estimated owned cat population	3126	3392	

### **3.2.1.2 Our current Orders, Local Laws, Council Policies and Procedures**

Council has no Orders or Local Laws relevant to the registration of cats and dogs. Council's current controls are under the *Domestic Animals Act* 1994, Council currently provides:

- Registration and identification for dogs and cats, including renewal follow ups;
- Registration and identification of menacing and restricted breed dogs including renewal and random inspections;

### **3.2.1.3 Our current Education/Promotion Activities**

Council currently provides education and information services in the following manner:

- Advertisements in the local print media and local radio
- Animal information pamphlets made available at local events/shows/fairs
- Information pamphlets/packages available at Council Offices/Pound
- Direct communication and interaction by Authorised Officers with the Community
- Quarterly Newsletter to Colac Otway Shire residents that include Domestic Animal issues/rehousing/ and registration requirements
- Colac Otway Shire Web Page can raise/discuss relevant issues

### **3.2.1.4 Our current Compliance Activities**

Council currently provides:

- Renewal follow-ups for registration and identification for domestic dogs and cats;
- Vehicle patrols re dogs at large;
- Nuisance complaint response and investigation;
- Domestic animal pound facility;
- Cat trap hire services;
- Infringement notice system;
- Prosecution service for infringement offences;

### **3.2.1.5 Summary**

Registration of animals in 2011 to 2017 shows a decrease in dogs of 13%. The number of registered cats has decreased from 1485 (2011) to 1412 (2017). This is a decrease of 4.92%.

Whilst using the accepted formula to forecast the number of dogs within the shire it shows that we have a compliance rate of 82% in respect of dog registrations, albeit it appears very good it is widely accepted that we still have many unregistered dogs particularly in the rural and remote areas. These figures relate to the 2011 census and the figures for 2016 have not been released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics to date. When released they will be re-evaluated.

Using the accepted formula to forecast the number of cats within the shire it shows we have a compliance rate of 41.6% which is comparable to other Councils based on the 2011 figures. This will be re-evaluated on the release of new data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Many departed and deceased animals have been removed from the system as a result of follow up inspections and inquiries. This could account for the reduction in numbers.

Council plans from now include maintaining a greater level of enforcement commenced in 2012, broader and effective community education and positive incentive programs to achieve greater compliance.

### 3.2.2 OUR PLANS

**Objective:** To gain compliance, with a greater percentage of all registered dogs and cats

Activity	When	Evaluation
Benchmark 2017 - 4196 dogs and 1412 cats Evaluate against other comparative shires	Dec 2018	Check records and measure results
Community Door Knocks Random inspections Targeted inspections	Dec 2018 then annually	Check records and measure results
Promotion/publicity Media Articles On hold messages Mail outs Website updates Distribution of pamphlets/flyers	Dec 2018	Number of media articles Record mail outs Number of web site updates Record relevant distribution of pamphlets and fliers and information packages Check record and measure results
Education Continue an education program in conjunction with Shire Staff, and relevant interest groups	Dec 2018 and then annually	Work with identified groups to continue education program Measure and report on results
Enforcement Random and planned inspections Reminder notices Conduct investigations and regular patrols Seek compliance of this legislation by official warnings, infringement notices and prosecution	Dec 2018, then annually	Planned inspections for compliance and non-renewal Maintain Official warning register Continue to support prosecution of unpaid infringement offences Measure and report on results

### 3.3 NUISANCE

This section outlines programs, services and strategies to minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance.

Compliant with section 68A(2)(c)(vi) of the *Domestic Animals Act* 1994 - also addresses 68A(2)(a),(c)(i),(c)(ii),(d),(f)

#### 3.3.1 CURRENT SITUATION

##### 3.3.1.1 Our current data

Colac Otway Shire 2010–2011 to 2016-2017 compared (see full Table in Part 2.8 above)

	Colac Otway Shire 2010-11	Colac Otway Shire 2016-2017	Difference
No. of registered dogs.	4821	4196	Decrease 13%
Estimated owned dog population	4711	5111	
No. of registered cats	1485	1412	Decrease 4.92%
Estimated owned cat population	3126	3392	
No. of registered declared dogs	14	18	28.6% increase
No. of prosecutions completed in	8	10	25% increase
No. of successful prosecutions	8	10	25% increase
No. of impoundments (dogs).	304	223	Decrease 26.6%
No. of dogs returned to owner	245 (80.6%)	195 (87.44%)	Decrease 20.4% based on overall numbers not % of impoundments
No. of impoundments (cats)	175	143	Decrease 18.3%
No. of cats returned to owner	10 (5.7%)	7 (4.9%)	Decrease 30%

##### 3.3.1.2 Our current Orders, Local Laws, Council Policies and Procedures

Council has an order made under Section 26 of the Domestic Animals Act 1994, requiring dogs to be under effective control by means of a chain, cord or leash in a specified area. The areas are listed in the notice in the Government Gazette G 49 dated 8 December 2005 - 2851. Support documents are attached herewith.

Local Law number 2. (General) addresses animals at section 73 (Part 5) and this section requires person not to allow dog excrement to remain on a road or Council land and further requires persons to carry a suitable device to collect same when in charge of a dog on a road or Council land. Section 101 to 107 (Part 7) deals with the keeping of animals and section 105 specifically deals with the smell or noise that is created by animals that may be a nuisance.

Our current local law now controls the maximum numbers of domestic animals on certain size allotments and excess animal permits. Copy of same attached.

##### 3.3.1.3 Our current Education/Promotion Activities

Council currently undertakes the following educational and promotional activities in support of nuisance offences:

- Advertising in the print media
- Distribution of specific educational packs relating to nuisance offences
- Use of on-hold messages and Council's website to inform pet owners
- Education and information services provided, as resources and opportunity allow
- Dog excrement bag dispensers located in high dog activity areas

#### **3.3.1.4 Our current Compliance Activities**

Council treats the issue of animal nuisance very seriously. The type of complaints regularly received are dogs at large, dogs barking (noise complaint), dogs fouling nature strips/footpaths and feral cat problems. Council currently undertakes the following compliance activities in support of nuisance offences:

- Vehicle patrols and nuisance complaint response;
- Dog attack (Immediate response – 24 hour – After hours – On Call Officer)
- Dog at large (After hours call out – discretionary attendance)
- Registration and identification of menacing and restricted breed dogs including checks to ensure compliance with legislation requirements;
- Cat trap hire service
- Prevention of cruelty to animals authorisation and initial response to complaints on behalf of the RSPCA
- Infringement Notice System
- Prosecution Services
- Domestic Animal Pound for impounded animals

#### **3.3.1.5 Summary**

The majority of complaints received by Council relate to dogs at large and barking dog complaints. These complaints are monitored through the Council Merit system. The feral/abandoned, unwanted and unregistered cat population also register considerable complaints. Since the installation of dog excrement bags via dispensers in areas of high traffic by dogs there has been a noticeable compliance with the cleaning up of dog excrement.

The issue of dogs at large are quickly resolved either by returning the dog home or impoundment and consideration for an infringement for a dog at large which currently stands at \$238.00 (Daytime) and \$317.00 (Night time).

The issue of noise complaint by barking dogs is difficult to police, requires an extensive investigation and quite often the complainant/s are reluctant to become involved in a court process. Many complainants do not wish to be identified and the penalty by way of infringement is minimal. Council has developed a barking dog package for the information of complainants and offending owners alike. Council guidelines advise on how the complaint will be handled.

### **3.3.2 OUR PLANS**

To reduce the number of dogs and cats at large and deal with barking dog complaints in a timely manner.

The issue of dogs at large presents problems of dog attacks on other animals, livestock and persons. They can also cause a serious incident when wandering on roads. Considerable time and resources are deployed by Council addressing this problem. Many people have an absolute fear of dogs and the mere sight of a dog at large can cause fear and panic to many people whether warranted or not.

The issue of cats wandering and feral cats is the subject of many complaints due to the fouling of gardens/yards, attack on their own cat by the offending cat, destruction of wildlife and spread of disease.

Council will ensure the community is educated on the importance of animal confinement and information packages/pamphlets will be made available from Council offices and other relevant locations.

**Objective 1: Reduce number of dogs and cats at large**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Evaluation</b>
Benchmark against other comparative Councils reports of animals at large for period 2016-2017	Dec 2018, and then annually	Measure and report on results
Community Advise owners by way of documentation (Pamphlets/flyers) Documentation to be given to owners on return of dogs found at large (Not impounded) Documentation to be provided to owners when dogs released from pound.	Dec 2018, and then annually	Measure and report results in annual review of this plan
Education Establish relationship with Dog Obedience Club/Dog Trainers and Dog walkers and have information disseminated by same. Provide relevant information to new owners	Dec 2018, and then annually	Evaluate work with identified groups Information sent to new owners Measure and report on results
Publicity and Promotion Media articles Mail out with Council rates/quarterly newsletter Website update On hold messages Distribute relevant flyers and pamphlets Establish relationship with local vets re responsible ownership	Dec 2018, and then annually	Record media articles Mail outs achieved Web site information Vet assistance regarding issue Measure and report on results
Enforcement Official Warnings Regular patrols for offences and also as deterrent Gain compliance by official warnings, infringements and prosecution where required	Dec 2018, and then annually	Compare number of offences from previous years. Number of warnings issued Number of infringements issued Number of prosecutions Measure and report on results

**Objective 2: Improved response and outcomes to barking dog complaints**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Evaluation</b>
Benchmark against comparative shires complaints received for 2016-7 41 Complaints received in 2015-6	Dec 2018 and then annually	Measure and report on results
Community Direct interaction with complainants and offending parties regarding compliance	Dec 2018 and then annually	Measure and report on results
Education Distribute educational package developed by Council to complainants and offending parties for benefits and advice	Dec 2018 and then annually	Measure and report on results
Promotion / Publicity Media articles On hold messages Mail-outs with registration renewals Issue specific flyers, pamphlets and information packages Use local vets to encourage and educate re responsible pet ownership	Dec 2018 and then annually	Record number of media releases Mail-out data Distribution of information kit Assess relationship between Council and Local vets Measure and report on results
Enforcement Official Warnings Infringements Prosecutions	Dec 2018 and then annually	Measure and report on results

## 3.4 Dog Attacks

This section outlines programs, services and strategies to minimise the risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals.

Compliant with Section 68A(2)(c)(iii) of the *Domestic Animal Act* 1994, (and also Section 68A(2)(a),(c)(i),(c)(ii),(d),(f).

### 3.4.1 CURRENT SITUATION

#### 3.4.1.1 Our data

Colac Otway Shire Council 2010 to 2011 compared to (see full Table in Part 2.8 above)  
Colac Otway Shire Council 2015 – 2016 (see full Table in Part 2.8 above)

	Shire of Colac Otway Shire 2010-11	Shire of Colac Otway 2016-17	Difference
No. of registered dogs.	4821	4196	-13%
Estimated owned dog population	4711	5111	
No. of registered declared dogs	14	18	28.6% increase
No. of prosecutions completed in	5	10	100% Increase
No. of successful prosecutions	5	10	
No. of impoundments (dogs).	304	223	26.6% decrease
No. of dogs returned to owner	245	195	20.6% decrease

Activity	Total Number
Number of reported dog on dog attacks	7
Number of reported dog on people attacks	1 prosecuted in Court (Dog Rush), 1 x infringement.
Number of reported dog on livestock attacks	1 Prosecuted in Court(dog on horse)

#### 3.4.1.2 Our Orders, Local Laws, Council Policies and Procedures

Council currently enforces the provisions of the Domestic Animals Act 1994 in regard to dog attacks. All reported dog attacks are investigated and appropriate action in line with legislation is taken. Council has developed a guideline for Authorised Officers in regard to seizure of offending dogs after an attack.

#### 3.4.1.3 Our Education/Promotion Activities

Council currently undertakes the following educational and promotional activities in support of dog attack issues:

- use of on-hold messages and Council's website to inform pet owners;
- Education and information services provided, as resources and opportunity allow.
- Use of media advertising and Court results

#### 3.4.1.4 Our Compliance Activities

Council treats the issues of dog attack very seriously. Council currently undertakes the following compliance activities in support of nuisance offences:

- vehicle patrols and nuisance complaint response;
- dog attack (immediate - including 24 hour emergency service) and dog at large (Discretionary) call-out services;
- registration and identification of menacing and restricted breed dogs including monitoring of declared animal and spot checks;
- infringement notice system;
- a domestic animal pound for impounded animals;
- prosecution of serious dog attacks

#### 3.4.1.5 Summary

The number of dog attacks has remained relatively low within the shire with no outstanding incidents and no serious injuries to persons reported. Confinement of dogs is a priority because the instances of wandering dogs increases risk to other pets, humans and livestock, and consumes time and resources of Compliance Officers. De sexed animals are less likely to wander so Council will continue to encourage people to have their pet de sexed. Council will ensure there is information available on the importance of animal confinement at Council service centres and other key locations.

### 3.4.2 OUR PLANS

**Objective 1:** To decrease dog attacks on people and animals.

The incidence of dog attack on both persons and animals is steady in the Colac Otway Shire and it is accepted that some are still unreported. Often when a dog attack is reported, officers find that it is a recurrence of an offence that went unreported previously. Had the initial attack/s been reported, subsequent attacks may have been averted.

Dog attacks continue to be reported to Council involving attacks on persons, dogs and livestock. Several cases could not be prosecuted in the Magistrates Court because of a public reluctance to appear in court. Without a victim Council officers cannot prosecute.

All dogs are required to be confined to their property. This is a requirement under the *Domestic Animal Act 1994* and Council will continue to place importance on the need for dogs to be confined. Council will encourage people to have their dogs de-sexed, as this helps to reduce their tendencies to wander and be at large.

Council has developed guidelines for the seizure of dogs after an attack to limit the repetition of an attack or the hiding of a dog from the Authorities. This will also take into account the new provisions under the Crimes Act, Victoria.

Activity	When	Evaluation (and Targets)
Benchmark against comparative municipalities 1 reported dog attack on livestock 7 reported dog on dog attacks 2 reported dog on people attacks (dog rush)	Dec 2018, then annually	Measure and report on results
Community Use media and relationships with Local hospitals and Doctors to encourage and ensure reporting of dog attacks on persons educate community about dog confinement and problem and penalties for dog attack Develop further relationship with local vets	Dec 2018, then annually	Further develop the relationship between Council and local vets, Hospitals and Medical Clinics to ensure increases in reported dog attacks from 2012 onwards Measure and report on results in the annual review of this Plan.
Educational programs with parties who may be aware of incidents such as at Hospitals, Doctors and Vet clinics	Dec 2018, then annually	Provide education for responsible pet ownership Record level of distribution of relevant information Measure and report on results
Promotion / Publicity media articles on-hold messages mail-outs with Council rates website updates issue specific flyers and brochures Use Vet Clinics to encourage dog-on-dog attack reporting.	Dec 2018, then annually	Record numbers of media articles Annual mail-out with Council rates Monthly website updates New owner information kit developed Monitor the relationship between Council and relevant agencies to ensure reporting of dog attacks Measure and report on results in the annual review of this Plan.
Enforcement Doorknocking and random domestic animal registration inspections Reminder notices Set up official warning register Conduct investigations and regular patrols Seek compliance of this legislation by official warnings, infringement notices and prosecution	Dec 2018, then annually	Reduce number of dog attacks on 2011 base year Random domestic animal registration inspections established Official warning register set up Continue to support prosecution unit Periodic report to Executive Measure and report on results in the annual review of this Plan

## 3.5 Dangerous, Menacing and Restricted Breed Dogs

This section outlines programs, services and strategies to effectively identify all dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs in the district and to ensure that these dogs are kept in compliance with this Act and the regulations.

Compliant with Section 68A(2)(c)(vii) of the *Domestic Animal Act* 1994, (and also Section 68A(2)(a),(c)(i),(c)(ii),(d),(f).

### 3.5.1 CURRENT SITUATION

#### 3.5.1.1 Our data

Colac Otway Shire Council 2010-11 to 2015-6 compared (see full Table in Part 2.8 above)

	Shire of Colac Otway 2010-11	Shire of Colac Otway 2016-2017	Difference
No. of registered dogs.	4821	4196	13% decrease
Estimated owned dog population	4711	5111	
No. of registered declared dogs	14	18	28.6% increase

#### 3.5.1.2 Our Orders, Local Laws, Council Policies and Procedures

Dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs are controlled by the *Domestic Animal Act* 1994. Council will ensure that declared dogs are kept in compliance with the Act.

#### 3.5.1.3 Our Education/Promotion Activities

Council currently undertakes the following educational and promotional activities, including providing information of dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs:

- Use of Media to inform the community of their responsibilities and the consequences of non-compliance;
- Distribution of pamphlets and flyers with relevant information;
- use of on-hold messages and Council's website to inform pet owners;
- Education and information services provided, as resources and opportunity allow.

#### 3.5.1.4 Our Compliance Activities

Council treats all dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs very seriously. Council currently undertakes the following compliance activities in support of such offences:

- vehicle patrols and complaint response;
- dog attack (immediate - including 24 hour emergency service) and dog at large (as available) call-out services;
- registration and identification of menacing and restricted breed dogs including monitoring of declared dogs to ensure compliance; and
- Infringement notice system;
- Prosecution services where required.

#### 3.5.1.5 Summary

Council currently reviews the Victorian Declared Dog Register and monitors the animals recorded on same and ensures compliance is being adhered to. Council's promotional, educational, community and enforcement activities are all targeted at achieving compliance in line with the relevant State legislation involving these matters.

### 3.5.2 OUR PLANS

Objective: To ensure all dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs are identified and kept in compliance with the Domestic Animal Act 1994.

Activity	When	Evaluation (and Targets)
Community Education about dangerous menacing and restricted breed dogs via media, newsletters, and pamphlets. Contact with relevant stakeholders, i.e. Vets, Dog training groups	Dec 2018, then annually	Measure and report on results in the annual review of this Plan.
Education Media related articles On hold messages and Web Page updates Distribution of relevant pamphlets and flyers	Dec 2018, Then annually	Provide education for responsible pet ownership Work with identified groups Record number of school visits Measure and report on results
Promotion / Publicity media articles, on-hold messages mail-outs with Council rates website updates issue specific flyers and brochures Use Vet Clinics to encourage responsible pet ownership.	Dec 2018, then annually	Record numbers of media articles Annual mail-out with Council rates Monthly website updates New owner information kit done Monitor the relationship between Council and local vets Measure and report on results in the annual review of this Plan.
Enforcement Doorknocking and random domestic animal registration inspections Reminder notices Official warning register Conduct investigations and regular patrols Seek compliance of this legislation by official warnings, infringement notices and prosecution	Dec 2018, then annually	Reduce number of dog and cat at large and dog attacks from 2012 base year Official warning register set up Continue to support prosecution unit Measure and report on results in the annual review of this Plan

### 3.6 Overpopulation and High Euthanasia

This section outlines programs, services and strategies to address any over-population and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats.

Compliant with Section 68A(2)(c)(iv) of the Domestic Animal Act 1994, and also Section 68A(2)(a),(c)(i),(c)(ii),(d),(f).

#### 3.6.1 CURRENT SITUATION

##### 3.6.1.1 Our data

Colac Otway Shire Council 2010-11 to 2016-7 compared (see full Table in Part 2.8 above).

	Shire of Colac Otway 2010-11	Shire of Colac Otway 2016-2017	Difference
No. of registered dogs.	4821	4196	-13%
Estimated owned dog population *	4711	5111	
No. of registered cats	1485	1412	-4.92%
Estimated owned cat population *	3126	3392	
No. of impoundments (dogs).	304	223	-26.6%
No. of dogs returned to owner	245	195	-20.4%
No. of dogs rehoused	38	25	-34.2%
No. of dogs euthanised	21	3	-85.7%
No. of impoundments (cats)	175	143	-18.3%

No. of cats returned to owner	10	7	-30%
No. of cats rehoused	18	62	+344.44%
No. of cats euthanised	147	74	-50%

### 3.6.1.2 Orders, Local Laws, Council Policies and Procedures

Council's pound and euthanasia policies are guided by the *Domestic Animal Act* 1994. Council policy is to, wherever possible, return any lost or seized at-large animal to its owner. However, registration and identification is essential.

### 3.6.1.3 Our Education/Promotion Activities

Council's promotion of registration and micro chipping strongly emphasises the return of lost pets. Council currently undertakes the following educational and promotional activities in support of nuisance offences:

- Print Media and Radio advertising
- use of on-hold messages and Council's website to inform pet owners;
- Education and information services provided, as resources and opportunity allow.

### 3.6.1.4 Our Compliance Activities

Council regards its current euthanasia rate as acceptable. Council currently undertakes the following compliance activities in support of increasing registration and thereby reducing euthanasia rates:

- renewal follow-ups for registration and identification for domestic dogs and cats;
- vehicle patrols and nuisance complaint response;
- a domestic animal pound for impounded animals;
- infringement notice system
- Prosecution services.

### 3.6.1.5 Summary

The Table above clearly indicates the high level of euthanasia of impounded cats in the Colac Otway Shire. 147 in 2010-11, but it must be stressed that this includes feral and diseased cats that are handed into Council. These cats cannot be rehoused and distort the true efforts of Council to rehouse animals. The low level of cat registration means many cats are not identifiable and are unable to be returned to an owner. This has been vastly improved with a partnership with a Local Vet and his Cat adoption program and rehousing of cats has moved from 18 to 62.

The level of dog euthanasia sits at 1.34% (3 dogs) and this includes dogs that were not suitable for rehousing (involved in attacks etc.) and this again distorts the true efforts of Council. During this period Council rehoused 25 dogs which is an acceptable level.

Our efforts again in 2016-2017 were of an acceptable standard, 25 (11.21%) dogs rehoused and only 3 (1.34%) of dogs euthanised. In regard to cats 62(43.75%) were rehoused. Cat euthanasia was 74(50%). Council runs an expression of interest register for persons interested in re housing a pet and subsidises the microchip by 50%, offers free registration and also liaises with Local Vets to obtain a subsidised rate for de sexing and vaccination.

Council also utilises local media and Facebook in advertising animals requiring re-housing.

Council has established a relationship with a local vet who runs a cat adoption program and many of Councils cats are re homed through this program. This has dramatically reduced our euthanasia rate.

Council also uses all local vet businesses to identify potential applicants who may be interested in re housing.

### 3.6.2 OUR PLANS

Objective: To decrease euthanasia rates of seized animals.

Council plans to achieve this objective by increasing the registration rates, which will allow identification and return to owners.

Activity	When	Evaluation (and Targets)
Benchmark 2017: 3 dogs, 74 domestic cats	Dec 2018, then annually	Reduce euthanasia rates for impounded dogs and cats Measure and report on results
Community Greater attempts to be made to find owners or rehouse Investigate rehousing options rather than euthanasia Work with identified interest groups	Dec 2018, then annually	Local Laws officers to investigate rehousing options Measure and report on results in the annual review of this Plan
Education Education in conjunction with registration follow-ups phone and door knocking.	Dec 2018, then annually	Measure and report on results
Promotion / Publicity esp. re. registration Media articles on-hold messages mail-outs with Council rates website updates (Facebook) issue specific flyers and brochures	Dec 2018, then annually	Record numbers of media articles Annual mail-out with Council rates Monthly website updates New owner information kit developed Measure and report on results in the annual review of this Plan.
Enforcement re. Registration Doorknocking Reminder notices Conduct investigations and regular patrols Seek compliance of this legislation by official warnings, infringement notices and prosecution	Dec 2018, then annually	Establish random domestic animal registration inspections Set up official warning register Develop prosecution unit Periodic report to Executive Measure and report on results in the annual review of this Plan

### 3.7 Domestic Animal Businesses

This section outlines programs, services and strategies which the Council intends to pursue in its municipal district to ensure that people comply with this Act, the regulations and any related legislation.

Compliant with Section 68A(2)(c)(ii) of the Domestic Animal Act 1994, and also Section 68A(2)(a),(c)(i),(d),(f).

#### 3.7.1 CURRENT SITUATION

##### 3.7.1.1 Our data

Council currently has one registered Boarding facility (Cats) and two registered Pet shops and the Council Pound facility.

##### 3.7.1.2 Our Orders, Local Laws, Council Policies and Procedures

Domestic animal business registration is controlled by the *Domestic Animal Act* 1994. Council has a zero-tolerance of non-compliance in domestic animal businesses, and will continue to investigate all reports on domestic animal breeding businesses and seek compliance for any non-registered domestic animal business by conducting door knocks and property inspections.

##### 3.7.1.3 Our Education/Promotion Activities

Council provides information and guidance to every domestic animal business on the necessity of registration, the procedure and the requirements to be fulfilled under the Act.

##### 3.7.1.4 Our Compliance Activities

Council has a zero-tolerance of non-compliance in domestic animal businesses, and will continue to investigate all reports on domestic animal breeding businesses and seek compliance for any non-registered domestic animal business by conducting door knocks and property inspections. In the 2015 - 2016 period Council conducted inspections on all registered establishments.

##### 3.7.1.5 Summary

Colac Otway Shire has a variety of domestic animal businesses. There are approved Codes of Practice for the operation of breeding and rearing establishments, boarding establishments, and shelters and pounds. Pet shops are also included. Council is obliged to ensure each establishment complies with the relevant Code of Practice with regular audits. This is an area of intense public scrutiny. Council has a zero-tolerance of non-compliance in domestic animal businesses, and will continue to investigate all reports on domestic animal breeding businesses and seek compliance for any non-registered domestic animal business by conducting door knocks and property inspections.

### 3.7.2 OUR PLANS

**Objective:** To ensure all domestic animal businesses are registered with Council and comply with the requirements of the *Domestic Animal Act 1994*.

Activity	When	Evaluation (and Targets)
Benchmark 2016-7:	Dec 2018, then annually	Measure and report on results
Community Follow-ups from animal registrations, community information, newspaper sales, advertisements (Internet) and veterinary assistance	Dec 2018, then annually	Continue to audit registered animal breeding businesses Establish random domestic animal business registration inspections Measure and report on results in the annual review of this Plan.
Promotion / Publicity Media articles on-hold messages mail-outs with Council rates website updates issue specific flyers and brochures	Dec 2018, then annually	Record numbers of media articles Annual mail-out with Council rates Monthly website updates New owner information kit developed Measure and report on results in the annual review of this Plan.
Enforcement Audits of known animal breeding businesses Conduct investigations and regular patrols Seek compliance of this legislation by official warnings, infringement notices and prosecution	Dec 2018, then annually	Continue to audit registered animal breeding businesses Establish random domestic animal business registration inspections Official warning register Support prosecution unit Measure and report on results in the annual review of this Plan

### 3.8 Other Matters

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

Compliant with Section 68A(2)(e) of the *Domestic Animal Act 1994*.

#### 3.8.1 CURRENT SITUATION

##### 3.8.1.1 Our data

Colac Otway Shire Council's Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP) now makes provisions for domestic animals. While full responsibility for domestic animals in all circumstances rests with the owner of the animal, Council needs to consider issues of domestic animal management when considering evacuation procedures, emergency relief centres. Housing and feeding animals may become an important issue, when people bring domestic animals into relief centres or domestic animal businesses require evacuation.

### 3.8.1.2 Our Orders, Local Laws, Council Policies and Procedures

Provision for emergency management planning for domestic animals is now included within the MEMP. Council has developed a separate plan/procedures/contact lists as deemed appropriate by the Emergency Management Committee of Council.

### 3.8.1.3 Our Education/Promotion Activities

Council may need to undertake further community education about owner responsibility for domestic animals in emergency planning.

Provide advice/brochures/media releases on what to consider for pets in an emergency – include their needs as part of your emergency planning, e.g. food, water, bowls, bedding, cage, medication, registration and micro chipping to help reunite pets with their owners after emergencies, external identification – e.g. collar with registration tag

### 3.8.1.4 Summary

Domestic animal management planning in a municipal emergency can become a significant logistical issue, even though primary responsibility rests on the owners of domestic animals. Confusion, conflict and diverted resources can all result from a failure to consider domestic animals in evacuation and relief centres. The numbers of animals involved in domestic animal businesses could further aggravate these issues.

Council has now reviewed its MEMP to incorporate domestic animal management planning in municipal emergencies.

## 3.8.2 OUR PLANS

Objective: To promote Council’s inclusion of pets and animals from domestic animal businesses in Municipal Emergency Management Plan.

Activity	When	Evaluation (and Targets)
Council’s MEMP Committee to review plan and include same in planned drills re domestic animal management issues in municipal emergencies	Dec 2018	MEMP is reviewed re domestic animal issues
Community / Education Include emergency management planning in community education about domestic animals	Dec 2018	Include emergency management planning in community and education information publications on domestic animals
Promotion / Publicity Include Emergency Management Planning in: Media articles and on-hold messages mail-outs with Council rates website updates issue specific flyers and brochures	Dec 2018	Record numbers of media articles Annual mail-out with Council rates Monthly website updates New owner information kit developed Measure and report on results in the annual review of this Plan.

## 3.9 Annual Review of Plan and Annual Reporting

This section provides for the annual review of the Plan and Annual Reporting.

Compliant with Section 68A(3)(a)(b)(c) of the *Domestic Animal Act* 1994 as below:

68A(3) Every Council must—

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

### 3.9.1 CURRENT SITUATION

#### 3.9.1.1 Our data

The Plan is reviewed annually to Council.

#### 3.9.1.2 Our Orders, Local Laws, Council Policies and Procedures

Council has one Order under the *Domestic Animal Act* 1994. This Order relates to on leash areas for dogs in the Colac Otway Shire.

#### 3.9.1.3 Summary

Performance in domestic animal management should be a regular management focus. Appropriate performance statistics should be completed and reported. A review of performance under the DAM Plan is required to be included in Council's Annual Report (see Section 68A (3) (c) of the Domestic Animal Act 1994 in part 1.2 of this DAM Plan).

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

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

### 3.9.2 OUR PLANS

**Objective:** To review progress on this Plan in a report to Council, including a summary report in the Annual Plan.

Activity	When	Evaluation (and Targets)
Benchmark 2017: Monitor Merit system regarding complaints by the Community	Dec 2018, then annually	Evaluate complaints and action taken Measure and report on results
Community Focus on customer service, community education and encouragement of responsible pet ownership	Dec 2018, then annually	Continue to improve customer relations and education.
Promotion / Publicity Undertake media/Newsletter/Internet publicity for key messages about responsible pet ownership	Dec 2018, then annually	Record published media articles Annual mail-out with Council rates Monthly website updates New owner information kit developed Measure and report on results in the annual review of this Plan.
Other Review and revise activities in Plan as required	Dec 2018, then annually	Revise Action Plan if required Report to Council quarterly
Enforcement	Dec 2018, then annually	Measure and report on results in the annual review of this Plan