

Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan

2022-2025

Summary of Activities

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About the Plan

Darebin City Council reviews its Domestic Animal Management Plan every four years. The Plan outlines how the City will manage domestic animals like dogs and cats. The plan directs how Council will invest its time and resources, and how it will support the management of domestic animals and the safety and wellbeing of the wider community.

The Plan is presented by way of key focus areas – these have been grouped as themes for the purpose of summarising proposed activities.

To view the whole Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022-2025 visit www.yoursaydarebin.com.au/animalplan

Key Focus Areas

Theme 1. Programs to promote and encourage responsible pet ownership and compliance with legislation & Registration and identification

Our proposed activities to address these themes are:

- Ensure cat nuisance requests are actioned in a timely manner
- Partner with local dog training organisations
- Include responsible pet ownership information with registration renewals and provide regular education via social media platforms. Provide targeted communications to specific communities eg. CALD communities, geographical locations etc
- Follow up unregistered cats and dogs
- Promote animal registrations and discounts through Vet clinics
- Local Law Officer meet and greets
- Develop dog off-leash process/procedure
- Consideration of discounted microchips scheme
- Promotion of cat curfew
- Consider webinars or educational videos on a range of topics for community
- Regular campaigns on pet ownership topics various topics
- Explore incentive of free registration on adoptions for the first year.

Theme 2. Programs to address overpopulation rates and high euthanasia rates & Nuisance

Our proposed activities to address these themes are:

- Provide low-cost desexing vouchers and run desexing events

- Identify illegal breeding establishments
- Increase animal rescue organisation partnerships
- Explore mandatory desexing for cats
- Mobile desexing programs in partnership with Moreland and Whittlesea Councils
- Promote animal adoption through animal shelter or rescue organisations
- Partner with Moreland City Council, City of Whittlesea, EAWF and animal rescue groups to provide a neonatal kitten program.
- Explore Council-run dog training
- Partner with Moreland City Council and City of Whittlesea to develop a strategy to manage cat hoarding
- Partner with Moreland City Council and City of Whittlesea to develop a responsible pet ownership resource regarding dog waste in the community
- Consideration of provision of bins in newly created parks
- Explore using external services to manage barking complaints
- Consider the purchase of recording devices for barking dog investigations

Theme 3. Dog attacks & Dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs

Our proposed activities to address these themes are:

- Regular and proactive park patrols
- Sharing of information with Moreland and Whittlesea Councils
- Encourage reporting of dog attacks and incidents
- Conduct random and regular property inspections
- Provide community education – how to choose the right dog for you
- Review of Destruction of Dangerous Dogs Policy 2014
- Partner with Moreland and Whittlesea Councils to develop a consistent approach to investigations, declarations and property compliance
- Education around dog behaviour and body language and how to report an attack/incident
- Explore procurement panel with Moreland and Whittlesea Councils for fixed cost prosecutions, sharing outcomes from court and VCAT

Theme 4. Domestic Animal Businesses

Our proposed activities to address these themes are:

- Annual Domestic Animal Business (DAB) audits
- Review of DAB audit templates in partnership with Moreland and Whittlesea Councils

Theme 5. Biodiversity

Our proposed activities to address this theme are:

- Continue to deliver councils core animal management functions that protect biodiversity including:
 - Registration of animals
 - Managing off-leash areas and park patrols by Animal Management Officers
 - Provision of bins in parks
 - Stray cat trapping functions
 - Improvements in sensitive creek areas to minimise impact of dogs
- Responsible pet ownership education activities including:
 - Keeping cats in during curfew hours
 - Responsibilities regarding dog poo
 - Requirement to register cats and dogs

Theme 6. Community wellbeing & Inclusive and welcoming service for diverse community

Our proposed activities to address these themes are:

- Promote the fostering of animals within the community to aide in rehabilitation and rehoming
- Supporting people in hardship to reduce barriers to companion animals including:
 - Desexing vouchers
 - Reduced fee registration
 - Emergency boarding in crisis scenarios
 - Reduced cost of microchipping and vaccinations
 - Linking residents with animal support agencies
- Languages other than English spoken by Animal Management Team
- Translation of brochures into community languages
- Audit all forms to ensure they are inclusive

Theme 7. Continuous Improvement - Epping Animal Welfare Facility

Our proposed activities to address this theme are:

- Consider installation of bird housing
- Review of rescue, foster and volunteer programs at the EAWF
- Review standards of housing for poultry and pocket pets