

7.1.4 ADOPTION OF THE DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN 2026-2029

Responsible Manager:	Greg Talbot, Manager Community Safety and Amenity
Responsible Director:	Peter Panagakos, Director City Development

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

1. **Acknowledges and thanks the community for their participation and feedback on the Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029 through the community engagement process.**
2. **Notes that the community engagement process has been conducted in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy and that all submissions have been considered.**
3. **Resolves to adopt the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029 as set out in Attachment One, inclusive of changes to the plan as detailed in this report that have arisen from the community consultation.**
4. **Notes that adopted Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029 will be submitted to the Secretary of Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) *as required under S68A(3)(b) of the Domestic Animals Act 1994.***

INTRODUCTION

At its meeting of 23 June 2025 Council resolved to release the draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029 for community consultation.

The purpose of this report is to:

- consider the feedback from the community engagement process on the draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029 (DAMP); and
- recommend that Council adopts the DAMP 2026-29 in accordance with this report and Attachment One – DAMP 2026-2029.

COUNCIL PLAN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Inclusive Services

Deliver high performing services.

Good Governance

Effectively communicate and engage with the community.
Maintain the highest standards of good governance.

BACKGROUND

In accordance with Section 68A of the Domestic Animals Act 1994 (Act) all Councils are required to have a DAMP in place and review the plan at 4-yearly intervals.

The purpose of the DAMP is to provide Council with strategic goals that deliver achievable objectives for animal management in Monash including general animal welfare topics, compliance with the Act and the promotion of responsible pet ownership for cats and dogs.

Upon the completion of the review, the DAMP is to be submitted to the Secretary of Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) by 4 December 2025.

The draft Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) 2026-29 was prepared following a review of the previous plan and was updated to:

- continue with the focus of the current plan on important actions such as the cat trap service and education on pet registration and de-sexing; and
- include improvements such as community awareness on animal keeping numbers, animal welfare, cat containment strategies and a “reuniting first” approach to roaming animals.

At its meeting of 23 June 2025, Council resolved amongst other matters resolved to release the draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2025-2029 for community consultation in accordance with Councils Community Engagement Policy.

DISCUSSION

This report provides details and responses to the consultation that was undertaken on the draft DAM plan. The consultation was facilitated by the Shape Monash platform between 10 July and 10 August 2025.

Feedback was specifically sought across four primary focus areas. The consultation aimed to capture community input on each area to ensure alignment with community values and expectations.

The four key topics explored were:

1. Ensuring the quick return of lost pets
2. Reducing nuisance behaviors
3. Preventing risks to the safety of people and pets
4. Ensuring the welfare of animals

These focus areas helped to shape community discussions and informed amendments to the draft Plan. Feedback received on each topic was carefully reviewed and directly contributed to the development of specific objectives and actions, ensuring the Plan reflects community sentiment and priorities.

During the consultation period, the Shape Monash platform attracted 3,663 visits and 467 submissions were made by 455 contributors. The feedback is provided in detail at Attachment Two. Each of the four topic areas (mentioned above) are discussed in more detail below.

Focus area one: Ensuring the quick return of lost pets

The community were asked for their views on the following topics:

- Prioritising a reunite-first approach with registered animals
- Educating vet clinics about their ability to reunite animals with owners
- Education about dog and cat registration, including signage in parks and on Council vehicles
- Education to the community around microchipping their animals
- Conducting door knocks to ensure pet registration
- Following up owners that have not renewed their pet registrations
- Ensuring all impounded animals are registered with Council prior to their release
- Issuing fines for unregistered animals
- Promoting the need to keep animal owner contact details up to date
- Providing lifetime tags and education of application to animals
- Ensuring registration information is in different languages
- The promotion of a variety of welfare information for pets

Feedback and emerging themes

Opposition to door knocking:

Many respondents opposed door-to-door checks, citing privacy, cost concerns and inefficiency in the approach.

Officer Response:

Officers acknowledge the community feedback regarding concerns around door knocking as a method for verifying pet registration. While some residents expressed discomfort with this approach, it is important to clarify the intent and scope of the program.

The door knock program is conducted bi-annually as part of Council's Domestic Animal Management Plan. It is not a blanket approach, but rather a targeted initiative aimed at addressing specific gaps in pet registration. Door knocks are undertaken in cases where:

- a. An animal has not been re-registered following the previous registration period; or
- b. Where microchip databases indicate an animal is linked to an address within the municipality, but no corresponding Council registration exists.

In these instances, officers conduct door knocks to educate residents on their responsibilities under the Domestic Animals Act 1994, and to support compliance with registration requirements (owners must apply to register dogs and cats with Council). The primary goal is to ensure pets are registered, which is essential for their safe return if lost, and for broader community safety and animal welfare. It is for these reasons that the door knock program is not proposed to be removed from the DAMP.

Microchipping & registration:

There is strong support for mandatory microchipping, lifetime tag concerns, and centralised databases.

Officer Response:

Microchipping and registration are fundamental in ensuring the safe and timely return of lost pets. These measures are not only critical for animal welfare but are also legal requirements under the Domestic Animals Act 1994.

Microchipping is mandatory in Victoria for anyone selling or giving away a dog or cat, with the exception of transfers to shelters or pound facilities. This requirement ensures that animals can be identified and reunited with their owners more efficiently.

Registration tags:

Feedback was received regarding the durability and removability of lifetime registration tags.

Officer Response:

These tags are intentionally designed to be robust and long-lasting, as dogs and cats should always wear their tag to assist in identification. While they may be difficult to remove from collars, this is a deliberate feature to prevent loss and ensure visibility. If a tag becomes illegible or is lost, Council will issue a replacement free of charge upon request. The issuing of registration tags is a mandatory requirement under the Act and cannot be removed from the Domestic Animal Management Plan.

Database management:

Concerns were raised about de-centralised microchipping arrangements

Officer Response:

Officers acknowledge community concerns regarding the lack of a single, centralised microchip database. In Victoria, microchip databases are managed by the Department of Agriculture, and multiple providers exist nationally. To assist pet owners, petaddress.com.au has been established by Australian registry bodies as a search tool that scans across all recognised databases. This service helps owners locate their pet's microchip record and update their contact details, improving the chances of reunification.

Council will continue to promote responsible pet ownership through education and support services and remains committed to improving systems that help reunite lost pets with their families.

Communication and education:

Participants identified that more education and communication is required about what to do when a pet is lost or found including online pet registries, the role of vet clinics and pet ownership responsibilities.

Many respondents to the survey expressed a desire for more accessible tools such as an online registry, dedicated hotline, or social media platforms to report and locate lost animals.

Officer Response:

Officers recognise the strong community interest in improving communication channels and public education around lost pets.



While Council does not currently operate its own lost pet registry, its contracted pound facility, Animal Aid, maintains a daily updated lost pets listing on its website. This resource is a valuable tool for the community and plays a key role in the reunification process.

To enhance awareness and accessibility, officers will actively promote Animal Aid's lost pets page through its own website, newsletters, and other community publications. This will ensure residents are informed about where to look for lost pets and how to report found animals.

In addition, officers will continue to explore opportunities to strengthen public education around responsible pet ownership, including:

- Clear guidance on what to do when a pet is lost or found.
- Promotion of microchipping and registration requirements.
- Multilingual resources to support diverse communities.
- Use of digital platforms and community networks to share information quickly.

Officers remain committed to improving communication and educational efforts to support pet owners and enhance animal welfare across the municipality.

Accessibility and pound location:

Concerns were raised in relation to the distance of Coldstream pound facility, and there was an emphasis on reuniting pets before transport to distant locations.

Officer Response:

Officers acknowledge the community's concerns regarding the distance to the pound facility, however following an open and public tender process, Animal Aid was selected as the preferred provider for Monash after the RSPCA advised Council of its intention to discontinue pound services.

Importantly DAMP outlines the commitment to a "reuniting first" approach. This means that, wherever possible, officers will seek to return lost pets directly to their owners before transporting them to the Coldstream facility. This approach prioritises the welfare of the animal and minimises stress for both pets and owners.

To support this, the DAMP calls out the need to continue to promote the importance of keeping microchip and registration details up to date, as accurate information is critical for successful reunification. Awareness campaigns will be delivered through social media, Council's website, and other communication channels to ensure residents are informed and empowered to maintain current records.

Fees and affordability:

Concern was raised around high registration fees, suggestions for discounted microchipping, vaccination and desexing days.

Officer Response:

Officers recognise that affordability is a key concern for many residents, particularly in the current economic climate. Feedback received through community consultation highlighted that high

registration fees and associated costs may discourage pet owners from registering or reclaiming their pets, especially for pensioners and low-income households.

Under the Domestic Animals Act 1994, registration fees are set to reflect the cost of delivering animal management services, including patrols, education, enforcement, and pound services.

To support affordability, Council currently offers, amongst other things, free replacement of lifetime tags where tags are lost or illegible, discounted registration fees for de-sexed animals (which also promotes responsible pet ownership and helps reduce overpopulation), and pensioner concession to support vulnerable community members.

Council's pound facility and after-hours service is provided by Animal Aid, and the valuable feedback received regarding affordability and animal welfare will be discussed with them to help inform localised welfare initiatives.

Officers will also continue to seek opportunities to apply for external grants where available to further support subsidised programs and reduce financial barriers to responsible pet ownership.

Focus area two: Reducing nuisance behaviors

The community were asked for their views on the following topics:

- Providing a cat trap service to households
- Education about the night-time cat curfew
- Supporting cat owners to transition cats to stay indoors at night
- Education about responsibility to pick up dog poo
- Signage to address nuisance behaviours and reinforce owner responsibilities
- Issuing warnings, fines and prosecutions as required
- Education on barking dog nuisance
- Education about regarding trespassing cats

Feedback and emerging themes

Dog waste:

Overwhelming concern about dog poo not being picked up; calls for more bins and bag dispensers.

Officer Response:

Officers acknowledge ongoing community concern regarding dog owners failing to pick up after their pets. This behaviour negatively impacts the enjoyment and hygiene of public spaces, including parks, reserves, and nature strips.

To support responsible pet ownership, the DAMP has objectives set out to minimise the occurrence of people not picking up after their dogs including:

- Continue to provide dog poo bag dispensers in parks and off leash areas subject to Council budget process.
- Use stencils and signage to remind owners of their obligations.
- Conduct routine patrols to monitor compliance and educate dog owners.
- Enforce penalties where appropriate, in line with the Community Safety and Amenity Local Law 2024.

Cat management:

There is strong support for stricter cat curfews, fines, and the promotion of cat enclosures.

Officer Comment:

On 25 August 2020, Council resolved to make an Order pursuant to section 26(2) of the Domestic Animals Act 1994 to introduce a Cat Curfew effective from 10 April 2021. The Cat Control Order requires that all cats must be securely confined between the hours of sunset or 7pm, whichever is later, and sunrise. At this time, a stricter curfew is not being considered, however, the Plan establishes clear objectives targeted at improving compliance with the existing cat curfew and offers a cat trapping initiative to manage nuisance issues effectively.

Officers are authorised to exercise a range of enforcement measures such as issuing infringements and initiating prosecutions to ensure compliance with both the Domestic Animals Act 1994 and the Community Safety and Amenity Local Law 2024. Furthermore, the Plan seeks to encourage the use of cat enclosures and provides guidance to assist cat owners in transitioning their pets to an indoor lifestyle.

Off-leash dogs:

Issues with dogs off-leash in on-leash areas such as on footpaths, near playgrounds and sports fields, including recommendations for multilingual signage, more patrols and encouragement of enforcement.

Officer Comment:

Officers conduct regular patrols to ensure compliance with regulations addressing issues such as dogs being off-leash, failure to clean up dog waste, and registration requirements. On 28 March 2023, Monash Council enacted Dog Control Order Number 6 pursuant to section 26(2) of the Domestic Animals Act 1994, which stipulates that dogs must remain under effective control on a chain, cord, or leash not exceeding 1.5 metres in length while in public places. Clear objectives to address these matters have been established within the Plan and continue to be a primary focus for officers.

Enforcement:

Desire for more patrols and support for enforcement activities such as issuing fines.

Officer Comment:

The Plan outlines objectives specifically aimed at addressing areas of non-compliance, including scheduled patrols. Officers are authorised to exercise a range of enforcement measures such as issuing infringements and initiating prosecutions to ensure compliance with both the Domestic Animals Act 1994 and the Community Safety and Local Law 2024.

Infrastructure:

Requests for more off-leash areas, fenced parks, better lighting and more bins.

Officer Comment:

The topic of fenced dog parks is addressed within the Council adopted Monash Dog Off-Leash Policy, which was endorsed by Council at its meeting of 22 November 2022. There are no changes proposed to the DAM Plan due to the extensive consultation and thoroughness of the Policy which is currently in practice. The Dog Off-leash Policy can be referred to in reference to fully enclosed dog parks. The policy explains where fencing may be required and how safety risks are assessed.

Forty-seven off-leash areas exist, with enhancements including dog poo bags, water stations, and signage all referenced within the Policy relating to infrastructure and facilities.

Interactive maps are available on Councils website, however promoting these areas via digital and printed materials is recognised. While this will not feature as a specific objective within the Plan, officers will communicate internally to ensure that this is periodically part of a dedicated communications piece.

Focus area three: Preventing risks to the safety of people and pets

The community were asked for their views on the following topics:

- Improving public awareness about what to do after a dog attack
- Increasing visibility of patrols in on-leash and off-leash areas
- Issuing warnings, fines and prosecutions as required
- Promoting successful prosecution outcomes
- Using declaration and/or destruction powers appropriately
- Annual inspections of properties containing a restricted breed, declared dangerous/ menacing dogs
- Conducting random door knocks annually to identify restricted breed, declared dangerous or menacing dogs
- Promptly responding to complaints
- The provision of basic tips about how to interacting with unknown dogs
- Education on how to correctly secure dogs to property

Feedback and emerging themes

Dog waste:

Overwhelming concern about dog poo not being picked up; calls for more bins and bag dispensers.

Officer Comment:

This matter has been responded to in focus area two above – Dog waste.

Fenced dog parks:

High demand for fully enclosed off-leash areas. This section largely received sentiment regarding the desire for fenced dog parks.

Officer Comment:

This matter has been responded to in focus area two above – Off leash dogs.

Patrols & enforcement:

Requests for more visible officer presence and stronger penalties for non-compliance.

Officer Comment:

This matter has been responded to in focus area two above - Enforcement.

Education:

Education is needed around dog off-leash rules and how to safely interact with dogs.

Officer Comment

This matter has been responded to in focus area two above – Reduce Nuisance Behaviours.

Focus area four: Ensuring the welfare of animals

The community were asked for their views on the following topics:

- Responsible pet ownership education
- Education about mandatory cat de-sexing
- Compliance inspections of domestic animal businesses annually
- Conducting spot checks on domestic animal businesses
- Promptly investigating public complaints about domestic animal businesses animal management practices
- Participating in bi-annual training opportunities to manage animals in emergency situations
- Promotion of animal adoption programs.
- Education to public on roles and responsibilities relating to cruelty and neglect matters

Feedback and emerging themes

Desexing & vet care:

Strong support for subsidised or free desexing, vaccinations, and wellness checks.

Officer Comment:

This matter has been responded to in focus area one above - Fees and Affordability

Animal wellbeing:

Desire for public awareness on cruelty, neglect, and illegal breeding.

Officer Comment:

While Council's Animal Management Officers are available to support investigations upon request, it is important to note that such matters are primarily investigated by the RSPCA, which serves as the lead agency in this area. To strengthen reporting pathways and support welfare agencies, an

objective has been added to the Plan to promote accessible platforms for reporting cases of neglect or cruelty, thereby enhancing community engagement and supporting appropriate enforcement responses (Section 3.3).

Enforcement and education:

Desire for higher fines and stricter enforcement regarding cruelty and non-compliance, suggestion for information to be delivered in multiple languages and education on responsible pet ownership, welfare and legal requirements.

Officer Comment:

In addition to the comments above, objectives relating to the rules and responsibilities of pet owners are a central focus throughout the Plan. These objectives are supported by a range of digital and printed materials, including key information on pet registration, microchipping and other welfare matters. The Plan highlights objectives relating to welfare to be distributed in languages other than English.

Other feedback

The community was invited to provide general feedback on the proposed Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026–2029.

Themes and officer comment

Owner responsibility and accountability:

There were strong calls for zero tolerance for dog owners who don't carry poo bags, fail to pick up after their pets and improperly dispose of waste (e.g., flinging bags into bushes). There was an emphasis on clear consequences for non-compliance, with many respondents' expressing frustration that education alone is insufficient and there were requests for greater enforcement and visible patrols.

Officer Comment:

The Community Safety and Amenity Local Law requires dog owners to have in their possession a bag for the purpose of removing faeces from Council land. Recognising that there is strong community sentiment regarding dog faeces not being collected and disposed of correctly, the Plan outlines objectives specifically aimed at addressing this area of non-compliance through dedicated patrols, signage and enforcement. Importantly, officers are authorised to exercise a range of enforcement measures such as issuing infringements and initiating prosecutions to ensure compliance with both the Domestic Animals Act 1994 and the Community Safety and Amenity Local Law 2024.

Please also see the officer comments in key focus area two – reduce nuisance behaviours.

Education and training:

There is a desire for expert-led education, especially around the benefits of desexing, dog training and enrichment, barking reduction techniques, leash control and the importance of immunisation.

Officer Comment:

Officers support expert-led education and will assist in providing educational resources where possible. It is recommended that puppy or dog obedience training is sought through qualified



providers, such as veterinarians or appropriate welfare organisations. Officers remain committed to sharing information and supporting animal owners with education and training tools. Awareness campaigns will be promoted through Council's communication channels wherever possible which is outlined throughout the Plan.

Cat management and welfare:

Feedback included questions about outdoor access for older cats, support for cat owners, suggestions for cat breeding regulations—particularly concerning vulnerable populations—and interest in measures to support cat containment.

Officer Comment:

The Plan seeks to encourage the use of cat enclosures and provides guidance to assist cat owners in transitioning their pets to an indoor lifestyle. Please also see the officer comments in key focus area two – reduce nuisance behaviours.

Infrastructure and facilities:

Requests for fully enclosed and gated dog parks, with segregated areas for large and small breeds, more rubbish bins and animal drinking stations in public spaces, maps or directories of off-leash parks and facilities.

Officer Comment:

The subject of fenced dog parks is addressed in the Monash Dog Off-Leash Policy, adopted by Council in November 2022, as a planned action under the previous DAMP. No additional actions are proposed in the current Plan, given the extensive consultation and thoroughness of the existing policy, which remains in practice. The Monash Dog Off-Leash Policy can be referred to for guidance on fully enclosed dog parks, including where fencing may be required and how safety risks are assessed.

Officers acknowledge requests for improved infrastructure. Forty-seven off-leash areas exist, with enhancements including dog poo bags, water stations, and signage all referenced within the Policy relating to infrastructure and facilities.

Interactive maps are available on Council's website, however promoting these areas via digital and printed materials is recognised. While this will not feature as a specific objective within the Plan, officers will communicate internally to ensure that this is periodically part of a dedicated communications piece.

Please also see the officer comments in key focus area two – reduce nuisance behaviours.

Reporting and enforcement:

Feedback highlighted frustration with a perceived lack of follow-up when reporting issues such as dogs being off-leash.

Officer response:

The need for improved communication around outcomes is acknowledged. Enhancing follow-up procedures and promoting transparency remain ongoing priorities to strengthen customer service



and community trust. Objectives within the Plan address enforcement actions, including the publication of outcomes related to animal-related prosecutions.

Post consultation improvements

Overall, the feedback demonstrated strong alignment between the Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) and prevailing community sentiment. Based on this feedback, several improvements have been made to the plan, including:

- the incorporation of initiatives to promote animal welfare platforms
- the enhancement of educational components related to microchipping and broader welfare issues, and
- the refinement of information addressing dog-related nuisances and attacks.

Animal welfare

Community feedback highlighted strong support for enhanced animal welfare measures, including suggestions for improved mechanisms to report and locate lost pets—such as an online portal, hotline, or similar service.

These suggestions align with existing services provided by Animal Aid, which currently delivers pound services, and an after-hours animal collection service on behalf of Council.

To reflect this alignment and support ongoing community expectations, an action to promote animal welfare platforms has been added to the Plan (section 3.3).

Education and awareness

Educational initiatives promoting responsible animal ownership, particularly de-sexing, maintaining up-to-date microchip information, and vaccinations—have been identified by the community as key priorities. In response, an additional objective has been incorporated into the Plan (Section 3.3) to support the distribution of targeted flyers and pamphlets to local veterinary clinics.

These materials will promote the benefits of registration, microchipping, de-sexing, and broader animal welfare practices. This initiative aims to raise awareness about the importance of maintaining current records at veterinary practices, thereby increasing the likelihood of reuniting lost animals with their owners.

Matters of animal cruelty

Community feedback also identified concerns regarding animal neglect and cruelty. While Councils Animal Management Officers are available to support investigations upon request, it is important to note that such matters are primarily investigated by the RSPCA, which serves as the lead agency in this area.

To strengthen reporting pathways and support welfare agencies, an objective has been added to the Plan to promote accessible platforms for reporting cases of neglect or cruelty, thereby enhancing community engagement and supporting appropriate enforcement responses (Section 3.3).

Animal behaviour

Section 6.1, Objective 2: Reduce dog nuisance complaints has been updated to include guidance on toxic plants and maintaining a safe yard environment. This addition aims to inform dog owners about the importance of regularly inspecting their properties for potential escape routes and hazards. It emphasises that proactive risk management can help prevent unforeseen incidents that may compromise pet health and result in avoidable costs for families.

Reporting dog attacks

Community feedback indicated a need for clearer guidance on the procedures for reporting dog attacks and the appropriate actions to take when involved in or witnessing such incidents. Although this information is currently available on Council's website, it may not be sufficiently clear or widely accessible. In response, the existing objective relating to community awareness of dog attacks has been expanded to include practical advice on 'what to do'. This information will be distributed through digital platforms and Council's communication channels (Section 7.3).

Other issues

In addition to the primary focus areas and the feedback summarised in the "Other Feedback" section, the community also provided input on the use of dog off-leash areas and the presence of feral cat populations. While these topics are important, they relate more directly to the implementation of specific actions within the Plan rather than its development.

As such, they have not been detailed in this report however, this feedback has been captured and presented in Attachment Two for reference.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

While most actions outlined in the Plan will be delivered within existing budget allocations, any activities requiring additional funding will be referred to Council's annual budget process for consideration.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications to this report.

CONSULTATION

Consultation was undertaken in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy and Framework. The timing, methodology, feedback received and officer commentary are detailed in this report as well as the attachment to the report.



The consultation was facilitated by the Shape Monash platform between 10 July and 10 August 2025.

The opportunity to provide feedback on the draft Plan was advertised in the August edition of the Monash Bulletin distributed to all households in July 2025 and was promoted on Council's website.

The consultation was also advertised on social media platforms and Council's 'on-hold' service was also used to advertise the consultation period during this time.

Registered animal owners were made aware of the opportunity to provide feedback via their annual registration renewal letter, with officers also writing to the following stakeholders inviting feedback:

- Animal Care Australia
- Local Veterinarians
- Domestic Animal Business proprietors

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

While the DAMP primarily focuses on regulatory compliance and operational outcomes, it also carries important social implications. By addressing issues such as pet safety, nuisance behaviours, and responsible ownership, the Plan contributes to community wellbeing, public trust, and equitable access to information and services. The inclusion of community feedback and gender impact assessment processes ensures that the Plan reflects diverse needs and supports inclusive, responsive service delivery across Monash.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

There are no human rights implications to this report.

GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

A Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) has been completed as part of this work because the DAMP is considered to have a direct and significant impact on the Monash community.

During the development of the plan, the following modifications were made as part of the review process:

- Gendered language was carefully excluded from the document to ensure inclusiveness.

Having regard to the GIA and the feedback from the community consultation process, the following matters are addressed in the plan:

Although a previously listed objective to the Plan, consultation feedback highlighted the community's strong preference for providing information in multiple languages; therefore, this objective is retained in the current plan.

Providing education on the existing cat curfew, with an emphasis on the benefits of keeping cats indoors and promoting an indoor lifestyle. This includes encouraging the use of cat enclosures and raising awareness about common household toxins—such as certain plants, flowers, and foods—



that pose health risks. These efforts may help reduce costly veterinary expenses, particularly for single-income households.

Distributing Council-issued flyers and pamphlets at local veterinary clinics to foster collaboration regarding the importance of registration, microchipping, desexing, and responsible animal care.

Providing guidance and information on maintaining a dog-friendly yard, such as regularly inspecting gate latches, fence integrity, and loose palings. Sharing this information may help reduce costs associated with a wandering dog, including enforcement actions and household stress caused by a lost pet.

Including these items in the Plan aims to address common challenges related to cost of living and economic conditions, such as unexpected veterinary expenses. This approach is intended to offer support that could reduce both financial and psychological pressures, especially for individuals with limited financial resources, single-parent households, and those without access to transportation.

CONCLUSION

The draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029 has been developed in accordance with the requirements of the Domestic Animals Act 1994. It will replace the existing DAMP 2021-2025.

The community feedback has greatly assisted the revision of the draft DAMP.

It is appropriate that Council adopt the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029, noting that the DAMP has been developed in accordance with the requirements of the Domestic Animals Act 1994.

ATTACHMENT LIST

1. Attachment One - Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-29 [**7.1.4.1** - 50 pages]
2. Attachment Two - Consultation Feedback [**7.1.4.2** - 60 pages]



Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029



Acknowledgement of Country

Monash City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong People as the traditional owners and custodians of this land and pays respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.



Contents

Introduction and context	4
Training of Authorised Officers	13
Programs to promote and encourage responsible pet ownership and compliance with legislation	16
Programs to address over-population rates and any high euthanasia rates	22
Registration and identification	27
Nuisance	31
Dog attacks	39
Dangerous, menacing and restricted-breed dogs	41
Domestic Animal Businesses	45
Other matters	47
Annual review of Plan and annual reporting	49

Introduction and context

1.1 Purpose of Domestic Animal Management Plan

The *Domestic Animals Act 1994* (the Act) requires Council to prepare a Domestic Animal Management Plan every four years.

The plan must set out a method for evaluating whether the animal management services provided by Council are adequate to give effect to requirements of the Act and the *Domestic Animal Regulations 2015*.

The plan must also outline programs for the training of authorised officers along with programs, services and strategies to:

- » Ensure that people comply with the Act, the regulations and any related legislation
- » Minimise the risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals
- » Address any over-population and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats
- » Encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats
- » Minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance
- » Effectively identify all dangerous, menacing and restricted-breed dogs in that district and to ensure that those dogs are kept in compliance with this Act and the regulations
- » 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
- » 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
- » Provide for the periodic evaluation of any program, service, strategy or review outlined under the plan.

Council is also required to review and where appropriate amend the plan and publish an evaluation of the implementation of the plan in its Annual Report.

Theme	Requirements	Benefit
Evaluation	The DAMP must set out a method Council uses for evaluating whether the animal control services provided are effective and achieve requirements under the Act and Regulations.	Provides evidence that Council programs are effective, efficient and deliver on Government's expectations.
Training of Authorised Officers	The DAMP must set out training programs for the training of Authorised Officers.	Provides assurance that Authorised Officers are suitably trained to carry out their duties effectively.
Programs to promote and encourage responsible pet ownership and compliance with legislation	The DAMP must set out programs to promote and encourage responsible pet ownership and compliance with relevant legislation and associated codes of practice.	Provides assurance that responsible pet ownership and residents understand their obligations.
Programs to address over-population rates and any high euthanasia rates	The DAMP must set out programs, services and strategies to address any over-population and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats.	Provides assurance that Council is providing programs and education to reduce the population of unregistered animals and the euthanasia rates within their municipality.
Registration and identification	The DAMP must set out programs, services and strategies to encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats.	Provides assurance that residents are aware of their obligations and as a result register and identify their cats and dogs.
Nuisance	The DAMP must outline programs, services and strategies to minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance.	Provides assurance that residents can access prevention and support and are held accountable if their animals are causing a nuisance.
Dog attacks	The DAMP must outline programs, services and strategies to minimise the risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals.	Provides assurance that there are policies and procedures to minimise the risk of dog attacks on the public and other animals.
Dangerous, menacing and restricted-breed dogs	The DAMP must outline programs, services and strategies to ensure that those dogs are compliant with the Act and Regulations.	Provides assurance that these dogs are kept in accordance with the Act and Regulations to ensure there is minimal risk to residents.

Theme	Requirements	Benefit
Domestic Animal Businesses	The DAMP must outline programs, services and strategies to ensure Domestic Animal Businesses are complying with the Act, the Regulations and related Codes of Practice.	Provides assurance that Domestic Animal Businesses understand their obligations and are compliant with the Act, the Regulations and related Codes of Practice.
Annual review of plan and annual reporting	Council must review their DAMP annually and submit a review to the Department.	Provides assurance that the targets in the DAMP are being met.
Other matters, including: Reviewing existing order	Council may review current orders and make new orders in relation to dogs and cats.	Provides assurance that Council is reviewing existing orders and making necessary changes.

1.2 Process applied in developing the plan

In preparing the plan, the following considerations have been made:

The plan must set out a method for evaluating whether the animal management services provided by council are adequate to give effect to requirements of the Act and the *Domestic Animal Regulations 2015*.

- » The current DAMP was reviewed to identify opportunities for refining existing objectives.
- » Existing animal management operations were reviewed including existing procedures, local laws and orders.
- » The strategic content was reviewed including plans and strategies that might be relevant to animal management.
- » Feedback from community consultation.
- » The findings of a Gender Impact Assessment that was prepared to help inform this plan.
- » Research, including an assessment of the *Victorian Cat Management Strategy 2025-2035* and the Victorian pet census which was conducted in July 2023.



1.3 Demographic and profile of Council

Monash Council is located between 13 and 24 kilometres south-east of Melbourne CBD and covers an area of approximately 81.5 square kilometres. The municipality is predominantly residential, and contains substantial industrial, commercial and recreational areas. The municipality has an estimated population of around 203,560 residents, making it one of the most populous municipalities in Victoria. The City of Monash population forecast for 2025 is 213,803 and is forecast to grow to 250,219 by 2041.

The municipality holds a strong multicultural position, with approximately 95,826 of the population born overseas.

At the last Census, data revealed that businesses in Monash provided 130,172 jobs, making it the second-largest employment destination in Melbourne after the Central Business District.

The cultural diversity of Monash's residents is amplified by the fact that just over 50 per cent of Monash's residents were born overseas, with the most populous being from China, India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Greece, United Kingdom, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Italy and New Zealand. Other than English, the main languages spoken in Monash households are Mandarin, Greek, Cantonese, Sinhalese, Vietnamese, Tamil, Italian, Korean, Hindi and Punjabi.

Suburbs within Monash's municipal boundaries are:

- » Ashwood
- » Clayton
- » Glen Waverley
- » Hughesdale
- » Huntingdale
- » Mount Waverley
- » Mulgrave
- » Notting Hill
- » Oakleigh
- » Oakleigh East
- » Wheelers Hill

Monash also incorporates parts of the suburbs of Burwood, Chadstone and Oakleigh South.

Adjoining municipalities are the cities of:

- » Boroondara
- » Glen Eira
- » Greater Dandenong
- » Kingston
- » Knox
- » Stonnington
- » Whitehorse

Major features of Monash include:

- » Monash National Employment and Innovation Cluster
- » Monash University in Clayton, which includes the Victorian Heart Hospital
- » Monash Medical Centre in Clayton
- » Four private hospitals - two in Clayton, and one each in Mount Waverley and Mulgrave
- » Major shopping precincts in Brandon Park, Clayton, Glen Waverley, Mount Waverley, Oakleigh and Mulgrave
- » Regional parks managed by Parks Victoria including Jells Park, Bushy Park, Shepherds Bush, Scotchmans Creek Linear Park and Corhanwarrabul Wetlands
- » Well-positioned and maintained public parks and reserves throughout Monash for both active and passive recreational pursuits

- » Project works for the Suburban Rail Loop (SRL)
- » Manufacturers of global healthcare services such as Moderna and Pfizer

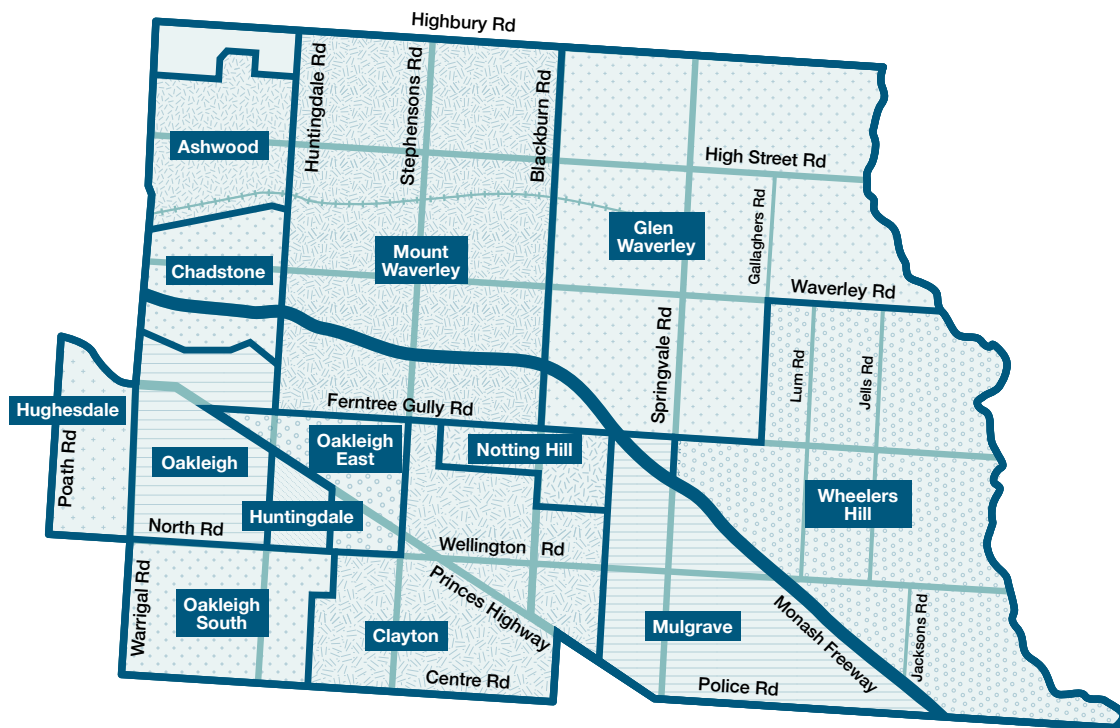
Monash has extensive areas of public open space well-distributed and located across the municipality. Over 90 per cent of the available open space is owned and managed by Council. These spaces provide important leisure and recreation opportunities for the

public to exercise their dogs and there are 47 areas within the municipality where dogs can be exercised off-leash.

Interactive maps have been created to assist dog owners to locate a park appropriate to their needs.

monash.vic.gov.au/dog-off-leash-map

Map of the municipality



Dog off-leash areas

Ashwood

- » Ashwood Reserve
- » Electra Reserve
- » Holmesglen / Jingella Reserve

Burwood

- » Gardiners Reserve

Chadstone

- » Batesford Reserve
- » Jordan Reserve

Clayton

- » Carlson Reserve
- » Fregon Reserve

Glen Waverley

- » Bogong Reserve
- » Brandon Park Reserve
- » Capital Reserve
- » Dick Mason Reserve
- » Glen Waverley North Reserve
- » Glen Waverley Sports Hub South
- » Highview Park
- » Hinkler Reserve
- » Larpent Reserve
- » Napier Park
- » Powerlines Area - Bristol Court to Ivanhoe Street
- » Whites Lane Retarding Basin

Hughesdale

- » Argyle Reserve

Mount Waverley

- » Bowman Street Reserve
- » Damper Creek Conservation Reserve
- » Federal Reserve
- » Mayfield Park
- » Mount Waverley Reserve
- » Mount Waverley Linear Reserve
- » Powerlines area - Legana Street to Toombah Street
- » Powerlines area - Pamela Street to either side of Smyth Street
- » Tally Ho Reserve

Mulgrave

- » Freeway Reserve
- » Gladeswood Reserve
- » Southern Reserve
- » Wellington Reserve
- » Whitehaven Crescent Reserve

Notting Hill

- » Finch Street Reserve

Oakleigh

- » Caloola Reserve
- » Jack Edwards Reserve
- » Scotchmans Run Reserve

Oakleigh East

- » F E Hunt Reserve
- » Princes Highway Reserve

Oakleigh South

- » Davies Reserve

Wheelers Hill

- » Columbia Park Reserve
- » Hertford Crescent Reserve
- » Jells Road Reserve
- » Lum Reserve
- » Mulgrave Reserve

1.4 Context and current situation

Council currently delivers a range of animal management programs and services including:

Program/Service:	Service Level:
Identification and registration	5,602 cats and 11,903 dogs
Identification and registration- doorknock campaigns	Twice annually, post-renewal period
Request to collect wandering dog	Same day
Response to low-risk domestic animal complaints	Three business days
Response to high-risk domestic animal complaints	Immediate response
Domestic animal complaints	Three business days
Dangerous dog complaints	Immediate response to high-risk incidents Twice annual programmed inspections
Routine street/park patrols	Daily
Pound services (lost collection pick-ups)	Mon – Sat 9am – 4.30pm Sun and Public Holidays 11.30am – 3.30pm
Microchipping and/or desexing programs	As available
Low-cost vaccination sessions	As available
Responsible pet ownership school information sessions	As programmed by the Victorian Government
After-hours emergency service	4.45pm – 8.15am daily 4.45pm Friday – 8.15am Monday (weekend)
Cat trap service – traps provided to residents. Cat traps to assist lowering semi-owned, unowned and feral cat numbers	Ongoing
Animal management promotion of services and general welfare	Council festivals and events.

1.5 Domestic animal statistics

	2020		2024	
	Dogs	Cats	Dogs	Cats
Number of registered dogs / cats	11,624	5,044	11,903	5,602
	Desexed – 10,320	Desexed – 5,037	Desexed – 9,961	Desexed – 5,595
	Entire – 1,304	Entire – 7	Entire – 1,942	Entire – 7
Number of declared dogs (dangerous, menacing, restricted)	Dangerous – 3		Dangerous – 6	
	Menacing – 1		Menacing – 0	
	Restricted – 0		Restricted – 0	
Number of registered domestic animal businesses	7 for both dogs and cats		6 for both dogs and cats	
Number of animals seized/ surrendered	Seized – 3		Seized – 14	Seized – 0
	Surrendered – 108		Surrendered – 39	Surrendered – 63
Number of cats/ dogs reclaimed/ rehomed/ euthanised (includes stray and wild animals offered up to the pound by members of the public)	Reclaimed – 276	Reclaimed – 54	Reclaimed – 289	Reclaimed – 53
	Rehomed – 46	Rehomed – 496	Rehomed – 70	Rehomed – 469
	Euthanised – 13	Euthanised – 214	Euthanised – 23	Euthanised – 166
Number of prosecutions associated with dogs	4		14	
Estimated dog/ cat (owned) population	37,392	24,811	13,500	7,600
Number of complaints relating to cats and dogs	Dogs and cats		Dogs and cats	
	2,212		2,845	

Registered cats and dogs

Since the last plan, Council has observed a 5 per cent overall increase in registration numbers. Specifically, dog registrations have risen by 2.4 per cent, while cat registrations have surged by 11 per cent.

Registered Domestic Animal Businesses

Six Domestic Animal Businesses (DABs) are registered in Monash. These comprise:

- » Two pet shops
- » One dog-training business
- » Three catteries.

Estimated dog and cat (owned) within the Monash municipality

The Victorian Government conducted the first pet census in 2023 and attracted over 37,000 responses. While the survey does not break down into municipal data, key findings estimate:

- » There are approximately 4.3 million pets in the state, with dogs accounting for 41 per cent and cats for 24 per cent. This translates to roughly 1.77 million dogs in Victoria.

- » There are an estimated 1.4 million Victorian households with a pet.
- » Dogs are the most common type of pet.
- » 51 per cent of dog owners acquired their dog from a breeder, compared to 10 per cent of cat owners.
- » 28 per cent of cat owners got their cat from a rehoming organisation and 22 per cent from an animal shelter.
- » Victorians spent \$6.6 billion on their pets in the year leading up to the census.
- » 10 per cent of adults planned to get a pet in the next 12 months.
- » 98 per cent of people said their pets had a positive impact on their lives.
- » Across Victorian councils approximately 227,000 cats are registered, however the census estimates that there are around 914,000 pet cats in Victoria.



Training of Authorised Officers

2.1 Context and current situation

The functions and responsibilities around animal management are delivered by the Community Laws team that sits within the Community Safety and Amenity Department. The team comprises one Community Laws Team Leader, one Senior Community Laws Officer and nine full-time Community Laws Officers. All officers are multi-skilled and provide animal management services, as well as general community laws services. These officers report to the Coordinator - Community Laws.

The Community Safety and Amenity Department has four Business Support Officers who among other responsibilities provide support with matters including animal management, animal registrations, permits, enquiries and complaints. The department includes two Infringement Review Officers who are responsible for the management of infringements notices issued under a range of legislation including animal management controls. The Business Support and Infringement Review Officers report to the Coordinator - Business Support.

In addition to the animal management service provided during business hours, an after-hours service is also provided.

As part of our animal management strategy, Council recognises the importance of authorised officers being adequately trained. All Community Laws Officers are required to obtain the Certificate IV in Animal Control and Regulation and the Certificate IV in Government (Statutory Compliance). These certifications cover skills such as animal handling, investigation, report writing, communication and time management.

Table 1 sets out the proposed training opportunities for officers during the forthcoming four-year period.

2.2 Our planned training for Authorised Officers

Table 1: Training Status for Authorised Officers

Authorised Officer Training	When	Timeframe
Certificate IV Animal Regulation & Management, and Government Investigations	As determined in individual performance development plans	Newly appointed officers who do not hold appropriate certificate will be required to start course within 18 months
Industry training – animal handling	Ongoing	Officers to attend when training available
Bureau of Animal Welfare – training and information days	Officers to attend when training is available	Officers to attend when training available
Canine DNA evidence collection	Officers to attend when training is available	Officers to attend when training is available
In-house training on relevant subject matter, e.g. brief preparation, statement taking	Ongoing	Officers to attend as part of Learning and Development Training
Induction program for new staff	Completed	Corporate training internally
Australian Institute of Animal Management seminars/training	Ongoing	Officers to attend training and/or seminars when available
Training on handling pets in emergency	Ongoing	Officers to attend training and/or seminars when available
Attendance at Eastern regional emergency management exercises	Ongoing	Officers to participate when required
Defensive driving course	Ongoing	Officers to attend as the need arises
Canine anatomy and identification training	Ongoing	Officers to attend training and/or seminars when available. Six officers are currently booked to attend this training in 2025.

2.3 Our Plan

Objective 1:

To identify training opportunities as a part of the development of a training policy that clearly identifies minimum training requirements and any additional training needs that should be undertaken by authorised officers.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Identify additional training opportunities in consultation with management and staff	Annually	Documentation and performance conversations must be completed and integrated into each officer's development plan, as part of the annual organisational development training program.

Objective 2:

Maintain training for Animal Management Officers as part of performance planning ensuring they have the skills necessary to support the community and effectively perform their regulatory role.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Complete a development plan process with each staff member, identifying training needs	Annually at time of performance conversations	Completion of all identified training activities in development training plan
Authorised officers to receive training on prevention of family violence and responding to disclosures	Ongoing	Attend as available

Programs to promote and encourage responsible pet ownership and compliance with legislation

3.1 Context and current situation

Council's approach to education and enforcement is based on the principles of Educate, Ask, Tell and Enforce.

This means that education is the highest priority with enforcement generally occurring as a last resort when other interventions have failed, or in some circumstances as an immediate response to wilful non-compliance or for serious matters such as dog attacks or failing to register animals. Council's engagement with the community tells us that this approach is consistent with their expectations.

This plan focuses on continuing best practice for the management of dogs and cats in

Monash and to promote responsible pet ownership.

Monash has an extensive number of programs and information to promote and encourage responsible pet ownership and compliance with legislative and/or regulatory requirements. The information is provided through a variety of methods including pamphlets, the monthly Monash Bulletin delivered to all households, Council's website, SMS and social media.

Current programs and information include:

Over-population rates and any high euthanasia rates

- » Night-time curfew for cats.
- » Pound services that focus on reuniting animals.
- » Understanding of the ability for vets to reunite animals.

Registration and identification of dogs and cats

- » Distribution of registration brochures and fact sheets, e.g. 'Living with Dogs and Cats' pamphlet as a guide for both pet owners and non-owners.
- » Publishing information on the Council website and in the Monash Bulletin to advise of the registration period and requirements.

- » Following up pet owners that have not renewed their pet registration.
- » Annual doorknock program.
- » Improving the accuracy of Council registration database with Microchip Registry data annually.
- » Promoting the requirement for owners to pick up after their dogs and dispose of waste appropriately.
- » Increasing number of dog waste bins and drinking fountains at parks.

Nuisance

- » Topical articles on animal management and current animal issues are published in the monthly Monash Bulletin that is delivered to all residents.
- » Face-to-face contact with residents and regular patrols are conducted in parks and reserves. This allows officers an opportunity to interact, educate and advise pet owners on responsible pet ownership.
- » Temporary corflute signs are erected during patrols, with educational messages regarding animal registration and the importance of cleaning up after dogs.
- » Investigation of contraventions of Local and Victorian controls.
- » Signage in parks and reserves to remind dog owners of the rules applicable when visiting a park.
- » Cat trap service to help control semi-owned or feral cats.

Dog attacks

Dog owners are encouraged to implement one or more of the following measures to reduce dog attacks:

- » Match dog breed choice with the dog owner's lifestyle
- » Have dogs desexed to reduce their aggression or desire to wander at large
- » Implement early socialisation and training for the dog
- » Provide suitable conditions for confining the dog at its home

- » Provide environmental enrichment at its home to relieve pent-up energy; and
- » Regularly exercise the dog.

Officers also focus on owners and the general public in promoting the important principles of dog attack avoidance. This is promoted through information brochures and on Council's website.

Council's priority regarding dog attacks is not only through education and owners being able to control their dogs and reinforcing the importance of this, but also where an attack does happen to take action and steps to protect the community from future attacks by the same dog.

Where injuries have occurred to a person or another animal by a dog that is of a serious nature (as defined by the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*), Council is likely to elect to have the matter heard in a Magistrates' Court, where there is sufficient evidence to support a prosecution. This reinforces the seriousness of the matter and is appropriate given the harm that can occur from dog attacks.

Dangerous, menacing and restricted-breed dogs

Fact sheets are provided to the owners of these dogs informing them of their obligations and responsibilities as part of choosing to own such breeds.

Officers also offer and provide one-on-one education and instruction to owners, and this is available on request.

Domestic Animal Businesses (DAB)

Council advises and educates DAB operators on any changes to legislation or on any new codes of practice that relates to their business. This is done via visits to the premises, and education not only during renewal of the business registration, but on an as-needs basis where the business may need further education or follow-up. Each business is also supplied with material from the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR). DAB operators are visited annually by officers to ensure compliance with the Code of Practice applicable to their establishment.

Additional animal permits

To support neighbourhood amenity and promote healthy, responsible pet ownership, owners must obtain a permit to keep more than two cats or two dogs. Authorised Officers inspect properties to confirm suitability for the proposed number of animals, including appropriate housing and measures to mitigate nuisance risks. Council currently has 49 issued additional animal permits.

Emergency management

The Community Laws team ensures that emergency relief and recovery components of the Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP), provides details regarding local arrangements and providers for relevant animal welfare services including:

- » Liaising with relevant animal welfare agencies and organisations to enable effective and timely delivery the animal welfare service
- » Providing information to Council's Communications team relating to the management of animals impacted by an emergency.

Public education programs

Animal Welfare Victoria conducts public educational sessions in schools and kindergartens about responsible pet ownership. This includes the 'We Are Family' program, which is specifically aimed at parents of children aged 0 to 4 years, the group most at risk of dog attacks. It provides information and strategies for parents to ensure a safe relationship between children and pets. The program is available to all hospitals with antenatal programs and all maternal and child health centres. The Responsible Pet Ownership Educational program teaches children from ages 4-12 about living safely with dogs and responsible pet ownership in general.

Educational programs and activities conducted by Council include scheduled participation in Council festivals and events. These engagements not only promote responsible pet ownership but also foster positive interactions with the community, enhancing the connection between residents

and Council officers.

Council recently facilitated, in partnership with the RSPCA, several low-cost vaccination days, which has included distributing education packs upon attendance. These packs provide valuable information on responsible and enjoyable pet ownership, as well as literature relevant to the species being vaccinated. By offering these vaccination days, it assists in promoting healthy pet ownership by helping to prevent potentially harmful diseases and fostering a safer, more informed community.

In 2025, Council will partner with Animal Aid Victoria to introduce a new pound facility service. The focus will be on reducing the number of animals needing the pound through a reuniting-first approach. This strategy promotes responsible pet ownership by encouraging lifetime tags and updated contact information, ensuring lost pets are quickly returned to their families.

Supporting cat containment

Cat containment can be supported by providing cat owners with resources and information to assist with transitioning their cat to a stay-at-home lifestyle. Councils' Cat Control Order requires that cats are confined to their property between sunset (or 7pm) and sunrise. To support cat owners in transitioning to an indoor or contained lifestyle, distribution of information to assist will be a focus within the plan. This may include information on how to build cat enclosures, how to transition cats to an indoor lifestyle and being aware of plants toxic to cats either in the yard or in the home.

Reuniting Pets Legislation

Effective from 1 October 2022, the *Domestic Animals Amendment (Reuniting Pets and Other Matters) Act 2022* introduced reforms to the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*. These reforms allow shelters and participating vets to efficiently reunite pets with their owners and report data to Council. This ensures Council oversight of dog and cat movements. In certain cases, Council officers must collect animals, maintaining a relationship with participating vets.

3.2 Our Orders, Local Laws, policies and procedures

Current Orders

Dog Control Order - Number 6

On 28 March 2023, Monash Council adopted Dog Control Order Number 6 under section 26(2) of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*. This order introduced 14 new off-leash areas, giving dog owners more places to enjoy with their pets. Additionally, it adjusted the boundaries of eight existing areas, either expanding or reducing them. Furthermore, the Order expanded the prohibition of dogs to include specific parts of Gardiners Reserve, Ashwood Reserve and Napier Reserve due to the installation of synthetic playing surfaces.

In summary, Dog Control Order - Number 6 provides that:

Dogs must be under effective control by means of a chain, cord or leash (not exceeding 1.5 metres in length) while in a Public Place.

Prohibited Areas - A dog must not enter a Prohibited Area. The prohibited areas within Monash City are the turf pitch and synthetic pitch at Jack Edwards Reserve and the synthetic pitch at Gardiners Reserve, Ashwood Reserve, Napier Reserve and the turf pitch at Holmesglen Reserve. The Mulgrave Reserve Wetlands are also a prohibited area.

Owner's obligations in a Designated Reserve – provides for exercise off a chain, cord or leash, with some restrictions. There are 47 designated reserves within the City of Monash.

Owners must be equipped to remove dog faeces at all times.

Cat Control Order

On 25 August 2020, Monash Council resolved to make an Order pursuant to section 26(2) of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* to introduce a cat curfew effective from 10 April 2021.

The Cat Control Order imposes the following (summarised):

All cats must be securely confined between the hours of sunset or 7pm, whichever is the later, and sunrise.

Mandatory Cat Desexing Order

At its meeting of 30 September 2014, Council resolved that newly registered cats are required to be desexed at time of registration (s.10A of the Act). This came into effect as of 1 January 2015 and exemptions apply in accordance with the Act.

Current Local Laws

Council's Community Safety and Amenity Local Law 2024

Among other things, this Local Law regulates the keeping of animals in Monash. It requires an annual permit from Council to keep more than two dogs and two cats.

The Local Law also contains requirements for housing animals, controlling animal odours and removing dog faeces from a road or Council land.

Current policies and procedures

Enforcement guidelines

Council's enforcement efforts adhere to established guidelines that support activities aimed at protecting the community, environment and amenity. Officers are required to investigate, enforce and ensure compliance with a range of legislative provisions, including animal management activities. These guidelines help officers respond promptly and consistently, enabling them to achieve outcomes that foster behavioural change.

3.3 Our Plan

Objective 1:

Reduce the number of pecuniary compliance actions by educating the community about their legislative obligations.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Distribution of fact sheets and web content regarding legislative obligations	Sent annually with renewals and with all new registrations	Increased awareness of roles and responsibilities from pet owners
Use of stencils on walking tracks, entries to parks and on footpaths to remind people to pick up dog faeces (response to resident complaints)	Ongoing	Decrease in complaints around dog faeces being left by dog owners
Programmed park patrols for educating the community	Ongoing	Increased awareness of roles and responsibilities from pet owners
Continue the use of magnetic reminders around pet registration and other relevant messaging on all compliance vehicles	Annually	Increased awareness that pets need to be registered
Continue the use of corflute signage in reserves during park patrols and update to maintain relevance as required	Ongoing	Increased awareness of roles and responsibilities from pet owners
Schedule specific articles prepared and put in the monthly Monash Bulletin to meet needs of the community	Quarterly	Educate to meet the demands of trends/weather
Advertise Council's Local Law requirement for additional animal permits	Annually	Increased awareness of the necessity to apply and hold an additional animal permit via digital platforms.

Objective 2:

Promote animal welfare platforms

Activity	When	Evaluation
Promote animal welfare platforms, following assessments to ensure consistency with the objectives of this plan	Ongoing	Fewer reports of wandering/nuisance animals to be monitored
Promotion of Council's pound facility to assist animal owners with a range of animal welfare educational tools, including promotion of lost pet information	Ongoing	Fewer reports of wandering/nuisance animals to be monitored Fewer animals attending the pound Digital posts and articles produced in partnership to promote welfare
Communicate with vet clinics to outline their ability to attempt to reunite animals with owners	Ongoing with annual monitoring	Monitor via reporting function on how many vets have opted into responsible reuniting and number of animals reunited.
Distribute relevant flyers and pamphlets to local vet clinics promoting the importance of registration, microchipping, desexing and keeping animals safe	Annually or as required	Up to date microchip information and more registered animals
Promote platforms to report negligence/cruelty matters	Update website as required	Reports of suspected cruelty/neglect to be delivered to RSPCA

Programs to address over-population rates and any high euthanasia rates

4.1 Context and current situation

Council is committed to reducing the unnecessary euthanasia of impounded animals, and only after alternatives to house or re-home have been exhausted will euthanasia be considered. This is always the course of action and last option considered.

Animals impounded in Monash and euthanised during 2024 compared with those recorded for 2020 are shown in the below table.

Animals impounded and euthanised

Animals	2020	2024
Impounded dogs	297	306
Impounded cats	450	379
Euthanised dogs	13	23
Euthanised cats	214	166

These statistics show a steady number of dogs being impounded. Officers continue to ensure wandering dogs are collected at the earliest opportunity for their welfare and the safety of other pets and people. However, it may indicate that more work can be done to help owners ensure dogs are secured to their property such as regular boundary checks to ensure fences and gates are secured. While there is a slight decrease in both impounded and euthanised cats, it demonstrates that cat management strategies remain a necessary focus. The Victorian Cat Management Strategy 2025-2035 presents key themes which will involve Council as key stakeholders in implementation.

	Dogs		% change	Cats		% change
Year	2020	2024		2020	2024	
Desexed animals registered	10,320	10,002	-3.9%	5,037	5,691	+12.98%
Entire animals registered	1,304	2,027	+55.4%	7	7	0%

The previous plan aimed to increase the number of registered desexed animals, and this was achieved for cats. This is largely due to the requirement for cats to be desexed at the time of registration (exemptions apply), together with an increase in cat registration numbers.

Pound services

Starting from 1 August 2025, Council's pound facility for cats, dogs, and livestock will move from the RSPCA in Burwood to Animal Aid in Coldstream. This change was prompted by the RSPCA's shift in business model, which led to their decision to no longer provide pound facilities to Victorian councils. Consequently, Council had to tender for a new facility. Following the public tender process, Animal Aid was awarded the contract.

There will be a conscious focus on reducing the number of animals that need to visit the pound by prioritising a reuniting-first approach. This strategy aims to promote responsible pet ownership with key messaging being around ensuring that lifetime tags are worn and contact information is up to date. It also ensures that lost pets are quickly and safely returned to their families.

Messaging to animal owners will emphasise the importance of keeping contact information with Council up to date and ensuring that lifetime tags are worn, not faded, and can be easily read. Owners can contact Council for a free replacement tag if needed. This will help reunite animals with their owners without requiring a visit to the pound.

Acknowledging that this move will require adjustments for the community, it is important that time is spent to satisfactorily communicate with residents about where animals will be taken should Council officers not be able to reunite an animal in the first instance.

Cat trap service

Council delivers a cat trap service, making cat traps available to the public so they can trap stray cats on their property. In 2024, cat traps were provided to 188 residents to help control semi-owned and feral cat populations. According to Victoria's pet census, there are approximately 227,000 registered cats and an

estimated 914,000 pet cats, with an unknown number of stray and feral cats. Council will continue to administer this program as it aligns with Action 12 of the Cat Management Strategy, which focuses on reducing the impacts of semi-owned and unowned cat populations. These cats often contribute to wildlife and biodiversity impacts, pose disease transmission risks, and can rapidly reproduce.

Cat curfew

In 2021, Council introduced a cat curfew requiring all cats to be securely confined between sunset (or 7pm, whichever is later) and sunrise. The benefits of this curfew are significant for cats, owners and wildlife. There has been a noticeable increase in community awareness regarding the curfew. This heightened awareness, along with changes in the behaviour of residents and pet owners, has led to a broader understanding that cats should not be roaming at night.

Complaints often reflect an awareness of the curfew, with residents expecting their neighbours to comply. However, more work can be explored to assist owners in transitioning their cats to an indoor lifestyle at night. This can be achieved through the use of cat enclosures and changes in routine, such as keeping cats indoors after their evening meal.

The Victorian pet census revealed that 88 per cent of respondents with a cat kept them contained to their property, indicating a positive trend towards responsible pet ownership generally.

Year	Cat nuisance complaints received
2022	97
2023	238
2024	235

Park patrols – off-leash areas

There are 47 areas in Monash where dogs can be exercised off-leash. The areas were subject to extensive public consultation when Council engaged with the community on the Monash Dog Off-Leash Policy. The policy details minimum standard provisions when considering whether an off-leash area is appropriate. These standards are used to guide designs, plantings, structures, amenities and the management of off-leash areas, which may include fenced and partially

fenced off-leash areas. Existing areas have been enhanced to include dog waste bag dispensers, drinking water facilities and informative signage.

The Victorian pet census identified that 68 per cent of respondents said they walk their dog at least once a day, with 55 per cent choosing a designated off-leash area as their preference. Community Laws Officers patrol these areas on a routine basis to ensure compliance with the relevant controls and to educate dog owners around a range of matters such as registration and picking up after dogs.

4.2 Our Orders, Local Laws, policies and procedures

Current Orders

Cat Control Order

On 25 August 2020 Council resolved to make an Order pursuant to section 26(2) of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* to introduce a Cat Curfew effective from 10 April 2021. The Cat Control Order imposes the following (summarised):

All cats must be securely confined between the hours of sunset or 7pm, whichever is the later, and sunrise.

Mandatory cat desexing

At its meeting of 30 September 2014, Council resolved that newly registered cats are required to be desexed at time of registration (s.10A of the Act). This came into effect as of 1 January 2015 and exemptions apply in accordance with the Act.

Current Local Laws

Refer to 3.2

Council's Community Safety and Amenity Local Law Part 7 – Keeping of Animals contributes to the control and overpopulation of animals in Monash by restricting the number of animals permitted to be kept.

Current policies and procedures

If an animal is impounded, all reasonable efforts are made to locate the owner, house or re-home impounded animals. Only after alternatives to house or re-home have been exhausted, will euthanasia be considered.

Cat trap service

Council provides cat traps to the community and in 2024 189 residents were provided with traps. Cat trapping assists in lowering the number of semi-owned, unowned and feral cat numbers, and also assists residents to manage nuisance cats that may be present on their land during prohibited times.

4.3 Our Plan

Objective 1:

To provide readily accessible information to the public in relation to overpopulation and high euthanasia rates

Activity	When	Evaluation
Promote confinement of animals to owner's premises to prevent stray cats and dogs and possible euthanasia if the animal is not microchipped and registered	Ongoing	Promotes compliance and the importance of registration
Provide information on how to create a cat enclosure to keep cats contained to properties	Ongoing	Fewer reports of wandering/nuisance cats to be monitored. Distribution of fact sheets and digital advertising
Review the cat trap service program with a view to identifying how the program might be enhanced in terms of reducing wild cat population	December 2026	Fewer reports of wild cats and nuisance cats
Where appropriate, implement actions that may arise from the Victorian Government's Cat Management Strategy 2025-2035	Ongoing	Fewer reports of wild cats and nuisance cats. Monitor actions required of Council.

Objective 2:

Reduce the number of cats and dogs euthanised

Activity	When	Evaluation
Promote the benefits of pet registration and keeping Council updated with relevant contact information to help reunite animals with their owners, ensuring they are not impounded and taken to the pound	Ongoing with annual monitoring	Monitor number of cats and dogs taken to pound facility / euthanised
Actively promote animal adoption programs to assist in the reduction of euthanasia rates	Ongoing	Monitor adoptions and advertise digitally where available

Objective 3:

Actively seek opportunities to deliver low-cost cat desexing programs

Activity	When	Evaluation
Apply and participate in government grant opportunities as they become available	As available	Number of cats desexed by the end of the desexing program.



Registration and identification

5.1 Context and current situation

Our current data

Registrations of dogs and cats with Council for the 2024 calendar year and the categorisation of these registrations are shown below.

Dog and cat registrations for 2020–2024

	Dogs		% change	Cats		% change
Year	2020	2024		2020	2024	
Total number of animals registered	11,624	11,903	+2.4%	5,044	5,502	+9%

A number of actions that were identified in the previous plan have been implemented to assist in the education of residents and to promote the importance of animal registrations. These have been well-received and are proposed to be undertaken on an ongoing basis. They are summarised below:

- » Making available to residents a pamphlet titled ‘Living with Dogs and Cats’ as a guide for both pet owners and non-owners
- » Following up pet owners that have not renewed their pet registration
- » Publishing information on the Council website and in the Monash Bulletin that goes to all households to advise of the registration period and requirements
- » Promoting the requirement for owners to pick up after their dogs and dispose of waste appropriately
- » Providing dog waste bins and drinking fountains at some reserves
- » Distributing registration brochures and fact sheets to residents.

Between 2020 and 2024, there has been an increase in both dog and cat registrations, with a 2.4 per cent increase in dogs and a 9 per cent increase in cats. This rise in cat registration numbers is particularly encouraging. Cat registration often sees the least compliance, but consistent messaging and continued education for cat owners have contributed to improved compliance.

5.2 Our Orders, Local Laws, policies and procedures

Section 10C of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* requires cats and dogs to be microchipped as a condition of registration (which is compulsory once the animal is three months of age).

Dogs and cats being registered for the first time must be microchipped. Microchipped animals can be promptly returned to their owners when they stray or become lost.

Current Orders

Mandatory Cat Desexing

At its meeting of 30 September 2014, Council resolved that newly registered cats are required to be desexed at time of registration (s.10A of the Act). This came into effect as of 1 January 2015. Exemptions apply in accordance with the Act.

- » Messaging regarding animal registration on Community Laws vehicles
- » Corflute signage in parks and reserves
- » Promotion to keep animal owner contact details up to date and to ensure lifetime tags are worn.

Current Local Laws

Refer to 3.2

Council's Community Safety and Amenity Local Law 2024

Part 7 – Keeping of Animals controls overpopulation of animals in Monash by restricting the number of permitted animals. It requires an annual permit from Council to keep more than two dogs and two cats.

Our current compliance activities

Current compliance activities are listed below and will be carried out as part of the plan.

- » Conduct park patrols of reserves and dog off-leash areas
- » Conduct doorknocks to increase registration numbers and follow up owners that have not renewed their pet registrations
- » Ensure all impounded animals that are reclaimed are registered with Council prior to their release
- » Enforcement of unregistered animals



5.3 Our Plan

Objective 1:

Improve compliance with pet registration requirements

Activity	When	Evaluation
Undertake annual registration doorknock program	By 30 September, annually	Review annual increase in registration numbers Record of unregistered and unidentified animals detected during doorknocks Infringements issued for unregistered animals
Park patrol education	Ongoing	Number of patrol hours Educate residents regarding responsible pet ownership, picking up after their dogs and the importance of registration
Community education at Council events	Ongoing	Number of events
Improve accuracy of Council pet registration database by contacting microchip registries to obtain details of dogs and cats in the municipality that are microchipped	Ongoing	Increase in registration/identification of unregistered animals
Increase publicity and education regarding animal registration, microchipping and the benefits of desexing	Annually, ongoing	Promote digital advertising Temporary signage on vehicles to promote registration Temporary signage at reserves and off leash areas to promote registration On-hold messaging prior to and during registration renewal periods SMS reminders to residents prior to registration period beginning, directly before 10 April, and after 10 April to residents who have not renewed registration.

Objective 2:

Increase awareness among culturally and linguistically diverse communities about registration requirements

Activity	When	Evaluation
Produce information regarding registration and desexing requirements in multi-lingual formats	Ongoing	Promote digital advertising and promotion, include pamphlets into registrations in different languages, promotion at festivals and fun days

Objective 3:

Improve the accuracy of Council registration database by cross-referencing with microchip registry data.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Improve accuracy of Council pet registration database by contacting microchip registries to obtain details of dogs and cats in the municipality that are microchipped. Cross reference Council's registration data with the registry to identify unregistered animals and follow up those that are not.	By 30 September, annually	Demonstrate Council's pet registration database can be accurately cross-referenced with microchip registries Demonstrate an increase in numbers of pets registered with Council following microchip registry cross-referencing exercise.

Nuisance

6.1 Context and current situation

Nuisance

- » Topical articles on animal management and current animal issues published in the monthly resident news bulletin from time to time.
- » Face-to-face contact with residents and regular patrols are conducted in parks and reserves. This allows officers an opportunity to interact with, educate and advise pet owners on responsible pet ownership.
- » Park patrols are supported by the temporary installation of corflute signage advertising animal registration and the importance of picking up after dogs.
- » Investigation of contraventions of Local and Victorian controls
- » Signage in parks to remind dog owners of the rules applicable when visiting a park.
- » Cat trap service to help control semi-owned or feral cats
- » In the 2024 calendar year, 648 nuisance complaints were received and actioned by Council, this includes but is not limited to barking dog complaints, cats not being contained to a property and general nuisance complaints.

Barking dogs

Council's role includes investigating nuisance caused by barking dogs. When a complaint is made, officers undertake investigations. This includes speaking to the complainant, the dog owner and attending the location to determine what is occurring and to establish whether the barking goes beyond mere annoyance, and if a nuisance offence has occurred.

Council can only intervene a barking dog complaint if it is legally classed a "nuisance". A nuisance can be defined as persistent, substantial and unreasonable.

When a complaint is lodged with Council, it is often because the neighbour-to-neighbour approach has not worked. Council's initial response is to obtain a statement from the complainant about the times the barking occurs and the impact it has on them, and may also request that they keep a log, so as to determine the frequency of barking and also whether there may be a cause that could be attributed to the behaviour dependant on when it may be occurring and its frequency. The dog owner is provided with information how the barking may be reduced and is asked to implement strategies.

The investigation proceeds with enquiries with other neighbours and the officer making their own observations. The dog owner is again made aware that an investigation is underway, and once all the available evidence has been collected the dog owner may be formally interviewed.

Council will continue to review its procedures so that they are consistent with best practice.

Year	Barking dog complaints received
2022	310
2023	266
2024	302

Dog faeces

Existing controls require dog owners to carry bags with them when their dog is being exercised in public and to remove their dogs' faeces from public places as well as properly dispose of the waste. It is disappointing that the enjoyment of public spaces is compromised when some owners fail to clean up after their pets. This remains a significant for concern for Council and well and users of these public recreational spaces

whether they are used for informal recreation or for organised sport. Although most dog owners do the right thing it is necessary to heighten our educative approach to reaffirm that not picking up after your dog is not only the person's responsibility as a responsible dog owner, but that failing to do so has a potentially significant impact upon the enjoyment of these spaces by residents. It is unacceptable and inexcusable for a person to not pick up after their dog and it is a basic and fundamental expectation from the Monash community and Council that people do this. To support compliance, high-use off-leash areas have been equipped with waste bags, making it easier for dog owners to fulfill this basic and fundamental expectation from both the community and Council.

Dedicated off-leash areas for dogs

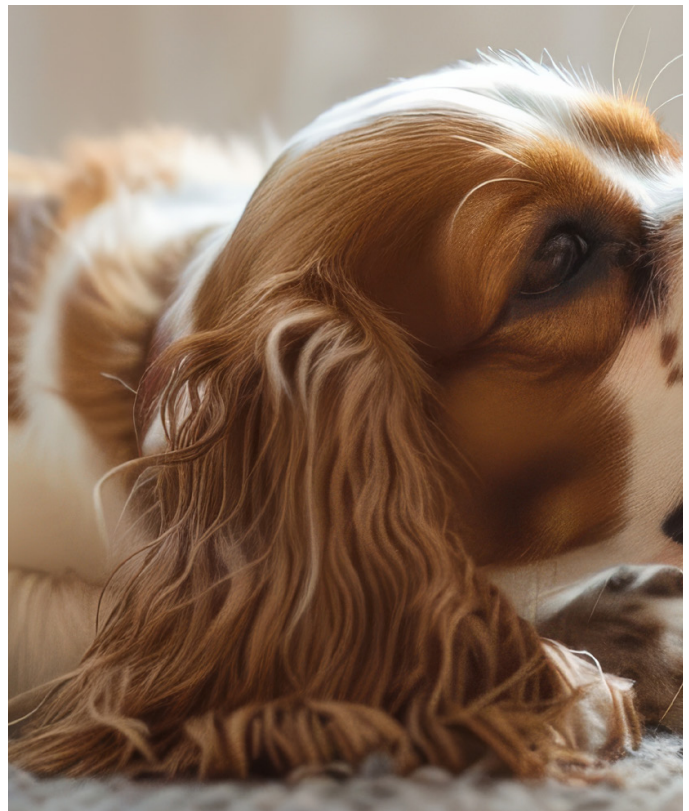
Exercising dogs outdoors can sometimes cause nuisances and create conflicts with other users of recreational areas. Council has dedicated significant effort investigating the benefits of off-leash areas and, after considerable consultation, adopted the Monash Dog Off-Leash Policy. The policy details minimum standard provisions when considering whether an off-leash area is appropriate. These standards guide the design, planting, structures, amenities, and management of off-leash areas, which may include fenced and partially fenced zones. They also encompass the planning and management of all off-leash areas, including unfenced, partially fenced, and fully fenced spaces. Additionally, the standards consider areas where off-leash activities may not be appropriate, such as those with high levels of biodiversity and native flora and fauna. In these designated conservation reserves (e.g. Damper Creek Conservation Reserve), dogs are required to be on-lead.

There are currently 47 areas in Monash where dogs can be exercised off-leash. These areas have either been created, upgraded, or amended since the last plan. Some areas have been enhanced to include dog waste bags, drinking water facilities, and informative signage, where practicable, in accordance with the Policy.

The Victorian pet census identified that 68 per cent of respondents said they walk their dog at least once a day, with 55 per cent choosing a designated off-leash area as their preference. Community Laws officers patrol these areas on a routine basis to ensure compliance with the relevant controls and to educate dog owners around a range of matters such as registration and picking up after dogs.

Cat trap service

Council delivers a cat trap service, making cat traps available to the public so they can trap stray cats on their property. According to Victoria's pet census, there are an estimated 914,000 pet cats in Victoria, with an unknown number of stray and feral cats. Council will continue to deliver this program as it aligns with Action 12 of the Cat Management Strategy, which focuses on reducing the impacts of semi-owned and unowned cat populations. These cats often contribute to wildlife and biodiversity impacts, pose disease transmission risks, and can rapidly reproduce.



Cat curfew

In 2021, Council introduced a cat curfew requiring all cats to be securely confined between sunset (or 7pm, whichever is later) and sunrise. The benefits of this curfew are significant for cats, owners and wildlife. There has been a noticeable increase in community awareness regarding the curfew. This heightened awareness, along with changes in how pet owners manage their cats, has led to a broader understanding that cats should not roam at night.

Complaints often reflect an awareness of the curfew, with residents expecting their neighbours to comply with it. However, more work can be explored to assist owners in transitioning their cats to an indoor lifestyle at night. This can be achieved using cat enclosures and changes in routine, such as keeping cats indoors after their evening meal.

The Victorian Pet Census revealed that 88 per cent of respondents with a cat kept them contained to their property, indicating a positive trend towards responsible pet ownership generally.

Year	Cat nuisance complaints received
2022	97
2023	238
2024	235



6.2 Our Orders, Local Laws, policies and procedures

Current Orders

Cat Control Order

On 25 August 2020 Council resolved to make an Order pursuant to section 26(2) of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* to introduce a Cat Curfew effective from 10 April 2021. The Cat Control Order imposes the following (summarised):

All cats must be securely confined between the hours of sunset or 7pm, whichever is the later, and sunrise.

Mandatory Cat Desexing

At its meeting of 30 September 2014, Council resolved that newly registered cats are required to be desexed at time of registration (s.10A of the Act). This came into effect as of 1 January 2015. Exemptions apply in accordance with the Act.

Current Local Laws

Council's Community Safety and Amenity Local Law 2024 Clause 62 – Keeping of Animals controls overpopulation of animals in Monash by restricting the number of permitted animals. It requires an annual permit from Council to keep more than two dogs and two cats.

Council's Community Safety and Amenity Local Law 2024 Clause 45 - requires people walking dogs to remove the dogs' faeces from a road or Council land and requires the person to have a bag in their possession for the purpose of removing faeces.

Council's Community Safety and Amenity Local Law 2024 Clause 65 - prohibits the feeding of an uncaged animal that is causing a nuisance or damage to property.

Council's Community Safety and Amenity Local Law 2024 Clause 63- requires any structure used for housing an animal and the area within three (3) metres of such structure must be maintained:

- » In a clean, inoffensive and sanitary condition

- » So as not to cause any nuisance
- » To the satisfaction of Council or an authorised officer.

Council's Community Safety and Amenity Local Law 2024 Clause 64 - requires an occupier of any land on which any animal is kept must not allow any noise or smell to emanate from the animal which interferes with the reasonable comfort or convenience of persons who occupy adjacent or nearby land.

Current policies and procedures

Enforcement guidelines

Council's enforcement efforts adhere to established guidelines that support activities aimed at protecting the community, environment and amenity. Officers are required to investigate, enforce, and ensure compliance with a range of legislative provisions, including animal management activities. These guidelines help officers respond promptly and consistently, enabling them to achieve outcomes that foster behavioural change.

Our current compliance activities

Council will continue to focus on addressing complaints about barking dogs, nuisance cats and dog faeces. The tables below show that nuisance complaints have trended similarly over a three-year period. For this reason, these issues will continue to be high priorities for officers throughout the duration of this plan.

Activities for these complaints include:

- » Conducting regular park patrols and liaising with sporting clubs
- » Park audits of signage and updating signage where possible
- » Enforcement via official warnings, infringement notices and prosecutions as required

- » Continuance of the cat trap service
- » Education for cat owners about how to keep cats contained.

Year	Cat nuisance complaints received
2022	97
2023	238
2024	235

Year	Barking dog complaints received
2022	310
2023	266
2024	302



6.3 Our Plan

Objective 1:

Reduce cat nuisance complaints

Activity	When	Evaluation
Continue the delivery of education programs that promote the wellbeing of cats and the environmental benefits that arise from them being contained at night	Ongoing	Digital educational materials published to online platforms Physical educational materials delivered to cat owners Reduction in number of nuisance complaints about cats
Provide education material about cat enclosures	Ongoing, as available	Digital distribution of information
Where appropriate, implement actions that may arise from the Victorian Government Cat Management Strategy 2025-2035	Ongoing	Fewer reports of wild cats and nuisance cats. Monitor actions required of Council
Include information regarding confinement, toxic plants in the home, the importance of desexing and other information relating to responsible pet ownership in animal registration information packs each year and on Council's website and publications	March annually	Review information included annually Information published to website where applicable Educational materials promoted via digital platforms where applicable
Review cat trapping procedure and information on website	December 2027	Procedure updated and information available on website

Objective 2:

Reduce dog nuisance complaints

Activity	When	Evaluation
Continue to provide dog waste bag dispensers in parks and off-leash areas subject to Council budget process	Ongoing	Monitor bag dispensers to ensure availability to dog walkers
Review barking dog complaint/investigation procedure and review information published on Council website	December 2027	Procedure and web content reviewed for accuracy and most up-to-date industry knowledge
Continue to promote awareness of the requirement to pick up dog faeces	Ongoing	Community feedback and number of complaints received. Decrease in complaints regarding dog faeces
Distribution of digital and physical educational materials		
Audit and affix signage at off-leash areas		
Continuance of the use of stencils in reported nuisance areas		
Include information regarding barking dogs, dogs at large and other information relating to responsible pet ownership including safe yards and toxic plants in home, to be included in animal registration information packs each year and on Council's website and other digital publications	March, annually	Review information included annually
Promotion of 'Dog Etiquette' signage in off-leash areas and create flyer to be promoted to community in different languages	As per budget considerations and as required	Promotion on digital platforms and in off-leash areas



Dog attacks

7.1 Context and current situation

Reported dog attacks receive the highest priority from Authorised Officers. Depending on the severity of an incident, there are a range of actions that Council can consider. These can include, but are not limited to, the issuing of fines, prosecution, and declaring dogs menacing or dangerous which places additional obligations on the owner associated with the keeping of the animal. Where serious injury results from a dog attack, Council may seize the offending dog pending the outcome of any prosecution and can ultimately determine to seek a range of outcomes including to euthanise a dog where it is considered it may pose an unacceptable risk to the community.

To reduce the risk of dog attacks, officers regularly patrol the municipality for wandering or at-large dogs to identify instances where their owners that are not complying with animal management requirements. The risk of dog attacks can also be minimised through easily controllable measures such as dogs being required to be leashed within 20 metres of any occupied children’s playground or play equipment, occupied picnic area or organised sporting event and leashed in any public space that is not an off-leash area.

Council is the primary investigative authority in relation to dog attacks. It is important for community members to know where and how to report dog attacks in the first instance. While prevention of dog attacks is the ideal solution, Council recognises that educational material on prevention and reporting mechanisms may be necessary including material in languages other than English.

Nature of Attacks	Year 2022	Year 2023	Year 2024
Dog attacks reported	126	130	123
Dog attacks prosecutions	8	4	14
Fines issued	7	18	19

7.2 Our Orders, Local Laws, policies and procedures

Current Local Laws

Council's Community Safety and Amenity Local Law 2024 Clause 62 – Keeping of Animals controls overpopulation of animals in Monash by restricting the number of permitted animals. It requires an annual permit from Council to keep more than two dogs and two cats.

Council's Community Safety and Amenity Local Law 2024 Clause 45 - requires people walking dogs to remove the dogs' faeces from a road or Council land and requires the person to have a bag in their possession for the purpose of removing faeces.

Our current compliance activities

Authorised officers routinely:

- » Maintain street and reserve patrols with a specific focus on high-risk areas e.g. high-attendance reserves
- » Promptly respond to complaints
- » Use declaration/destruction powers appropriately.

7.3 Our Plan

Objective 1:

Increase reporting of dog attacks in the community

Activity	When	Evaluation
Increase public awareness of what constitutes a dog attack/dog rush and how to report and what to do, using media articles, public notices in parks, website updates	Ongoing	Evaluate this activity by comparing number of dog attacks reported to Council.
Promote successful dog attack prosecution outcomes via digital platforms	As available	Evaluate this activity by comparing number of dog attacks reported to Council.

Objective 2:

Reduce and minimise the risk of dog attacks in the community.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Actively doorknock to identify unregistered animals	Ongoing	Registrations of animals and education of owners.
Regular park patrols including weekends	20 hours of weekend patrols per month	Dog owners spoken to and educated regarding responsible pet ownership, effective control and faeces

Dangerous, menacing and restricted-breed dogs

8.1 Context and current situation

In accordance with legislative requirements, a dog may be declared either menacing or dangerous, which places specific legal obligations on the owner to keep the dog in compliance with the provisions of the Act. Community Laws Officers may recommend to Council delegates that a dog be declared either menacing or dangerous, or this may be determined through court proceedings.

Definitions for dogs fitting one of these three classifications are:

A **dangerous dog** is either:

- » A dog declared as dangerous by the Council (for example, it has caused death or serious injury to a person or animal); or
- » A dog kept as a guard dog for the purpose of guarding non-residential properties or a dog trained to attack or bite a person or thing when attached to or worn by a person.

A **menacing dog** is a dog declared menacing by the Council because it has:

- » Rushed at or chased a person
- » Bitten a person or animal causing a non-serious injury to that person or animal; or
- » Has been declared a menacing dog under a law of another state.

A **restricted-breed dog** is a dog that is any one of the following breeds:

- » Japanese tosa
- » Fila brasileiro
- » Dogo argentino
- » Perro de presa canario (or presa canario)
- » American pit bull terrier (or pit bull terrier).

The number of dangerous, menacing, guard dogs and restricted-breed dogs registered in Monash 2020 to 2024 is shown below.

Declared dogs	Year 2020	Year 2024
Number of declared dogs (dangerous, menacing, restricted-breed and guard dogs)	Dangerous – 3	Dangerous – 6
	Menacing – 1	Menacing – 1
	Restricted – 0	Restricted – 0

In the previous plan, it was noted that Community Laws Officers place significant emphasis on dog attacks due to the critical importance of community safety. There must be sufficient grounds for a dog to be declared a 'dangerous dog' which are determined by the circumstances surrounding the incident,

including the extent of any injuries to other animals or people. Although the number of dangerous dog declarations has not increased dramatically, the thoroughness of investigations and enforcement actions demonstrates that officers take these matters very seriously once reported.

8.2 Our policies and procedures

Current policies and procedures

Undisciplined and/or inadequately trained dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs in public places pose the greatest risk to the public and authorised officers. These categories of dogs are dealt with in accordance with the relevant legislation and Council procedures.

Domestic Animals Act 1994

- » Division 3 - Particular provisions for the control of dangerous dogs
- » Division 3A - Particular provisions for the control of menacing dogs
- » Division 3B - Particular provisions for the control of restricted breed dogs

Current compliance activities

Annual inspections are conducted on each property that contains a restricted-breed, declared dangerous or menacing dog. In line with Victorian Government legislation, Council deems the control of dangerous, menacing and restricted-breed dogs as a very serious matter.

Random doorknocks are conducted throughout the municipality annually to assist to identify these types of dogs. Authorised Officers also conduct routine street and park patrols and promptly respond to complaints from residents.

8.3 Our Plan

Objective 1:

Ensure declarations are completed in accordance with evolving legal changes, and ensure all registers are accurate

Activity	When	Evaluation
Create new declarations as required	As required	Report updates of declared dogs to annual report
Review and update process to declare dangerous, menacing or restricted-breed dogs to ensure up to date with any legal changes	December 2026 and December 2028	Ensure compliance with legal changes
Reporting on Victorian Dangerous Dog Register	As required	Review annually to ensure new declarations are reported to register
Canine Anatomy and Identification Training (CAIT)	Ongoing	Officers to attend training and/or seminars when available. Six officers are currently booked to attend this training in 2025.

Objective 2:

Ensure declared dogs are compliant to relevant legislation and regulations

Activity	When	Evaluation
Conduct inspections of declared dogs to ensure compliance	Annually, by 30 June	Annual inspection conducted and recorded against registration database
Investigate reports/complaints of reported keeping of a declared dog	Ongoing	Number of complaints received to be reviewed annually
Cross-reference microchip database information with current Council registration database for potential restricted-breed dogs	Annually	Cross-referencing with Council's registration database



Domestic Animal Businesses

9.1 Context and current situation

Registered Domestic Animal Businesses

Six Domestic Animal Businesses (DABs) are registered in Monash - one less than the previous period. These comprise:

- » Two pet shops
- » One dog-training business
- » Three catteries.

Domestic Animal Businesses (DAB)

Council advises and educates DAB operators on any changes to legislation or on any new codes of practice that relate to their business. This is done via visits to the premises, and education not only during renewal of the business registration, but on an as-needs basis where the business may need further education or follow-up. Each business is also supplied with material from the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR). DAB operators are visited annually by officers to ensure compliance with the Code of Practice applicable to their establishment.

In the past 12 months, Monash has seen one new DAB open. Assessment prior to permit issuance involved multiple departments within Council including Planning, Building and Community Laws.

9.2 Our policies and procedures

Current policies and procedures

Our current compliance activities

Compliance inspections of DABs are conducted annually by Authorised Officers. In addition, spot checks on DABs are carried out throughout the year. Should public complaints relating to DAB animal management practices be received, they are promptly investigated and responded to.

Summary

The six DABs registered in Monash are sufficiently monitored via spot checks and compliance inspections. Accurate registers of DABs are maintained and reported to Victorian Government bodies as required.

9.3 Our Plan

Objective 1:

Maintain an up-to-date register of all Domestic Animal Businesses in the municipality.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Review all DABs in the municipality and ensure they continue to be registered with Council	Annually, as renewal period occurs	Numbers of DABs that are found non-compliant
Raise awareness of requirement to register DABs	As required	Digital advertising on definition of DABs and registration requirements in accordance with codes of practice
Inspect properties with excess animal permits to ensure they are not a breeding business	Annually, with excess permit inspections	Number of DABs established as a result of inspections.

Objective 2:

Annually inspect and audit all registered DABs to maintain compliance

Activity	When	Evaluation
Conduct compliance inspections on DABs	Annually, as renewal period occurs	Numbers of DABs that are found non-compliant.

Other matters

10.1 Context and current situation

Emergency management

Like all municipalities in Victoria, Council maintains a Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP) for responding to natural disasters and emergencies. The purpose of the MEMP is to provide a coordinated response and then recovery to support an emergency-affected community. This plan sets out the procedures to be followed when Council and community resources are required in the case of an emergency.

The City of Monash is generally a low-risk area however storm, flood damage, major transport emergency or chemical spillage may require an appropriate and prompt response. It is important for residents to know how the MEMP operates and what to do in an emergency.

The Victorian Emergency Animal Welfare Plan was recently reviewed, updated and published in November 2024 to ensure it provides a strong framework for responding to animal welfare emergency needs in Victoria.

Council's Municipal Emergency Management Plan has been prepared in accordance with Victorian legislation and the Emergency Management Manual Victoria (EMMV). The plan was reviewed and endorsed by the Municipal Emergency Planning Committee in November 2022.

The Monash Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee meets at least three times a year. Its membership includes representatives of Victorian Government departments and organisations, local businesses, non-government organisations with a role in emergency management, and Council officers.

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (POCTA) Legislation

The *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986* (POCTA) allows for the authorisation of local government officers, who are employees of Council and authorised under Section 72 of the Act.

Council officers who are authorised under POCTA have the powers to investigate cruelty, seize and dispose of animals, destroy suffering animals, deal with abandoned or distressed animals and prosecute cruelty offences.

Council officers are not authorised as POCTA inspectors as the investigation of POCTA offences that occur within the municipality are currently investigated by the RSPCA and police. The RSPCA and police have demonstrated an ability to adequately respond to animal welfare matters that are controlled under the provisions of POCTA, however Council's Animal Management Officers are available to assist in these investigations when requested to do so.

Pound services

Operating a pound facility is essential for Council to fulfil its statutory responsibilities related to animals, as mandated by the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*. For over 20 years, RSPCA Victoria has operated pound facilities on behalf of Council through a contractual arrangement, offering a convenient location for the Monash community. While acknowledging Council's long-standing partnership, RSPCA Victoria has notified officers that, due to a shift in its strategic business model, they will no longer provide pound facility services to Victorian councils. Consequently, Council has found itself in a position to identify a suitable

alternative pound facility to fulfil this role due to the absence of having its own pound facility. After a public tender process, Animal Aid in Coldstream was awarded the contract to provide pound services for Council. It is a

priority for Council officers to maintain proper communication channels with the community and have a focus on reuniting animals with their owners as an alternative to having them immediately impounded.

10.2 Our policies and procedures

Current policies and procedures

The Monash Emergency Animal Welfare Plan (EAWP) deals specifically with the welfare of animals in Monash in case of an emergency. In the plan, trained personnel are appointed to respond to any such emergencies.

Current compliance activities

Council officers participate in Emergency Management training, and attend exercises held with other municipalities within the region to participate in training opportunities to manage animals in emergency situations. This occurs bi-annually. This gives officers opportunities to participate in this exercise to allow for possible real-world situations.

10.3 Our Plan

Emergencies may pose a risk to animal welfare. Where this occurs, owners and carers of animals may be under considerable stress. The primary responsibility and duty of care remains with the person in charge of the animal. However, Council does have a role and responsibility to play if an emergency is to occur. Council’s responsibilities are outlined in the MEMP and the EAWP.

Objective 1:

Ensure Councils Emergency Animal Welfare Plan (EAWP) is updated and represents current knowledge contingencies and represents best practice.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Review the EAWP plan	Upon policy review	Plan reviewed in consultation with key stakeholders including animal welfare agencies.

Annual review of Plan and annual reporting

Evaluation of implementation of the Domestic Animal Management Plan

Complete for each activity	Yes/No
Review the EAWP plan	Upon policy review
Was each activity completed?	Yes/No - Annually
Describe any changes you will make if you do that activity again.	
Was an activity not done or is now not planned to be done?	If so, why?
If an activity was unsuccessful and you don't plan to do it again, outline insights you have into why it didn't work.	
Complete each objective	
Did you meet your objective by carrying out the planned activities?	Yes/No
Describe your level of success/progress in meeting the objective.	



Monash Civic Centre | 293 Springvale Road, Glen Waverley, 3150 | 8.30am to 5.15pm | Monday to Friday
Oakleigh Service Centre | 3 Atherton Road, Oakleigh, 3166 | 8.30am to 5.15pm | Monday to Friday
9518 3555 | www.monash.vic.gov.au | mail@monash.vic.gov.au
National Relay Service (for people with hearing or speech impairments) 1800 555 660

Monash Interpreter Service

普通话	9321 5485	Ελληνικά	9321 5482	廣東話	9321 5481	සිංහල	7005 3002	Italiano	9321 5483
हिंदी	7005 3000	Việt Ngữ	9321 5487	தமிழ்	7005 3003	한국어	9321 5484	Bahasa Indonesia	7005 3001

Attachment Two

Submissions and Consultation Feedback

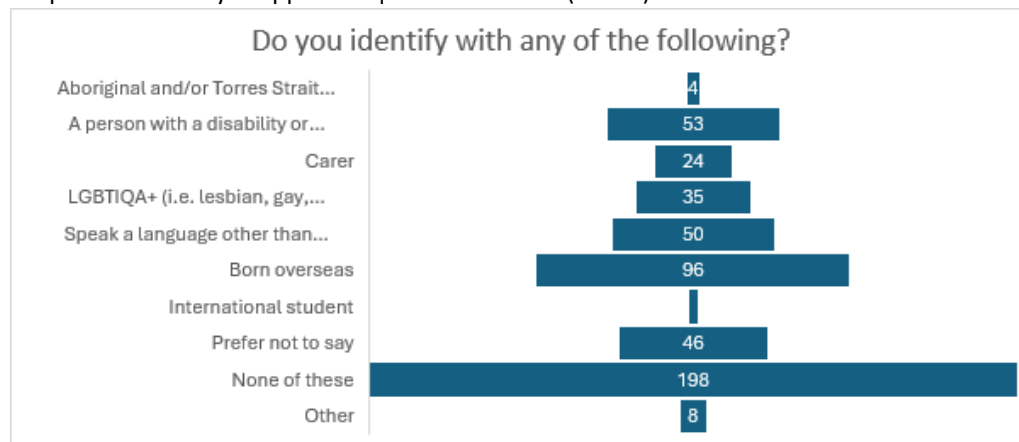
Consultation on the draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029 was primarily facilitated on the Shape Monash platform between 10 July and 10 August 2025. During this time, the Shape Monash platform attracted 3,663 visits and 467 submissions were made by 455 contributors. This attachment includes the following questions that were put to the respondents and their feedback.

In addition a written submission was received from Animal Care Australia, and one submission was received via email. Both submissions have been reproduced in this attachment.

Demographic Questions

Q. Do you identify with any of the following?

Response Summary: Skipped: 34 | Answered: 433 (92.7%)



Q. Which language do you speak at home? (other than English)

Response Summary: Skipped: 424 | Answered: 43 (9.2%)

The survey attracted diverse backgrounds with languages spoken at home including Mandarin, Chinese, Singalese, Hebrew, Spanish, Cantonese, Tamil, Greek, Spanish, Vietnamese, Japanese, Norwegian, German, Czech, Turkish, Persian, French, Serbian and Indonesian.

The top languages were Mandarin, Chinese and Greek.

Q. Where were you born? (other than Australia)

Response Summary: Skipped: 388 | Answered: 79 (16.9%)

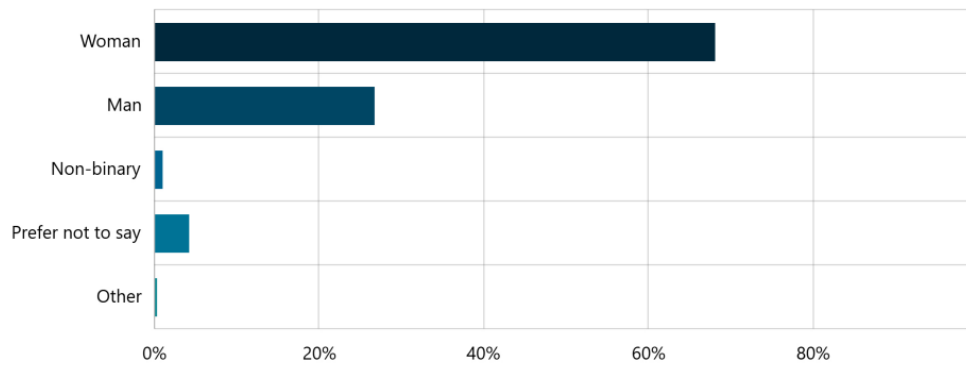
Similar to the above, the survey attracted a range of people born overseas, including South Africa, Malta, Germany, UK, Istanbul, Turkey, Canada, Vietnam, Israel, Sri Lanka, India, Philippines, Singapore, USA, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, China, Malaysia, Latvia, South Korea, Hong Kong, Brazil, Mauritius

The top Countries were China, New Zealand, The United Kingdom and Malaysia.

Q. Gender

19. Your gender Required

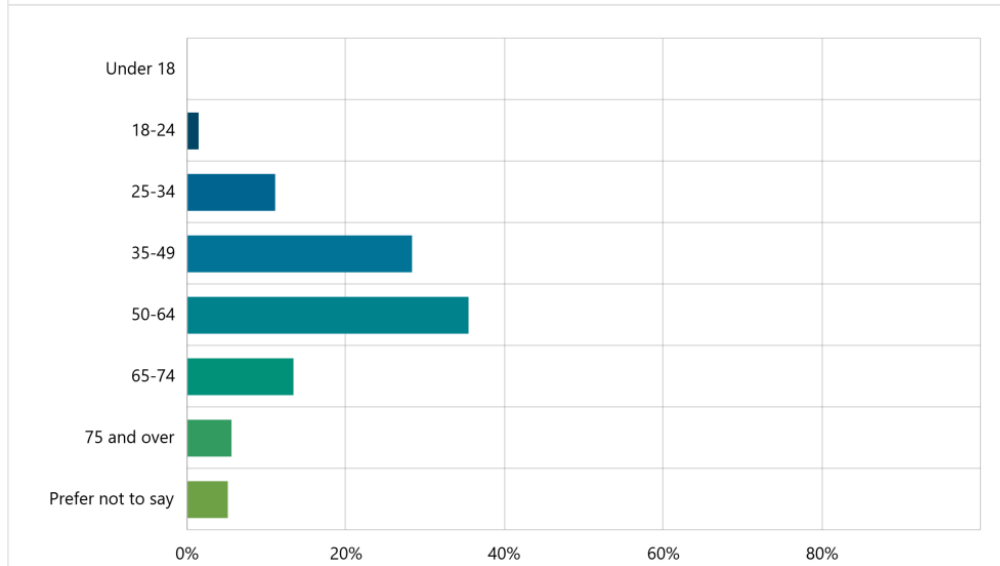
Select Box | Skipped: 32 | Answered: 435 (93.1%)



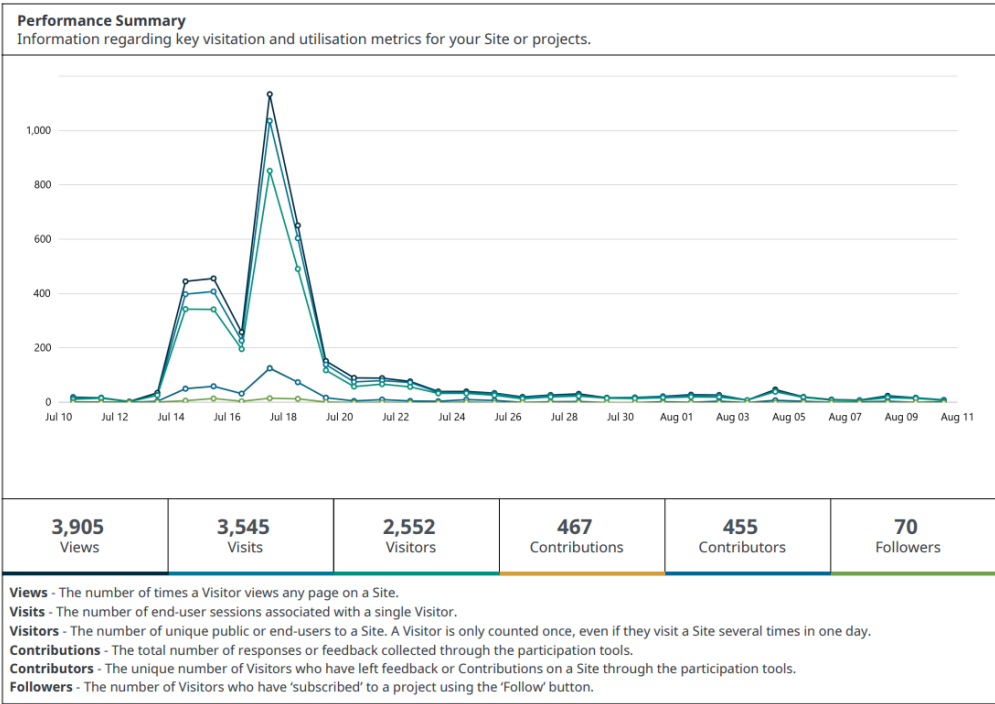
Answer choices	Percent	Count
Woman	68.05%	296
Man	26.67%	116
Non-binary	0.92%	4
Prefer not to say	4.14%	18
Other	0.23%	1
Total	100.00%	435

Q. Age Group**20. Your age group Required**

Select Box | Skipped: 32 | Answered: 435 (93.1%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Under 18	0%	0
18-24	1.38%	6
25-34	11.03%	48
35-49	28.28%	123
50-64	35.40%	154
65-74	13.33%	58
75 and over	5.52%	24
Prefer not to say	5.06%	22
Total	100.00%	435



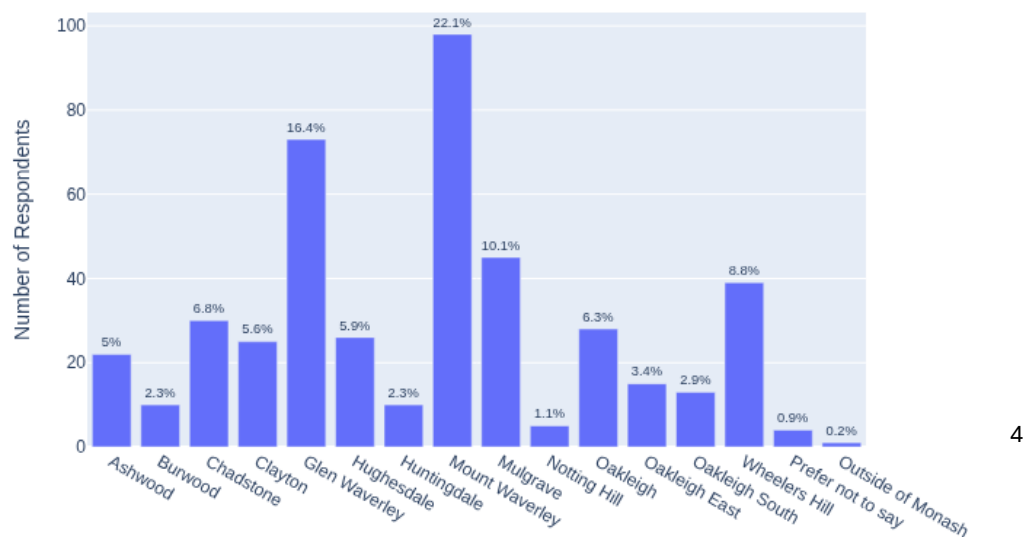
Survey Contribution Summary

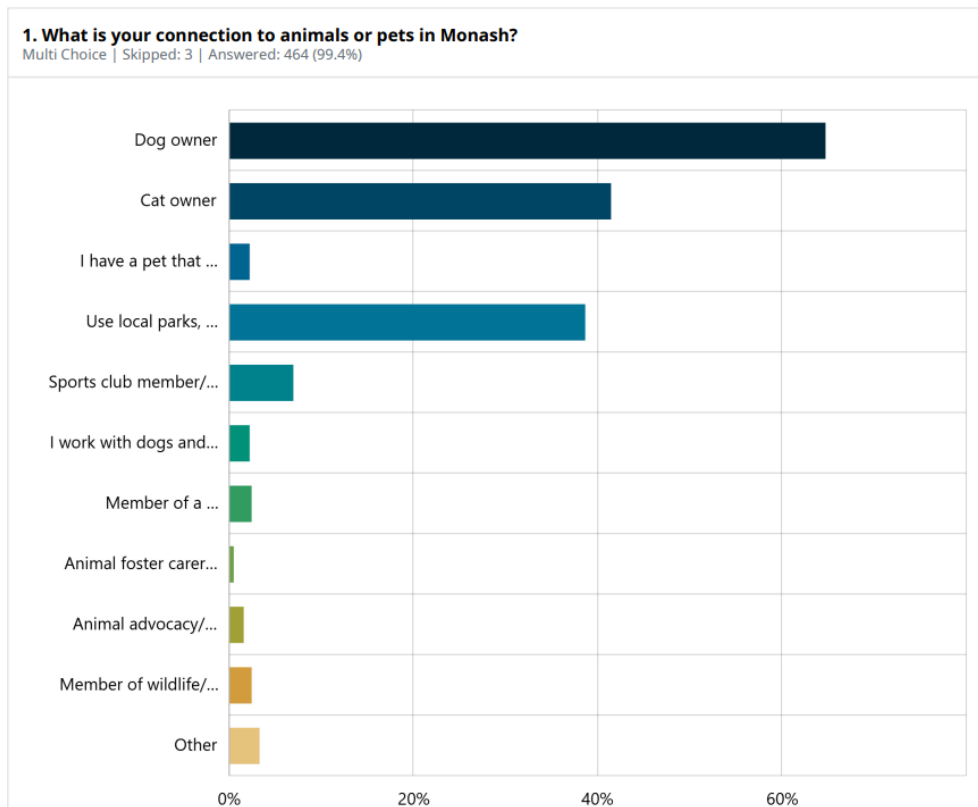
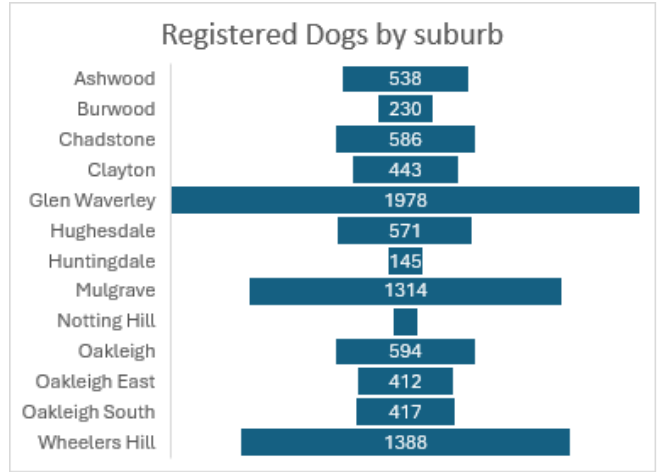
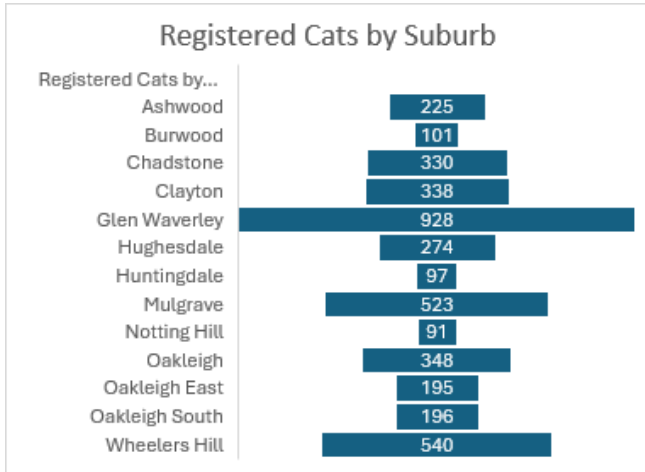
467 contributions by 455 contributors were received via the Shape Monash platform, and additional two (2) submissions were received via email.

Most respondents fall into the **35–49** and **50–64** age brackets, indicating strong engagement from middle-aged residents.

Respondents by Suburb

For context to the information presented, please see registered animals by suburb within the municipality.



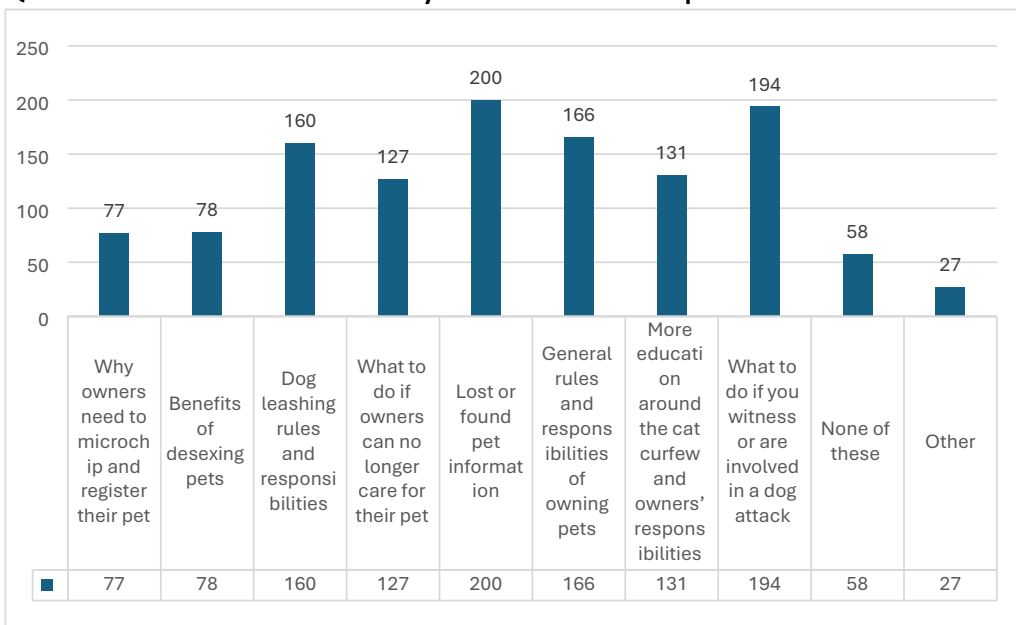


Answer choices	Percent	Count
Dog owner	64.66%	300
Cat owner	41.38%	192
I have a pet that isn't a cat or dog	2.16%	10
Use local parks, reserves or playgrounds	38.58%	179
Sports club member/player/volunteer	6.90%	32
I work with dogs and/or cats	2.16%	10
Member of a registered dog club	2.37%	11
Animal foster carer/community foster care network member	0.43%	2
Animal advocacy/rescue group	1.51%	7
Member of wildlife/environmental group	2.37%	11
Other	3.23%	15

Q2. How many dogs, cats or other animals are in your home?

Animal Type	Dogs	Cats	Other
Responses	287	184	10
Summary of data	64 people said they had more than one dog	75 people said they had more than one cat	Fish, Chickens, Rabbits

Q5. What kind of information would you like to receive as a pet owner in Monash?



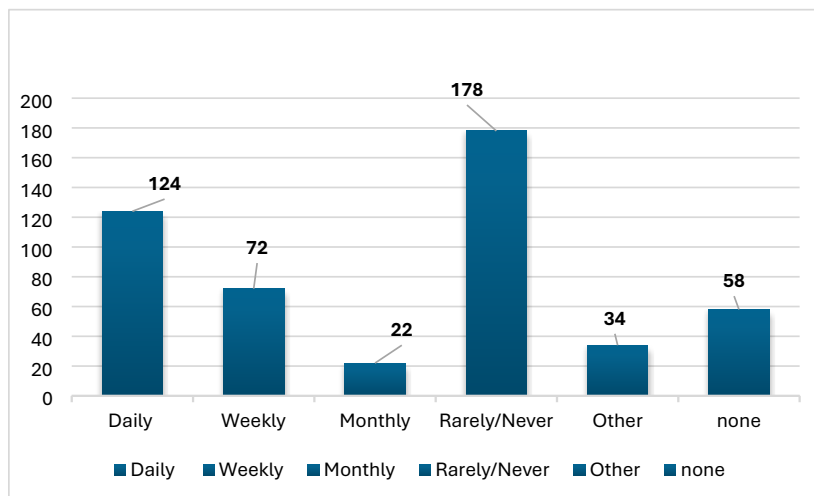
Top four selections included:

- Lost or found pet information
- What to do if you witness or are involved in a dog attack
- General rules and responsibilities of owning pets
- Dog leashing rules and responsibilities

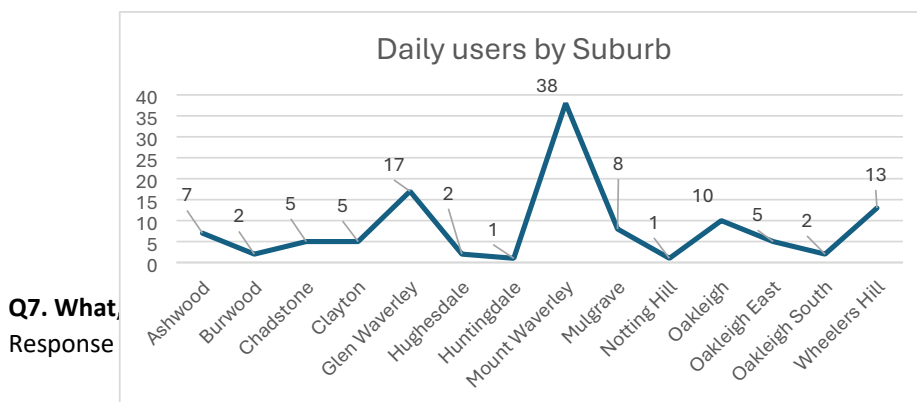
Dog training options
There are many people who do not pick up after their dog along the nature strips
Zero Tolerance policy to people not carrying dog poo bags, not picking up after their dog, or flinging a full dog poo bag into the bushes when they think someone isn't looking.
Owner's responsibilities on keeping a well socialised and healthy pet
If benefit of desexing I want this info written by an expert/vet and provided by council, not written by council
Ability to control dog on leash. ie size age and weight of person in control of dog on leash
Who and how to contact about neglect suspicions
Unleashed dogs in restricted zones and consequences
Importance of immunisation
Places that contain fully enclosed dog parks (ideally spaces for large dogs and also one exclusive for smaller breeds like many parishes in QLD have) so I know where I can take my dog that isn't a local footy field with an unsecured fence line and any non-dog related stimulus that might cause problems. A space where dogs can go and play with other dogs in a safe and enclosed space that's easy to monitor and manage. Stop making pet owners have to police other people's pets due to negligence and apathy among careless pet owners
Not enough rubbish bins, no water drinking facilities for animals, Ensure the provision of Fully enclosed and gated dog park for off-leash dogs - refer to Farm Road Reserve, Cheltenham
To segregate big & small dogs area in doggie parks
More consequences, education is not going to have much impact. It's just gentle parenting
Finding out whether or not my poor cat that is 10 years old can live outside and do his loo freely.
Reduce barking techniques. Cat breeding rules (1litter a year for disabled people- support cats) I think I registered I can't find it
How the Beast feels after desert and last stage
The above negation-by-delay tactics are repeatedly PROVED highly effective for avoidance. Instead: ACTION & ACCOUNTABILITY for existing regulations
Training and enrichment tips
How to ensure council actually acts when you report issues with dogs off leash
Where the off leash parks are
Warn residents that if their animals stray, they and their animals could suffer consequences if they stray.
Consequences and support for owners.
Future cat café and leashing rules and responsibilities

Information about volunteering for rescue associations who foster dogs for places like the RSPCA, etc, to raise awareness.
Where does the pet registration money I pay go to?
some pet owners disregard their responsibilities. need to make them aware of penalties. sometimes the gentle approach of what they should be doing doesn't work. those that don't have pets need to be aware of what's expected of those that do.
picking up after pets and fines. this is currently enforced through citizens using cameras and having to confront offenders.

Q6. How frequently do you use dog off-leash areas?



Noting that the higher daily users are residents from Mount Waverley, it should be highlighted that the highest overall activity within this consultation was also Mount Waverley residents.





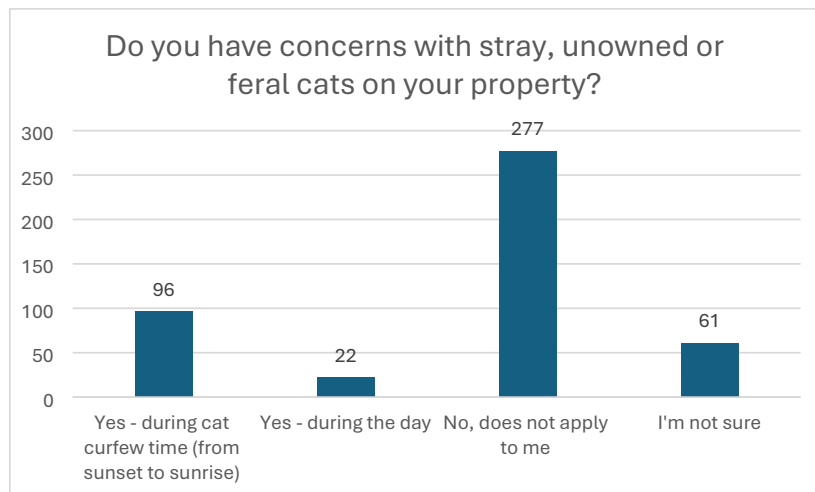
Non secure area - not fenced in so dogs can run onto the road
In on lead reserve - Dogs not under control, Not picking up after dogs or dumped poo bags - litter; Aggressive dog (husband was bitten); Dogs chasing wildlife; Over friendly dogs that jump (and I have been knocked over)
Owners allowing their dogs off leash in residential streets.
People throwing dog poo bags around the park instead of placing in bins supplied.
The off leash park in my area (Finch St, Notting Hill) is not fenced and unsuitable. Please provide fencing for off leash areas
Usually men who can't control their dogs
Areas that have always been the go to for dog walkers (who have often been instrumental in bush regen and upkeep) now increasingly used as "exercise tracks". Damper Creek policy has been unfair to the majority of responsible dog owners many of whom you have to thank for what it is today . Totally support the wildlife aspect but you have the balance wrong - you need to increase the off lease areas there. (maybe one side)
Facilities not maintained
People not watching their dogs.
Can't let my pup off leash, she is still learning recall. Need a dedicated fenced dog park in Glen Waverley
Council staff more interested in handing out fines (I'll add, I have never received a fine for my pets) rather than engaging the community and subtly encouraging the right behaviours (for owners and pets)
Not enough bins
No bins
Some people have aggressive dogs on lead but can't control, the dog is the boss and it is scary as most dogs go up to each other, especially mine and I have to be on the watch out. These owners shouldn't come into leash free parks.

Bagged poo left behind in bushes, trees or on the ground
Not all are fenced, not enough water fountains for dogs and not all of them have poo bins
Rubbish bin for the poo bags
People don't clean up after their dogs.
Some people do not welcome dog even it is allowed to be off leashed in certain areas. Some people do not pick up dog's poo
I have never seen (noticed) any shire inspectors. Also local clubs having only 1 sign to notify the public that dogs are not permitted during a booked event, when parks have many entrances.
Lack of fencing to stop dogs ruining out of off leash areas
Fresh Water Tap Area(s) for Pets
Not enough bins, although more with on lead walking trails
Not fully fenced.
Inattentive owners
no bin to dispose of dog poo bag have to carry it home
dog minders who arrive with more than 5 dogs !Woofers are the only responsible service.
Owners walking dogs without leashes. Risk for dog running off and getting injured/causing car accident
Oakleigh does not have adequate off leash areas. Too many dogs in one tiny and poorly maintained space
Owners leaving or allowing dogs off leash when outside off leash facilities
not enough rubbish bins to dispose of poo bags. Basically bin is at one end router than all corners - Tally Ho Reserve
Aggressive owners, quick to become angry and confrontational when dogs' socialising activities are not to their "Liking".
Anything and everything from out of control dogs off leash, running around other dogs (without consent or concern for safety) arguing and fighting owners because of dog mishaps. Dogs hurting other people running away from their owners off lead and jumping and n other dogs and strangers. You name it it happens because there isn't a safe space for both large and small dogs to enjoy the freedom of being off leash without potential threat of a poor dog owners unchecked dog
Not enough rubbish bins, no water drinking facilities for animals, Ensure the provision of Fully enclosed and gated dog park for off- leash dogs - refer to Farm Road Reserve, Cheltenham
Erratic sports hours with signs of no off leash dog allowed.
Not enough local bins for waste management on the street
Dogs coming up to my dog off lead as my dog is reactive he is always on lead and I am in control but owners don't understand that he has boundaries and doesn't like dogs off lead near him
Off leash parks are being removed and not as may parks cater to letting dogs off leash.
Greyhounds being stuck on a leash walking past an off leash area, while other dogs get to play and run free.
Off leash areas are not secure, dogs can get out
Should not be next to unfenced child play area.

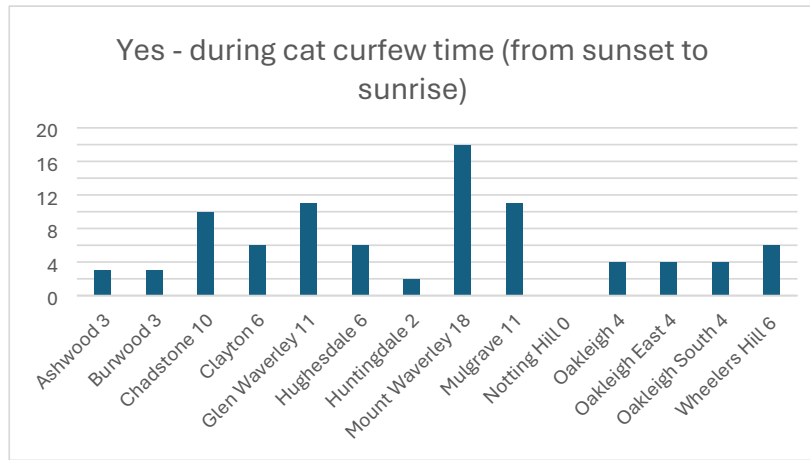
It would be great to have separate areas for large dogs and small dogs. I've seen examples elsewhere that work really well
Inappropriate areas being designated; dog water stations at the far side of a carpark; inappropriate levels of mixed use between dogs and other uses
Poor maintenance of grounds and grassed areas.
Not enough bins to throw away dog poop bags, particularly in Jells Park
Bins! Where on earth are bins for bags these days (chadstone)
People not putting dogs back on leash when moving between areas of the park.
Area's not being fenced. Even if your dog has good recall sometimes they can follow other dogs on to roads.
Owners distracted and not being aware of their dogs behaviour
Costly provision of poo bags is PROVED to teach owners LACK of responsibility.
Bins are rare and should increase the amount and locations especially at the entry and exit points of parks
People picnicking on sports ovals where dogs are off leash
No bins to dispose of dog poo
Access to drinking water
Inpatient owners, with dogs learning/reinforcing recall.
Animals needs freedom area of space without leash
Public being scared of dogs off leash.
off leash parks with playgrounds nearby. some dogs do not have good recall or attentive owners. witnessed at federal reserve and no longer go there

Q7. Do you have concerns with stray, unowned or feral cats on your property?

Response Summary: Skipped: 11 | Answered: 456 (97.6%)



Suburb breakdown – 'Yes- during cat curfew time'



Please briefly describe what issues you have noticed with stray, unowned or feral cats on your property.

Cats are allowed to roam from their property's at all times of the day and night. Defecate on our property and kill and scare wildlife.
There are a number of cats wandering in our yard
Stray cats need to be taken to a shelter and rehomed if you allow four animals total more people would adopt more cats as they are easy pets
Occasionally cat is in our yard and distresses our indoor cats (spray near doors).
In our yard, on our roof, fighting at night
The cats in my street are still out at night. The curfew is not taken seriously.
cats trespassing into my garden both day and night
The cats have left poos in my backyard.
Adjacent property has at least 5cats that a constantly roaming the neighbourhood
Lots of feral cats in the Chadstone area, many use my garden as their toilet
The cat has a collar and comes into my property and attacks my 13 year old cat. Also, uses my garage as its toilet. I have reported this problem to Council, but the cat still comes into my backyard.
Stray cats hunt wildlife in our yard. Owners do not take responsibility. Happens 24/7. We can identify cat via chip: [REDACTED] ongoing problem for years now.
Cats out at night
Cats daily during curfew & during day. Kill & stalk wildlife and our pets. Use property as a toilet. Trample vegetables & plants. Deter wildlife from our garden.Damage property. Wake us at night.Fight. Spread disease. Some owners hostile.Chip reader works.
Regularly see cats on my property after hours, they do not cause a concern though.
4 to 5 every night. Poop and digging, Maybe once every 5 years a dead possum found.
Why do cats have any right to come onto my property
Arthur street units at Hughesdale often have feral cats

We notice on our cameras that we have several semi regular cat visitors overnight. We do not know if they are owned and roaming or stray, but they are outside when they ought not
Cats walking around yard and on fence
There are a lot of feral cats in our area and cats that are left to roam at night.
Both - neighbour was put in nursing home, grown children took collar off cats and left them to survive on their own
Two cats are known to stray onto our property but too clever to trap
(As witnessed on my CCTV) Neighbours cat is out at night. It sprays everywhere. Its so aggressive (even during the day that it chases dogs). Complaints have been raised with the council but unfortunately that falls on deaf ears
I can't select multiple answers (curfew and during day). Neighbours cat had chased off local possums and bird life. I found dead birds in the shared driveway regularly.
I've seen a cat in my driveway and in the backyard at night where it can potentially interfere with the birds nesting in the trees.
There are definitely random cats that stray onto my property at night and during the day. Council should be empowered to catch stray cats at night and fine owners for violating curfew.
Can't select both Yes options. Stray/bully cats present a danger to our pets
A neighbours cat frequently ventures onto my property during the night. This agitates the cats in my house but also makes me concerned about the safety of the neighbours cat, who is also often on the roads at night time.
The man next door hoards strays and keeps them in the shed and garage but they can get out during the curfew hours. They come over to our place to go on our lawn and dig it up and poo, and they pee everywhere. He doesn't feed them enough,
Often see them when driving early morning and they appear walking past my security cameras
Yes during cats curfew as well as day
A white cat visits our yard every night
I've had cats enter my domicile that were not mine
Cat Hunting in my backyard during curfew. Maybe need more education
Our back and side fence has been used as a cat highway both night and day. Currently 2 neighbourhood properties have changed ownership and taken their cats with them.
Cara roaming the streets at night eating wildlife
Cats are urinating on our front and back door. They are also defecating in our garden
Cat only enters property behind pool fence - so no access available to my dog. The cat poops over the yard, especially by the pool
Not sure if it's a stray but during night sometimes I hear cats screaming and fighting noises so just concerned for their safety
Strays and unrestrained, un-neutered domestic tom cat
Cat fights at night causing my dog to bark. This is the only time she barks like crazy and don't want her to get into trouble because the cats are fighting outside the front door
Eating my fish in my pond
Cats on our property at night. Don't know if feral.

Yes during the day and at night also, it's constant to see cats around. They're not safe for bird life or wildlife
There's a white cat that roams around all the time. Old neighbours lost their cat under the house and I believe it didn't come back out.
They get killed by the feral foxes and stashed under my house and smell when they rot.
My neighbours black car is always in my front yard they have killed two ringtail possums and left them in my front yard, they walk on my car at night and you can hear it fighting with animals and other cars at night
Local cat owners not keeping their pets indoors at night, because we have indoor cats the roaming cats come to our doors and windows. They make noise, spray and poop on our property. This also unsettled our cats.
3 local cats use my garden as the litter box
Cats over breeding at a patient house every year
See cats wandering the streets during curfew often. I am unsure if they are stray or owned
We have security cameras that regularly capture cats in our yard during curfew,
Neighbours cat is often outside and meowing at hours outside of curfew
Coming into my yard over night
Not sure if unowned but there are a lot of cats that get killed by cars overnight and can occasionally hear cat fights at night
Noticed several different cats on my property at night
Very occasionally at night we see cats. It is not clear whether they pets or feral. Also seen foxes so maybe they will deal with the feral cats! her
Cat uses our property to toilet every evening
The neighbourhood black cat visits and torments our indoor cats at about 8pm to 9 pm during breeding season. I go out dude to scare it away to no avail.
Many cats roaming during night and day
There is a cat that sits outside our house and riles up our indoor cats- not sure who's it is or whether its stray.
There is a specific white, long-haired cat that comes onto our property at night and aggravates my cats by growling at them and trying to attack them through the windows.
A cat sits outside our windows causing our indoor cats to growl and hiss.
Having cats roaming through my property and tormenting my cats when they are enclosed outside
Cats enter my property and poo all over my property.
Do foxes count? What's the point of keeping cats contained when foxes roam and stir up the cats?
Neighbourhood cats in my yard
Cat wanders into yard and sets off sensor lights
Although I'm not aware of what, if any harm has been caused, our external security cameras frequently detect cats in our garden during the curfew period, so I'm not sure just how well cat owners are aware of the curfew.
Cats come to our backyard and we don't like it
Cats wander around triggering my dog.

Other cats roaming into our yard have caused some ongoing stress behaviour with our indoor cats.
Cats that are owned but allowed to roam and toilet in our back yard
Unwanted cat freely roaming my property while my dogs are outside. If something happens to the cat due to my dogs, we will be blamed instead, so irresponsible.
Neighbours cats attract feral cats as they are out all night
Poo in my garden. This is a hazard to my dogs who do not use off-leash dog parks because I have a private yard.
Mine can't be found. Cats wander. Expensive pedigree loved. Deserted. Still rips off collar and goes to neighbours house. People kept letting him in now he won't come home. He only visits. This is people shouldn't feed and trap your pet! I worry about him
Cats coming to my yard and watching my indoor cat through the window
Cats killing animals in my garden.
Cats wandering in the neighbourhood. They are little killing machines and should be kept indoors
Cats regularly dismember, kill my 'pet' birds & wildlife, leaving gruesome carcasses and cause ongoing health hazard.
We still have some that roam at night and our cat gets distressed seeing them through the window.
A new cat has appeared in my area and is roaming at night.
I worry about our native animals
Prowling around our cat enclosure
There are numerous cats in my direct local area that are not contained at curfew. Some come onto my property and some I see running around when I come home from work after midnight.
They disturb my cats indoors
Doing poo in my garden and stalking birds
Yes, different cats regularly during the days and from sunset to sunrise. I have to be especially careful when driving in and out of my driveway
Nightly cat fights and toileting in my garden
A cat comes to my property almost every day. It is owned by a local Chinese family and is both aggressive and dogged in its routine. It sprays
I have seen several cats at night wandering through my yard- many of them are 'owned'.
Neighbours do not follow cat curfew. Cats should be indoors or in enclosures all day. They kill birds and wildlife
Killing birds
Unable to select 2 options - poor survey methodology. Biased question and obviously biased answer sought. We have nuisance cats coming into our backyard during the day and night. Our cat is very old and no longer leaves our yard.
Stray cats coming onto our property and attacking our cat.
We have cats wandering our property outside crew and killing baby possums. I do not think they are feral though but owned.
We saw a cat roaming in our property around 4.00 am sometimes

Next door's cat is constantly wandering in the street day and night
Unidentified cat entering our property and fighting with our cat
Sometimes cat fights at night
Cats will come around my property which sets off my dog's barking
Stray cats and occasionally owned cats roam on our property
Have seen several cats out during the curfew
identified 4 cats visiting our property at night. NOT desexed, spraying property which is difficult to clean. property damaged. attacking nocturnal animals, possum guts found on lawn
It says to select all that apply but I can't. Our neighbours cats roam all day and night and when we got a council cat trap we're only allowed to have it for 2 days despite council being aware of the feral cat population on this property

Q. Do you think there's anything else we should include in the 'ensure the quick return of lost pets' focus area?

Response Summary: Skipped: 276 | Answered: 191 (40.9%)

Along with registration ensure all lost animals are microchipped prior to return.
Be quicker to put down animals that are not loved or rehomed or are roaming streets
Second point of contact (family/friend) for scenarios when you're travelling / unreachable
Sending lost pets to Coldstream may be a barrier for claiming pets for some people.
Yes. The dog registration fee should be amended for puppies. Puppies are required to be registered when they are too young to be desexed, requiring payment of the very high fee for entire dogs. There should be a lower fee for puppies under 12 months old
A way for non-council staff to identify animal owners. e.g. CAR access to normal people.
24 hour curfew would reduce the number of lost pets. Have council booklet delivered to each household containing laws and how to find a lost pet in multiple languages.
Bit concerned about how far the new pound facility is to likely residence of lost pet, but do understand that the first priority would be to reunite before transport to Coldstream
If a dog has a phone number on their collar the owner should be called as a priority at any time of the day/night prior to taking the dog to the pound.
Require all dog and cat tags to be UHF RFID tags so they can be scanned and read at up to 30m range so it easier for a ranger to detect an unregistered dog being walked. It will also make identifying a dead animal carcass easier (road kill).
Education about no pick up poo and fines for those that are not doing it
No to door knocks! That's a bridge too far in the privacy and civil liberties stakes
door knocks is not an effective use of council resources. Certainly if there are nuisance animals or concerns raised by residents, checking registration details of an animal is valid. as you already know who has registered, where will you door knock?
Ensuring the quick return is not to the disadvantage of the pet - some people shouldn't have animals if they can't look after them
Nothing, but consider removing conducting door knocks.
Promotion to keep animal owner contact details up to date

educating the public about vet clinics role in reuniting lost pets, there are some that will scan the microchip and some that refuse (at the time) tell you to take the pet to RSPCA 'as per council rule'
Multiple tags so can change with a collar
Pensioner budget for pets! E.g. Yearly format for cost of pets injections flea tick worm etc.
Having a place to pickup pets that is relatively local; hold the animals long enough for owners to be able to retrieve
Advice on safely enclosing gardens.
This is under guise of pandemic & looking at ways of spending more rate payers money, we're already a nanny state including unlawful Thurs tier of government which we said no to several times in referendum which was ignored as governments are lawless.
No although I feel the need to note that a lot of people are going to get annoyed with doorknocking. This is also an unnecessary allocation of funds. I am firmly against this.
Promote desexing of pets.
Micro chip should be compulsory and ALL animals neutered unless breeding and this needs to be done by 1 year old
please be kind and remember cats often get out of their collar. put registration details on microchips.
Allowing details for primary and a secondary pet owner in the registration process, at the moment only one person is the owner of a pet
Welfare- having a securely fenced dedicated dog park particularly for puppies who are learning to socialise and develop good training.
No fines if animal is found outside property for the first time, say in an annual basis. Sometimes our cat gets out despite our best efforts.
Annual reminder of registered details via sms in case change of address
Providing an accessible location for the collection of pets when they have been impounded
Ensure that owners of multiple cats or dogs that are kept in poor conditions, are held responsible and should not be allowed to keep any animals of any kind.
I think checking registration by door knocks is an invasion of privacy especially we are in the age of communicating by computer
Why microchipping if we need to register in a council? There should be a microchip general data center without need to register in a council
Contact person by phone before taking them to a impound and charging a lesser fee.
A microchip test service to see if it still works
Scanning microchip at each pet visit to ensure pets are with their correct owners
Reduce the number of pet record organisations to one central National database so an animal can be recorded and found, irrespective of where it lives or moves to/from. Having multiple microchip organisations across Australia is ludicrous & ineffective
Leash laws & dog control responsibilities
Enforce keeping cats indoor at nights. You currently do nothing about it.
create a single Australian website - database for all lost animals
Ensure all dogs & cats have name tag with contact phone number on collar.

Discount registration rates for lower earning owners
More off leash parks
Have the ability to quickly transfer information between districts/councils when moving
Establishment and then promote public awareness of a local "Lost pet registry" for people to post a found, or search for a lost pet.
No, however believe that conducting door knocks to ensure pet registration is a wasteful Council expense.
Register for microchipped pets when ownership changes
Promote use of Central Animal Records (CAR) tags. CAR are able to access microchip records 24/7 and allow a member of the public to locate owners without a vet clinic scanning microchip. Offer free new council registration tag if numbers rubbed off w/wear
Reduce the initial fine for unregistered animals found wandering to just the cost of registration. People, particularly cat owners, in the current economic climate are more likely to opt not to reclaim a pet if there is a fine leading to more euthanasia
The community should be able to know exactly what to do if they find a lost pet. Flyers with simple and straightforward instructions detailing step by step what to do should be distributed along with phone number/website for other languages
Provide Sturdy tags that remain legible after time.
Promote use of cat enclosures for safety of cat and wildlife.
Printed contact numbers located at parks and notice boards at parks.
Promote success stories in newsletter and website
Item 3,10,11 huge focus (Education about dog and cat registration, including signage in parks and on Council vehicles, Providing lifetime tags and education of application to animals , Ensuring registration information is in different languages)
I'm against animal cruelty we need to keep these animals safe I am a member of the RSPCA
Update the council tags to a keychain with a QR code so owners can be contacted faster
Hotline to council reporting of lost animal or found
Working with a no-kill shelter to ensure unclaimed cats are not euthanised once after 8 days in a council hold. Will allow for opportunity for owners and cats to reunite.
Dog park and off leash monitoring of unregistered dogs
Check Microchip on animal before taking to the pound. An additional animal tag is not required when all animals are required to be micro chipped and would be the most efficient way to return the animal to its home.
Lifetime tags that are durable small and will last
Owner education on training and handling of dogs
Educate dog owners
Lower fees for registered cats and dogs, current registration fees are high for households
Ensure all pets are microchipped
Registration should be pro-rata for the number of months remaining in the year
send out notices to people in the area of a lost pet so people can keep an eye out for them and report in where they saw the pet. set up a register for people to notify of a lost pet.. this can be sent out via text to people in the area to keep a look out

Stress management for lost pet
Not return dangerous pets to owners who repeatedly break the rules and don't care about other residents.
Removing fines associated with wearing council registration tags if the dog is microchipped. All relevant information is housed on microchips and rates and animal registration should cover costs associated with collecting and reunification
streamlining the registration process and increasing reminders
Online register of currently lost animals
Scan for chip at place of seizure.
If an animal is impounded, it is desexed free of charge before being returned to the owner.
Educating dog owners about having dogs on lead in public areas
Your tags are very poorly made. The numbered erase with normal wear. Replasmant every year should be sent upon payment of registration .
Doorknocks are a waste of council rate payer's money and can be used for better causes.
I don't agree with door knocking to check registration at all.
Providing tag/tags to owners for collars for registration. Sometimes I need to change collars after my dog has been in water and needs a clean so multiple tags would be good. And the implantation of using tags to quickly identify location (eg monash/kings
Reduce the cost, complexity in registering & changing registrations for pet, so more people are willing to register their pets
If a dog is microchipped and registered there should be no cost or a very small cost to reunite the dog and owner. The cost of claiming an an animal is prohibitive and is seen as revenue raising by council and organisations that claim animals welfare.
Cross linking to microchip registry
The Council to create social media platform for the community to post their lost pets
Issuing warnings, fines and prosecutions as required
Facebook group for people to go to to post about lost or found animals
Fine owners who do not pick up faeces, Council carry microchip scanner-scan & contact owners before they go out to Coldstream-maybe elderly owners can't travel so far or have help to pickup their best friend. Add Talbot Park Clayton leash free please
Provide subsidised or free pet tracker which solves a lot of these issues. Consequences must also be applied to those who keep and steal lost pets
Possibly unrealistic but a Facebook page that vets and council can post photos of lost animals on
You can't find people. They only don't register because they can't afford it as it is. Reduce the rate or make it free for pensioners. They are good owners , at home always and simply can't afford another thing. Door nocks will intimidate ptsd +disability
Ability to update contact information on line
Better process for informing of changing of circumstances. I returned a registration letter saying that my dog had died but still received many emails and messages saying I had to renew his registration. Perhaps an incentive for early payment of rego?
Education on pet ownership and responsibilities

The above list is, all, repeatedly proved ineffective, time-wasting, costly negation by delay tactics. Actual ACTION to enforce existing regulations, mandatory pet chip.
I don't think door knocks are a good idea
I lost my life time tag and it's a bother to chase a new one up it would be good to simplify this
Have a Facebook page specifically for Monash pet's lost
Make it affordable
Coldstream is very far away compared to RSPCA how will the animal be returned to owner
Prioritising a reunite-first approach with registered animals
Mandatory microchips which should be provided to the council each year when registration payments made
There should not be fines to return unregistered animals because those fines discourage owners from recovering their pets.
Microchip verification service: help an owner check that the microchip is valid and the database up to date.
I haven't had to use this service so I can't comment if anything needs to be improved
Priority call
Ease up, don't str we as. Fines, door knocking, tags, FFS
Reduced cat desexing fees and/or desex+vaccination events/days
Open a council Facebook page for lost pets where owners can post pictures in hopes of finding their pet.
Fines for unregistered animals
Education around microchipping of pets
I hope this also includes de-sexing of pets.
Increased ranger/ by laws officer presence around areas. Signs are ignored by many. Less warnings, more action. We know the rules
Lifetime tags are insufficient - plastic tags break, supply additional by request or included in registration
Delete rego fees
Encourage vets to check microchips are still able to be read when doing consults
Discounted microchipping days
Photos of "found" pets and approximate age of found animal
Conducting checks on dogs in improperly secured yards. Checks on dogs being walked by owners to ensure registration.
1,2 and 3
Microchipping should be mandatory before buying or adopting a dog
Visit owners be sure animals in good places, GSP clip on animals
Remove the need to vaccinate within 24hours of finding them if they can't be collected by owner. Do research & find out if they are vaccinated!!!
Microchips are on a national register preferring a government owned system not private.

The current council registration tag is impossible to remove. I had it attached to my dog's first collar but he has long grown out of it and I can't remove the council tag and reattach it to his current collar. A new removable tag would be great.
greater fines for wandering and unsecured pets and ensure actions have been taken by owners to prevent this happening again.
Microchipping sessions
No lifetime tags as they are of poor quality.

Q. Do you think there's anything else we should include in the 'reduce nuisance behaviours' focus area?

Response Summary: Skipped: 242 | Answered: 225 (48.2%)

Have a web site so people can log nuisance behaviour. Allows trend data to be obtained about particular problem animals/owners.
Use of bait - safe approaches exist
Allow adoption of more than just 2 cats ie total 4 animals not just 2cats and 2dogs
More free poo bags and bins in public spaces
Ensure dogs on lead areas are patrolled to reenforce owner responsibilities and to protect conservation areas.
heavy fines for people walking dogs without a lead in suburban streets.
Following up on households who are issued cat traps to ensure that the cat is handed over to the appropriate authorities and not being mistreated.
Not only education about responsibility to pick up dog poo but education and facilities for proper disposal. Often see bag left in roadside gutters.
Promoting successful prosecution outcomes for pet owners who do not comply with the above requirements.
Education on picking up dog sh*t
Collecting and appropriate disposal of dog poo, not in any nearby private bin.
Create a website/database where those of us subjected to trespassing cats can post photos (and perhaps assign an area code to protect privacy) to help council see how many times certain cats stray & how little pet owners adhere to requirements.
'pick up dog poo' And not throwing the bag onto the ground when nobody is looking
Education around respectful dog to dog engagement. There needs to be more education around respecting working/service/assistance/guide dogs and giving them space to work efficiently
Enforce cat curfews.
Recognizing residents capturing animals with chip readers as equivalent to capturing animals in a trap. Cats caught in traps are not easily recaptured. Reoffending cats not reunited with owner until proof of containment. 24 hr cat curfew.
Add a fox trap service. Retain cat trap service and advertise in the Monash newsletter. I have a horde of wild cats running around each night.

Do not have an issue with cats. It is irresponsible owners of dogs. I have two to the left of my place. Dogs continuously barking and I have to yell. No amount of education will teach people in picking up dog poo. They need to go to doggie school.
Yes. Instead of putting stencils in English. Try Chinese [other languages] I think this would work. Also maybe a different colour. Some dogs are not allowed to stop for their business. Hence it plops all along the footpaths
Patrols I. On leach and off leach areas
Use power poles in designated streets and have refillable dog poo bags for people walking their dogs to take- most poop waste is on nature strips and that's where most owners walk their dogs. I'd be happy for council to put poo bag dispenser on my power pole
Prioritise the welfare of the animal - nuisance behaviour could be a sign of anxiety and distress could you think of a way to support the welfare of the animal / monitor owners in a more constructive approach (as opposed to fines and prosecutions)
Education on barking dog nuisance
Night time or after hours seldom patrols of areas to target nuisance dog barking and multi language support
Education on what to do with stray cats? How much wildlife they destroy
Supporting cat owners to keeps cats indoors at night - this should involve some small practical and/or financial support in terms of installing cat runs and/or cat doors.
Understand and educate around value to both pet health and local wildlife to keep pets indoors
If barking constantly fines
Stressing the importance of picking up dog poo
braking dogs are great problems,info for [REDACTED] owners in [REDACTED] [other languages]!!! penalties for night barking!!
Stop treating people like children, most people do the right thing as live by innate morals they font need officials in uniforms dictating, reprimanding & fining them for what some arbitrary official & rule says has been breached.
My question is how much is all of this 'education' material going to cost. Would rather it went toward more useful endeavours or roadworks in the area from all the potholes.
Promote desexing of cats to reduce the amount of feral cats.
A dedicated 24 hour emergency line for all residents
offer rates discount for cat owners who install catio enclosures to keep moggy safe on premises
Ensure owners don't allow their dogs to come onto other peoples' property while on walks and leave their dog poo on driveway or front lawn
Education for dog owners to keep their dogs on a leash even in their front yards. I've had my dogs attached twice due to this reason
It took six weeks to get a cat trap from the council so I went and hired one . Not impressed
Education about keeping dogs on lead and monitoring this, issuing fines regularly
Education about the impacts of outdoor cats on wildlife, as well as the benefits to the cat welfare.
Picking up Dog Poo and not dumping Dog Poo bags

Cameras installed at entry exit points of children's playgrounds to effectively issue fines for bringing unleashed dogs
Complete cat curfew, as cats kill too much native wildlife at all times of the day.
Providing planning controls that allow for the construction of fencing to manage cat enclosures/ yard space.
Education on responsibilities to keep dogs securely contained within the property.
Trap cats at night and charge the pound fee to owners to change behaviour
Education of pet owners to eliminate harm and death to local wildlife
Have dogs on leashes while walking in the street despite their obedience.
More poop bag locations
Owners not picking up dog poo is a big issue locally and quite disgusting. May be worth exploring other options such as communications campaigns, enabling pathways for community reporting of non compliance, and additional signage.
Provide dog poo bags & bins in common walking areas (eg. Shepherds Bush) to encourage owners to pick up their dog's poo
nature of dogs; barking is communication; be a good neighbour and talk to the owner before running to the council; Basic manners and yes fine people who don't pick up after dogs
Daily exercise
Education for cat owners on impact to native bird, even in daytime outdoors, warnings to owners for dogs barking continuously
Ensure all cats are either confined to owners property or on lead if in public.
Fines to discourage owner ignorance
Include multiple languages in signage and education focus
Information for cat enclosures / promoting dog walkers for bord dogs + enrichment advice for pet owners
All pets, including Cats, to be confined to owner's property Day and Night.
More off leash area
Ensure cats are not out at night
i have reported a cat hoarder/BYB a few times and as far as i'm aware nothing was done
Fines for not picking up dog droppings
Owners would pick up more poo if there were more poo bins. Jells park is a very large place that many walk their dogs and has no poo bins. Owners are forced to walk kilometres carrying poo bsgs
Encourage other dog owners to pick up other poo, keeping up free poo bags (this allows respectful owners to also pick up poo from other dogs)
Cheap desexing offers. Entire animals are more likely to roam & fight. More bins on trails for poo and rubbish! There are not enough! Should be one every 300m.
All cats to have bells on their collars. Fines for people who let their cats out.
Provide protections for the quiet and peaceful enjoyment of their home for pet-owning residents. i.e. have clear guidelines outlining respectful & reasonable complaint processes and behaviours to prevent harassment of owners enforced by warnings/fines
Additional waste bins in hot spot areas

Support cat owners to transition cats to enclosures and/or indoors 24/7.
public bin at park on school hall st Oakleigh for disposal of poo bags
Garbage bags for dog poo near car parks attached to parks
Fines for cat owners of cats trapped outside, it's decimating our wildlife. Extra fines for cats and dogs found outside and not desexed
Keep poo bag dispensers full
Not allow sport grounds to be used as off leash dog parks such as Wellington Reserve as dog owners are less likely to pick up their dogs poo in an off leash area and kids end up getting covered in poo during their training and games.
React quickly to barking dogs
Permanent 24/7 indoor curfew. Subsidising cost of safe outdoor cat containment areas in the home.
Easier reporting of barking dogs. Less reliance on direct neighbour confrontation which can cause much more serious conflict
Strictly enforce cat curfew and encourage homeowners to install enclosures to reduce cats lost to cars and harm to wildlife
Enforcement of dogs on leads outside of leash free parks
Ability to report dog owners not picking up poo in dog parks anonymously
Education on dog interaction with service animals
Educate dog owners to Pick up poo as my neighbours did not do it for 6 months
Fines for dog owners who don't pick after their dog's poo in parks and reserves
Nuisance to wildlife killing of native wildlife by pets
All cats to stay indoors from 7pm onwards
Portal to submit form to alert council of misbehaving pets
Not sure of budget but tv ads about keeping cats in after dark.
Not allow cats to roam at all, make sure they are kept inside or in a cat run.
send out notices of diseases and risks to dog owners of not picking up poo that can infect people and other animals. set up anonymous hotline of people who don't pick up dog poo.. upload photos of people who don't pick up dog poo
Cat trap service - ensuring that this service is humane in nature
I have an issue with the cat trapping. Many years ago our cat was trapped in someone's yard twice. Outdoor cats travel. Maybe some education on how to manage this other than trapping and making owners pay for return of cats. Would be more helpful.
More off leash area without competition with erratic sports hours. Routinely Well walked energetic dog improves itself wellbeing and reduces nuances.
Provide more bins and dog poo bags even in jells park and on sports ovals
Does nuisance behaviours include aggressive dogs that runs to the fence and barks at every person who passes by? What is the regulation on that
Educating people on the benefits of having indoor cats vs outdoor cats, especially in homes near main roads such as the princes highway
There should be more than just "education" about barking dog nuisance.
Have some sort of scheme that supports renters in building catios.

Drive the streets and hear the dogs barking. Very annoying especially when people are away and dog left to fend for itself
Fining people who don't pick up dog poo as many are repeat offenders.
dogs in off leash areas must be properly trained and investigate complaints when dogs are left outside for long periods resulting in barking
Education around picking up poop when out walking.
Add more bins. People don't pick up because in entire notting hill there is 2 public bins in the same street and 0 at the dog park. No one wants to carry shit home. PUT BINS AND PEOPLE WILL CLEAN BETTER.
Provide better areas for cat owners to bring their cats out for walks rather than just focusing on dogs.
Ability to more easily report barking dog nuisance
Cats to be permitted to stay on property and leashes for walking. To prevent cats from digging and pooping in non cat owners yards.
Education on how to safely TRAIN barking dogs with positive reinforcement
Stop off leads dogs in street
education/enforcement of on-lead walking for dogs. lots of off leash dogs in my area who cause other dogs and small kids stress.
Suggest keeping cats indoors all the time, harder penalties for people that leave dog poo
Education on the amount of space pets require to be healthy & happy (particularly working dog breeds)
Transition to cats being indoors-only, to reduce impact on local wildlife
Ensure that dog owners do not have dog off leash walking their dog on streets and in leash-on parks. Three dog owners currently doing that in park adjacent to Oakleigh Monash Council office, with three dogs out on streets without being on leash.
Fines do not act as a deterrent.
Person reporting a nuisance barking should have recorded barking in each instance that lasts longer then 1hr at more then 5 x a day
Education on how to correctly secure dogs to property
More education about dogs not being off lead
Educate owners on training dogs and have resources available
And warnings, fines and prosecutions will apply to those who don't pick up after their animals?
Education and signage about dogs needing to be on leash And fines for dog owners who do r pick after their dogs
Provide more dog poop bags, enforce by installing CCTV's at parks. No point of education if no consequences
Fine cat owners for having their cats off property like you do with dogs!
More cat traps!
Seriously? U can't tell a cat not to trespass. They scratch you if you try to collect them from where they wanted to be and bolt. I've had very expensive pedigree 'indoor' cats-but every one has eventually demanded to go outside. It's cruel not to let the
Cat owners should be encouraged to keep cats indoors 24 hours a day

More education/signage/Bins at entrance and exits to parks for dog poo to encourage people not only to pick up but to take the bag with them
The above list is, all, repeatedly proved ineffective, time-wasting, costly negation by delay tactics. Actual ACTION to enforce existing regulations. It appears cat traps are futile when council employee just let the cat out again.
Education in off leash dog areas that your dog must be kept on a leash if they're not sociable
Only allow dogs on sporting ovals and courts when they are on leads. Owners do not pick up dog poo on ovals and courts when it is a lead free area. When you have a dog on a lead and it stops to do poo you are right there and 90% of owners pick up.
Educate people that don't own dogs
Get community to be a part of watching and recording people who dont pick up poo
Provide bags at dog parks, and bins on walking trails
Education on enrichment and training to reduce nuisance behaviour
Have bins everywhere as even good dog owners have no where to put their poop in Monash .. nothing on Scotchmans creek at all .. not one bin .. really frustrates me
Education about responsibility to pick up dog poo
They are all very relevant
Raising general awareness of how to handle or deal with pets if you see a lost one
Provide information about the cost of fines for cat curfew breaches and other nuisance behaviour
All neighbouring properties should be warned when traps are set. This will prevent pets being trapped out of sheer malice.
Picking up of dog poo
Irresponsible owners with dog off leash in the streets
Better maintenance of council-installed dog poo bag dispensers, which are frequently empty.
Don't just have a policy make sure it is enforced. We have complained about dogs off leash but all the council do is send a letter. I haven't seen any council employees on the street stopping people with dogs off leash
Absolutely we as dog owners need enclosed runs where dogs can run without fear of attack eg back of Napier park so our sighthounds can run without fear of attack
Issue guns
Reduced fee cat desexing program to control cat population and backyard litters that are rehomed undesexed, support rescues that work with local strays/colonies, introduce foster carer permits at low cost for rescues and their volunteers
Education about responsibility to pick up dog poo
Implement Cats being indoors at all times. Cats roaming the neighbourhood kill birds and wildlife
Cats eating birds :(. Paint footpaths with \$ fines for not picking up dog poo. Dog poo left on nature strips is a real problem is Ashwood
People do not socialize or keep their pets active and this causes the issues with pets
More poo bags/ bins. I always try to carry them, but am caught short occasionally.
Cat nighttime curfew is poor management. Increased pests at night especially rats and mice!
Cat curfew at night is not reasonable to enforce. Request yes but not demand/requirements

Delete rego fees
There should be council regular patrols of the stone pathway between Crosby Drive and Waverley Road where dogs are being walked OFF THE LEASH and the incidence of dog poo on the ground has increased.
Educate owners that dogs in off leash areas still need to have reliable recall, to prevent unwanted dog interactions
Education about walking dogs off lead in the street especially when they are not responsive to verbal commands
Encourage cat proofing to property by reduction in rates/ registration
Have more council bins available in areas where dogs are walked.
My cat is a totally indoor cat
Enforcement of dog walker rules in open spaces, especially Valley Reserve. I.e. picking up dog poo.
1 and 2
More bins and free dog poo bags will assist with this
Policing dog poo pick up
all park/oval should have camera to be sure animals in good play by owners
Talk with neighbours before catching a cat in a cat trap & the owner having to pay to get their cat back 20m away.
High density living is creating more nuisance ie. Cat next door tormenting dogs along the fenceline
Cat traps should only be used as a last resort; these can encourage some people to excuse cruel behaviour including intentional trapping.
barking can be a big problem
Provide more dog poo bins
noise from barking dogs early in the mornings, and at night waking neighbourhood. it may not be continuous barking but it can only take one bark in the quiet of the night or morning. staff are not out at these times and are unable to witness this behavior.
Education about limiting time dogs are left alone at home and dog sitting / day care services
Euthanise trespassing cats. More needs to be done about the feral cats. Council are more focused on dogs, which have to remain in a persons property at all times, than cats. Our neighbour has feral cats that he feeds and they dedicate on our property
Dog faeces is a rampant issue across three locations I've lived in across Monash. Education, signage (incl. stencils) need to be considered. Our council are known in the dog community to be the 'dog poo area'

Q. Do you think there's anything else we should include in the 'prevent risks to safety of people and pets' focus area?

Response Summary: Skipped: 274 | Answered: 193 (41.3%)

Educate the public as to how a nuisance animal (and/or its owner) can be reported - eg can photos be submitted.
Much higher fines. Not tolerate poor treatment of animals. Follow up on complaints.

Provide free puppy socialisation courses so dogs don't become aggressive or at least less chance of
Better lighting along Scotchman's creek trail for safer evening walks, enclosed off leash areas (ie dog cannot run onto the road)
Agree re patrols to check compliance
houses with dogs should all have signs.
Education on risks of animal faeces to children and why it is important to pick up dog shit
Immediate fee for holding a pet if rules are impeached
Further education around the real consequences of negative dog interactions. For example a working guide dog having to be retired early due to a dog attack. Also life long physical and psychological trauma faced by a child who has been attacked
Additional education regarding control of dogs in off leash areas is important. I keep my dog on her leash and quite often other dogs not on leashes rush up to her, knocking her over or even snarling at her.
Cats attack pets and people and should be included. Stray cats attack other people's cats during the day. 24 hr cat curfew would prevent neighbour hostility.
Zero tolerance approach to dog walking off lead or not collecting poo or not carrying a bag. It's not the dog by the owner and there is a really good psychological study you should read about dog owners perceptions of themselves.
Introduction of dog muzzles . Incorporate from the above items 2/5/6/7/8/10
The enjoyment of Larpen's new walking track, has been taken away from us. Dogs running at you when our dog is on lead is no fun. We can't go there any more. We then have to dodge all the poo everywhere else.
Education to pet ownership
No to random door knocks! People are vulnerable and anybody could pretend to be a council worker.
Provided not roaming free - prioritise the animal - even if dangerous breed doesn't mean it is inherently dangerous - destruction is a last resort .
Promptly responding to complaints
advise about the process after a dog attack
Educate the public on slowing down when riding or running across areas with dogs or cats for the safety of the animals
Multi language follow ups
Golden Beach. How to introduce stranger to your dog. Dog car restraint laws.
More fenced off lead dog parks
More policing of people who allow aggressive dogs off leash. Education campaigns around letting dogs approach other dogs without the dog owner's consent.
All very positive.
yes prompt response to complaints, the priority!
I sat on dept of primary industries as teacher to design living safety with dogs to reduce hospitalisation, which is still in place today, you don't need to spend anymore taxpayer money

Once again concerned about the cost to effectiveness ratio of compiling all of this education material
Promoting the importance of dog training no matter the size of the dog. Educating the public on the importance of keeping dogs on lead on public footpaths.
Check on welfare of animals in all households and conditions of living with removal of animals if ill treatment and no warnings, immediate removal
Dedicated fenced dog park so dogs can get good exercise off lead.
More direct signage of off leash rules at parks, make it obvious that there are consequences to not complying.
Cheaper registrations for 'certified' trained dogs. Muzzles for dogs that have been identified as aggressive
Encourage people to carry small deodorant sprays for protection against dog attacks
As per previous regarding ongoing issue with dogs being walked off lead in public areas
An increased amount of poorly trained and socialised German shepherds are now in the area. Increased restrictions or mandatory training for these dogs should be introduced as I have had several incidents and near misses when walking my dog.
In off leash areas, ensuring a functional enclosure (no gaps where a small dog can escape, and an auto closing gate or signage to always keep gate shut)
Aggressive dogs on leads not to be taken to on lead off lead dog parks.
Impound dangerous dogs with evidence of no training and aggressive behaviour. Have a hotline for dobbling in dogs involved in attacks and constant barking.
I personally don't think restricted breed, declared dangerous or menacing dogs should be in our community. It's a disaster waiting to happen. dangerous
Provide information on how people can report where dogs of these kinds are living
Support education about why dogs can't be permitted to wander loose on your property/in your street, no matter how well trained the owner thinks they are
Neighbourly courtesy
Education of proper animal care
Monitoring and issuing fines for cats out at night
Enforce dogs off lead in areas where it is not allowed.
Provide off leash area for small dogs - ie up to 7 kilos
More off leash area
Follow up complaints about dogs in leash free areas
Not be able to destroy a pet without the incident being thoroughly investigated. Many dog owners are terrified of their larger dog being blamed for a small dog being injured when the smaller dog is the antagonist.
ban all off leash street walking of dogs
Increased awareness of common off leash areas and encouragement of recall training and avoidance of areas from reactive dogs
Better education on normal animal body language including signs of fear or aggression. Teaching kids this in schools for education

According to council website, "There are no fully fenced dog off-leash areas in Monash". This is unacceptable. Full fencing keeps dogs safe by separating them from hazards such as the road, bicycles, etc. and separates them from children's areas.
More patrols of schools and other on lead parks to stop dogs being off lead. Especially before and after school hours.
Provide fenced off leash areas to encourage dog training. Helps to train recall command on younger energetic dogs.
Fencing spot checks for homes for menacing dogs & cats
Educate owners on using reactive dog signage on their leashes or harness when taking them out
Reduce off-leash open areas. Should only be allowed in dog parks that properly fenced.
As above! Keep cats indoors permanently - protects cats and our wildlife.
Ensuring all dogs are on a leash when out in the community
Educating dog owners on the responsibilities of off lead and on lead activities
A dog will only be as good as the owner. Local dog training
Education on service dogs
Dogs should be not left alone for more than 8 hours
All dogs must be on a leash or harness
Expand nighttime curfew for cats to permanent indoor requirements
Fence off-leash dog areas that are close to roads and playgrounds.
refer people to dog trainers who assist with hard to control dogs
We MUST have fenced dog parks in addition to open parks. Dogs are just like people in the sense that we can't just dump them all in a pen and expect everyone to get along. We need a safe space to be able to actually let our pets off leash without fear
Ensure the provision of secured and gated dog park for off- leash dogs
More dedicate off leash area
Random door knocks promotes a nanny state and wastes rate payer money. Education should be given to the community to facilitate targeted door knocking if required
More fencing around large ovals and near streets so dog owners can have there animal off leash
Reward good owner behaviours
education on the risks to cats that are predominantly free-roaming
Check leash free parks for drugs to prevent pets from accidental toxicity. Also follow up reports by the public instead of fobbing them off to police.
Provide education to the public around approaching dogs
Ensure and enforce the above.
i have never seen a patrol on the off leash park in my suburb .. there should be patrols at busy time eg around 5pm
Do not go to people property, honestly what is this Germany 1945? Respond to complains, investigate FAIRLY. there are more aggressive small dogs in the area owned by grandmas that no one takes seriously.

Cat owners pay more than dog owners, but receive less benefits than dog owners such as dog parks and off leash areas.
More off-leash friendly parks or sections of park. Even after hours use for pets.
More and more people are walking their indoor cats and a cat zone would help to accommodate restrictions imposed on cats. Provide enrichment cats require.
Yes, off-leash areas are not available for greyhounds which is not fair, considering they only need a few minutes a day of running. They are so happy being able to run, but to drive 30 minutes to a dedicated area, and have to pay for it, is ridiculous.
Stop off lead walking in streets causing people walking on lead dogs problems
Educating public to be calm around dogs
Enforcement of on/off leash and associated penalties
Not enough signage at Oakleigh cricket and football ground where numerous dog owners have dog off leash. This according to the limited signage illegal. Never seen any council officers on any patrol or checking any site from Scotchman's Creek.
Responsible pet ownership education
More education about dogs not being off lead
Increase awareness of people as to what may provoke unwanted attention from dogs - both dog owners with reactive dogs taking them to off-lead parks on leash, and non-dog owners picnicking/playing in dog off-leash areas
Dangerous, menacing or restricted breeds. Take stronger steps to stop them being bred. Ensure compulsory desexing.
Issue fines and conduct random inspections on properties that allow backyard breeding! Too many illegal backyard breeders as no consequences are applied
To avoid hurting animals educate students to be respectful.
Teach how to stop problem barking not just fine people. Give training booklets first warnings comeback to see if improved before fining
Ensure owners have control of their dog in on leash areas. I walk my dog constantly on lead and have had many occasions we're owners are walking without their dog on lead, the dog ran across a road to get to my dog . Clearly no control
Clearer regulations around the area between off lead parks (Heany Linear Reserve). Many owners keep dogs off lead as they cross the road, which is distressing for my on lead dog.
Not having off leash parks near shared paths that cyclists use. Educating owners to be responsible when exercising their dogs near cycle paths, too many owners not controlling dogs and being abusive to cyclists.
Off-leash areas should be fenced accordingly, as are ones in other local municipalities. eg Greater Dandenong Council
Provide more secure dog off-leash areas or allow off-leash during school hours, for senior dog owners
My 'pets' (native fauna seeking sanctuary) are regularly slaughtered, I have to up their internal organs, bones from hordes of flies. The above list is repeatedly proved ineffective, costly negation by delay tactics. Actual ACTION
Community run and affordable basic training

Yes. If an animal attacks another animal and/or kills it there should be tougher penalties like putting down the attacking animal.
Include covert patrols so that bad behaviours are not fore-warned but rather are detected as they occur
Have one or more truly dedicated off leash dog parks, with dog obstacle courses etc. Fence them to keep little humans out
Education and support on pet wellbeing including enrichment and training to reduce animal aggression
Really emphasise with signs that dogs must be on leads and any injures to other dogs or people will be at their own cost
Other language education as often English is not understood
Provide enough poo bags and based on the area have more than 1 to encourage dog owners to clean up their dog poop
Officers should use discretion to filter out reports that are made out of malice by egregious neighbours.
Annual inspections on dangerous breeds
Making sure owners have secure property
Actually crack down on people that let dogs roam off leash. You may need to employ officers to patrol the streets. Has the council ever fined any dog owner for allowing their dog to be off leash???
Ensure all dogs are walked on leads
All above appropriate but does council have financial resources to support these objectives with appropriate animal management staffing levels ?
As above enclosed fenced off area
Ensure residents attend Saturday classes at council central
24/7 cat curfew to keep cats and wildlife safe
Clear signage at parks about off leash reserves
Educating the public with basic tips on interacting with unknown dogs
People need to keep dogs on leads if they cannot recall. Dogs that attack should be muzzled.
Follow up is really important.
Dog desexing should be mandatory unless exempt eg breeder
Delete rego fees
Educating residents on who to call if they see a dog off leash.
Education to pet owners about actions they can take if stray cats are causing a nuisance to their own animals.
Information on dog attack deterrent methods to reduce risk to pet and owner from severe injuries or death
Educating the public to not invade dog owner and dogs space when they are out walking . They have a right to be there as well.
Follow up after 6 and 12 months with people who've had dog attacks- sometime chronic issues arise due to initial attacks that don't seem too bad.

Enforcement of dog walker rules in open spaces, especially Valley Reserve. I.e. keeping dogs on leads
Increasing patrols on dog off leash being walked by owners around the street! And give hefty fines to these owners! As so many times we had been chased by dogs not on leash while being walked by their owner. We were walking too by the way.
1 and 2
More education to non dog owners on what to expect in an off lead dog park . Many people I have encountered are scared of dogs even though on leads and are abusive to me for walking / being in the park .
Ensure all dog parks are fenced, so dogs don't mix with other park users
Report straight away support animals abusing by owners
People to avoid off leash areas if they are scared of dogs.
Heavy fine when both human and other animals are attacked including police reporting being mandatory.
People walking dogs without leash in streets
Patrolling of busy on lead areas to ensure dogs are on lead
Go harder on punishment after a dog attack to prevent it from happening again
make owners aware of laws/penalties in regards to encouraging dogs menacing/attacking wildlife (feral or native eg. fox, possum)
Fines for trespassing cats that defecate on others property posing a health risk, especially to pregnant women.
Fenced dog parks with separated (large/small dog) areas are a necessity in Monash. It is a shame that we have so much green space but no available fully-fenced dog parks - creating huge hazards of lost dogs, dogs running into traffic and incidents.

Q: Do you think there's anything else we should include in the 'ensure the welfare of animals' focus area?

Response Summary: Skipped: 306 | Answered: 161 (34.5%)

Ensure all cats and dogs are confined to their own premises unless being actively controlled by their owners.
Inform pet owners that members of the public are encouraged to report nuisance animals
Much higher fines. Not tolerate poor treatment of animals. Follow up on complaints.
Provide free dog training sessions eg Knox Obedience Club
ban abusers (deemed guilty by court) from owning pets for a given length of time
Do better in ensuring pets' welfare is paramount when issues are reported to Council.
Sell various cat runs (made by Men's Shed etc.) at a reasonable rate to encourage cat owners to allow outdoor time but in a contained space.
Cats are attacked by other domestic and feral cats, foxes, disease can be transmitted 24 hours not just after sunset. 24 hr curfew would ensure animal welfare. Letting your cat stray is negligence.
Subsidised animal desexing for eligible owners

Dog registration fees should cover all dog poo bags costs. These should not be included in the waste charges as this is a specific service and not for everyone and only needed as dog owners don't do the right thing far too often.
First item.
Stop monitoring us
I think in all categories where infringements have been identified - case by case approach - follow up really important especially in cases of poor animal care where it is returned to owner
Promotion of animal adoption programs.
encouraging owners to train the dog or learn about dog behaviour to reduce dog attacks
Enclosed dog parks, maintained dog parks with facilities,
I have noticed that dogs on back of Ute's! Often seem to be leg tangled or lead can't sit down to short or no wind block bedding.
Subsidise de-sexing, especially where financial hardship is a factor
dogs not walked and owners not removing dogs toilets@
Our pets are our property, not the councils, it's about revenue raising from Infringements nothing else as councils are broke (insolvent)- you don't want to ext are you want to dictate. Use excuse to entry properties & trespass
Educating people to focus on their dogs in off-lead areas.
Animals should be held closer to rspca not Coldstream. People will not think to look for that centre
Maybe some basic infographic about routine health inspection or something
educate on service animal rules and encourage mental health service animals
Education on the 'Snap Solve Send' app
All above in other languages
Would encourage spot checks on Dog Daycares to ensure proper handling and safety
Inspect known owners of animal farms, ban people from owning animals
Public transport options to access the pound, pound located within Monash
Goal should be to become a no-kill council. Initiatives to simply "monitor" euthanasia rates don't solve the problem. Council should partner with the many charity orgs to rehome/shelter all animals.
Fence all off leash park, put water fountains and bins in all
I am assuming there is already a pathway to address concerns but often its neighbours who will recognise neglect so promoting avenues for reporting concerns
Regulate the animal welfare/rescue groups to promote consistency of practice and support animal welfare outcomes
Pass a law that will impose a very high fine. Especially when a person sells a non-chipped cat or dog. Around 10-20 thousand dollars. And call to justice all those who violated this law in Australia!
Poo bins in public parks and on trail walks.
Education about how to manage one's pet when no one is home (excessive barking, whining)
Annual free desexing programs

More off leash dog parks
Include contact information and where to find the website with all of the above, in the council letter that goes out to residences
Public education for first time and/or small dog owners, on the importance of training and discipline. i.e. just because it is small, it is not 'cute' when they bark and snap at larger dogs.
Provide Several Bins and Poop Bags in Big/Long Dog Parks Along with Fresh Water
A "puppy" registration fee rate. vets recommend de-sexing after 1st heat for female dogs, most >1 year. After 2 years old increase registration price non de-sexed dogs a lot. They are a risk to impregnating young dogs (under 1.5yrs) from jumping fences
Why not mandatory dog desexing too...? Have no cost licence for foster carer to have additional temporary animals. Provide a fund for emergency care/housing for pets for people in domestic violence situations. Encourage insurance for all pets.
To promote peaceful co-existence of pets, their owners and the wider community you need to provide affordable animal behavioural training and desexing, as well as proper fenced areas where they can train BEFORE they are fully under control
Regulation of back yard breeders in the area
School based visits from animal welfare. Educate on what is considered cruelty and neglect
Reportable hot line for cruelty & welfare of animals owners
Drink water tap
Give more information to the public about who to contact if they're worried about neglect
Visiting homes that have many cats
On leash cat walking areas safe from dogs
Catch neuter release programs for stray cats
Make sure animals are safe by quick response to reports of neglect or cruelty
Not charging extra registration fees for non-dexed dogs under the age of 1 year. The current regulations encourage early desexing which has potential growth and health implications for dogs, particularly males.
Conduct proper animal care to our [Multicultural community] [REDACTED] Eg. Not leaving big dogs in tiny backyards without shelter. Animal cruelty!!
Engage RSPCA mobile vet clinic more often and in various locations within Monash council
Local laws should be visiting all dogs homes to welfare check the dogs at least once every month
Widely promote and publicize council's phone number for public to report pet abuse
All animals desexed unless owners have a breeding permit
It should be mandatory to desex dogs too to decrease the likelihood of dogs attacking other dogs
Improve welfare in public spaces by giving options for both free roam and enclosed off-leash areas. Many dogs and owners miss out on the opportunity to be in public because of the overwhelming lack of enclosed dog spaces in this area
Ensure the provision of secured and gated dog park for off-leash dogs
Information for community groups on how to interact with animals. I.e. check with the owner etc. Prior to approaching
Discounted dog training

Focus on animal mental welfare as well as physical
Picture submission with annual registration?
Encouraging vet visits and subsidising costs of vaccinations or check ups if the owner can't afford them
Discounts on desexing for low income households, trap, neuter, release programs for strays
Promotion responsible breeding and education on backyard breeding. I work at a vet clinic and see many puppies who are only 7 weeks which is illegal under Vic law.
Education and crack down on backyard breeding
Please please make online payment possible I'm aware that I need to pay my registration but I've had two joint replacements and pneumonia and I'm unable to drive at present. I live alone with no support (my husband has gone into a nursing home) I'll be 80
Focus on clearly defining all types of neglect- some pet owners think food & shelter is enough
Why is Coldstream the location of impoundment of animals?
Do not have an off leash I fenced off leash areas next to a playground. Dogs can't read and children often rush up to off lead dogs.
Offering cheap if not free desexing I think it's unfair to hear people say I would love a pet but can't afford to desex them why should only the people who can afford this be able to have a pet
Need a fenced in dog park in the Monash area/ big enough for a wander and sniff and play/ eg: Aranga park.
Unless being used for breeding, mandatory de-sexing of dogs.
Follow with Fed. Govt to be stricter on backyard breeders which are illegal & reduce number of Breeder allowances to 1 bitch only per yr
Conduct spot checks on alleged properties by being part Facebook groups and visit sites like gumtree - there are SO many illegal puppies being sold. RSPCA has received so many pleas for help of abused / neglected pets but rarely any action is taken!
Close down unregistered breeders
Host spay, neuter, vac and microchip sessions! This is popular overseas because the procedures themselves are quick and relatively inexpensive. Private vet costs are prohibitive. Monash is not a high income area. Help make animal care ACCESSIBLE.
Yes send out people the rules. I can't remember them no one can make it easier to comply instead of always presuming fines and intimidation is the way to go
Dog meet ups and community promotion
My 'pets' (native fauna seeking sanctuary) are regularly slaughtered, I have to up their internal organs, bones from hordes of flies. The above list is repeatedly proved ineffective, costly negation by delay tactics. Actual ACTION
Further increase the number of off-leash areas, e.g. Brentwood Reserve
Have kind patient people calling in to homes yo check on the health of their animals. Teeth.ears.hair.nails.feeding
Welfare includes play: see response above about a proper dog park
Provide discount coupons to allow people to obtain discounted desexing for cats and dogs. This is provided to all ratepayers, regardless if you are a concession cardholder or not. By doing this you would encourage people to have them desexed.

Advice on keeping pet rabbits in enclosures
Discount neutering of cats would greatly alleviate the problem. Currently desexing is very expensive.
Investigation public complaints
- Better coordination with vets about appropriate age to desex dogs: there is a disconnect of ~9 months for large dogs.
All appropriate ideals if followed through
More enclosed dog runs
Keep up the education because council officers are sooooo intelligent
To keep lost pets as close to home as possible before sending to the pound
Educating the public with basic tips on interacting with unknown dogs
Widen adoption / foster if possible.
Consider on-leash cat proofed enclosure for access to outdoor areas/park with cat cafe with QR sign in-out for responsible cat owners
More support within the Monash Council to ratepayers who volunteer to foster animals. There is no support or knowledge within Animal Management about this little importance is put on this valuable volunteer network.
Mandatory dog neutering, if the owner is not a breeder with a registered business.
Mandatory dog desexing, unless the owners are registered dog breeders by ANKC. Educating dog owners on keeping their dogs inside during cold & hot weather. And the importance of these dogs being walked daily or at least few times a week.
1, 2 and 3
Best have deserving all puppies to prevent from spread more cruel/slaving
Actively detecting and closing those that breed without registration. Scanning marketplace and gumtree.
Keep of sporting fields and this should be patrolled
Why is it not mandatory to desex dogs?
mandatory desexing of male dogs to reduce aggressive behaviour towards anything on the other side of the fence i.e. neighbour
Euthanise feral cats

Q. Do you have any other feedback on the proposed Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029?

Cats need to be confined inside 24/7. Dog barking is a significant issue the is not addressed adequately. A live website 'register' where people's issues can be actively logged would help.
Allow people to send in reports of witnessing owners not picking up after their dogs and send them fines
If residents are keeping desexed cats, there is no reason for the council to register them. As a cat owner who only owns desexed cats, all cats are microchipped, paying council annual rego got no benefits as a cat owner. If my cat(s) was/were lost and found, they would be brought to the vet, get microchipped, scanned and found the owners. If a ranger caught them, I believe the same procedure will happen. So compulsory registration of desexed cats is

unnecessary. The second thing is about the additional animal permit. Each household can keep 2 dogs and 2 cats. My household does not have dogs and because I have 4 cats and I required to apply for additional animal permit. I suggest it can be altered to be 4 animals (dogs and cats) instead of specific on 2 dogs and 2 cats.
I doubt anything will be done anyway but I really hope you can see that we need to be able to have more animals adopted and it shouldn't matter if you want four dogs or four cats or two of each as long as they are well looked after, controlled and registered. At least do this for cats. There are SO many cats in shelters needing homes.
I received a re-register letter in the post however I have signed up for email comms. Don't mix comms, there's a risk I don't see/open that letter for weeks as no important comms come in the post now
What are the steps to take if cats (not owned by you) are on your property constantly, both during and out of the curfew times. Looking at all the above, if they are implemented then Monash Council are doing a great job.
If a pet has registration for the current registration period from another council but move into Monash during that time, free registration should be an option until the next renewal period. There should also be an option for the first registration period at the desexed rate but put on maximum fee status until the desex certificate is provided so that refunds aren't required. The refund process is complex and takes so much time to get money back
Appropriate signage in right locations about leashing.
It is appalling that dog owners allow their pets to defecate in local parks without dealing with it. It is disgraceful that cats are still allowed to roam at night.
Bombard pet owners with information. Many people don't read pamphlets. More signs at parks and off leash areas in other languages.
I don't currently have any animals, but last year I was subjected to horrendous behaviour from neighbours who had recently starting renting the property behind mine and who had lost their cat. They believed it was their right to not only trespass on my property on multiple occasions but to break and enter into my property in search of their cat, even so I had advised them numerous times that it wasn't on my property. The police were involved but didn't consider a lost cat a high priority - too bad about the criminal activity that took place. I suspect they are running a cat minding business from this rental property and panicked when they couldn't find it. I love animals and had my own, but if this is how people are treated then I believe stricter controls need to be put in place. People want animals - they just don't want the responsibility, particularly around cats. I have a lot of wild birds who visit and I am tired of picking up dead birds who have been hunted by stray cats. Please don't just make the rules, start enforcing them too.
Good plan.
Further to my comments regarding the registration fee for puppies, the contract of sale for our pedigree cocker spaniel required that she be desexed no earlier than 8 months of age and no later than 18 months. Also the breeder recommended we wait until she had had 2

heats (though our vet recommended at 6 months). Despite this we had to pay the very high registration fee for entire dogs. This is unfair and the fee for puppies under 12 months should be the same as for desexed dogs.
"98% of Victorians said their pets had a positive impact on their lives." - what about the negative impact of owners pets on other people? Please move from "education" to "enforcement" on: - picking up after your dog - littering: when the dog feces is picked up, put in plastic and then discarded in bushes, peoples front yards etc. "Picking up after your dog" has actually made the problem worse by wrapping something genuinely biodegradable in plastic that may "break down", but adds micro-plastics to the environment. - dog on lead enforcement. There are many pet owners who disregard requests to put their pets on leads. They do not care and do not think the local laws apply to them due to lack of enforcement. As an example, we have had a situation where a dog owner, whose pet was off leash in Valley Conservation Reserve and not under the owner's control, had just defecated in the children's playground. When brought to his attention he replied "you are not the police, I do not need to listen to you". Please educate these people by fining them; it may get through their thick skulls that they are not the only people using the facilities.
Why do owners of indoor cats need to pay an annual fee? It's an indoor animal that you provide nothing for. Nothing!!! Do you charge for goldfish too? It would also encourage cat owners to have indoor cats instead of letting them out, so they can prevent annual fees. Of course, you'd have a charge if they were caught outdoors. A once off registration fee is fine. I think that's reasonable.
There should be a 24 hour domestic animal curfew. There was a cat night curfew already in place in Monash in 1993 onward, I do not know why it was removed. Have been trapping stray cats since 2020 when I became aware of the traps, there is always a wait for council trap. Reoffending cats are wary of trap. Our video Chip Readers should be accepted as traps for Council contacting owner/issuing fines. 4 strays at the moment, all are regulars. 2 were captured in 2020 & day & night enter our property since - 1 of them daily. Neighbour denies them being their cat when confronted however chip reader shows otherwise. Neighbours hostile since they were caught - 24hr curfew would prevent this. Neighbours deny their cats are out at night. Eastern spinebill stopped visiting our garden since 1 of these cats attacked it. Wildlife in our garden has decreased. Have night video of these cats with caught ringtail possums, frogs, moths, climbing trees. Pet cats hunt & kill est 186 vertebrate animals/yr here. During the day they stalk birds, frogs and lizards & also in neighbouring yards. This causes me stress. Council should not be expecting me to clean up after other peoples pets. 24hr curfew would prevent this. In all instances Council should refer to dog off-leash reserves as "designated off-leash reserves" & NOT "designated reserves" to avoid confusion. Dogs are off-leash in Valley Conservation Reserve every day and streets. Owners do not comply when told their dog should be on leash, dogs are out of sight of the owner, not under control, leave faeces. In all

instances Council should refer to "Valley Conservation Reserve" & NOT "Valley Reserve", & on their website refer to it as "strictly on-leash & some areas strictly no dog". I have seen cats there as well. Your form "cats in Monash" does not allow multiple selections "yes day" & "yes during cat curfew time". Both apply to me. Cat and Dog scent deters wildlife. Fantastic that Monash have cattraps available for residents.
Need to educate people not to flush animal waste down the toilet
People often have trouble getting dog poo bags out of the dispensers at lum reserve. They don't seem to be a good design
Most people don't own a dog. It should be treated like smoking in public places (really not acceptable behaviour). As population density rises dog owners expectations will need to be curbed.
Perhaps people should not own large dogs (and certainly not dangerous breeds). Should need a licence to own one of these (I understand that is not your call - State legislation).
Thank you great information
Can I emphasise doggy bags in high traffic streets. Look at Atherton Rd and you'll see the amount of dog poo on nature strips. Add dog poo bag stations in suburban streets and advertise to public. It will make a difference. I put some outside my house on power pole which has Optus cable wrapped around it and it's worked! No poo on my lawn!
Further to the door knocking point. In addition to the feedback above. This will create a risk for elderly or disadvantaged residents. Scammers could easily pose as a council animal inspectors gain access to people's homes leaving them vulnerable to theft or personal attack/injury.
Dogs and pets in general are vital to many lonely people and their wellbeing. Everything you do to support the daily routine of people with pets and amenity of areas for people in this category is also indirectly supporting the wellbeing so many people. Being able to bring their dogs to areas and interact with others and have well trained, well behaved dogs off leash is a joy for all. Please dont sideline people to areas that are un-inviting cold and often inaccessible to the elderly. Pets are indirectly a lifeline to many - please support the lifeline and the creatures that give happiness to the lonely.
I think that Monash should offer transfer of registration for animals that are already registered and paid in other councils - you shouldn't have to pay for 2 lots of registrations per year.
It would also be great for newly registered dogs to be registered at the discounted rate pending desexing. If the owner doesn't provide desexing prior to the next registration then full fee is charged. This is done at Knox and works well - means time and staff resources aren't being used processing refunds for animals who are desexed when they reach the correct age
Personally I have never seen any patrols, reality is many people with no control over their dog visit off leash areas and there are likely to be many dog attacks that are not reported. It would be nice to know more about the process of reporting dog attacks. Why as the dog owner (but not the witness) I cannot be told about the result of the investigation. The ranger

was not happy about me following up and I was told I would not be given the result and although the attacking party had not been spoken to yet the other witness was told the attacking party would receive a fine. Your plan shows less than 30% of reported attacks get fined. So I'm not confident that will happen. Irresponsible owners make for dangerous dogs and from experience do not learn. I've never seen any dog etiquette signage and definitely agree with that. But honestly is anyone going to read it? There are so many rude dogs with ignorant owners that causes fighting between dogs because they don't know better and the owner who does the right thing and trains the dog gets the short end of the stick. You're probably better off patrolling and issuing out fines so they learn the hard way because you cannot reason with ignorant dog owners
I think there needs to awareness around the feral cat problem. So many social media sites are not clear around put in box and take to council feeding him/her on the street not formally adopting it, is possibly not great idea. I think also promoting laws around common wildlife and fines for hurting cats or your common brushtail or ringtails. Some migrants seem to be not aware our all animals are protected.
More fully fenced off lead dog parks ,Many are fenced but not fully secure ,Some do not fully close with a gate
Yes. I believe the Monash council's refusal to provide any fenced off-leash dog parks is overly restrictive, discriminatory, and lacking in nuance. The purported reasoning of discouraging attendance by dog owners who do not 'have good control' over their dogs is reductive - there are many reasons why dogs may not always have 100% percent recall including breed variation,(esp hunting breeds can be easily distracted) disability (eg deafness) among other reasons. As long as dogs are not aggressive there should be places for them to exercise safely off-leash. Moreover, the lack of fencing does not prevent dog attacks from occurring. Additionally, currently, owners who have breeds such as greyhounds that cannot legally be off leash is problematic. Currently dog owners who require fully-fenced parks have no choice but to travel to other council areas where these do exist. This imposes barriers upon dog owners with restricted mobility and financial constraints. I would urge the council to please rethink this policy and provide *at least* 1 fully fenced dog park in the municipality at a bare minimum.
Will be interested to read results.
If you cared about it's you'd stop spraying poisons on vegetation like glyphosate banned in most countries.if you cared anoot pets or their owners you'd stop milking them for money like regos, Infringements, etc. pets save you money as owners more healthy, happy, altruistic, etc so rely less on LG services but where does LG reward rate payers for that, thru do the opposite. This is all under guise of pandemic WHO controls so you can force owners to kill bees, chickens, dogs, any animal we rely on to live, under guise of viruses, bacteria & other microorganisms that either don't exist or do not harm us . Why not educate rate payers on unelected CEO & mayor salaries?
There is a large amount of education information that is being proposed here and I am concerned about the cost to effectiveness ratio of all of this, as a significant amount of work

would be required to compile and distribute that info. In my opinion all that we need to see is the general very basic rules for ownership and any information pertaining to lost and found pets. Also door knocking is also another unnecessary fund allocation that is more likely to unnecessarily bother/annoy people to little to no benefit (once again concerned over allocation of our council rate payments toward this endeavour). On another note I would rather a lot of the funds for these proposed items instead be allocated to different more important projects such as fixing all the potholes/damage along the roads and footpaths here instead of allocating them to verbose grandstanding that is likely to go over people's heads, unless this is your intent?
Please allow my cat to be out during the day- I don't think she could handle being inside the house all day! Keep the night curfew!
All cats should be 24 hours inside and if outside then in a purpose built cat run. Please send new tags each year. Send people round every year to scan animals for their micro chip and neutered
Can't stress enough how important it is to have a dedicated dog park. I am sick of sharing parks with sporting groups that get annoyed at dogs. I am a sports person myself but working people use the same spaces as sports people.
Off leash parks are becoming increasingly dangerous due to ignorance and selfishness. People treat these spaces as their own backyard. I've had more than 10 confrontations this year of dogs charging/biting me and my dog the owners are often not near by. My dog was attacked last night 21/7/25 luckily uninjured.
Need to list more personal benefits in the provided information to get it to sink in. The information/plan reads like a list of punishments, and i don't expect those who need to learn the information to actually read information they feel attacked by.
Almost on a daily basis I witness people bringing in unleashed dogs in Brick makers park which has a children playground too. I've politely asked people to please not bring their furry friends unleashed in that space, specially since it has clear markings but everyday someone else would be doing the same thing. This puts myself and the kids at risk of a dog attack. The council is just too lenient with such behaviour and it's really difficult to find people who show this behaviour. Suggestion is to have cameras installed at entry exit points of parks with children's playgrounds to effectively issue fines and raise alarm for bringing unleashed dogs in these spaces. Strict enforcement is required to make people and specially the kids feel safe in these spaces. Signage alone doesn't do anything.
Pound at Coldstream is not fair for people that don't have a car and is too far away to be practical. It discriminates against lower socioeconomic families it also does not encourage adoption of pets either as it's so far away. It would be good for the council to advertise adoption services as well to avoid the animals being put down.
Council should have the power to be able to inspect properties and go to the backyard and into garages and sheds without police or paperwork. There should be laws stating this. They should be able to take photos or video record. It isn't fair that a council can't inspect and investigate their own council properties for the protection of innocent animals that live in

terrible conditions, where they get locked up in garages with a little cut out hole in the door for them to come and go, and they have little food or water.
Monash council needs to install more bins in general. I often walk kilometres carrying a bag of dog poo before finding a bin. The lack of bins is why many dog owners do not pick up after their dog or bag the poo then leave it on the ground
No, I am happy you are doing it. I feel quite safe in Monash with my puppy the majority of the time.
I myself feel that there shouldn't be off leash parks, as I have witnessed very irresponsible owners of dogs, the owners just don't care about the surroundings, children or people who are affected, especially around play grounds for children, I have witnessed dogs off leashes in areas where they are required to be on a lead. People are aware that their animal can be aggressive, but still have them off their lead. Maybe introduce muzzles for all dogs off lead areas.
I'm out in parks a lot and feel very sad and upset when I see bagged poo discarded in bushes, trees or anywhere in nature. That doesn't help at all! Dog owners have to be aware of their responsibilities and just bagging isn't covering it. Yes, those bags are meant to be biodegradable, but that doesn't happen overnight - and it is unnecessary littering.
Please fence Janice Road Reserve Dog Off Leash Area, put water for the dogs and put the bin in the dogs area, and not at the playground area.
It make it very hard for people. Who don't drive to get to Coldstream to pick up there beloved pet. And it will also make it hard as public transport is not good.
Animal registration should have an option for lifetime registration
Greater enforcement needs to occur regarding pet registration and education of dog owners about their dog's behaviour such that their dog receives all necessary training and socialisation and exercise. I'm sick of seeing owners who let their dog out of their front door to wander in front of their house/down the street or to toilet and when I'm walking my dog on lead on the footpath, because she's a big dog, they rush to bring their dog (usually small dog) inside... I tend to wait until they bring their dog in or pick it up to avoid a potential issue, even though my dog is friendly, I don't want her to be judged incorrectly because they don't have control of their dog or their dog has no training/recall. When you adopt a dog, you should be given dog training brochures with basic dog training techniques to learn.
Apply basic courtesy and give benefit of doubt before threatening pet owners with legal action. Because you never know what is happening in pets life or pet owners life.
Whitehorse council did a puppies in the park at East Burwood that was extremely popular. Glen Waverly North off leash area, everyone does not like that only 3 sides has a fence & where it's close to a busy road NO FENCE that is not a proper off leash area There are too many off leash dogs roaming the baseball park & it doesn't feel safe
Cats are killing our native species and yet there's no enforcement.
I'd like to see a dog off leash area in Oakleigh south between centre road and north road. We've been using the private land on the corner of golf links and beryl Avenue like many other local dog owners.
It's great that Monash is proposing improvements

Would like an off leash area provided for small dogs ie up to 7 kilograms. Some councils are now providing a small fenced area where little dogs can have fun without being knocked over by large boisterous dogs.
It would be great if there was a fenced off dog park. I have a very small dog and cannot let him off the leash because the off leash park is used by large dogs. There are a few fenced dog parks but they are over the other side (Caulfield, South Yarra, Brunswick etc.)
More education for dog owners regarding to off leash and on leash areas. Make sure people pick up after dogs.
Can we change the lifetime tag please? It's not nice and hard to wear
We appreciate our dog off-lead areas, thank you for providing them. We have occasional trouble, at the park, with new Australians that are terrified of our dogs, we think public education on how dogs in Australia are loving members of our families, as opposed to a public nuisance or danger where they may have recently moved from. 99.9% of dogs at the park are not a danger to them or their children.
I believe cats are more of a registration problem than dogs, possibly due to relatively recent regulations re cats (curfew and registration), whereas council Regulations regarding dogs have been in effect for a much longer period of time. Council should give more time and funding in the education and compliance of cat owners.
please allow us to have more than 2 desexed fully indoors cats, the limit is absolutely ridiculous and contributes to unnecessary euthanasias at shelters. i can easily afford more cats and fit them into my space but your cruel restrictions prevent me from saving lives
Nope
A fox regularly roams our street Chivalry Avenue and passes by the front of our house late at night. It's been around ever since we moved here over seven years ago. I believe foxes should be included in local council animal management plans.
Make cat traps more readily available during peak cat breeding season to help trap cats/kittens to try and break cycle of ongoing un-neutered strays, having experienced a 9 week delay waiting for a trap becoming available, leading to 'kittens' escaping and adding to cycle/problem. Also feel changing from lost pets being sent to Coldstream rather than Burwood RSPCA may discourage owners reclaiming their pets due to distance to travel, hence leading to more pets being euthanised!
Desexing is such a huge one. I wonder if it's possible that if a non-desexed cat is detained that council with vets go ahead can have authorisation to desex. Rescues, pounds and back yard bred kittens shouldn't have to suffer from owner's inability to care properly. Any mature aged pet has no need for reproductive organs unless they have a disease they need hormone regulation for. (Hence inclusion of vet to assess pet's needs)
Costs are tight for most people. Anticipate an increase in surrenders. People won't pay to reclaim a pet if there is a fee. Perhaps offer a discount for this for those with any sort of financial need or make it cheaper generally. It costs more to keep an animal in care and rehome or euthanize it than it does to just reduce or eliminate the cost of the fine for returning a lost, unregistered pet and this will look better for your overall stats too... Choose kindness rather than penalty. Encourage more education on pet insurance as well as animal behaviour including normal

cat/dog behaviour and how to appropriately socialise pets. Make it easier to run puppy schools and positive reinforcement dog training events/clubs. For barking dogs, provide a free/low cost veterinary behaviour consultation to assess for anxiety or underlying medical issues + compulsory education seminar on dog behaviour, anxiety, positive reinforcement training and environmental enrichment. Promotion of dog walking/doggy daycare type services
You need to have fully fenced dog off-leash areas. It's totally unacceptable that there are ZERO areas in Monash, as reported by the Monash council website itself. The recent change in dog off-leash areas completely neglected this. Fully fenced dog off-leash areas allow owners to exercise and socialise their dogs with peace of mind - they protect dogs from hazards such as roads and most importantly, during early training stages and early age they provide safe socialisation spaces. By not providing fully fenced dog off-leash areas, you are actively limiting socialisation of animals and increasing the risk of aggressive and poorly behaved dogs. You cannot expect animals to be fully trained and in control when off leash in non-fenced areas if there is no safe, full-fenced place to practice and develop this skill. In a huge council like Monash, you need at least one area for every two suburbs to ensure realistic and practical access to these spaces. There is no shortage of recreational spaces in Monash so it is extremely disappointing that there are no provisions made for this - it shows a lack of will and planning by the council rather than a lack of resources.
Also provide information for people using off leash areas with no pets. And understanding that it is an off leash area and people are allowed to have dogs off there
Lifelong Registration Tags - this is not such a great idea when someone has moved out of the area (like myself) then returns 3 years later, unexpectedly but due to new employment. I renewed my registration but have had NO acknowledgment of same & no longer have the pet tag. So, a new tag if there has been a significant time lapse & a change from another council area. Maybe a new tag every 5 years for ongoing registrations.
Upgrade to off leash areas near roads. You need to create a safe environment for puppies, younger less obedient dogs to be trained. Give people the tools and they will use them, give people hopes and dreams you get the usa
Only issue is in my frequent travels all over Australia, city and country . Monash is very backward with providing suitable leash free areas. Would like more suitable gate closures, big,small dog areas. Seating toilets available, suitable dog equipment. Brickmakers area could be ideal area, with suitable fencing, for an area , which wouldn't interfere with children's playground or oval . The back of cyclone fencing area is Never used
To ensure the well-being of animals, we must prioritize enhanced security measures and safety protocols. As a supporter of the RSPCA, I strongly condemn animal cruelty. Our focus should be on increasing animal rescue efforts, providing adequate shelter, and ensuring access to veterinary care. I extend my sincere gratitude to all animal rescuers for their

dedicated efforts in assisting and caring for injured and abandoned animals. Let us collaborate to provide these animals with a brighter and more fulfilling future. 😊
Love to have a drinking water for a dogs
Please fence off the children's playground within Federal Reserve.
Hoping we can have more fenced off leash dog park in wheelers hill
Definitely need to stay on-top of cat owners and do more regular checks to ensure they are keeping them indoors at nighttime as it's a huge issue around here and they are killing wildlife
Support pensioners better in managing their pets.
Make a 24/7 cat curfew! Cats and wildlife are safer indoors
Please don't reduce leash free areas rather increase the areas Increase fines for any cruelty or mistreatment and neglect of animals to their owners
Dog facilities in Oakleigh are appalling. Unclear what our registration fees are doing.
I feel cats shouldn't have a curfew but be indoors. Dogs can't roam the streets neither should cats. Too many go missing or killed due to cats roaming. I foster cats and there wouldn't be a problem if they were indoors microchip and desexed
I've said everything I need to. Monash is 1 of the top councils that take pet ownership seriously. Thoroughly impressed. But, still would love to see a more adequate dog training program closer to Mulgrave.
Local laws should be checking on dogs registered with council at least once a month plenty of animal abuse in the area and it's very sad for the pet my neighbours pet is assigned to the laundry and outside it's mental health shattered in my opinion and they don't care
Number of euthanized cats are too high in 2024, must lower the number of cats being euthanised.
Any new animal owner should undergo a police check and have a living with animals check (like working with children check).
Providing off leash areas for dogs is useless unless you have it completely fenced. Puppies must be socialised, it is essential for their behavioural development, but will bolt if overwhelmed. People scared of dogs want to have a barrier. Owners and dogs have a safe place to relax and to train in an enclosed environment. If council could put cameras and lights up, it could pinpoint those not who are not responsible owners and fine them.
Tally Ho Reserve - this is a great park for off-leash pets. It is also a popular ground for football/soccer clubs which we avoid when there's training and games on. There are floodlights which the clubs can turn on, however when the park is not used by clubs, and dog owners are gathering at the park, we have to endure without the lights. Is there some way for us to turn on the lights at Tally Ho Reserve? We are even willing to pay for it as it is great especially during winter when sun sets early
Property/Real estate/ Inform renters about fence policy....owners need to fix fence urgently if animals keep getting out.Especially if renting property.
Thank you for sharing via sms. I would not have completed this had you not sent me the link. Because I would not know about it. All the best compiling the data.

The management plan by it is very nature only outlines the basic principles. I hope that nothing of the proposed changes are too dramatically different from those currently in place and that the overall cost is considered
We have two cats that are inside all the time. I don't mind other cats entering our property as I know they travel. I have an issue with people who walk dogs off lead that aren't under voice control including a local man that has 5 Kelpies (or some sort of work dog) who walks them off leash all the time and they run in a pack. I think cats should have night curfews, but during the day they shouldn't be trapped. We've had more issues with foxes in our yard than cats over the last 5 years, so I'd be interested in knowing what is to be done about them
Reiterating that we NEED to have more full enclosed safe dog spaces along those dog trails we already have so there are more options than just exposed and open areas with careless owners and their unchecked dogs - it only gives rise to so many more opportunities for issues or accidents with people and pets. Providing safe places for the inhabitants of a parish is the responsibility of the council and we cater to such a small minority of pets and owners with exclusively open off leash areas. Assuming that this is ok should only highlight how much more educated we need to become on our pets. We wouldn't dump a mess of different people in an open area and expect them to get along so doing it with our pets is a license for failure. There is nowhere for pets that are shy, or afraid, or maybe victims or abuse from other people or other dogs. These animals deserve a place to be off lead without the threat of an overly excited dog 10x their size who belongs to a person who is 100feet away after losing control or having their dog ignore their commands now trying to run and catch up. These scenarios are how accidents and fights occur and they happen ALL THE TIME. We don't need you to manufacture new spaces for dogs that with cost a bomb. We have so much open off leash area all over the place. Adding a small and medium enclosed area at a certain junction would be life changing for so many people and pets. A space for medium and large breeds to run unencumbered without threat of running too far and a small space for small breeds to do the same without threat or fear of a pet much larger than them becoming a threat or a danger (large dogs are heavy and small dogs are small). Pets should all be able to both play and be in a safe space, it shouldn't be one or the other.
i have 2 greyhounds that "must be leashed at all times when in public — including council off-leash areas" (as per Agriculture Victoria). Dangerous, menacing and restricted dogs are defined in the plan. it might be worth nominating / reinforcing breeds with additional restrictions as well. Investigation of removing the off leash restrictions for greyhounds and for them to follow all rules for general dogs would be welcome. (Monash Dog Control Order (2015), At Order Number 4 August 2015 is pursuant to section 26(2) of the Domestic Animals Act 1994, point 4) As per Agriculture Vic, Councils may authorise the use of certain spaces as greyhound-specific off-lead areas. Provision of these spaces or increased advertisement would be welcome. Coldstream is a long way to go if a pet owner needs to retrieve their pet, if they don't have transportation.

Can you please provide enough rubbish bins, Poo Bogs and water drinking facilities for animals, Ensure the provision of Fully enclosed and gated dog parks for off- leash dogs.
Refer to Farm Road Reserve in Cheltenham for a great off- leash dog park.
Outdoor facilities need clear rules and logical timing.
no
Would be good to have more fenced off leash parks in the area.
Mailed items provide little to no extra information to those not willing to read and cost the rate payer a considerable amount to produce and distribute
There are also a big increase of foxes around wheelers hill near harlingford court. So cat owners should be aware I have seen large foxes at 8:30am jumping in and out of people's front yards. How do we report this?
More off lead dog areas are needed in Monash
Please. I beg you. Stay out of our lives. Everything you guys touch you butcher. The only thing you somehow managed to get right for years upon years was the bins and you managed to torch this. All we want you to do is the absolute basics, the bins, mow the lawns and Maintain the playgrounds. That's about it. Pass the savings back to the average family struggling to make ends meet with the insane levels of government wasting hard earned dollars. So I beg you. Stop, leave us alone and stay out of our lives. Please.
Personally i feel door knocks to check on owners and pets is both a costly exercise and an invasion of privacy.
More small dog off leash parks. It is frightening to have big and small dogs in the same space.
Provide information on how to treat stray cats and animals humanely and what to do if you see them. Restrict use of harmful toxins/chemicals including pesticides that risk health of stray or wild animals. Prohibit cat traps unless absolutely necessary.
Increased amount of dogs are walked without a leash on streets and on- leash areas like Damper creek. Nothing seems to be done about it.
No thank you.
There isn't a dedicated dog park in Mulgrave - not sure why, we end up having to go to other suburbs.
I think council staff need to be really well educated on cultural awareness etc. The random visits are inappropriate for households that have any kind of trauma background - whether that is history of living in conflict zones, family and domestic violence, mental health conditions, women home alone. I don't support spontaneous spot checks - it's a well recognised intimidation tactic of many regimes, and is triggering for many, many people for a variety of reasons.
dogs that are found should be posted on the council website when picked up by the ranger before they are sent to the pound
As the owner of cats, I don't feel the cost of cats registration accurately reflected in the relevance/benefits of the DAMP to responsible indoor cat owners. Perhaps awareness of benefits could be improved in a budgeting breakdown, or perhaps fees can be reduced accordingly which would also improve compliance of cat registrations.

Concentrate on “educate” and not on “dictate” Manage animals fairly and don’t be a “breedist” council where bigger dog is always at fault. Make better dog tags , yours one are not quality. Send new one every year. Make better system not to identify “dangerous” dogs but dangerous people! Plenty of dogs are kept outside in Monash even during cold winter nights and hot summer days. Dogs don’t get walks or exercise. Look closely into old people getting pets from loneliness where dogs are bad behaved. Plenty of examples in the area of old grandmas little dogs attach big one. I am sure this would not be looked upon. BUT let the big dog respond I am sure you would put it down. Lastly BINS BINS BINS BINS. No one picks up anything because no one wants to carry shit for an hour!! PUT BINS FOR PEOPLE . I see people throwing picked up pop in the glass in the plastic bag because they are sick of carrying it. Simple things. Do you even have a pet yourself?
Don't make these items too restrictive or onerous on pet owners who are doing the right thing. Door knocking to check registration is invasive and intrusive.
Only to make it mandatory for cats to be treated similar to doge on sense that when out in public they need to be on a leash or within the house.
Please seriously consider the need for an off-leash area for greyhounds. Often they have undergone so much trauma in their short lives and to see them bound around off leash is a true joy.
As we walk our German Shepherds as always on head people especially with small n dogs off leads cause a problem as they are often not controlled and approach aggressively causing real issues A german shepherd has protective nature even on lead and people need to be in control of their pets
Please make payments either via paper based or an online process
I walk my dogs in Gardiner’s Creek as Damper is no longer available off leash after 40 years of being able to take my dogs there. There are now more foxes & the Creek looks vert choked up. I don’t consider it a safe place now because of the lack of people. I hope the Council will reconsider this poor decision even though Practical Ecology had stated the bio diversity had improved over COVID
Please make sure distributed info is available in multiple languages
What is the rationale for Coldstream location now used by Council? What was previous arrangement?
More off leash fenced areas for dogs. Poo bags and water supplied. Playground areas next to off leash areas should be separated. Dogs can’t read. Notting Hill off leash area is ridiculous. Kid mint play there and neither do dogs. There is no fencing.
Yes I believe to help having less unwanted animals in the pound let people who already have pets and are good pet owners have more dogs I have 2 they live inside sleep on my bed and live the best life and I follow lots of shelters and wish all the time I could help another dog I

have a massive back yard and attend an indoor dog park in the Kingston council area. I could love and give other dogs an amazing home but not allowed to have more then 2 that's not fair to the unwanted dogs or a person who would give a good home
I have a phobia of dogs approaching me, and sometimes when I go out, dog owners don't keep their dogs under control or leave them off-leash on walking paths. This causes me to walk with anxiety around the blocks in Glen Waverley. On a few occasions, dogs have run toward me, and as a result, I've stayed locked up at home for days to recover. The council needs to enforce stricter rules and fine people who don't follow the regulations and let their dogs off-leash while walking in the community.
Please update signage in ALL playgrounds that are not in off lead areas. Almost all playgrounds have signage stating dogs on lead within 20m of playground. Almost all playgrounds are in on lead areas. This signage causes people to believe they can have their dog off lead as long as they are more than 20m away from the playground. Most people do not realise they can only have dogs off lead in certain areas. Too many people also walk their dogs off lead on the street, or have they dogs off lead outside of their house while they take the shopping in or do the gardening and these people can't control their dog when their dog runs off and charges at my dogs while I am walking them, on lead. Because of this, I now have a very anxious and reactive dog.
In section 7.3, it appears that you will designate a "success" of the plan if there is an increase in the number of reported dog attacks. I understand the need to ensure attacks that occur are reported, but this metric seems to focus only on the total number of reports. Surely the objective should be to reduce the number of dog attacks.
We need a fenced in dog off leash area in Monash to sniff, wander and play like Aranga Park in Donvale.
I think you are doing a great job under difficult circumstances as you are dealing with the general public 😊 Please keep doggy bags in parks 🐕
Maybe some info about what non-attack things should or shouldn't be reported? I made a report in the last year about a large dog who got out of their home when their owner was out and charged my family, but no one was bitten or injured and when I lodged a report for the roaming dog, I was never really aware what happened after that. Is that even something we should bother with? It's a near miss, not an incident after all.
Cat curfew laws seem to have greatly reduced roaming cats, so this seems to have worked well.
Thank you
Victoria is experiencing an unprecedented surge of pet neglect and abuse. All shelters and rescues are trying hard to help as many pets as possible but to their own expenses and donations from people. Stop giving authority to an organisation like RSPCA and Lost Dogs Home as they have on MANY MANY occasions ignored and shunned desperate pleas of help of neglected or abused pets. More support especially financially should be provided to the organisations that actually make a solid contribution to pet rescue efforts like pet rescues, pounds and shelters. All of this can be greatly reduced by cracking down backyard breeders

which was so easily found on social media like Instagram, Facebook and gumtree! A slap on the wrist is never going to solve these issues, there needs to be heavier punishments.
Start taking the cat curfew seriously. Owners need to be fined just like dog owners when cats are out at night. It is also time.e to bring in laws stating cat owners need to keep their cats on their property at all times! It is I sane that dog owners have to adhere to that but cats can wander all over the place booing everywhere. Cats add to dog barking day and night. Enforce rules around bike riding in off leash areas. Too many bike riders fly thro off leash areas then yell at dogs and owners for dogs being in their way. Impose mandatory slow zones at off leash parks
Understand that not everyone has access to the money to pay for private services. There is no such thing as Medicare for animals, but animals are beloved members of people's family. Find a way to make it accessible so more people desex and microchip their pets and can afford vaccination - more pet vaccination sessions per year. Purchase more cat traps for the community to borrow to capture strays. The wait is long to get access to a trap. Stray cats are not just a problem for wildlife, but they carry diseases and rarely get vet care.
Do not add animal curfews for animals. This is truly evil for animals that were trained all their life to do their loos outside. Considering that my cat always does it in MY own backyard and covers it up. I believe this is animal abuse.
I get you need to raise some revenue for providing services. But please consider people with disabilities and ptsd, they can't work, don't earn enough and they dote on their pets feed them before themselves and current cost of living make registration fees unreasonable at times- there needs to be longer time frame to pay and renew grace. And you need to remember they forget things it's never malicious. Send us all kindly worded letters instead of threats or visits as you do damage making them fearful in the one place they still feel safe, fearing you will take their only friends. Yes that's an over reaction. But that is what happens with disabilities and mental health issues. So from my observations of clients I work with, I think a gentler approach and free pensioner registration would go a long way. Or life membership for disability aged pensioners?
I think that leash free parks need more supervision. Some owners unleash their pets & drop all responsibility for them.
No but thanks for doing it.
Ownership of pets aids both the physical and mental health of Monash residents. With ownership comes responsibility, which the council is helping to achieve.
When are council workers to be held accountable, instead of council apparently fostering more word-salad avoidance?
I think it is very good but I still think sporting ovals and courts should not be leash free areas. Owners gather and talk whilst their dogs run free pooing wherever they like and the owners are not interested in watching and picking up poo. Just imagine if you are playing football and you fall face first in dog poo and playing croquet having to pick up balls that have run through dog poo. Owners with dogs on leads have to stop when their dog is relieving itself and in most cases will pick up poo. Look at the streets they are mostly free from dog poo and many dogs go for a walk in the street.

The spirit and content of the DAMP are commendable. However, please devote much more attention to quality control of the letter of the DAMP, particularly in the use of proper grammar and spelling. Also, there are many instances where a particular topic is repeated, often several times (e.g. cat curfew), which makes reading the document from start to end somewhat uninviting. Perhaps it would be better to lay out each of the Principles of the plan in the main body of the document, and then tabulate the list of Actions for each topic as a concluding section (rather than inter-mingling Actions with Principles).
Trained dogs that are under effective control should have some leeway on walking off lead this could be a set control distance of say 2 meters
Elderly people and people with disabilities [people] don't always know-how to care for their animals health.
Council follow up after reported dog attacks should be mandatory. The reporters needs to know what has been done and how effective it wS
Increase the lead length in public places to 1.8m (short leads exacerbate dogs pulling, which may impact the quality of walks for dogs and their handlers)
General feedback: Many thanks for providing safe off-leash area and bin at Pitch 3, Gardiners Reserve.
Bins everywhere please ! There are none . Dogs must be on leads everywhere . Injury is owners cost responsibility
No Monash Council have approached owning pets with information available for all pet owners.
There needs to be stricter rules for owners not picking up after their pet
People with dogs off leads and on lead areas are out of control
Please please add another 2 disposable bins and bags at monash Central reserve. I believe people are not cleaning up due to lack of bags at this big area
Cats older than ten years should be exempt from compulsory microchipping and fines. The number of cats allowed per property should be increased for any cats older than ten years. These senior cats rarely wander and are a much much lower threat to wildlife as they are mostly very sedentary.
Be aware that some neighbours trap cats and whinge about them out of sheer malice. This should not be tolerated by council.
All reports of pets or nuisance to council should have the names of the complainer freely available so that malicious bad neighbours can be recognised.
I have seen plenty of owners around my area having there dogs off the leash in the streets which is unsafe for the dog and the other people walking. I some times walk in the early hours when it's dark and have seen this numerous times. Dog off leash gets angry at my dog and I get worried that the dog off the leash will come and attack.
Owners need to be more responsible and aware
Too many rules. I want to see a more relaxed off leash set of rules

It's sensible to have a management plan for domestic animals but it's important to ensure council acts on issues especially with dogs off leash (outside of the designated off-leash areas). Too many dog owners are over confident with their ability to control their dogs. Even if they can control their dog and even if their dog is well trained there are people in the community with a fear or even worse phobia of dogs. How about respect for everyone to be able to enjoy going for walks or do spend time in their front yard.
Signs provided for nature strips to remind dog owners to pick up dog poo with the fine advised
As above we need enclosed areas with high fences where dogs can have a run without fear and without attempted escapes where they feel exercised like at the KCc park but without the travel
Maybe more bins and poo bags for the dog owners to throw, more dog parks will be great
If people have dog issues they should keep at leashed parks, they should be advised not to attend off leash parks. I have 2 dogs that are trained, non aggressive but are constantly attacked by other dogs.
I have seen a ranger twice in the 25 years I have lived in the area. Following/adhering to rules will increase if ranger presence is improved.
Poor survey methodology It appears that the survey is biased to find in favour of cat curfew Failure to mandate dog desexing
More bins and dog poop bags along Dandenong creek pathway.
There must be more patrols of on-leash areas to stop dogs from being off-leash.
Council to use some of the cat registration fees to offer subsidised desexing of cats in conjunction with local vets. Trap, neuter, release program for feral cats, it has been documented that this helps to reduce the stray population. By releasing these cats back to the area they live it stops more stray cats just moving in and becoming a never ending cycle.
Consider on-leash cat proofed enclosure for access to outdoor areas/park with cat cafe with QR sign in-out for responsible cat owners. "I would love to take my 15 year old cat to a cat proofed enclosures area or park with a cat cafe on a leash and in a pet stroller with a sign in and out QR code for responsible cat owners" Encourage cat proofing to property by reduction in rates/ registration. Information on what to do when attacked by dog and dog attack deterrent methods/devices to use to reduce risk to pet and owner from severe injuries or death. Bi-Annual inspections of properties containing a restricted breed, declared dangerous or menacing dog and animal businesses.
Get your website updated with correct information for ratepayers. Have staff know details about animal management and the department they work in Have leaflets available for different aspects available online. Make your registration website easier to use. I went to pay for a new registration and when I clicked on the button it did not take me to

the correct area! I had to go searching.
Make animal management information on the council website a priority,
I would welcome measures to deter dog owners from flouting dogs on lead rules in Valley Reserve.
Please encourage more dog owners to take dog obedience school. Please provide/ accomodate this dog obedience school around Monash area.
Not at this time or not at all
Owners need to clean up after the dogs poo. Heavily fine them if they don't do
Your link would not open
Be more firm rules/fines or taken away from owners, To prevent abuse animals
Why has the council or RSPCA ended their contract? Having a contract with Animal Aid in Coldstream will mean animals are traveling further distance and people will have to travel even further to be reunited with their pet. There are other animal rescues closer that should have been considered such as Lort Smith or Australian Animal Protection Society in greater Dandenong. Very disappointing RSPCA are no longer a pound service.
On the website and DAMP, there is a need to clearly define nuisance barking, whether that be at night, morning or through out the day. Owners need to know the impact it has on neighbours whether they would be next door or several houses away. Sleep is disturbed and experience abrupt wakings. Barking disturbs concentration, studying for exams or working from home. Penalties need to be clearly defined. Keeping record and approaching neighbour over nuisance behavior DOESN'T work. It should not be their responsibility. Some are fearful to approach or report. Proof of the acquisition of puppies from reputable registered breeders need to be confirmed at registration. Responsible dog ownership should require the mandatory completion of puppy school. Access/contact info to reputable dog behaviorists with effective strategies to help owners with issues they are having in training their dogs. Dog poo on nature strips...some owners will only do the right thing when caught and financially penalised.

Written Submissions

The following written submissions were received and are reproduced below. The matters raised have been considered and were used to help inform the various themes discussed throughout the report.

From: [REDACTED]
 To: [Mail @ Monash](mailto:Mail@Monash)
 Subject: Domestic Animal Plan
 Date: Thursday, 24 July 2025 9:23:07 AM

This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender
 You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

[Report Suspicious](#)

Hi

I have read the current plan and want to comment on my thoughts -

1. Most (99%) of dog owners do the right thing and pick up their dogs' faeces. (and pick up any owners who don't) However, the more pressing issue is the amount of rubbish that people attending sporting including drink bottles, coffee cups, cigarette butts and food containers strewn around the area. I think more bins and signs should be put up and fines to people who don't comply. I am shocked every time there is a sporting event the amount of rubbish and disregard for our environment.
2. Off lead parks, as there is **more pet ownership** there should be more fenced parks so that owners can socialize their pets and have areas the dogs can run. Any reduction of a park in an area (ie Jack Edwards has been reduced considerably) should be replaced with the original sized similar area and a sufficient size for exercise. It is not safe to be running with your dog along roads and footpaths. due to state of both, cars driving too fast and bikes etc. on footpaths.
3. Cats curfews is good but still means that the daytime cats can kill a lot of native wildlife. I think cats should only be allowed in runs in the home yards as I still see cats regularly roaming during the day and killing wildlife.
4. Your report appears to focus on "too the extreme" registrations and reporting of incidents which is a comparatively small amount in comparison to crime and other issues that deal with people. It should be also balanced with the health benefits and positives around good pet ownership.
5. I have never seen the supposed people who are monitoring these parks and are at least two of the parks every day. Because if they were there, they would be reporting that on the whole owners are being responsible for their pets.

Thank you

"Animal welfare is animal care"
animalcareaustralia.org.au



9th August 2025
Monash City Council – Animal Management Team
Email: mail@monash.vic.gov.au

Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029

Animal Care Australia (ACA) is a national incorporated association established to lobby for real animal welfare by those who keep, breed and care for animals. Our goal is to promote and encourage high standards in all interactions with the animals in our care.

Animal Care Australia is currently recognised by Animal Welfare Victoria as a key stakeholder in the review of Victoria's Animal Welfare Act and its associated regulations. Animal Care Australia is directly consulting and advising during that review, including the future revision of Codes of Practice for the keeping of all pets.

Animal Care Australia encourages continued development of animal welfare standards and Codes of Practice for animal husbandry, breeding, training, sale, and sporting exhibitions for a wide range of animal species, including pets, companion animals, animals used for educational or entertainment purposes or kept for conservation.

Animal Care Australia is engaged with state governments to develop more appropriate model Local Laws and model Subordinate Local Laws governing the keeping of animals in each state. Nationally, Animal Care Australia is finding Local Councils placing restrictions and permit requirements on their residents which do nothing to improve animal welfare and tend to lead to greater non-compliance.

Animal Care Australia DOES NOT SUPPORT the sole use of surveys as a means of consultation. It is inappropriate for Council to claim you have consulted when organisations are not actually able to lodge a written submission. Surveys are misleading and provide for irresponsible statistical analysis.

It is vital that Councils support the keeping of all pets within their shires/municipalities and that Councils consult with the appropriate stakeholders when looking to address the many myths or phobias that are expressed by uneducated members of the public, in relation to the keeping of some animals.

In reviewing Council's draft Domestic Animal Management Plan Animal Care Australia would like to raise the following concerns:

Animal Management Training:

Page 9 states: *"The functions and responsibilities around animal management are delivered by the Community Laws team that sits within the Community Safety and Amenity Department. The team comprises one Community Laws Team Leader, one Senior Community Laws Officer and nine full-time Community Laws Officers. All officers are multi-skilled and provide animal management services, as well as general community laws services. These officers report to the Coordinator - Community Laws"*

While this reads well, the 11 team members are spread across all facets of council workings, and none are indicated to be dedicated to animal management specifically. What happens if all team members are attending to other council business and are not available to attend an animal management issue?

Another issue is that as the 11 officers are multi-skilled, they would all be constantly attending training courses for all facets of their work, of which animal management is only one. This raises concerns of the waste of direction of talent/skillsets as required to each specific area of compliance enforcement. Currently listed are 12 distinct training areas just for animal management... how many courses are required for the other areas of their multiple responsibilities? Animal Management is complex and should have dedicated Animal Management Officers and not 'part-time' attention officers.

Programs to promote and encourage responsible pet ownership and compliance with legislation (page 11):

"Council's approach to education and enforcement is based on the principles of Educate, Ask, Tell, and Enforce."

Animal Care Australia commends Council on this approach along with the outlined list of education programmes being provided to your residents.

Page 12 – lists various ways Council informs the public of their animal ownership responsibilities. Animal Care Australia is pleased to note that leaflets, newsletters, corflutes et al are employed as well as publishing on the council website and highly commend this approach.

Registering of pet cats

Council's website states *"In order to register your cat with the City of Monash, your cat must be desexed."*

Doesn't this incentivise non-registration of cats as indicative of having a little over 5000 registered desexed cats (listed on page 7) with only 7 entire cats registered?

Isn't it a better approach to offer fee variations for desexed and non-desexed cats, or better still, non-desexed cats that are registered are provided access to discounted desexing.

Supporting Cat Containment

Animal Care Australia commends Council on the following statement on Page 14: *"Cat containment can be supported by providing cat owners with resources and information to assist with transitioning their cat to a stay-at-home lifestyle. Councils' Cat Control Order requires that cats are confined to their property between sunset (or 7pm) and sunrise. To support cat owners in transitioning to an indoor or contained lifestyle, distribution of information to assist will be a focus within the plan. This may include information on how to build cat enclosures, how to transition cats to an indoor lifestyle and being aware of plants toxic to cats either in the yard or in the home"*

Animal Permits:

Animal Care Australia DOES NOT SUPPORT Councils requiring permits for additional animals – outside of the state-legislated numbers for dogs and cats.

While the numbers listed for certain species within the Restrictions on Animal Numbers¹ are reasonable, those listed for birds are contradictory to the animal welfare needs of the species. These will lead to animal welfare issues which leads us to believe they have simply been 'made up' – likely based on personal bias rather than facts.

Restrictions on the number of animals on a property is not supported by Animal Care Australia without full consideration of the animal welfare impacts on the individual species, particularly where key stakeholders have not been consulted – as apparent by the proposed restrictions in this Policy.

Birds – Aviary, and others

For birds other than poultry, the numbers proposed are **NOT SUPPORTED**.

There are hundreds of avian species routinely kept in Victoria, and every species has its own specialised management, husbandry, enclosure size and welfare requirements. Placing a limit of just ten domestic birds is simply ill-founded. Finches are far smaller and much quieter than pigeons, as an example. Therefore, we recommend the removal of the restriction of ten and insert: To be kept as appropriate to species, size of cage/aviary or bird room¹ into the list.

The bird numbers within this list shows a clear lack of knowledge regarding bird keeping and its enormous breadth and management techniques.

It should be noted that the keepers of some poultry may be members of Agricultural Societies, and the keepers of avian birds could be members of Avicultural Societies. Council could include "Members of avicultural clubs, are exempt from the above limits provided their birds are kept such that they do not unreasonably affect the amenity of neighbours."

Small Mammals:

Rabbits, ferrets, guinea pigs, rats and mice are considered as house pets and have been for some time now.

Now that housing cost forces people into smaller unit dwellings, indoor pets such as rabbits, ferrets, rats, mice, and guinea pigs are becoming the norm.

¹ [Restriction on animal numbers](#)

Owners of these smaller pet's work to improve the quality of the animal in health and temperament and animal related clubs and societies have policies for registered breeders who are bound by their published Code Of Ethics and Code Of Practice along with provisions provided with the current Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

There are many Societies for rabbits, guinea pigs, rats, and mice.

Ferrets

Ferrets have become much loved companion pets and while they do require some care, maintenance and ensuring that they are kept very entertained and occupied when awake, they in fact do not require a lot of space which makes them perfect as 'indoor' pets.

Ferrets are far more secure indoors and escapes into the environment are far less likely to occur with an indoor kept pet than an animal out in a cage.

Ferrets are also social animals and should be kept at a minimum as pairs or in groups, therefore Council's restriction of only two ferrets impractical, uneducated, ill-advised, and most definitely NOT SUPPORTED.

Rats, Mice and Guinea Pigs

The limit of just four (4) rats or eight (8) mice is NOT SUPPORTED by Animal Care Australia.

These animals are colony animals, and it is important for their health and well-being to be kept in larger numbers than what Council's policy imposes As companion animals allowing more appropriate colony sizes poses no threat to community, health, or animal welfare. ².

Rats, mice, and guinea pigs are primarily indoor pets and invariably kept in small enclosures. These animals do not exhibit extreme noise, are not intrusive and are free of the diseases and pathogens that often plague their wild counterparts. In fact, they pose no health problem for their owners and are renowned for keeping themselves well groomed.

For the Club registered breeding community, the proposed limitations are also unrealistic, especially given the average litter size for some of these species is larger than the proposed limit suggesting that these proposals have not considered the biology and needs of these species. Additionally, due to their short lifespans it is vital that several adult pairs be kept at any given time to ensure that the quality of the gene pool is maintained – without allowing owners to keep 'breeders' the health of the species will invariably suffer.

Rabbits

Many people that keep rabbits in any residential situation keep them as pets and the majority of pet rabbits are kept as indoor pets for their health and safety. Vaccines do not provide protection against all of the government released rabbit haemorrhagic viruses that are designed to eradicate feral rabbits.

Responsible pet owners will have their rabbits desexed should THEY NOT wish to breed. Council imposing restrictions is an extreme overreach of power and highlights how out of touch with animal keeping this draft policy is.

Small mammals are extremely popular, particularly in circumstances of higher residential density areas, make no noise, and despite common misconception produce little to no odour. Small mammals are colony animals, and a limit of such small numbers is simply poor animal welfare.

If Council wishes to persist with numbers, then it should be made clear that council officers will look to providing an exemption (no permit required) for those keeping their pets in a manner that does not unduly affect neighbourhood amenity.

Alternatively, permits should be free and most certainly should not expire annually. These annual permit fees are nothing more than fundraising for Council while penalising anyone wishing to keep pets.

In closing:

The animal restrictions **do not** improve animal welfare.

Animal Care Australia strongly encourages all councils to promote and encourage the keeping of animals as pets as they provide extraordinary mental health benefits for all of us.

² [Short Communication: Rats Demand for Group Size - Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science 7 \(4\) 267-272 – 2004](#)

All restrictions only serve as a detriment to pets and those wishing to keep them.

Animal Care Australia does not agree with imposing blanket limits on numbers of animals that can be kept especially when based solely on ideological theories as these theories are animal rights based or on species bias. It is glaringly obvious the stronger restrictions apply to species that most people either dislike or fear – rats, mice, rabbits, and reptiles.

Animal welfare is NOT about numbers – it is about the conditions, behaviour, cleanliness, housing, and husbandry that each animal is kept under by the owners – your residents.

Policies that restrict the keeping of animals based on preventing noise, odour or other issues for neighbours are strongly discouraged. Restrictions including permit requirements inflict an unnecessary compliance burden on residents and staff which only discourages animal keeping needlessly. Laws are already in place to deal with neighbourhood nuisance issues including matters due to poor animal practices. Council should seek consultation with real animal experts to provide a policy that not only works for the council and its community but also ensures good welfare outcomes for the animals.

Animal Care Australia's primary objective is 'education over regulation' and always commend Councils wherever they seek to further the education of their residents.

Animal Care Australia recommends viewing our online document: [Council Animal Management Plans](#)

While Animal Care Australia acknowledges the inclusion of other animals in a DAMP is not permitted, It is necessary to call your attention to these restrictions in the hope that while Council is approving amendments to Local Laws, in the future, that you consider our feedback and provide the opportunity for residents to keep their pets, in particular, small mammals and birds without the need for permits.

Animal Care Australia welcomes the opportunity to discuss these matters further to ensure a policy that aligns with the needs of your pet keeping residents.

Kind regards,



Michael Donnelly
President



[4]

About Animal Care Australia

As a nationally recognised animal welfare organisation, Animal Care Australia encourages continued development of animal welfare standards and Codes of Practice for animal husbandry, breeding, training, sale, and sporting exhibitions for a wide range of animal species, including pets, animals used for educational or entertainment purposes or kept for conservation, and in particular native birds, reptiles, and mammals.

Animal Care Australia was founded in early 2018 to establish an organisation run solely by volunteers to lobby for real animal welfare. With extreme animal rights and animal liberationist ideologies influencing government legislation, regulation, and policy at our expense and to the detriment of our animals and pets, it has become necessary to provide government with a balancing voice.

By uniting the broad spectrum of animal groups, collectively we offer an experienced, sensible approach to animal welfare.

By educating our members and the public about the importance of treating animals with kindness and respect for their needs and promoting the humane treatment of animals to improve animal welfare outcomes, Animal Care Australia is in the unique position of lobbying and advocating for all animals within our care.

Animal Care Australia provides priority to the following:

- advocating for stronger welfare outcomes
- advocating to increase education of the public in animal welfare and best care techniques
- educate the public on handling their animals with kindness & respect and the importance of their needs
- educate the public in the differences between animal welfare and animal rights