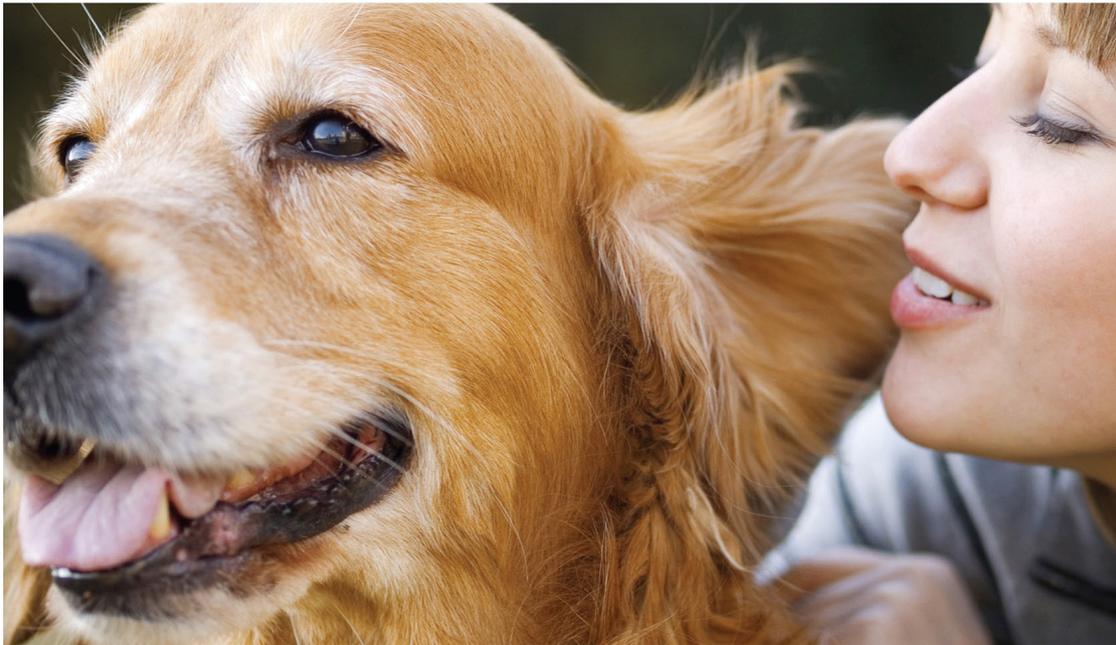


# Animal Management Plan



Adopted by Council:

22/04/2014

Approved by Dog and Cat Management Board:

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08/05/2019





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## 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Plan has been prepared to guide animal management within the Town of Gawler until 2017 and in response to requirements of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 that requires Councils to prepare a plan relating to the management of dogs and cats within its area. The Plan replaces the 2007 – 2012 Dog and Cat Management Plan and predominately focuses on dogs and cats however it also includes other animals that are having a significant community or environmental impact.

The Plan was developed by a reference group that comprised Council staff and Elected Members. Stakeholder and Community input was sought through a consultation process undertaken in early 2014 which guided the development of the Plan and ensured it addressed priority animal management issues identified by community.

The plan is structured into the following four key areas of:

1. Dog Management
2. Cat Management
3. Other Animal Management
4. Plan Implementation

The Plan contains a total of 10 objectives under each of the four key areas relating to that area of animal management. To ensure the objectives are reached, 39 specific strategies are identified under each objective that provide more targeted outcomes. The Plan contains Key Performance Indicators (KPI) that will be used to monitor Council's progress in achieving the animal management objectives identified in the Plan.

## 2.0 INTRODUCTION

In 2004 a review of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 (the Act) was undertaken that resulted in the requirement for all South Australian Councils to develop and implement a five year Animal Management Plan to guide the management of Dogs and Cats within their communities. In response to this requirement the Town of Gawler developed the Dog and Cat Management Plan 2007. The 2007 plan expired in 2012 and has been replaced by this Plan, the 2012 – 2017 Town of Gawler Animal Management Plan.



The objectives of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 are to:

- Encourage responsible dog and cat ownership;
- Reduce public and environmental nuisance caused by dogs and cats; and
- To promote the effective management of dogs and cats (including through the encouragement of de-sexing of dogs and cats).

Animal Management Plans are not restricted to just dogs and cats and can include other animals that are having a significant impact on the community. In light of this the Town of Gawler have included feral pigeons and Little Corellas in the Management Plan given the damage to infrastructure and vegetation caused by these birds. In addition, foxes and rabbits are also considered in the Plan.

## 2.1 The Town of Gawler: A Snap Shot

Gawler is located approximately 42 kilometres north of Adelaide, at the edge of the metropolitan area and identifies itself as a separate provincial town.

The Town of Gawler covers an area of 42 square kilometres and contains 14 suburbs with a combined population of 21,271 (ABS 2012). Since its formation in 1839, Gawler has served as a regional centre for the surrounding area providing retail, education, medical, community and recreational services and facilities. The catchment for Gawler is estimated at 90,000 persons.

Residents and visitors identify that the strong sense of history, community and environmental pride are major social assets for Gawler, complementing the services and facilities the Town provides. Gawler's heritage assets, open spaces and river systems provide the Town with a unique identity that separates it from northern suburbs of Adelaide.

## 3.0 REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT

The responsibilities for dog and cat management in South Australia are prescribed in the Act. Under the Act Councils are required to administer and enforce the provisions relating to dogs within its area. Council's responsibilities under the Act include maintenance of a register of dogs, appointment of a Registrar, making arrangements for issuing and replacing certificates of registration, appointment of at least one full-time dog management officer (or make other satisfactory arrangements) and make arrangements for the detention of seized dogs. A Council is also able to make By-Laws relating to the management of dogs within its area.



The Act also requires every Council in South Australia to prepare a plan relating to its management of dogs and cats in its area.

The requirements for plans of management for dogs and cats are contained in Section 26A of the Act, these are:

- Each Council must prepare a plan relating to the management of dogs and cats within its area
- A plan of management must include provisions for parks where dogs may be exercised off-leash and for parks where dogs must be under effective control by means of physical restraint, and may include provisions for parks where dogs are prohibited
- A plan of management must be prepared every five years
- A plan of management must be approved by the Dog and Cat Management Board
- A Council may, with the approval of the Board, amend a plan of management at any time during the course of the five year period covered by the Plan

## 4.0 DEVELOPMENT OF THE TOWN OF GAWLER ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

This Plan was developed using guidelines from the Dog and Cat Management Board and in accordance with requirements of the Act.

To commence the development of the Plan an Animal Management Plan Reference Group was established comprising Council Staff and Elected Members. Expressions of interest for community representation were sought through media advertisements however none were forthcoming. The Reference Group comprised the following members:

### **Council Staff**

- General Inspector
- Team Leader Strategy and Policy
- Team Leader Environment and Regulatory Services

### **Elected Members**

- Mayor Brian Sambell
- Councillor Paul Koch

The Reference Group established a draft plan, identified key stakeholders and established a consultation process. Following Council endorsement to proceed to public consultation the Reference Group sought stakeholder and community input and feedback on the draft plan in February 2014. The community feedback received was considered which resulted in a number of changes to the draft Plan. The draft Plan was endorsed by Council in April 2014 and approved by the Dog and Cat Management Board on 08/05/2014.



## 5.0 ANIMAL MANAGEMENT IN GAWLER

In line with a number of strategic directions and strategies identified in the Town of Gawler Strategic Plan 2010–2018 (refer section 7.0), Council undertakes a range of animal management activities to ensure the provision of a safe and enjoyable community environment.

### 5.1 Resourcing

Council's animal management services are funded through dog registrations and general revenue. Annual registration fees are due between July and August each year with discounts available for dogs that are micro-chipped, trained and de-sexed along with pensioner concessions. In addition to these concessions there is no registration fee for accredited assistance dogs (e.g. Guide Dogs).

Council contributes twenty percent of dog registration fees to the Dog and Cat Management Fund. This Fund is administered by the Dog and Cat Management Board which has a range of functions including monitoring the administration and enforcement of the Act and providing support and assistance to Councils. Part of the Fund is applied towards the cost of educational programs relating to dog or cat management across the state.

Council employs compliance officers to undertake a range of inspectorial and regulatory services including animal management activities.

### 5.2 Animal Management Activities

Councils Animal Management Officers undertake a wide variety of duties including:

- Investigating dog attacks
- Impounding wandering dogs
- Issuing dog control orders
- Investigating dog barking complaints
- Returning lost dogs to owners
- Investigation of cat complaints
- Issuing of traps for catching nuisance and feral cats
- Providing animal management advice to the community

In addition to the above Council's also maintains a dog register, has appointed a suitable officer to be the Registrar. Council has in place arrangements for issuing and replacing certificates of registration (and registration discs) and has made arrangements for the detention of impounded dogs.



Council undertakes periodic activities relating to the control of feral pigeons and an annual program is also implemented to scare Little Corellas that cause extensive damage to the Town's vegetation. Council also undertakes fox and rabbit control on its land when required with guidance from the Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges Natural Resource Management Board.

### 5.3 By-laws

Apart from the Dog and Cat Management Act Council's other main regulatory enforcement tool relating to dog management is the Dogs By-Law 5 2012. This By-law, amongst other things, limits the number of dogs allowed on a property without Council permission, prohibits any dogs (accredited assistance dogs exempted) in an enclosed children's playground or within three metres of an unenclosed playground and allows Council to direct, by resolution, areas where dogs must be on a leash or are prohibited.

## 6.0 HUMAN HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Research has shown that pet owners are generally healthier and happier than non-pet owners including having lower blood pressure, lower cholesterol and reduced anxiety. Pet owners are less depressed, have a lower risk of heart disease, feel less lonely and find it easier to get to know people.

Dogs, cats and other animals provide companionship for lonely people. Dogs can provide personal security and also promote a healthier lifestyle through regular exercise obtained when walking or playing with a dog. Pets, especially dogs can also assist people to become more sociable by meeting new people in the community with similar pet interests.<sup>1</sup>

It is acknowledged that pet ownership can provide positive benefits to human health and wellbeing and therefore many of the objectives and strategies in this Plan contribute to improving the health and wellbeing of individuals and the community at large.

<sup>1</sup> Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Knowledge Base, *What are the health benefits of pet ownership?*



## 7.0 STRATEGIC LINKS

The Town of Gawler Animal Management Plan aligns to a number of Strategic Directions and Strategies identified in Councils Strategic Plan 2010 – 2018. These are:

Strategic Direction 3: A Strong Community	
Outcome 3.1 Well Informed Community	Strategy 3.1.1 - Use Council's resources as a key source of accurate, timely and accessible information for the community
Outcome 3.2 A Safe Community	Strategy 3.2.1 - Improve safety of the public environment
	Strategy 3.2.2 - Hazards reduced for the community
Outcome 3.4 An Active Community	Strategy 3.4.1 - Community and visitor use of the town's sport, recreation, open space and walking and cycling paths is more widespread
Strategic Direction 4: Manage Natural and Built Environment	
Outcome 4.4 A Better Environment	Strategy 4.4.2 - Improve the natural and built environment and promote community awareness and participation
Strategic Direction 5: Organisational Excellence	
Outcome 5.2 Creating A Future	Strategy 5.2.1 - Leadership around key local government and community issues with long-term strategic decision making underpinning all significant decisions



## 8.0 OBJECTIVES, STRATEGIES AND KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Taking into consideration the strategic links identified above and known animal management issues the following objectives have been incorporated into the Town of Gawler Animal Management Plan:

- Objective 1: Decrease the number of unregistered dogs
- Objective 2: Encourage responsible dog ownership
- Objective 3: Protect the community from dog attacks and dangerous dogs
- Objective 4: Manage barking dogs
- Objective 5: Minimise the environmental impacts of cats
- Objective 6: Encourage responsible cat ownership
- Objective 7: Reduce the negative impacts of pest birds and birds of abundance in the community
- Objective 8: Manage foxes and rabbits
- Objective 9: Secure financial resources for implementing plan strategies
- Objective 10: Assign non-financial resources to implement the plan

Council's animal management objectives support and align with the objectives of the Dog and Cat Management Act that encourage responsible dog and cat ownership, reduce public and environmental nuisance caused by dogs and cats and to promote the effective management of dogs and cats.

The animal management objectives outlined above have been grouped into four Key Result Areas:

- Dog Management
- Cat Management
- Other Animal Management
- Plan Implementation

Within each of these key result areas specific strategies, key performance indicators, resources required and timelines have been identified.



## Key Result Area 1 – Dog Management

Dog ownership is popular in the Town of Gawler with over 5100 dogs registered in the 2012/13 financial year. To maximise the safe, lawful and harmonious integration of this level of dog ownership into the community this Plan sets a number of objectives relating to dog management.

### Objective 1.0: Decrease the number of unregistered dogs

It is a requirement of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 for every dog aged three months and over to be registered. The number of unregistered dogs within the Town of Gawler is unquantifiable due to a lack of comprehensive data, pet owners not advising Council of changes in circumstance and pet owners deliberately not registering their dogs. Anecdotal information from the Dog and Cat Management Board and neighboring Councils indicates the number of unregistered dogs could be significant.

This anecdotal evidence was supported by a door knock undertaken in 2013 in a suburb of Gawler that identified over 60 unregistered dogs. Applying this figure to all suburbs of Gawler indicates there could be over 500 unregistered dogs within the Council area. As dog registration fees are used by Council and the Dog and Cat Management Board to undertake animal management activities it is important that all dogs are registered. Decreasing the level of unregistered dogs is an integral objective of this Animal Management Plan.

The following strategy has been identified to decrease the number of unregistered dogs.

<b>Strategy 1.1</b>	<b>Promote the benefits and obligations of registering dogs</b>
Resources Required:	Undertaken with existing resources
When:	Promotion - Annually, February / March and Enforcement - Ongoing
<b>Strategy 1.2</b>	<b>Undertake a dog doorknock to identify unregistered dogs and ensure registration</b>
Resources Required:	Undertaken with existing resources and contractors
When:	2014

### Objective 1 Key Performance Indicator

The following key performance indicator will be used to measure implementation of strategies relating to unregistered dogs.

<b>Objective 1</b>	<b>Decrease the number of unregistered dogs.</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5% increase in dog registrations on 2012/13 levels</li> </ul>



## Objective 2.0: Encourage responsible dog ownership

Responsible dog ownership is vital for owners to realise the many benefits provided by dogs and to ensure the community does not suffer from any nuisance dogs or be put at risk by unruly and aggressive dogs. The Dog and Cat Management Board undertake community education regarding dogs and Councils can support and complement this work by promoting responsible dog ownership.

It is a requirement of the Dog and Cat Management Act for owners or persons responsible for a dog to remove any droppings left by their dog in a public place. In addition, Council's Dog By-Laws also makes it an offence to take a dog into a public place without having a bag or other suitable container for the collection and disposal of any faeces that the dog may deposit.

Council will undertake the following strategies to encourage responsible dog ownership.

<b>Strategy 2.1</b>	<b>Encourage dog owners to pick up after their dogs through promotion and enforcement</b>
Resources Required:	Undertaken with existing resources
When:	Promotion - Annually, February / March and Enforcement - Ongoing
<b>Strategy 2.2</b>	<b>Encourage schools to undertake the 'Living Safely With Pets' program provided by the Dog and Cat Management Board</b>
Resources Required:	Undertaken with existing resources
When:	February 2015
<b>Strategy 2.3</b>	<b>Promote and encourage the use of local dog obedience programs and the benefits to dog owners of training their dog(s)</b>
Resources Required:	Undertaken with existing resources
When:	Annually, February / March
<b>Strategy 2.4</b>	<b>Promote education programs provided by the Dog and Cat Management Board</b>
Resources Required:	Undertaken with existing resources
When:	Annually, timed with dog registration period
<b>Strategy 2.5</b>	<b>Promote the role of Councils Animal Management Officers regarding enforcement and responsible dog ownership</b>
Resources Required:	Undertaken with existing resources
When:	Annually, timed with dog registration period



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<b>Strategy 2.6</b>	<b>Promote the benefits of adequate dog identification and encourage the need for identification other than Council registration disk such as microchipping or individual name tags</b>
Resources Required:	Undertaken with existing resources
When:	Annually, timed with dog registration period
<b>Strategy 2.7</b>	<b>Investigate the feasibility, costs and benefits of undertaking a dog (and cat) microchip day and make a recommendation to Council</b>
Resources Required:	Undertaken with existing resources
When:	February 2015
<b>Strategy 2.8</b>	<b>Investigate the feasibility of the development of a designated dog park, including cost and location and make a recommendation to Council</b>
Resources Required:	Undertaken with existing resources
When:	February 2016
<b>Strategy 2.9</b>	<b>Investigate increasing vaccination rates of dogs and make a recommendation to Council.</b>
Resources Required:	Undertaken with existing resources
When:	February 2016
<b>Strategy 2.10</b>	<b>Review the number of dog bag disposal bins provided within Council's open space area</b>
Resources Required:	Undertaken with existing resources
When:	February 2015

## Objective 2 Key Performance Indicator

The following key performance indicators will be used to measure implementation of strategies relating to responsible dog ownership.

<b>Objective 2</b>	<b>Encourage responsible dog ownership</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10% decrease in the number of 'dog wandering at large' complaints on 2012/13 levels</li> <li>• 95% of wandering, lost and abandoned dogs collected within 2 hours of report</li> </ul>

## Objective 3.0: Protect the community from dog attacks and dangerous dogs

Between July 2009 and June 2013 there were 27 reported dog attacks on humans and 43 reported dog attacks on other animals. This undesirable outcome equates to an average of



7 reported dog attacks on humans per year and just over 10 attacks on other animals per year. Many of these attacks have resulted in severe injury to humans and death or serious injury to other animals. Many dog attacks that occur are not reported to Council. Apart from the pain and suffering that results from dog attacks there are also financial and psychological outcomes that adversely impact those involved. Councils Animal Management Officers investigate all reported dog attacks and when considered appropriate, owners are fined and control orders can be placed on the offending animal. The Dog and Cat Management Act requires all dogs to be under effective control in public places such as roads, footpaths, shopping centres and car parks by means of physical restraint. Public place means a place to which the public has access (whether an admission fee is charged or not) and physical restraint means a leash that does not exceed two metres in length.

In parks dogs must be under effective control by means of physical restraint or by command with the dog in close proximity (close or near) and in view of the handler at all times. Parks include a park, garden, reserve or other similar public open space. Many of the dog attacks outlined above have occurred in parks or other similar areas where the offending dog has been off leash and not under effective control by means of command.

To ensure members of the community are able to use and enjoy amenities provided by Council without fear of harassment by uncontrolled dogs this Plan contains a number of strategies that aim to prevent dog attacks.

<b>Strategy 3.1</b>	<b>Recommend to Council that all Town of Gawler parks (as defined by the Act) become areas where dogs must be restrained on a leash and by exception consider some parks where dogs can be off leash</b>
Resources Required:	Undertaken with existing resources
When:	By 30 September 2014
<b>Strategy 3.2</b>	<b>Investigate Town of Gawler local government land where and when dogs may be prohibited and make a recommendation to Council</b>
Resources Required:	Undertaken with existing resources
When:	By 30 September 2014
<b>Strategy 3.3</b>	<b>Install advisory signage at all areas identified as 'dog off leash' and dog prohibited areas</b>
Resources Required:	Existing resources and new budget allocation
When:	By 30 September 2014
<b>Strategy 3.4</b>	<b>Continue to undertake prompt investigations into dog attacks and when required issue expiations and control orders</b>
Resources Required:	Undertaken with existing resources
When:	Ongoing



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<b>Strategy 3.5</b>	<b>Promote the effective control of dogs in public places and the benefits of desexing dogs to reduce aggression</b>
Resources Required:	Undertaken with existing resources
When:	Annually, February / March
<b>Strategy 3.6</b>	<b>Continue to undertake prompt collection of wandering, lost and abandoned dogs</b>
Resources Required:	Undertaken with existing resources
When:	Ongoing
<b>Strategy 3.7</b>	<b>Investigate the addition of a lost dog / found dog section on Council website.</b>
Resources Required:	Undertaken with existing resources
When:	June 2015

## Objective 3 Key Performance Indicator

The following key performance indicators will be used to measure implementation of strategies relating to dog attacks and dangerous dogs.

<b>Objective 3</b>	<b>Protect the community from dog attacks and dangerous dogs.</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10% decrease in the number of 'dog attacks' on 2012/13 levels</li> <li>• 5% decrease in the number of dog harassments on 2012/13 levels</li> </ul>

## Objective 4.0: Manage barking dogs

Between July 2009 and June 2013 there were 173 (average of 43 per year) dog barking complaints made to Council. To minimise the occurrence of excessive dog barking that will lead to improved neighbourly relations and less dependence on Council resources this Plan identifies two strategies to manage barking dogs.

<b>Strategy 4.1</b>	<b>Undertake a review of procedures for investigating barking dogs to ensure they are to a contemporary level</b>
Resources Required:	Undertaken with existing resources
When:	By December 2014
<b>Strategy 4.2</b>	<b>Promote the issues of barking dogs to the community and the contributing factors to minimise occurrences</b>
Resources Required:	Undertaken with existing resources
When:	Annually, February / March



## Objective 4 Key Performance Indicator

The following key performance indicator will be used to measure implementation of strategies relating to barking dogs.

<b>Objective 4</b>	<b>Manage Barking Dogs</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No increase in barking dog complaints on 2012/13 levels</li> </ul>

## Key Result Area 2 – Cat Management

Traditionally, the focus on animal management in the Town of Gawler has been in dog management including dog registrations, investigation of dog attacks and barking complaints. There is an increasing awareness of the roles of cats in society and the benefits and pitfalls they provide, particularly in relation to the environment. In support of the objectives of the Dog and Cat Management Act to reduce public and environmental nuisance caused by dogs and cats the Town of Gawler Animal Management Plan identifies objectives and recommends actions to assist reduce public and environmental nuisance caused by cats.

### Objective 5.0: Minimise the environmental impacts of cats

Cats are natural predators of native wildlife whether they are domestic pets, strays or feral. They prey on native Australian birds, reptiles, amphibians and numerous invertebrates. Even well fed cats hunt instinctively and those that wear bells on their collars still catch native animals. Cats in metropolitan areas have a large effect on native wildlife as cat numbers are high coupled with generally low numbers of native animals. In areas where suburbia adjoins areas of native bush cats kill a wide range of native wildlife.<sup>2</sup>

Some Councils have introduced cat By-laws that include compulsory registration and limits on cat numbers to minimise the adverse impacts of cats. Cat By-laws could also include a cat curfew and compulsory cat microchipping.

<b>Strategy 5.1</b>	<b>Investigate the implementation of a Cat By-law including potential cat exclusion zones adjoining wildlife areas and make a recommendation to Council</b>
Resources Required:	Existing resources and new budget allocation
When:	By February 2015
<b>Strategy 5.2</b>	<b>Continue to provide loan traps free of charge for trapping feral cats</b>
Resources Required:	Undertaken with existing resources
When:	Ongoing
<b>Strategy 5.3</b>	<b>Investigate the feasibility to map feral and stray cat colonies to reduce the population and make a recommendation to Council</b>
Resources Required:	Undertaken with existing resources
When:	By August 2015

2 Source: *Cats and Wildlife - how you can protect both*, Department for Environment and Heritage, 2007



## Objective 5 Key Performance Indicator

The following key performance indicator will be used to measure implementation of strategies relating to minimising the environmental impacts of cats.

<b>Objective 5</b>	<b>Minimise the environmental impacts of cats.</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategies identified to minimise the environmental impacts of cats are completed</li> </ul>

## Objective 6.0: Encourage responsible cat ownership

Responsible cat ownership helps to minimise the adverse impacts of cats on the environment and the community and maximise the positive outcomes obtained from owning a cat. Responsible cat ownership means being aware of cats' activities, knowing the impacts to neighbours and ensuring the health and wellbeing of pets.

The Dog and Cat Management Act contains a clause that allows any person to trap any unidentified cat on their property and surrender it to a vet, RSPCA or Animal Welfare League for disposal. These organisations will scan the cat for a microchip and if one can't be found and no owner can be located they can lawfully rehome, keep or euthanese the cat. Microchips are a reliable method of identifying cats and make it easier for cats to be returned to their owner.

<b>Strategy 6.1</b>	<b>Promote the benefits of cat microchipping and other means of identification</b>
Resources Required:	Undertaken within existing resources
When:	Annually, February / March
<b>Strategy 6.2</b>	<b>Investigate the feasibility and benefits of undertaking a cat (and dog) microchip day and make a recommendation to Council</b>
Resources Required:	Undertaken with existing resources
When:	By February 2015
<b>Strategy 6.3</b>	<b>Promote responsible cat management including confinement, and desexing</b>
Resources Required:	Undertaken with existing resources
When:	Annually, February / March
<b>Strategy 6.4</b>	<b>Encourage people to surrender unwanted cats and kittens to appropriate animal welfare organisations rather than abandoning them</b>
Resources Required:	Undertaken with existing resources
When:	Annually, February / March



## Objective 6 Key Performance Indicator

The following key performance indicator will be used to measure implementation of strategies relating to responsible cat ownership.

<b>Objective 6</b>	<b>Encourage responsible cat ownership</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10% decrease in the number of cat complaints on 2012/13 levels</li> </ul>

## Key Result Area 3 – Other Animal Management

Council's Animal Management Plan includes other animals that have a significant community or environmental impact. These components of the Plan are voluntary and do not require key performance indicators to be established or approval of the Dog and Cat Management Board.

### Objective 7.0: Reduce the negative impacts of pest birds and birds of abundance in the community

Pest birds and birds of abundance in Gawler cause significant damage to the natural and built environment. The two most notable species causing negative impacts in the Town of Gawler are feral pigeons and Little Corellas.

Feral pigeons are common in the urban environment and potentially pose a risk to human health through the transmission of diseases (such as histoplasmosis, cryptococcosis, and psittacosis), attraction of ticks, mites, cockroaches and rats and unpleasant odour and noise issues. Due to the highly corrosive nature of pigeon droppings pigeons damage buildings and monuments and in particular cause extensive damage to air-conditioning units and other roof top machinery.<sup>3</sup>

Problems caused by large numbers of Little Corellas include defoliation of river red gums or other native and ornamental trees that they roost in, damage to installations such as tarpaulins covering grain bunkers, and wiring and flashing on buildings, taking grain from newly seeded paddocks and creating a noise nuisance to local residents. The focus on control of Little Corellas is displacement and relocation rather than culling.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Source: Public Health Fact Sheet – Feral Pigeons: management and control, SA Health 2011

<sup>4</sup> Source: Little Corellas and other flocking birds, Department of Environment Water and Natural Resources



<b>Strategy 7.1</b>	<b>Develop a town wide pest bird and birds of abundance management plan including feral pigeons, Little Corellas and other identified pest birds and make a recommendation to Council</b>
Resources Required:	Existing resources and new budget allocation
When:	February 2015
<b>Strategy 7.2</b>	<b>Continue with existing localised control programs for feral Pigeons and Little Corellas including culling, trapping and scaring.</b>
Resources Required:	Undertaken with existing resources
When:	Annually

## Objective 8.0: Manage foxes and rabbits

Foxes and rabbits have a significant impact on the natural environment and foxes, in particular, cause problems within the community. European rabbits graze on native vegetation, crops and pastures leading to environmental and economic damage.<sup>5</sup>

Foxes threaten the survival of a range of native fauna and are believed to cause significant economic damage in terms of lamb losses. Foxes are also well known for decimating flocks of domestic chickens.<sup>6</sup>

Foxes and rabbits are declared animals under the Natural Resource Management Act 2004 and it is the landholder's responsibility to control these animals on their land.

<b>Strategy 8.1</b>	<b>Continue to control foxes and rabbits on Council land</b>
Resources Required:	Undertaken within existing resources
When:	Ongoing
<b>Strategy 8.2</b>	<b>Continue to work collaboratively with the Natural Resource Management Board in fox and rabbit management</b>
Resources Required:	Undertaken with existing resources
When:	Ongoing

<sup>5</sup> Source: *Rabbits and Destruction Go Hand In Hand*, SA Government 2007

<sup>6</sup> Source: *Biosecurity SA: Weeds and Pest Animals, European Red Fox*



## Key Result Area 4 – Plan Implementation

This section of the Animal Management Plan describes the strategies that will be put in place to implement the Plan.

### Objective 9.0: Secure financial resources for implementing Plan strategies

Many of the strategies identified in the Plan can be undertaken within existing budgets and other resources, however, some strategies are dependent upon specific budgets being provided for the strategy to be implemented. Accordingly, an objective has been included to ensure budget bids are submitted in Council’s annual budget setting process to fund those strategies requiring a budget allocation to proceed. Conscious of the need to conserve resources a strategy has been included to investigate and consider use of innovative and non-Council resources to deliver Plan strategies.

<b>Strategy 9.1</b>	<b>Submit budget proposals for consideration for strategies requiring new funding</b>
Resources Required:	Undertaken within existing resources
When:	Annually, February
<b>Strategy 9.2</b>	<b>Investigate and consider use of innovative and non-council resources to implement plan strategies</b>
Resources Required:	Undertaken with existing resources
When:	Ongoing when plan strategies are being implemented



## Objective 10.0: Secure non-financial resources to implement the Plan

The following strategies have been included to ensure sufficient non-financial resources are assigned to effectively implement the Plan and to ensure it reflects current priorities.

<b>Strategy 10.1</b>	<b>Assign responsibility for implementing the Plan to a nominated Council officer(s)</b>
Resources Required:	Undertaken within existing resources
When:	Ongoing
<b>Strategy 10.2</b>	<b>Establish an internal project team and meet six monthly</b>
Resources Required:	Undertaken with existing resources
When:	Following plan approval by the Dog and Cat Management Board
<b>Strategy 10.3</b>	<b>Identify data requirements and establish a framework for recording the data required</b>
Resources Required:	Undertaken with existing resources
When:	Following plan approval by the Dog and Cat Management Board
<b>Strategy 10.4</b>	<b>Conduct an annual review and report on the Plan's currency, implementation and performance against KPIs</b>
Resources Required:	Undertaken with existing resources
When:	Following plan approval by the Dog and Cat Management Board
<b>Strategy 10.5</b>	<b>Prepare 2017 – 2022 Animal Management Plan and make recommendation to Council</b>
Resources Required:	Undertaken with existing resources
When:	By February 2017

## 9.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Town of Gawler acknowledges the Adelaide Hills Council, the City of Mitcham and the Dog and Cat Management Board whose staff, plans and resources were utilised in preparing the Town of Gawler Animal Management Plan.



## 10.0 SUMMARY OF OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

KEY RESULT AREA	STRATEGY
<b>KRA 1</b>	<b>DOG MANAGEMENT</b>
<b>Objective 1.0</b>	<b>Decrease the number of unregistered dogs</b>
Strategy 1.1	Promote the benefits and obligations of registering dogs
Strategy 1.2	Undertake a dog doorknock to identify unregistered dogs and ensure registration
<b>Objective 2.0</b>	<b>Encourage responsible dog ownership</b>
Strategy 2.1	Encourage dog owners to pick up after their dogs through promotion and enforcement
Strategy 2.2	Investigate the feasibility of implementing school education programs and make a recommendation to Council
Strategy 2.3	Promote and encourage the use of local dog obedience programs and the benefits to dog owners of training their dog(s)
Strategy 2.4	Promote education programs provided by the Dog and Cat Management Board
Strategy 2.5	Promote the role of Councils Animal Management Officers regarding enforcement and responsible dog ownership
Strategy 2.6	Promote the benefits of adequate dog identification and encourage the need for identification other than Council registration disk such as microchipping or individual name tags
Strategy 2.7	Investigate the feasibility, costs and benefits of undertaking a dog (and cat) microchip day and make a recommendation to Council
Strategy 2.8	Investigate the feasibility of the development of a designated dog park, including cost and location and make a recommendation to Council
Strategy 2.9	Investigate increasing vaccination rates of dogs and make a recommendation to Council.
Strategy 2.10	Review the number of dog bag disposal bins provided within Council's open space areas.



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KEY RESULT AREA	STRATEGY
<b>KRA 1</b>	<b>DOG MANAGEMENT</b>
<b>Objective 3.0</b>	<b>Protect the community from dog attacks and dangerous dogs</b>
Strategy 3.1	Recommend to Council that all Town of Gawler parks (as defined by the Act) become areas where dogs must be restrained on a leash and by exception consider some parks where dogs can be off leash
Strategy 3.2	Investigate Town of Gawler local government land where and when dogs may be prohibited and make a recommendation to Council
Strategy 3.3	Install advisory signage at all areas identified as 'dog off leash' and dog prohibited areas
Strategy 3.4	Continue to undertake prompt investigations into dog attacks and when required issue expiations and control orders
Strategy 3.5	Promote the effective control of dogs in public places and the benefits of desexing dogs to reduce aggression
Strategy 3.6	Continue to undertake prompt collection of wandering, lost and abandoned dogs
Strategy 3.7	Investigate the addition of a lost dog / found dog section on Council website.
<b>Objective 4.0</b>	<b>Manage barking dogs</b>
Strategy 4.1	Undertake a review of procedures for investigating barking dogs to ensure they are to a contemporary level
Strategy 4.2	Promote the issues of barking dogs to the community and the contributing factors to minimise occurrences



KEY RESULT AREA	STRATEGY
<b>KRA 2</b>	<b>CAT MANAGEMENT</b>
<b>Objective 5.0</b>	<b>Minimise the environmental impacts of cats</b>
Strategy 5.1	Investigate the implementation of a Cat By-law including potential cat exclusion zones adjoining wildlife areas and make a recommendation to Council
Strategy 5.2	Continue to provide loan traps free of charge for trapping feral cats
Strategy 5.3	Investigate the feasibility to map feral and stray cat colonies to reduce the population and make a recommendation to Council
<b>Objective 6.0</b>	<b>Encourage responsible cat ownership</b>
Strategy 6.1	Promote the benefits of cat micro chipping and other means of identification
Strategy 6.2	Investigate the feasibility and benefits of undertaking a cat (and dog) microchip day and make a recommendation to Council
Strategy 6.3	Promote responsible cat management including confinement, and desexing
Strategy 6.4	Encourage people to surrender unwanted cats and kittens to appropriate animal welfare organisations rather than abandoning them



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KEY RESULT AREA	STRATEGY
<b>KRA 3</b>	<b>OTHER ANIMAL MANAGEMENT</b>
<b>Objective 7.0</b>	<b>Reduce the negative impacts of pest birds and birds of abundance in the community</b>
Strategy 7.1	Develop a town wide pest bird and birds of abundance management plan including feral pigeons, Little Corellas and other identified pest birds and make a recommendation to Council
Strategy 7.2	Continue with existing localised control programs for feral Pigeons and Little Corellas including culling, trapping and scaring
<b>Objective 8.0</b>	<b>Manage foxes and rabbits</b>
Strategy 8.1	Continue to control foxes and rabbits on Council land
Strategy 8.2	Continue to work collaboratively with the Natural Resource Management Board in fox and rabbit management
<b>KRA 4</b>	<b>PLAN IMPLEMENTATION</b>
<b>Objective 9.0</b>	<b>Secure financial resources for implementing Plan strategies</b>
Strategy 9.1	Submit budget proposals for consideration for strategies requiring new funding
Strategy 9.2	Investigate and consider use of innovative and non-council resources to implement plan strategies
<b>Objective 10.0</b>	<b>Secure non-financial resources to implement the Plan</b>
Strategy 10.1	Assign responsibility for implementing the Plan to a nominated Council officer(s)
Strategy 10.2	Establish an internal project team and meet six monthly
Strategy 10.3	Identify data requirements and establish a framework for recording the data required
Strategy 10.4	Conduct an annual review and report on the Plan's currency, implementation and performance against KPIs
Strategy 10.5	Prepare 2017 – 2022 Animal Management Plan and make recommendation to Council

