

Animal Management Plan 2019 - 2024



Adopted by Council28 January 2020
Approved by Dog and Cat Management Board7 March 2020
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Contents



1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Plan has been prepared to guide animal management within the Town of Gawler until 2024 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 2014 – 2019 Town of Gawler Animal 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 prepared by staff, following a review of the 2014-2019 Town of Gawler Animal Management Plan as well as Community input through an initial engagement process. This guided the review of the Plan and ensured it continued to address priority animal management issues.

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, 34 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 The 2007 plan expired in 2012 and has been replaced by the 2014-2019 Plan.

The objects 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.

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 24,018 (ABS 2018). 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 100,000 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 and cats 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 and cats 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 REVIEW OF THE TOWN OF GAWLER ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Council's 2014 Animal Management Plan expires in 2019 and as a result the review of the Plan commenced in May 2019.

As mentioned the previous plan predominately focused on dogs and cats however it also includes other animals that are having a significant community or environmental impact

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

Council also undertook a community engagement and consultation during May and June 2019. The Animal Management Plan Update Community Workshop was undertaken on the evening 4 June 2019 at the Town of Gawler, Civic Centre.

Key initiatives implemented as a result of the previous Town of Gawler Animal Management Plan 2014 - 2019 include:



- Canine Parvovirus education campaigns
- Birds of Abundance control programs – (pigeons and little corellas)
- LGA and DEW, Birds of abundance working group
- Contributing member Discovery Circle Little Corella project
- Community forum on little corellas
- Dog and Cat micro-chipping days
- Dog door knock
- Dog registrations
- Dog management and compliance (wondering at large, attacks, barking etc)
- Dog Park establishment
- On and Off leash areas establishment
- NRM Fox Control program
- NRM release of RHDV1 K5 “rabbit haemorrhagic virus” for the control of rabbits
- Proposed Cat By-Law
- Removal of feral pigs

5.0 ANIMAL MANAGEMENT IN GAWLER

In line with a number of strategic directions and strategies identified in the Town of Gawler Community Plan 2017-2027; as per Goals 3, 4 and 5.

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 four percent (24%) of dog registration fees as of 1 July 2018 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

In December of 2016 the Dog and Cat Management Board (DCMB) sponsored a whole of local government initiative to develop an online system, Dogs and Cats Online, (DACO). This consolidated the dog (and where applicable cat) registration processes, which were performed separately by South Australian councils. DACO was introduced on 1 July 2018, along with changes to the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 requiring all dogs and cats to be microchipped and their details entered onto Dogs and Cat Online.

Dogs and Cats Online was introduced as the new South Australian database that links to all local Councils dog and cat registration data bases. Users and owners have 24/7 access to their personal and dog and cat information. Owners also have continuing obligations to keep their details, plus the details of their dogs and cats on this new system updated. DACO also



provides functionality for other organisations to enter and access data for certain functional processes, for example:

Shelters

Shelters have access to the database to add dogs and cats to the system, search for the identity of animals and maintain information regarding animals currently in their care. This includes registering the microchip details for dogs and cats prior to the point of sale

Dog and Cat owners

Dog and Cat owners are able to add a dog or cat to the system and update specific information regarding dogs and cats in their ownership and pay annual registration fees. Owner users can also transfer ownership of dogs and cats to another person.

Breeders

Breeders are able to register themselves as breeders and obtain breeder ID's and pay breeder registration fees. In addition, Breeders can access the database to add individual dogs/cats or bulk upload litters of dogs and cats. Breeders also have the ability to maintain the accuracy of the data of dogs and cats currently in their possession. DACO will allow the Council to keep a register of breeders and facilitate online breeder registration.

Micro-chip

Micro-chip providers have accessibility to add new dogs and cats and search for existing dogs and cats in order to update the microchip information for these animals. DACO will provide dog and cat microchip information storage. All microchipped dogs and cats in South Australia shall have their information stored within DACO regardless of whether the dog or cat is registered.

Assistance dog accreditors

Assistance dog accreditors have access to DACO to do advanced functions and administer the requirements of their organisation in relation to assistance dogs.

General public

The public are able to access DACO to obtain information relating to dog and cat facilities, general information and to search for information regarding a dog or cat found wandering at large for the purposes of reunification.

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 also maintains through Dogs and Cats on line (DACO) a register of all cats and dogs. Council has also appointed a suitable officer to be the Registrar.

Council undertakes an ongoing management and control program relating to feral pigeons and 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 animal management is the Dogs By-Law 5 2019. 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.

The previous plan identifies cat management as one of the key areas to be addressed. Through the investigation and implementation of a Cat By-law including potential cat exclusion zones adjoining wildlife areas. The plan's aim was to implement the administration and enforcement of the Dog and Cat Management Act, 1995 (the Act) in this regard.

The RSPCA and AWL believe there now exists an urgent need to start addressing the issue of cats. Cat management however is a complex and controversial topic. The RSPCA in conjunction with the AWL, released a comprehensive Cat Management Plan for South Australia in November 2019. This plan is based on recommendations from the 2018 report "Identifying Best Practice Domestic Cat Management in Australia"

Based on South Australian State averages, there are approximately 7,000 cats in the Gawler Council area, and importantly, 37% of ratepayers own at least one cat, with 63% of Australians reporting that they have owned a cat sometime in their lives (RSPCA 2019).

A draft Cat By-Law has been prepared, which was designed to mirror the Dog and Cat Management Boards guide for preparing a Cat By-law.

The objects of the Dog and Cat Management Act, 1995 are:

- to encourage responsible dog and cat ownership;
- to reduce public and environmental nuisance caused by dogs and cats;
- to promote the effective management of dogs and cats.

The draft Cat By-Law was prepared to provide clarity and certainty regarding its operation in relation to the management of cats. The draft cat by-law takes into consideration:

- Certain provisions regarding the cat registration scheme have been specifically designed to mirror the provisions contained within the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 with respect to the registration of dogs;
- The regulation of cats wandering at large and the number of cats that can be kept on properties.

Essential for any effective cat management strategy however, is also an ongoing education program promoting practices consistent with "Responsible Cat Ownership". Building such attitudes in the community will take time as it has with dogs, but higher levels of understanding of the principles of "Responsible Dog Ownership" has underpinned most of the reduction in the stray dog problem over the past decade.

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 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

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. Walking with a dog not only provides exercise for the dog, but also for the owner highlighting the health benefits of having a dog.

There is extensive research (Australian Companion Animal Council and Petcare Information and Advisory Service, 2010) that demonstrates the benefits of pet ownership including:

Pets are good for our general health

- People with dogs and cats make fewer visits to the doctor
- People with pets have a lower risk of cardiovascular disease than non-pet owners

Pets are good for an aging population

- Pets can increase the quality of life for elderly people including reduced confusion and increased feelings of interest
- Pets can boost activity levels in older people, helping to improve overall health
- Pets provide companionship for elderly people living alone

Pets are good for children

- Young children with pets are more likely to exercise
- Children or adolescents with pets have shown to have higher self-esteem

Pets are good for the community

- Pets can help people build social bridges in communities
- People with pets are more likely to have conversations with other people.

7.0 STRATEGIC LINKS

The Town of Gawler Animal Management Plan aligns to a number of strategic directions and strategies identified in the Town of Gawler Community Plan 2017-2027

These are:

OUR GROWTH		
OUR COMMUNITY		
GOAL 3	A Healthy, Active, Safe, Engaged Community	OBJECTIVES
		3.1 Health and social wellbeing services in Gawler to meet growing regional community needs 3.1.2 Encourage healthy lifestyles and community wellbeing



		<p>3.3 Provide facilities for a range of different recreational activities.</p> <p>3.3.1 Ensure a range of usable open space and passive recreation facilities are provided for local and regional community needs.</p> <p>3.4 Gawler to be an inclusive and welcoming community</p> <p>3.4.1 Develop and promote family friendly areas and hubs</p> <p>3.4.2 Promote a child and youth friendly community</p> <p>3.4.3 Develop and promote an age friendly community</p> <p>3.4.4 Ensure neighbourhoods and residential developments have areas for play and leisure and are safe, healthy, pleasant, convenient, efficient and adequately serviced</p>
OUR ENVIRONMENT		
GOAL 4	To Respect and Nurture the Environment	OBJECTIVES
		<p>4.1 Create and maintain a riverine environment that reflects the social, cultural and landscape values of the river corridor</p> <p>4.1.2 Manage open space along the three rivers corridors to provide improved use and greater visual appeal</p> <p>4.5 Support provision of useable open space that preserves natural habitat and biodiversity</p> <p>4.5.4 Foster the enjoyment and appreciation of areas of council land set aside for habitat and biodiversity conservation</p>
OUR LEADERSHIP		
GOAL 5	A Strong, Vibrant Community	OBJECTIVES
		<p>5.4 Create a safe community environment</p> <p>5.4.1 Provide a healthy and safe community through collaborative planning, advocacy and compliance</p> <p>5.4.4 Encourage responsible dog and cat ownership</p>



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:

1. Dog Management
2. Cat Management
3. Other Animal Management
4. 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 5458 dogs registered in the 2018/19 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 to be registered. A dog door knock is to be undertaken in 2019/20 in Gawler.

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.

Strategy 1.1 Promote the benefits and obligations of registering dogs

Resources Required: Undertaken within existing resources

When: Annually, timed with dog registration period

Strategy 1.2 Undertake a dog doorknock to identify unregistered dogs and ensure registration

Resources Required: Undertaken with existing resources and contractors

When: 2020

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.

Promote compulsory microchipping as a strategy around encouragement and compliance.

Microchipping when recorded in DACO helps reunite owners and their pets.

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.

Following a thorough community engagement process Council developed and implemented the construction of its first "Dog Park" at Clonlea Reserve. The dog park opened on 9 September 2018 to the community and became an instant success being praised by the community as a great facility.

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

Strategy 2.1 Encourage dog owners to pick up after their dogs through promotion and enforcement

Resources Required: Undertaken with existing resources

When: Promotion - Annually, February / March and Enforcement - Ongoing

Strategy 2.2 Promote and encourage the use of local dog obedience programs and the benefits to dog owners of training their dog(s)

Resources Required: Undertaken within existing resources

When: Annually, August / September

Strategy 2.3 Promote education programs provided by the Dog and Cat Management Board

Resources Required: Undertaken within existing resources

When: Annually, timed with dog registration period



Strategy 2.4 Promote the role of Councils Animal Management Officers regarding enforcement and responsible dog ownership

Resources Required: Undertaken within existing resources

When: Annually, timed with dog registration period

Strategy 2.5 Promote the benefits of adequate dog identification and encourage the need for identification other than DACO registration disk such as compulsory microchipping. Microchipping when recorded in DACO helps reunite owns and their pets.

Resources Required: Undertaken within existing resources

When: Annually, timed with dog registration period

Strategy 2.6 Investigate the feasibility, costs and benefits of undertaking a dog and cat microchip day.

Resources Required: Undertaken within existing resources

When: March and October 2020-2022

Strategy 2.7 Undertake education programs at the Dog Park, dog and animal expo, including raising awareness of using our facility.

Resources Required: Undertaken within existing resources

When: March and October 2020-2022

Strategy 2.8 Investigate the feasibility of the development of a second designated Dog Park, to the southern region of Gawler including cost and location and make a recommendation to Council

Resources Required: Undertaken within existing resources

When: September 2020

Objective 2.9 Protect the community from dog attacks and dangerous dogs

Between July 2017 and June 2018 there were 6 reported dog attacks on humans and 17 reported dog attacks on other animals. 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 including the Councils Dog By-law No. 5 requires all dogs to be under effective control in public places such as roads, footpaths, shopping centres, play grounds 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.

During 2018 and 2019 Council undertook a review of its parks and reserves which were all designated “off leash” areas. Following a community engagement program it reviewed the responses and endorsed the following changes:

1. Implement a “time share” arrangement in Clonlea Park and Dead Man Pass Reserve where dogs must be on leash between 10am to 4pm in order to minimise potential conflict with other users of these high use/multi-functional areas to commence on 1 February 2019. The exception being an area defined previously in staff reports in Clonlea Park on the north para river flat east of the helicopter pad
2. That the Clonlea dog park is acknowledged as being off leash at all times.
3. Implement a community notification/education program leading up to and during the first two months of the time share model’s application.
4. Review the changes and provide a report on any significant issues that arise and provide a report back to this Committee after 12 months

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.

Strategy 3.1 Continue to undertake prompt investigations into dog attacks and when required issue expiations and control orders

Resources Required: Undertaken with existing resources

When: Ongoing

Strategy 3.2 Promote the effective control of dogs in public places and the benefits of de-sexing dogs to reduce aggression

Resources Required: Undertaken with existing resources

When: Annually, February / March

Strategy 3.3 Continue to undertake prompt collection of wandering, lost and abandoned dogs

Resources Required: Undertaken with existing resources

When: Ongoing

Objective 4.0 Manage barking dogs

Between July 2017 and June 2018 there were 93 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.

Strategy 4.1 Undertake a review of procedures for investigating barking dogs to ensure they are to a contemporary level

Resources Required: Undertaken within existing resources

When: By April 2020



Strategy 4.2 Promote the issues of barking dogs to the community and the contributing factors to minimise occurrences

Resources Required: Undertaken within existing resources

When: Annually, February / March

Dog Management Key Performance Indicators

The following key performance indicators will be used to measure implementation of strategies relating to the dog management key result area:

Objective 1.0 Decrease the number of unrenewed dogs

- Decrease in unrenewed dogs on 2017/18 levels

Objective 2.0 Encourage responsible dog ownership

- Decrease in the number of 'dog wandering at large' complaints on 2017/18 levels
- 98% of wandering, lost and abandoned dogs reports actioned within 2 hours of report

Objective 3.0 Protect the community from dog attacks and dangerous dogs

- Reduction in the number of dog attacks on 2017/18 levels
- Decrease in the number of dog harassments on 2017/18 levels

Objective 4.0 Manage Barking Dogs

- No increase on 2017/18 levels

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.



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.

Council commenced preparing a draft By-Law that was mirrored on the Dog and Cat Management Board guide to preparing a Cat By-law.

Strategy 5.1 Continue to investigate the implementation of a Cat By-law including potential cat exclusion zones adjoining wildlife areas and make a recommendation to Council

Resources Required: Dedicated resource and new budget allocation

When: By February 2021

Strategy 5.2 Continue to support the provision of traps for trapping feral cats

Resources Required: Undertaken within existing resources

When: Ongoing

Strategy 5.3 Investigate the feasibility to map feral and stray cat colonies to reduce the population and make a recommendation to Council

Resources Required: Undertaken by dedicated resource as per new budget allocation

When: By August 2022

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 euthanize the cat. Microchips are a reliable method of identifying cats and make it easier for your cat to be returned to their owner.

Strategy 6.1 Promote the benefits of cat microchipping and other means of identification

Resources Required: Undertaken within existing resources

When: Annually, February / March

Strategy 6.2 Investigate the feasibility and benefits of undertaking a cat (and dog) microchip day.

Resources Required: Undertaken within existing resources

When: By April 2020



Strategy 6.3 Promote responsible cat management including confinement, and de-sexing

Resources Required: Undertaken within existing resources

When: Annually, February / March

Strategy 6.4 Encourage people to surrender unwanted cats and kittens to appropriate animal welfare organisations rather than abandoning them

Resources Required: Undertaken within existing resources with a review pending a review of increasing charges by animal welfare organisations.

When: Annually, May / June

Cat Management Key Performance Indicators

The following key performance indicators will be used to measure implementation of strategies relating to the cat management key result area:

Objective 5.0 Minimise the environmental impact of cats

- Strategies identified to minimise the environmental impacts of cats are completed

Objective 6.0 Encourage Responsible Cat Ownership

- 10% decrease in the number of cat complaints on 2017/18 levels

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.

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 currently is displacement and relocation rather than culling.



In December 2015 Council along with five other regional and metropolitan Councils partnered with UniSA (Discovery Circle), the Local Government Association and the Department for Environment Water and Natural Resources in a Corella Research Program. The aim was to engage the community in the research project specifically examining little corellas and their perceived impacts. More importantly, the participatory approach and sharing of knowledge is aimed at educating and learning, community resilience, and increased ownership of the outcomes of this project. The research examined the key issues with regards to Little Corella locations and State Government support in developing, managing and resourcing control programs. These programs should address the irreparable and widespread damage caused by Little Corellas through strategic management programs.

Discover Circle from UniSA held in late 2015 a number of community workshops. The Town of Gawler community engagement session was held during January 2016 at the Sport and Community Centre. This engagement program received first hand responses about little corellas from the community.

During 2017 the research report, Little Corellas, Social and Ecological Research for Management in South Australia was released. The report highlighted that there is no “quick solution” to fix the issues caused by little corellas. Most project participants agreed that some form of little corella management is needed. Few people overall disliked little corellas, but many disliked their destructive behaviours (particularly to trees) and the noise they create.

Following the release of the research report participating Councils, the research project group from UniSA, DEWNR and other metropolitan and rural councils attended a working forum at the LGA to come together and examine the recommendations of the research to co-develop an integrated State-wide management strategy for little corellas in partnership with DEWNR. The outcomes of the research will be utilised in the development of the state-wide strategy.

In April 2019 Council was invited to participate in progressing of the development of the South Australian Little Corella Management Strategy by the Department for Environment and Water (DEW). Council is part of the Little Corella Reference Group that will be involved in shaping the strategy’s aims, objectives and actions.

Strategy 7.1 Implementation 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

Resources Required: Existing resources and new budget allocation

When: February 2020

Strategy 7.2 Continue with existing localised control programs for feral Pigeons and Little Corellas including culling, trapping and scaring.

Resources Required: Undertaken within 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 .

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.

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.

Strategy 8.1 Continue to control foxes and rabbits on Council land

Resources Required: Undertaken within existing resources

When: Ongoing

Strategy 8.2 Continue to work collaboratively with the Natural Resource Management Board in fox and rabbit management

Resources Required: Undertaken within existing resources

When: Ongoing

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.

Strategy 9.1 Submit budget proposals for consideration for strategies requiring new funding

Resources Required: Undertaken within existing resources

When: Annually, February

Strategy 9.2 Investigate and consider use of innovative and non-council resources to implement plan strategies

Resources Required: Undertaken within 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.

Strategy 10.1 Assign responsibility for implementing the Plan to a nominated Council officer(s)

Resources Required: Undertaken within existing resources

When: Ongoing

Strategy 10.2 Establish an internal project team and meet six monthly

Resources Required: Undertaken within existing resources

When: Following plan approval by the Dog and Cat Management Board

Strategy 10.3 Identify data requirements and establish a framework for recording the data required

Resources Required: Undertaken within existing resources

When: Following plan approval by the Dog and Cat Management Board

Strategy 10.4 Conduct an annual review and report on the Plan's currency, implementation and performance against KPIs

Resources Required: Undertaken within existing resources

When: Following plan approval by the Dog and Cat Management Board

Strategy 10.5 Prepare 2024 – 2029 Animal Management Plan and make recommendation to Council

Resources Required: Additional budget required to engage consultancy services to assist existing resources where required.

When: By February 2023

9.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Town of Gawler acknowledges the Dog and Cat Management Board, Council Members, residents and staff utilised in reviewing and preparing the Town of Gawler Animal Management Plan.



10.0 SUMMARY OF OBJECTIVES, STRATEGIES AND KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

KEY RESULT AREA	STRATEGY	KPI
KRA 1	Dog Management	
Objective 1.0	Decrease the number of unregistered dogs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5% increase in dog registrations on 2018/19 levels • Decrease in the number of 'dog wandering at large' complaints on 2018/19 levels • 98% of wandering, lost and abandoned dog complaints actioned within 2 hours of report • Raise awareness to using the Dog Park
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	
Objective 2.0	Encourage responsible dog ownership	
Strategy 2.1	Encourage dog owners to pick up after their dogs through promotion and enforcement	
Strategy 2.2	Promote and encourage the use of local dog obedience programs and the benefits to dog owners of training their dog(s)	
Strategy 2.3	Promote education programs provided by the Dog and Cat Management Board	
Strategy 2.4	Promote the role of Councils Animal Management Officers regarding enforcement and responsible dog ownership	
Strategy 2.5	Promote the benefits of adequate dog identification and encourage the need for identification other than DACO registration disk such as compulsory microchipping. Microchipping when recorded in DACO helps reunite owns and their pets	
Strategy 2.6	Investigate the feasibility, costs and benefits of undertaking a dog (and cat) microchip day	
Strategy 2.7	Undertake education programs at the dog park, dog and animal expo, including raising awareness of using out facility.	
Strategy 2.8	Investigate the feasibility of the development of a second designated Dog Park, to the southern region of Gawler including cost and location and make a recommendation to Council	
Objective 3.0	Protect the community from dog attacks and dangerous dogs	
Strategy 3.1	Continue to undertake prompt investigations into dog attacks and when required issue expiations and control orders	

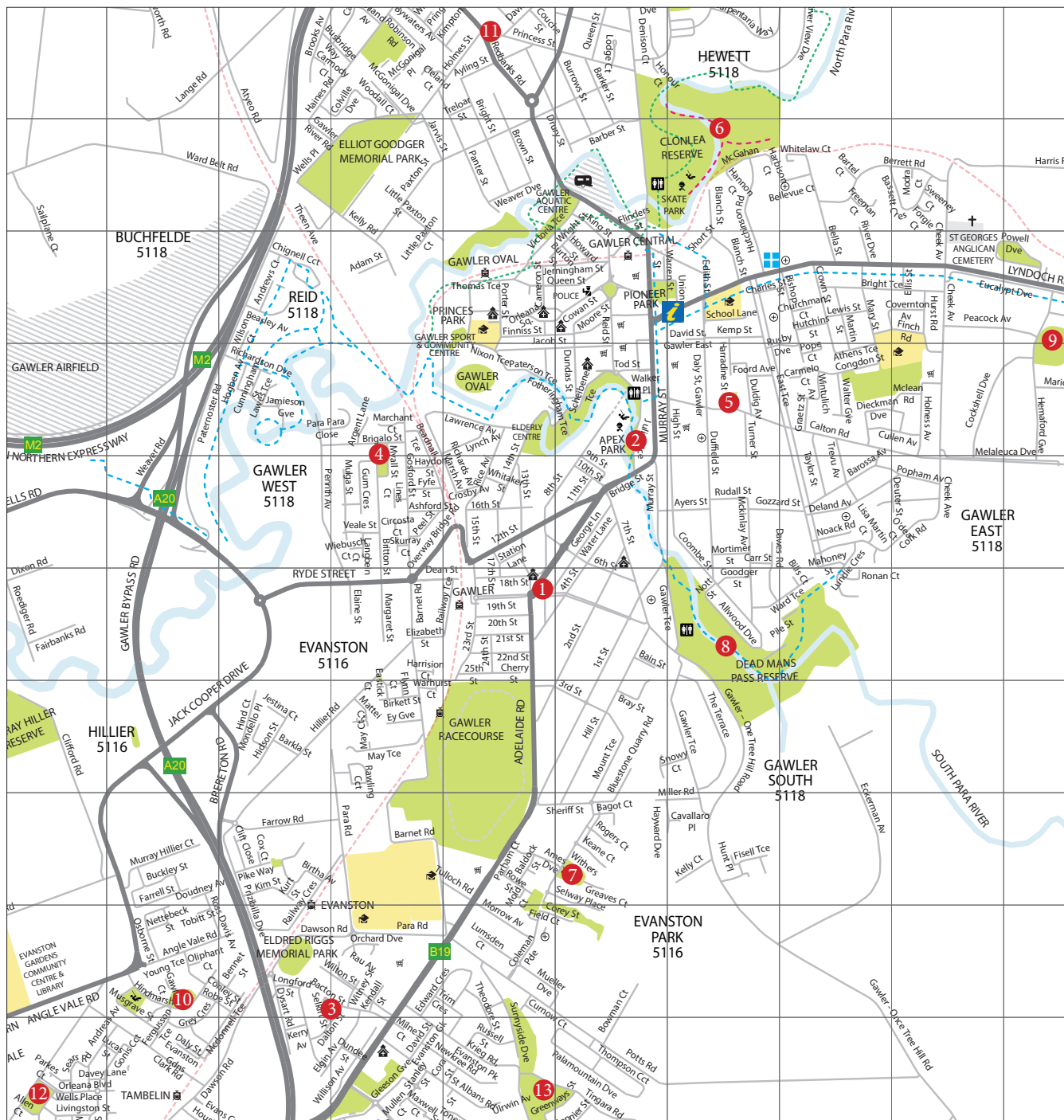


Strategy 3.2	Promote the effective control of dogs in public places and the benefits of de-sexing dogs to reduce aggression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease in the number of 'dog attacks' on 2018/19 levels • Decrease in the number of dog harassments on 2018/19 levels • No increase in barking dog complaints on 2018/19 levels
Strategy 3.3	Continue to undertake prompt collection of wandering, lost and abandoned dogs	
Objective 4.0	Manage barking dogs	
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	
KRA 2	CAT MANAGEMENT	
Objective 5.0	Minimise the environmental impacts of cats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategies identified to minimise the environmental impacts of cats are completed
Strategy 5.1	Investigate the implementation of a Cat By-law	
Strategy 5.2	Continue to support the provision of traps 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	
Objective 6.0	Encourage responsible cat ownership	
Strategy 6.1	Promote the benefits of cat micro-chipping and other means of identification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease in the number of cat complaints on 2018/19 levels
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 de-sexing	
Strategy 6.4	Encourage people to surrender unwanted cats and kittens to appropriate animal welfare organisations rather than abandoning them	
KRA 3	OTHER ANIMAL MANAGEMENT	
Objective 7.0	Reduce the negative impacts of pest birds and birds of abundance in the community	
Strategy 7.1	Implementation a town wide pest bird and birds of abundance management plan including feral pigeons, Little Corellas and other identified pest birds in accordance with the State-wide strategy 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	Not Applicable
Objective 8.0	Manage foxes and rabbits	
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	
KRA 4	PLAN IMPLEMENTATION	
Objective 9.0	Secure financial resources for implementing Plan strategies	Not Applicable
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	
Objective 10.0	Secure non-financial resources to implement the Plan	
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 2024 – 2029 Animal Management Plan and make recommendation to Council	





Town of Gawler – Parks and Reserves - (On Leash - Areas)

Location	Shared with restrictions	Dogs on leash
1 Adelaide Rd and Fifth St Playground		Dogs prohibited - Enclosed playground only for accredited assistance. dogs on leash
2 Apex Park		Dogs on leash within 3 metres of playground
3 Bacton St Reserve and Playground		Dogs prohibited - Enclosed playground only for accredited assistance. dogs on leash
4 Brigalo Street Reserve		Dogs on leash within 3 metres of playground
5 Calton Road Playground		Dogs prohibited - Enclosed playground only for accredited assistance. dogs on leash
6 Clonlea Reserve	Timed Shared Use	10 am - 4pm - the river flat area at Clonlea east of the helipad and north of the car park near the North Para ford where unrestricted off. leash use is proposed
7 Coleman Parade and Whithers Cct Playground		Dogs prohibited - Enclosed playground only for accredited assistance. dogs on leash
8 Dead Mans Pass	Timed Shared Use	Dog's on Leash between 10 am - 4pm daily
9 Hemafor Grove		Dogs on leash within 3 metres of playground
10 Hindmarsh Boulevard and Daly Street		Dogs on leash within 3 metres of playground
11 Redbanks Road Playground		Dogs prohibited - Enclosed playground only for accredited assistance. dogs on leash
12 Seymour Ave Orleana Waters		Dogs on leash within 3 metres of playground
13 Tingara Road Reserve		Dogs on leash within 3 metres of playground

