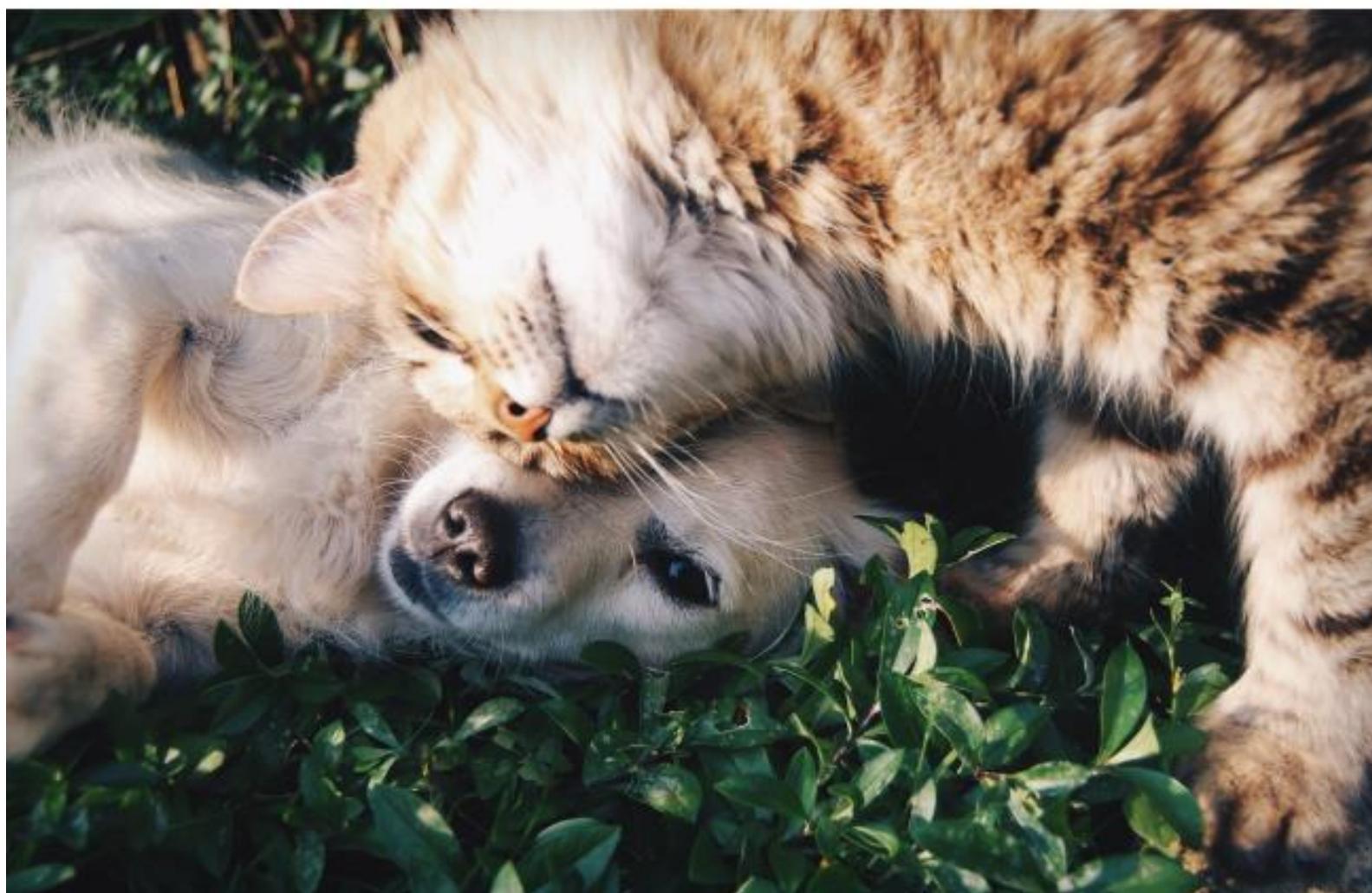


Domestic Animal Management Plan

2021-2025



MORNINGTON
PENINSULA
Shire



Mornington Peninsula Shire acknowledges and pays respect to the elders, families and ancestors of the Bunurong/Boon Wurrung people, who have been the custodians of this land for many thousands of years. We acknowledge that the land on which we meet is the place of age-old ceremonies, celebrations, initiation and renewal; and that the Bunurong/Boon Wurrung peoples' living culture continues to have a unique role in the life of this region.

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Introduction

Purpose

We recognise the value of pet ownership, its overall benefit for our health and wellbeing, the importance of welfare for pets and the protection of the community and the local environment from nuisance dogs and cats.

The Domestic Animal Management Plan (Plan) aims to help us balance the needs of pet owners with the needs of the rest of our community.

The Plan also outlines the Shire's approach to the delivery of animal management services, programs and strategies across the Peninsula over the next four years.

Statutory Requirement

Section 68A of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* (Act) requires that the Shire prepare a Plan every four years. The Plan must:

- Set out a method for evaluating whether animal control services provided by Council are adequate to give effect to the requirements of the Act and regulations.
- Outline programs for the training of authorised officers.
- Outline programs, services and strategies to:
 - Promote and encourage responsible ownership of dogs and cats;
 - Ensure that people comply with the Act, regulations and legislation;
 - Minimise risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals;
 - Address over-population and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats;
 - Encourage registration and identification of dogs and cats;
 - Minimise potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance;
 - Effectively identify all dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs and ensure that these dogs are kept in compliance with Act and regulations;
 - Provide for review of existing orders made under the Act and Council's Local Laws;
 - Provide for review of any other matters related to management of dogs and cats; and
 - Provide for periodic monitoring and evaluation of the Plan.

Every Council must review its Plan annually and publish an evaluation of its implementation in its Annual Report.

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Strategic Alignment

To facilitate responsible animal ownership and management across the Shire is an endorsed strategy in the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council Plan.

Process

The Plan was developed in consultation with Council's Community Safety Team, and informed by community and stakeholder consultation, research and benchmarking activities.

The Plan seeks to balance community and stakeholder needs, whilst ensuring compliance with the requirements of the Act.

Key Actions

The following provides a summary of the Plan's key actions and initiatives.

1. Support Shire Officers to continue to develop their skills.

- 1.1 Provide targeted training to officers in accordance with individual development plans.

2. Provide a planned and focused communication approach.

- 2.1 Continue to implement annual communications plan.
- 2.2 Targeted promotional activities to promote the ease of reporting a dog aggression / attack, the process and assured privacy.
- 2.3 Targeted promotional activities to raise community awareness about feral and semi-owned cat populations, the 24/7 cat confinement order that is in place, and the cat cage program.
- 2.4 Work with Shire Revenue Team to provide responsible pet ownership information with annual registration renewals and new pet registrations.

3. Promote community compliance with dog controls in public places.

- 3.1 Work with Shire Infrastructure Services team to develop a signage strategy for dog controls at Council beaches, parks and reserves including a costed implementation plan.
- 3.2 Undertake additional proactive patrols of parks, reserves and foreshore areas to actively enforce against non-compliance of dog controls.

4. Provide a greater presence in the community to improve compliance and enhance education.

- 4.1 Provide enhanced visible presence and engagement with the community by increasing patrols and registration checks at parks, reserves and foreshore areas.
- 4.2 Investigate opportunities to participate in community outreach activities that are feasible in a COVID-19 environment including participation in festivals, events and pets' day out.
- 4.3 Investigate and implement opportunities to facilitate presentations to schools and community groups.

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5. Continue to improve animal welfare outcomes.

- 5.1 Community Animal Shelter and Pound site redevelopment.
- 5.2 Partner with other animal management services and facilities to support domestic animal management across the municipality. Continue to develop relationships and partnerships with vets and rescue groups.
- 5.3 Undertake activities to identify and enforce against breeders who illegally sell non-desexed animals.
- 5.4 Publish Community Animal Shelter statistics on a quarterly basis via Council communication channels (e.g. number of animals impounded, returned to owner, rehomed via adoption and rescue, euthanised).
- 5.5 If a Council is aware of a banning order that has been issued by a court against a person, they will not be allowed to adopt a pet from the Community Animal Shelter. Nor will they be allowed to register that animal.

6. Continue to seek opportunities to support affordable pet desexing.

- 6.1 Continue to seek opportunities to support existing state government discounted desexing scheme, to provide a subsidised desexing program to members of the community who may not ordinarily be able to afford to desex their pets. Budgetary implications need to be investigated prior to implementation of such programs.

7. Increase registration compliance and opportunities for lost pets to be more easily reunited with their owners.

- 7.1 Continue doorknock compliance program to follow up on failure to renew registration.
Focus on lapsed registrations due to inability to doorknock under COVID-19 restrictions.
- 7.2 Continue to undertake activities to better identify registration non-compliance, including registration checks in the field, Central Animal Records microchip audit and dog and cat sale notification follow ups.
- 7.3 Investigate the feasibility of introducing visitor / non-resident online dog and cat 'check in' functionality, so that lost pets may be more easily identified and reunited with their owners.
- 7.4 Review internal registration processes and systems to ensure a streamlined and efficient approach to renewals and follow up of lapsed registrations.

8. Support a strategic and consistent approach to leash free and dog prohibited areas across the Shire.

- 8.1 Develop a Dogs in Public Places Policy (leash free and dog prohibited areas) that provides a consistent approach to assess the suitability and design of designated

leash free and dog prohibited areas on Shire managed land. This also includes development of a position for management of dogs on and near sporting fields.

9. Provide a consistent approach to enforcement of regulations.

- 9.1 Partner with other regulatory bodies, to encourage a holistic approach to domestic animal management across the municipality. Continue MOU arrangements for enforcement of dog controls on beaches that are not on Shire-managed land (e.g. DELWP - Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning).

10. Decrease dog waste in public places.

- 10.1 Work with Shire Waste teams to investigate the feasibility, benefits and indicative ongoing costs of providing dog waste bags at Council beaches, parks and reserves.
- 10.2 Work with the Shire Waste teams to review bin locations and frequency of emptying to determine if additional services are required in areas where uncollected dog waste is considered prevalent.

11. Reduce dog attacks.

- 11.1 Investigate the feasibility of introducing mandatory desexing of newly registered dogs in the municipality. (Exemptions applicable for registered breeders, dogs registered with an applicable organisation, and dogs deemed by a veterinarian not medically suitable to be desexed.)
- 11.2 Undertake additional proactive patrols of parks, reserves and foreshore areas to actively enforce against and minimise dog attacks on people and animals in the community.
- 11.3 Where a dog is involved in an attack or rush incident on people or animals, consider declaration of the dog where appropriate, so that restrictions may be enforced.
- 11.4 Where a dog is repeatedly involved in non-compliance, consider elevating level of enforcement.

12. Identify and register declared dogs.

- 12.1 Continue to identify and declare animals dangerous and menacing when required.
- 12.2 Undertake proactive patrols of industrial and commercial areas to identify dogs on premises (e.g. guard dogs).
- 12.3 Periodic review of Victorian Declared Dog Register / cross reference with Shire records to ensure accuracy.

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13. Ensure compliance by owners of declared dogs.

- 13.1** Continue annual declared dog property inspections (including but not limited to fencing, enclosures, signage and collars) for compliance as per the Act.

14. Identify operating Domestic Animal Businesses (DABs).

- 14.1** Identify businesses that should be registered DABs by reviewing advertisements - including pets advertised for sale (e.g. social media, local papers, notice boards). Follow up for registration compliance / or need to shut down.

15. Ensure compliance by Domestic Animal Businesses (DABs).

- 15.1** Continue annual property inspections for compliance as per the Act.

16. Annual review of Plan and reporting.

- 16.1** Establish an annual timeline and program for reviewing the Plan and evaluating its implementation.

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Shire Context

Community

The Mornington Peninsula encompasses an area of 723km² and is characterised by 44 towns and villages, highly valued green wedge land, areas of national and international conservation significance and featuring around 10% of Victoria's total coastline. Council is committed to maintaining 70% of the Shire as a green wedge.

The permanent estimated residential population is 168,134¹. The Shire is a popular holiday and retirement destination, with the population swelling by up to 30% in the summer months and other holiday periods. This results in an increased number of animal management requests. Leash free dog areas, dogs on beaches and barking dog nuisance remain high-profile issues for the community.

Our median age is 46 years with 45% of residents aged 50 and above. We are older when compared to the Greater Melbourne median age of 36 years.

13% of residents live in medium or high-density housing, with a Shire-wide population density of 2.23 persons per hectare (Greater Melbourne is 5.17 persons per hectare). Only 5% of residents speak a language other than English at home.

Domestic Animals

Current profile of dogs and cats in the Shire.

| Domestic Animals – Mornington Peninsula Shire | | |
|---|----------|--------------------|
| | 2016 | 2020 |
| Population | 160,862 | 168,134 |
| Geographic area of municipality | | 723km ² |
| FTE Authorised Shire Officers | 6.3 | 9.0 |
| FTE Authorised Shire Officers per head of population | 1:25,534 | 1:18,682 |
| Number of dog requests | 4,500 | 3,194 |
| Number of cat requests | 1,417 | 1,076 |
| Number of dogs and cats unregistered requests | -- | 592 |
| Number of dog or cat requests per Shire Officer | 939 | 540 |
| Number of registered dogs | 30,726 | 25,295 |
| Number of registered declared dogs (dangerous, menacing or restricted breed) | 26 | 17 |
| Number of dog attacks and rushes | 373 | 259 |
| Number of registered cats | 7,094 | 6,455 |
| Keeping of animals / excess animals permits issued | 89 | 43 |

¹ ABS Estimated Resident Population

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| | | |
|---|-------|-------|
| Number of registered Domestic Animal Businesses | 20 | 20 |
| Number of Domestic Animal Business inspections | 20 | 20 |
| Number of successful prosecutions | 47 | 208 |
| Dogs - impounded | 1019 | 802 |
| Dogs – direct adoptions | 27 | 18 |
| Dogs – rescue group adoptions | 94 | 12 |
| Dogs – returned to owner / agent | 870 | 745 |
| Dogs – euthanised | 17 | 17 |
| Dogs – euthanised % | 1.7% | 2.1% |
| Cats – impounded | 638 | 468 |
| Cats – direct adoptions | 74 | 112 |
| Cats – rescue group adoptions | 291 | 119 |
| Cats – returned to owner / agent | 101 | 114 |
| Cats – euthanised | 129 | 111 |
| Cats – euthanised % | 20.2% | 23.7% |
| Cat cages issued | 467 | 352 |

The Future

COVID-19

The COVID-19 global pandemic has brought a new set of challenges to communities all over Australia and the Shire is proactively addressing these challenges locally by supporting the community and businesses in what is an ever-changing environment. We continue to review our operations to ensure programs and services provided are targeted to balance community needs.

Population Growth

As an area near to, but with a role distinct from, the growing metropolitan area, there are ever increasing pressures and demands placed on the Mornington Peninsula. It is estimated that the population in the Shire will grow to 181,097² by 2036, or 7.7% over the next 15 years. The highest growth areas are expected to be Dromana, Safety Beach, Mornington, Mount Martha and Hastings.

A growing resident population and increasing numbers of visitors to the Shire impacts the demand for use of open space facilities. This includes residents and visitors who walk their dogs in parks, reserves and foreshore areas. Council recognises the imperative to balance community needs and will develop a Dogs in Public Places Policy during 2021. The purpose is to provide a strategic and consistent approach to leash free and dog prohibited areas across the Shire.

² ABS Population Forecast

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Council will continue to implement initiatives to support Shire officers to address the increasing number of complaints relating to dog nuisance, dogs not under control, dog aggression and dog waste in Shire managed public places.

Although mandatory cat desexing and confinement to owners' premises regulations are already in place, unowned and feral cats will continue to be both a nuisance for the community and an environmental problem without adequate management. The Shire will focus on continued promotion of responsible cat ownership as a priority.

Partnerships

The Shire will continue to strengthen its partnership with Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and other community and industry stakeholders to provide a consistent approach to domestic animal management and improve animal welfare outcomes across the Shire.

Online Services

We can expect increasing demand for Council services to be delivered online, and for engagement through social media and other digital means. Council's key animal management messages and services will continue to be developed to target audiences appropriately.

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Our Services

Current Programs and Activities

Our current domestic animal management programs and activities.

| Program / Activity | Current service provided |
|---|--|
| Identification and registration | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$0 first time registration (incentive to register) • \$0 registration for pets adopted from Shelter (1 year) • \$0 registration for assistance dogs • Annual registration renewal notices and follow up process via email and SMS for lapsed registrations • Lifetime registration tags • Online registration forms and system available for new registrations, renewals and amendments • Promote animal registrations through door knocks and during animal complaint investigations • Assess and issue excess animal permits • Microchip all animals released from shelter. |
| Desexing initiatives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desex all animals adopted or rehomed from shelter. |
| Dog attack (against people or animals) or dangerous dog | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incident occurring now – immediate response • Otherwise, response within 24 hours. |
| Animal nuisance complaints (including barking dogs) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response within 1 – 3 days depending on circumstance. • Online information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Barking dogs ○ Leash free areas ○ Dog prohibited areas • Online systems for lodging complaints including Shire website and Snap Send Solve app. |
| Wandering cat complaints | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shire-loaned cat cages are available for the public to use to confine nuisance, unowned or feral cats. Shire officers will deliver (to at risk and vulnerable) and collect cat cages (all) • Strict protocols are in place governing the use of these cages to ensure that the welfare of the confined cats is protected • Online systems for lodging complaints including Shire website and Snap Send Solve app • Wandering cat information booklet. |

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| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Patrols of foreshores and public reserves</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proactive patrols of Shire-managed parks, reserves and foreshore areas to ensure dogs are under effective control by their owners • An MOU in place for Shire Officers to undertake patrols and enforcement activity at DELWP beaches • Early starts identified hotspots / emerging issues • Extended patrols during peak / summer periods - with a particular focus on foreshore areas. |
| <p>Community Animal Shelter and Pound 130 Watt Road Mornington (1300 850 600)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A community animal shelter service to hold lost pets • We place a high priority on the welfare of lost pets and work to re-home all unclaimed animals • Advertise lost pets by photograph online at mornpen.vic.gov.au • Pets available for adoption and those going to rescue groups are vet checked, de-sexed, vaccinated, wormed, temperament tested, micro-chipped and advertised online at the Shire's Pets for Adoption page, and at petrescue.com.au • Rehome suitable, unwanted pets through collaboration with rescue groups • Hold dangerous animals while investigations and prosecution are conducted • Provide an Emergency Relief Centre in the event of an emergency for displaced people and animals • Open 7 days (closed Good Friday and Christmas Day). |
| <p>Education and promotion of responsible pet ownership</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal communications including a range of activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Social media posts (e.g. New Year's Eve, Australia Day, shelter updates) ○ Website information ○ Media releases ○ Adverts ○ Shire publications ○ Telephone on-hold messages • Educational materials and adoption advertisements in Service Centres and Libraries • Adoption packs with information for new owners • Shire Officers educate and raise community awareness regarding responsible pet ownership and animal behaviour through interactions whilst out in the community, including provision of advice and specialist technical knowledge • Community Animal Shelter visits / tours • Provision of pooch pouches (for dog waste removal). |
| <p>After hours services (1300 850 600)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shire Officers provide a 24/7 response to dog attacks |

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| | |
|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After-hours dog collection service of contained animals from 5pm to 7pm non-daylight savings and 5pm to 8.30pm daylight savings period • After-hours collection of dogs considered to be a threat to community – aggressive dog at large. |
| Animal cruelty matters | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact RSPCA as Shire Officers do not have Protection of Cruelty to Animals Act authorisation. |
| Domestic animal business (DAB) inspections | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspect and process new domestic animal business applications. • Annual inspections undertaken in accordance with the Act; and issue annual registration certificates • Respond to and investigate breaches / complaints • Actively seek and identify illegal domestic animal businesses and prosecute where appropriate. |
| Declared dogs (dangerous / menacing or restricted breed) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess and declare relevant dogs as dangerous/menacing dogs or restricted breeds and enter these details into the Victorian Declared Dog Register • Provision of information to owners of declared dogs outlining responsibilities, and penalties for non-compliance • Annual inspections undertaken in accordance with the Act. |
| Prosecutions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shire Officers prosecute breaches of the Act. |

Domestic Animal Controls

In addition to the Act, Shire Officers enforce the provisions of the General Purposes Local Law 2012³ and Council Orders.

Numbers of Dogs and Cats

The number dogs and cats allowed to be kept without a permit is dependent on property land size.

| | Residential Property Land Size | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| | Less than 499 m ² | 500m ² to 2,499m ² | Greater than 2,500m ² |
| Dogs (over 12 weeks old) | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Cats (over 12 weeks old) | 2 | 2 | 2 |

Animal Housing

Owners are required to ensure that animal housing:

- Is well located and clean;
- Minimises nuisance; and
- Has adequate fencing so that animals cannot escape.

Animal Noise

Owners are required to take steps to prevent animal noise that is unreasonable or adversely affects the amenity of the area.

Animal Excrement

People are required to both pick up their dog's excrement when out in public places and carry a bag to collect it.

Responsible Breeding of Dogs and Cats

People must not sell or give away animals that have not been desexed, unless they are a registered domestic animal business or members of an Applicable Organisation.

Desexing Cats

Cats over the age of 3 months must be desexed, unless the owner has applied for a permit and the owner is a member of an Applicable Organisation.

³ General Purposes Local Law 2012 sunsets in 2022. A new Local Law is to be developed.

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Cat Confinement to Owner's Premises

A Council Order is in place where cats must always be confined to the owner's premises.

Dogs On / Off Leash

Council Orders are in place restricting dogs off leash to designated areas and times in certain reserves and foreshore areas.

Dog Prohibited Areas

Council Orders are in place prohibiting dogs in certain reserves and foreshore areas.

Section 187 Planning Scheme Amendments

The Peninsula Sands Estate is a cat prohibited area under the Shire's Planning Scheme.

Community Consultation

The community consultation approach included two rounds:

- Consultation to inform development of the Plan; and
- Consultation to gather feedback on the draft Plan.

Phase 1 Consultation

The purpose of the first round was to better understand views in relation to dog and cat issues in the community. These consultation activities were available from 3 to 23 May 2021. Late responses were accepted until 1 June 2021.

Consultation tools were made available via Council's online platform – Shape Your Future:

- Online survey – provide feedback and suggestions on a series of dog and cat matters.
- Mapping tool - mark on a Shire map areas dog or cat related concerns or ideas.
- Upload a written submission.
- Email DAMP@mornpen.vic.gov.au

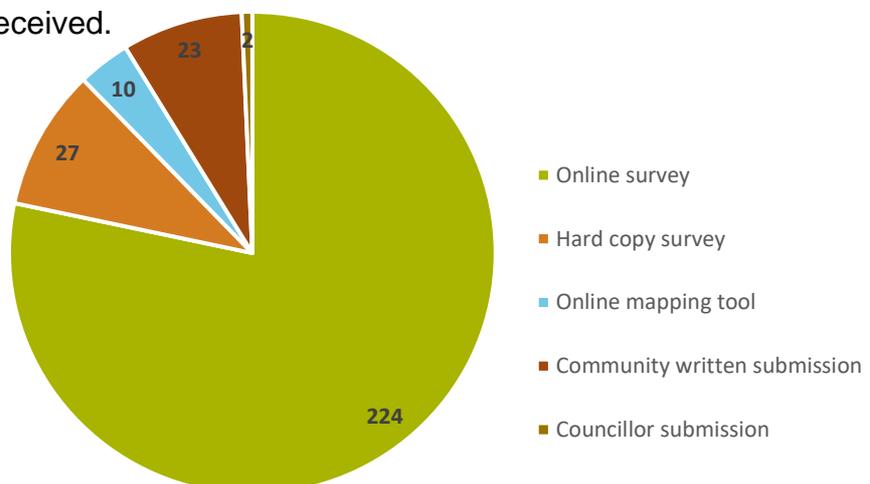
The following non-digital methodologies were utilised:

- Hard copy survey - available for completion at all Mornington Peninsula Shire Service Centres; or mailed out upon request.
- Write to Mornington Peninsula Shire, Private Bag 1000, Rosebud Victoria 3939.

The consultation was promoted via Council's communication channels, including Shape Your Future, social media, e-newsletter, media releases and newspaper advertisements.

Key external stakeholders (e.g. vets, shelters, animal groups, domestic animal businesses, interested residents etc.) were directly emailed an invitation link to participate in the community consultation activities.

286 valid responses were received.



Phase 2 Consultation – Feedback on the Draft DAMP

Council sought feedback from the community and key stakeholders on the draft DAMP 2021-2025 between 25 August and 22 September 2021.

The draft DAMP was available to view online via Council's platform – Shape Your Future, and the community were invited to provide feedback via:

- Online survey – feedback and suggestions on DAMP initiatives and actions
- Upload a written submission
- Email DAMP@mornpen.vic.gov.au

The following non-digital methodologies were utilised:

- Hard copy survey - available for completion at all Mornington Peninsula Shire Service Centres; or mailed out upon request.
- Write to Mornington Peninsula Shire, Private Bag 1000, Rosebud Victoria 3939.

The consultation was promoted via Council's communication channels, including Shape Your Future, social media, e-newsletter, media releases and newspaper advertisements.

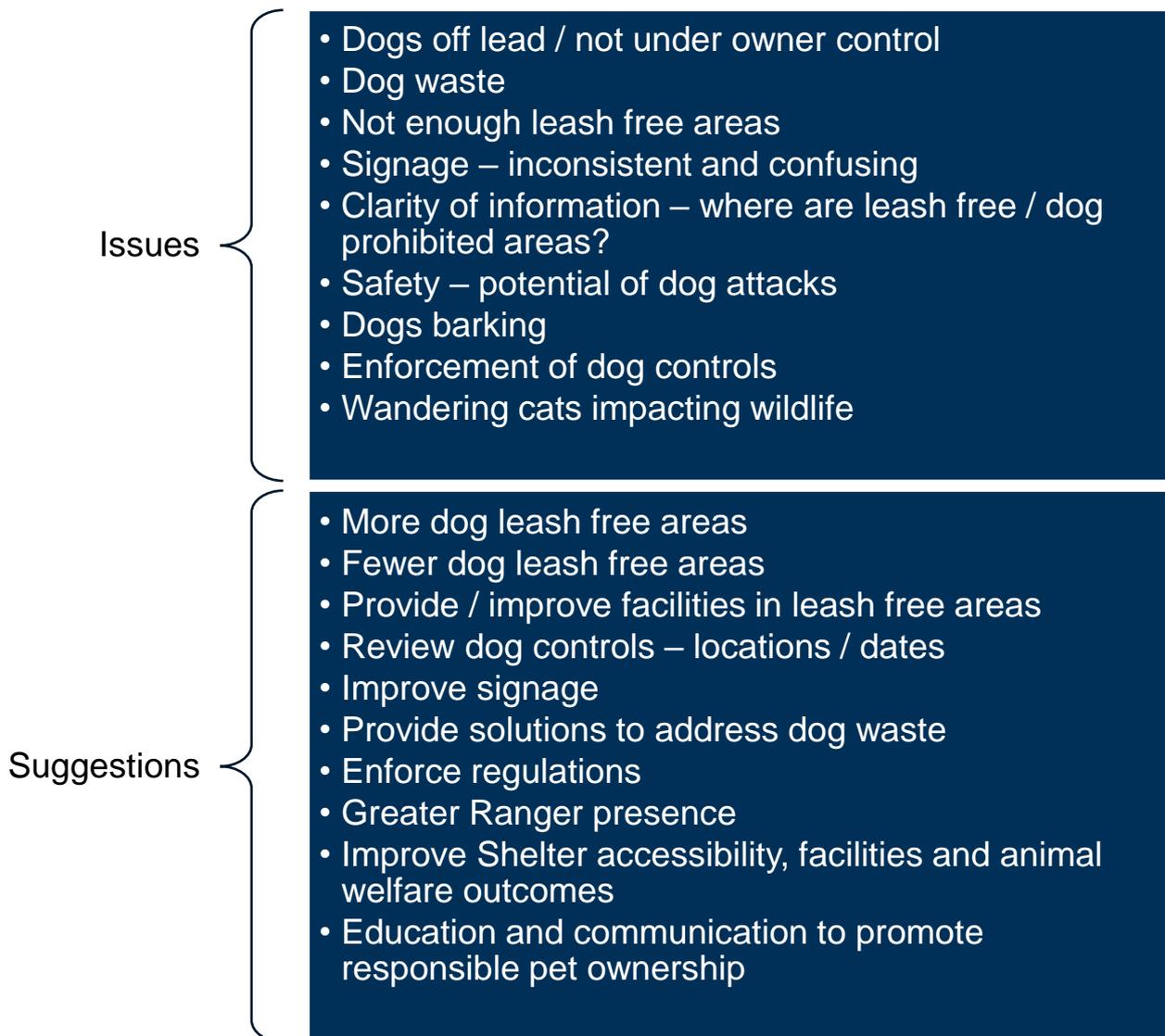
Key external stakeholders (e.g. vets, shelters, animal groups, domestic animal businesses, interested residents etc.) were directly emailed an invitation link to participate in the community consultation activities.

35 Phase 1 consultation respondents who had indicated that they would like to be kept informed were directly invited via email to provide feedback on the draft DAMP.

74 online survey responses, and 23 written submissions were received and collated. These were individually assessed to determine whether changes to the draft DAMP were required.

Consultation Findings

The following provides a summary of key issues and suggestions identified as a result of consultation activities.



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Training of Authorised Officers

To ensure that animal management staff have the knowledge and skills required to properly administer and enforce the requirements of Act.

Context

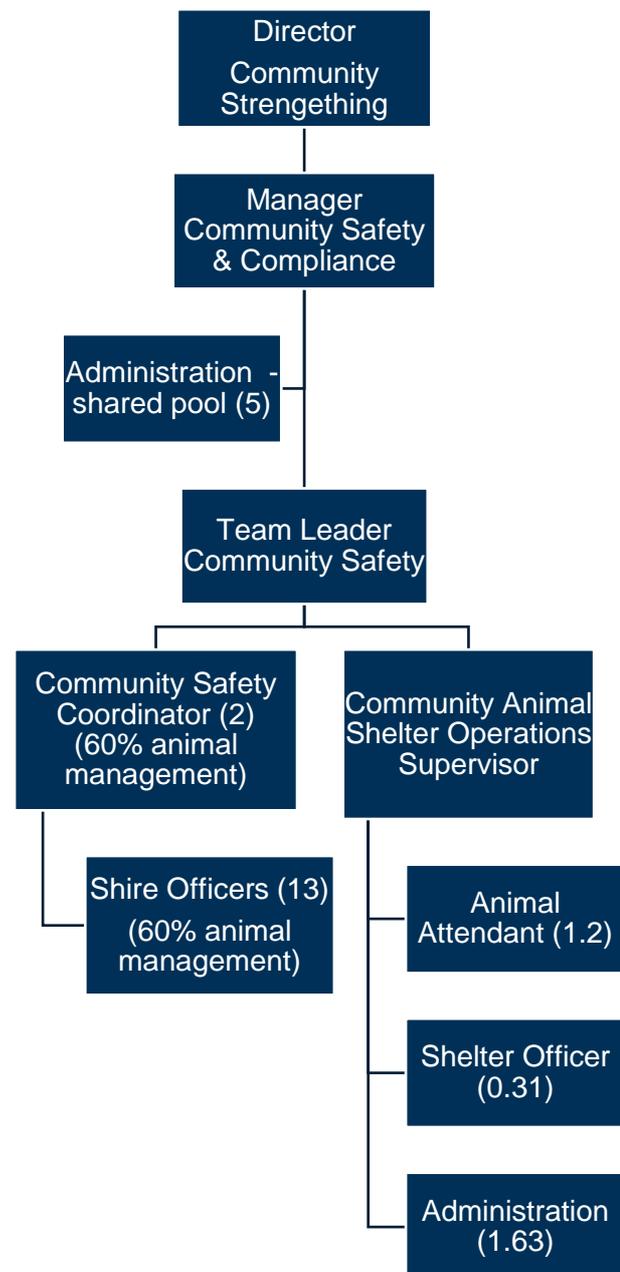
The Community Safety team forms part of the Community Safety and Compliance Unit.

15 Shire Officers operate in designated zones, with approximately 60% of the workload (or 9.0 FTE) allocated to animal management duties. This is supported by a shared administrative team. In 2020, Shire Officers responded to 4,862 animal management requests.

Animal management services are provided 8.30am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday, with early start patrols of identified hot spot areas also undertaken. An after-hours dog collection and emergency service is provided by rostered Shire Officers.

Seasonal support for extended patrols is provided during peak times and the summer period – with a particular focus on foreshore areas.

An additional 4.14 FTE are employed to manage and operate the Community Animal Shelter and Pound facility.



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Current Activities

Given the diverse roles and activities undertaken, it is critical that all staff involved in animal management have the knowledge and skills necessary to carry out their work.

Shire Officers are encouraged to hold a minimum Certificate 4 in Animal Control and Regulation or extensive industry experience.

All new staff are required to complete a corporate induction to ensure familiarity with standard operating procedures and guidelines.

We maintain a training register detailing all the qualifications and training courses completed by each officer. We undertake annual performance reviews to identify further training and development opportunities with targeted training provided.

Shire Officers currently receive on average 22 hours animal management training per year.

Our Plan

Objective 1: Support Shire Officers to continue to develop their skills.

| | Activity | When | Evaluation |
|-----|---|----------|---|
| 1.1 | <p>Provide targeted training in accordance with individual development plans, including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Animal Handling (refresher)• Aggressive Animal Handling• Investigation, interview, and statement taking techniques• Situational awareness / conflict resolution• Participation in conferences and industry events | Annually | Incorporation into individual employee performance development plans. |

Promote and Encourage Responsible Pet Ownership

To promote and encourage responsible pet ownership and compliance with legislation.

Context

Education, promotion and enforcement activities are key to increasing responsible pet ownership in the Shire.

Our planned approach seeks to promote and encourage the responsible ownership of dogs and cats through a range of initiatives.

Community consultation outcomes show a need for greater clarity around dog regulations in public places, including providing a consistent and accurate approach to dog control signage, and making it easier to understand where the leash free and dog prohibited areas are located.

Respondents wanted education and communication around responsible pet ownership, and greater community compliance with and enforcement of regulations.

Current Activities

- Shire Officers educate and raise community awareness regarding responsible pet ownership and animal behaviour through interactions whilst out in the community, including provision of advice and specialist technical knowledge.
- Annual communications plan including:
 - Social media posts (e.g. New Year's Eve, Australia Day, Shelter Updates)
 - Website information
 - Media releases
 - Adverts
 - Shire publications
 - Telephone on-hold messages
- Educational materials and adoption advertisements in Customer Service Centres and Libraries.
- Adoption packs with information for new owners.
- Community Animal Shelter visits / tours.
- Provision of Pooch Pouches (for dog waste removal).
- Proactive patrols of Shire-managed parks, reserves and foreshore areas to ensure dogs are under effective control by their owners. Early starts to patrol identified hotspots and areas with emerging issues.

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- Extended patrols during peak / summer periods - with a particular focus on foreshore areas.
- An MOU in place for Shire Officers to undertake patrols and enforcement activity at DELWP beaches.
- Signage in parks and foreshore areas detailing dog controls.
- Dog leash free and dog prohibited area maps.

Our Plan

Objective 2: Provide a planned and focused communication approach.

| Activity | When | Evaluation |
|--|----------------------------|--|
| <p>2.1 Continue to implement annual communications plan including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social media (e.g. enforcement over summer, pet safety etc.) • Develop a dedicated Shelter Facebook page • Website improvements • Newsletter to pet owners • Other Shire publications • Shelter adoptions • Shelter adoption packs • Barking dog information • Leash free / dog prohibited areas • Cat trapping program • Report our enforcement activities • Impacts of dog poo • Benefits of dog training and socialisation | Ongoing (current activity) | Annual communication plan implemented. |
| 2.2 Targeted promotional activities to promote the ease of reporting a dog aggression / attack, the process and assured privacy. | 2022 and ongoing | Implemented. |
| 2.3 Targeted promotional activities to raise community awareness about feral and semi-owned cat populations, the 24/7 cat confinement order that is in place, and the cat cage program. | Ongoing (current activity) | Implemented. |
| 2.4 Work with Shire Revenue Team to provide responsible pet ownership information with annual registration renewals and new pet registrations. | 2022 and ongoing | Information provided with registration renewals. |

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Objective 3: Promote community compliance with dog controls in public places.

| Activity | When | Evaluation |
|---|------------------|---------------------------------|
| 3.1 Work with Shire Infrastructure Services team to develop a signage strategy for dog controls at Council beaches, parks and reserves, including a costed implementation plan. | December 2022 | Signage Strategy endorsed. |
| 3.2 Undertake additional proactive patrols of parks, reserves and foreshore areas to actively enforce against non-compliance of dog controls. | 2022 and ongoing | Additional patrols implemented. |

Objective 4: Provide a greater presence in the community to improve compliance and enhance education.

| Activity | When | Evaluation |
|--|------------------|--|
| 4.1 Provide enhanced visible presence and engagement with the community by increasing patrols and registration checks at parks, reserves and foreshore areas. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional patrols by Shire Officers mid-week and non-peak (cost neutral). Resource additional patrols at peak times. | 2022 and ongoing | Additional patrols implemented. |
| 4.2 Investigate opportunities to participate in community outreach activities that are feasible in a COVID-19 environment. Consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation in festivals/events Pets' day out | 2022 and ongoing | Community outreach activities implemented. |
| 4.3 Investigate and implement opportunities to facilitate presentations to schools and community groups. | 2022 and ongoing | Presentations undertaken. |

Overpopulation and High Euthanasia

To address over-population and high euthanasia rates in dogs and cats.

Context

The Shire-run Community Animal Shelter and Pound places a high priority on the welfare and care for lost pets. Council attempts to first reunite pets in the field through Shire Officers where appropriate.

The Community Animal Shelter and Pound collaborates with rescue groups in an effort to rehome unclaimed domestic pets and is open to the public 7 days (closed Good Friday and Christmas Day).

Dog and cat impound rates have decreased significantly, possibly partially due to the impacts of COVID-19 in 2020. During extended periods of lockdown, pet owners would have been at home – preventing pets from escaping. Council's cat trapping program was also suspended for several months during this time. In 2020, the proportion of impounded animals that were either returned to their owner or rehoused, is 96.6% (dogs) and 73.8% (cats).

Whilst we strive to rehome as many unclaimed pets as possible, the Community Animal Shelter and Pound must follow the requirements of the State Government's *Code of Practice for the Management of Dogs and Cats in Shelters and Pounds*. It requires the Shire to assess the suitability of dogs and cats for rehoming and prohibits the rehoming of aggressive animals. Aggressive, anti-social animals (such as feral cats) or an animal with known vices such as excessive barking, or habitual escapees must not be made available for rehoming. During 2020, the proportion of impounded animals that were euthanised, is 2.1% (dogs) and 23.7% (cats).

Community consultation outcomes indicate that improving Community Animal Shelter facilities, site accessibility and animal welfare outcomes as the most common comment types noted. The Community Animal Shelter and Pound is flagged to undergo significant redevelopment. The first stage of the redevelopment project is expected to commence in 2022 and will incorporate the building of 20 new kennels, an in-house vet clinic, additional car parking space and an undercover drop off zone for Shire Officers. The project will balance the technical requirements of an animal shelter and pound with a sustainable, functional and healthy space for staff and animals. Council will continue to partner with other animal management services, vets and rescue groups to improve animal welfare outcomes.

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| Dog Impoundments – Mornington Peninsula Shire | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| | 2016 | 2020 |
| Dogs Impounded | 1019 | 802 |
| Direct Adoptions | 27 (2.6%) | 18 (2.2%) |
| Rescue Group Adoptions | 94 (9.2%) | 12 (1.5%) |
| Returned to Owner/Agent | 870 (85.4%) | 745 (92.9%) |
| Euthanised | 17 (1.7%) | 17 (2.1%) |

| Cat Impoundments – Mornington Peninsula Shire | | |
|---|-------------|---------------|
| | 2016 | 2020 |
| Cats Impounded | 638 | 468 |
| Direct Adoptions | 74 (11.6%) | 112 (24.0%) |
| Rescue Group Adoptions | 291 (45.6%) | 119 (25.4%) |
| Returned to Owner/Agent | 101 (15.8%) | 114 (24.4%) |
| Euthanised | 129 (20.2%) | 111 (23.7%) * |

* Due to severe illness/disease or unsuitability for rehoming due to behaviour issues

Current Activities

- Shire Officers manage and operate the Community Animal Shelter and Pound facility to hold lost pets:
 - We place a high priority on the welfare of lost pets and work to rehome all unclaimed animals.
 - Advertise lost pets by photograph online at mornpen.vic.gov.au
 - All pets adopted or rehomed from the Shelter are microchipped and desexed.
 - \$0 registration for pets adopted from the Shelter (first year).
 - Pets available for adoption and those going to rescue groups are vet checked, desexed, vaccinated, wormed, temperament tested, microchipped and advertised online at at the Shire's [Pets for Adoption](#) page, and at petrescue.com.au
 - Rehome suitable, unwanted pets through collaboration with rescue groups.
 - Hold dangerous animals while investigations and prosecutions are conducted.
 - Provide an Emergency Relief Centre in the event of an emergency for displaced people and animals.
 - Open 7 days (closed Good Friday and Christmas Day).

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- Community and animal welfare-based outcomes wherever possible – we work hard to reunite animals with owners, without taking to the Pound. We have section 84Y agreements with participating vets, shelters and rescue groups enabling easier reunification of lost pets with owners in the field, without Council intervention.
- Consideration of financial hardship provided on a case-by-case basis.
- Council-loaned cat cages are available for the public to utilise to confine nuisance, unowned or feral cats.
- Report animal cruelty matters to the RSPCA.
- Enforce Local Law provisions governing the number of animals that can be kept on a property without a permit.
- Enforce Local Law provisions governing the responsible breeding of dogs and cats.
- Enforce Council Orders governing mandatory desexing of cats and 24/7 confinement to owners' premises.
- Conduct investigations in response to customer requests.
- Enforcement activities including official warnings, infringements, notices to comply and court prosecution.

Our Plan

Objective 5: Continue to improve animal welfare outcomes.

| | Activity | When | Evaluation |
|-----|--|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 5.1 | Community Animal Shelter and Pound site redevelopment. | 2024 (phased approach) | Redevelopment complete. |
| 5.2 | Partner with other animal management services and facilities to support domestic animal management across the municipality. Continue to develop relationships and partnerships with vets and rescue groups. | Ongoing (current activity) | Partnerships in place. |
| 5.3 | Undertake activities to identify and enforce against breeders who illegally sell non-desexed animals, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing source numbers from the Animal Welfare Victoria Pet Exchange Register • Central Animal Records microchip audit | Ongoing (current activity) | Audits undertaken. |

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| | | | |
|-----|--|----------------|---------------------|
| 5.4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewing advertisements - including pets advertised for sale (e.g. social media, local papers, notice boards). Dog and cat sale notification follow ups | | |
| | <p>Publish Community Animal Shelter statistics on a quarterly basis via Council communication channels (e.g. number of animals impounded, returned to owner, rehomed via adoption and rescue, euthanised).</p> | 2022 (ongoing) | Published quarterly |
| 5.5 | <p>If a Council is aware of a banning order that has been issued by a court against a person, they will not be allowed to adopt a pet from the Community Animal Shelter. Nor will they be allowed to register that animal.</p> | 2021 (ongoing) | Implemented |

Objective 6: Continue to seek opportunities for affordable pet desexing.

| | Activity | When | Evaluation |
|-----|--|------|-------------------------|
| 6.1 | <p>Continue to seek opportunities to support existing state government discounted desexing scheme, to provide a subsidised desexing program to members of the community who may not ordinarily be able to afford to desex their pets. Budgetary implications need to be investigated prior to implementation of such programs.</p> | 2022 | Investigation complete. |

Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021-2025

Registration and Identification

To encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats.

Context

All dogs and cats three months and over must be microchipped and registered with Council, cats are also required to be desexed. Registrations must be renewed annually by 10 April.

In 2020-2021 there are 31,750 registered dogs and cats in the Shire. This represents a significant decrease of 7,691 animals since the previous financial year.

There are approximately 5,000 lapsed animal registrations that would under normal circumstances have been followed up. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we were not able to undertake the doorknock program which has resulted in a significant drop in animal registrations. Doorknock programs in the past have been key in maintaining and encouraging registration compliance.

The Shire will continue to implement initiatives to increase community awareness and compliance with registration requirements.

| Year * | Cat Registrations | Dog Registrations | Total Registered Cats and Dogs |
|---------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2013-14 | 5,827 | 25,880 | 31,707 |
| 2014-15 | 7,116 | 30,357 | 37,473 |
| 2015-16 | 7,441 | 31,345 | 38,786 |
| 2016-17 | 7,094 | 30,726 | 37,820 |
| 2017-18 | 6,866 | 28,871 | 35,737 |
| 2018-19 | 6,924 | 28,310 | 35,234 |
| 2019-20 | 7,724 | 31,717 | 39,441 |
| 2020-21 | 6,455 | 25,295 | 31,750 |

* Active / paid registrations reported 30 June (financial year).

Community consultation outcomes show that most respondents were aware of pet registration, microchipping and cat desexing requirements.

Respondents wanted their registration fees to be spent on improved dog park facilities, education and communication around responsible pet ownership, and improved Community Animal Shelter and Pound facilities.

Cheaper registration fees and the ability to register pets at vets were favoured as ways to make it easier for people to register their pets.

Current Activities

- Free first-time registration.
- Free registration for the first year for pets adopted from the Shelter.
- Free registration of Assistance Dogs.
- Annual registration renewal notices and follow up process via email and SMS for lapsed registrations.
- Lifetime registration tags.
- Online registration forms for new registrations, renewals and amendments.
- Promote animal registrations through door knocks and during animal complaint investigations.
- Assess and issue excess animal permits.
- Microchip all animals released from Shelter.
- Periodic cross referencing of Central Animal Records database with Council's animal registration database.
- Random registration checks during patrols.
- In-field technology for Shire Officers including microchip scanners to help identify pets and reunite them with their owners.
- Enforcement activities including official warnings, infringements, notices to comply and court prosecution.

Our Plan

Objective 7: Increase registration compliance and opportunities for lost pets to be more easily reunited with their owners.

| | Activity | When | Evaluation |
|-----|---|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 7.1 | Continue doorknock compliance program to follow up on failure to renew registration. Focus on lapsed registrations due to inability to doorknock under COVID-19 restrictions. | Ongoing (current activity) | Doorknocks undertaken. |
| 7.2 | Continue to undertake activities to better identify registration non-compliance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration checks in the field • Central Animal Records microchip audit • Dog and cat sale notification follow ups | Ongoing (current activity) | Audits undertaken. |

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| | | | |
|------------|--|------|-------------------------|
| 7.3 | Investigate the feasibility of introducing visitor / non-resident online dog and cat 'check in' functionality, so that lost pets may be more easily identified and reunited with their owners. | 2023 | Investigation complete. |
| 7.4 | Review internal registration processes and systems to ensure a streamlined and efficient approach to renewals and follow up of lapsed registrations. | 2023 | Review complete. |

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Nuisance

To minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance

Context

During 2020, Shire Officers responded to 4,862 animal management requests.

- 3,194 dog related requests.
- 1,076 cat related requests.
- 592 unregistered dog and cat related requests.

Dogs and cats at large, leash free areas and lost dogs are the most prevalent specific request types.

The overall frequency of animal management requests has reduced between 2016 and 2020, although direct comparative analysis of request categories across this time span is difficult due to a realignment in 2018 in the way that requests are captured and recorded.

| Frequent Dog-Related Requests | 2016 | 2020 |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Dog at large | 2705 | 1192 |
| Lost dog | 714 | 362 |
| Barking dog | 556 | 200 |
| Leash free areas (contravention of Council Order) | 46 | 324 |
| Dog faeces | 24 | 53 |
| Dog attack or rush | 373 | 259 |
| Dog concern | -- | 425 |
| Declared dog issue | 36 | 11 |
| Other dog requests | 46 | 368 |
| Total dog requests | 4,500 | 3,194 |

| Frequent Cat-Related Requests | 2016 | 2020 |
|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Cat at large – contained | 640 | 603 |
| Cat at large – not contained | 499 | |
| Lost cat | 275 | 179 |
| Cat attack | 3 | 0 |
| Other cat requests | 0 | 294 |
| Total cat requests | 1,417 | 1,076 |

| Other | 2016 | 2020 |
|-------------------------|------|------|
| Dog or cat unregistered | -- | 592 |

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Community consultation outcomes were heavily weighted towards dog owners. The most prominent suggestion was for more leash free areas incorporating improved facilities (e.g. bins, seating etc.).

Dog waste, dogs walked off lead or not under control of owners and dogs barking were the most common type of nuisance. Respondents wanted greater compliance with and enforcement of regulations.

Clarity was noted as a concern, including signage guiding the community on dog controls in public places and understanding of where the leash free and dog prohibited areas are.

The Shire hosts an extensive coastline, indigenous vegetation, significant parks and reserves, playgrounds and sports grounds. Only a small portion can be patrolled in any given period. Although proactive patrols are undertaken, including increased patrols during the busy peak summer period, the Shire relies on community education and voluntary observance of signage and regulations for animal management compliance.

The Shire has a number of designated foreshore and park areas where dog owners are able to exercise their dogs off leash. Some of these areas are season and time dependant. There are also a number of dog prohibited areas. We partner with DELWP to provide a consistent approach to enforcement of regulations on beaches.

Feral animal management, undertaken by the Shire's Natural Systems Team, occurs in more than 200 bushland reserves under Shire management. These bushland reserves are managed for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity. Feral animal management is undertaken within the scope of the Shire's broader activities including trapping.

Unowned and feral cats will continue to be both a nuisance for the community and a negative environmental impact without adequate management into the future. The Shire will focus on responsible cat ownership as a priority by implementing a range of initiatives.

Current Activities

- Proactive patrols of Shire-managed parks, reserves and foreshore areas to ensure dogs are under effective control of their owners. Early starts to patrol identified hotspots and areas with emerging issues.
- Extended patrols during peak / summer periods – with a particular focus on foreshore areas.
- An MOU in place for Shire Officers to undertake patrols and enforcement activity at DELWP beaches.
- Signage in parks, reserves and foreshore areas detailing dog controls.
- Council-loaned cat cages are available for the public to utilise to confine nuisance, unowned or feral cats.
- Guiding information to reduce nuisance:

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- Dog off leash and dog prohibited area maps
- Barking Dogs information
- Wandering Cats flyer
- How to be a Good Bushland Neighbour brochure
- Enforce Local Law provisions governing the number of animals that can be kept on a property without a permit.
- Enforce Council Orders governing 24/7 confinement of cats to owners' premises.
- Conduct investigations in response to customer requests regarding nuisance associated with dogs and cats.
- Enforcement activities including official warnings, infringements, notices to comply and court prosecution.

Our Plan

Objective 8: Support a strategic and consistent approach to leash free and dog prohibited areas across the Shire.

| Activity | When | Evaluation |
|---|--------------|------------------|
| 8.1 Develop a Dogs in Public Places Policy (leash free and dog prohibited areas) that provides a consistent approach to assess the suitability and design of designated leash free and dog prohibited areas on Shire managed land. This also includes development of a position for management of dogs on and near sporting fields. | January 2022 | Policy endorsed. |

Objective 9: Provide a consistent approach to enforcement of regulations.

| Activity | When | Evaluation |
|--|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 9.1 Partner with other regulatory bodies, to encourage a holistic approach to domestic animal management across the municipality. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue MOU arrangements for enforcement of dog controls on DELWP (Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning) beaches. | Ongoing (current activity) | Enforcement activities undertaken. |

Objective 10: Decrease dog waste in public places.

| Activity | When | Evaluation |
|----------|------|------------|
|----------|------|------------|

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| | | | |
|------|--|------|-------------------------|
| 10.1 | Work with Shire Waste teams to investigate the feasibility, benefits and indicative ongoing costs of providing dog waste bags at Council beaches, parks and reserves. | 2023 | Investigation complete. |
| 10.2 | Work with the Shire Waste teams to review bin locations and frequency of emptying to determine if additional services are required in areas where uncollected dog waste is considered prevalent. | 2023 | Review complete. |

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Dog Attacks

To minimise the risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals.

Context

The Shire is committed to reducing the impact and injuries associated with dog attacks in on people and animals our community. We do this by means of a range of proactive communication initiatives and investigation and enforcement action against offending dog owners.

In 2020 Shire Officers responded to 259 reports of dog attacks or dog rushes. As a result, we successfully prosecuted 16 serious dog attacks, 5 non-serious dog attacks and 1 dog rush at a person. Our successful prosecution rate was 100% in 2020.

Council considers both attacks on people and animals as highly important. Our enforcement activities are guided by a range of factors including severity of incident and whether the attacking dog has been repeatedly involved in non-compliance with regulations.

Dog rush and dog attack figures have reduced significantly since the last Plan was developed in 2016. This can partly be attributed to a realignment in 2018 of the way that dog requests are captured and recorded. Previously some 'dog concern' and 'dog at large' requests were captured as 'dog attack'. This has since been corrected, with only true dog attacks or rushes registered as such. Increased enforcement action (prosecution and issuing of infringements) taken in relation to dog attacks and rushes, is also regarded as a contributing factor in the reduction.

2020 shows a slight increase when compared with 2019, potentially partly due to the impact of extended COVID-19 lockdowns in Victoria and increased dog walking in the community during this time.

| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|--------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Dog Attack or Rush | 373 | 411 | 298 | 233 | 259 |

Community consultation outcomes indicate a reasonable level of support for the potential introduction of mandatory dog desexing. Further investigation and engagement is required to secure a more significant sample size and determine true community sentiment.

Where respondents have been affected by dog aggression / attack, only half of them had made a report to Council. Reasons for not reporting the incident included inability to identify the dog and/or owner; lack of awareness of the reporting process and a perception that Council would be unable or unwilling to act on the information. We recognise the

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opportunity to implement activities to promote the ease of reporting a dog aggression / attack, the process and assured privacy.

Current Activities

- An immediate 24/7 response to reports of dog attacks or dangerous dogs where an incident is in progress or threat is imminent.
- A response within 24 hours to reports of dangerous dogs, where the threat is not imminent.
- Proactive patrols of Shire-managed parks, reserves and foreshore areas to ensure dogs are under effective control by their owners. Early starts to patrol identified hotspots and areas with emerging issues.
- Extended patrols during peak / summer periods - with a particular focus on foreshore areas.
- An MOU in place for Shire Officers to undertake patrols and enforcement activity at DELWP beaches.
- Signage in parks, reserves and foreshore areas detailing dog controls.
- Information provided to reduce instances of dog aggression including dog leash free and dog prohibited area maps.
- Conduct investigations in response to customer requests regarding dog attack, rush or aggression.
- Enforcement activities including official warnings, infringements, notices to comply and court prosecution.

Our Plan

Objective 11: Reduce dog attacks.

| | Activity | When | Evaluation |
|------|--|-----------|-------------------------|
| 11.1 | Investigate the feasibility of introducing mandatory desexing of newly registered dogs in the municipality. (Exemptions applicable for registered breeders, dogs registered with an applicable organisation, and dogs deemed by a veterinarian not medically suitable to be desexed.) | 2023-2024 | Investigation complete. |

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| | | | |
|------|--|------------------------|--|
| 11.2 | Undertake additional proactive patrols of parks, reserves and foreshore areas to actively enforce against and minimise dog attacks on people and animals in the community. | 2022 and ongoing | Additional patrols implemented. |
| 11.3 | Where a dog is involved in an attack or rush incident on people or animals, consider declaration of the dog where appropriate, so that restrictions may be enforced. | 2021 and ongoing | Enforcement activities undertaken. |
| 11.4 | Where dogs are repeatedly involved in non-compliance, consider elevating level of enforcement. | 2021 and ongoing | Enforcement activities undertaken. |

Dangerous, Menacing and Restricted Breed Dogs

To effectively identify all dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs in the municipality and ensure those dogs are kept in accordance with the Act and regulations.

Context

Management of known risks regarding declared dangerous, menacing or restricted breed dogs within our community is a high priority.

We administer and enforce provisions of the Act to identify and control dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs to ensure the safety of the community. Shire Officers respond promptly to investigate reports involving declared dogs.

Our pet registration forms require owners to declare if their dog is a restricted breed, has been declared menacing or is a dangerous dog.

In 2021, Mornington Peninsula Shire has 17 declared dogs.

Current Activities

- Assess and declare relevant dogs as dangerous, menacing or restricted breeds and enter these details into the Victorian Declared Dog Register.
- Provision of information to owners of declared dogs outlining responsibilities, and penalties for non-compliance.
- Annual inspections undertaken in accordance with the Act.
- Conduct investigations in response to complaints.
- Enforcement activities including official warnings, infringements, notices to comply and court prosecution.

Our Plan

Objective 12: Identify and register declared dogs.

| | Activity | When | Evaluation |
|------|--|------------------------------|---------------------|
| 12.1 | Continue to identify and declare animals dangerous and menacing when required. | Annual (current activity) | Audits complete. |
| 12.2 | Undertake proactive patrols of industrial and commercial areas to identify dogs on premises (e.g. guard dogs). | 2021 and ongoing | Patrols undertaken. |

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| | | | |
|------|---|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 12.3 | Periodic review of Victorian Declared Dog Register / cross reference with Shire records to ensure accuracy. | Annual (current activity) | Reviews complete. |
|------|---|---------------------------|-------------------|

Objective 13: Ensure compliance by owners of declared dogs.

| | Activity | When | Evaluation |
|------|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 13.1 | Continue annual declared dog property inspections (including but not limited to fencing, enclosures, signage and collars) for compliance as per the Act. | Annual Ongoing (current activity) | Inspections undertaken. |

Domestic Animal Businesses

To ensure all domestic animal businesses comply with the Act and regulations.

Context

Mornington Peninsula Shire currently has 20 registered Domestic Animal Businesses.

- 2 pet shops
- 5 boarding establishments for dogs
- 6 boarding establishments for cats
- 7 dog training establishments

Shire Officers inspect these facilities annually to ensure compliance with legislation and codes of practice prior to the renewal of registration.

Shire Officers actively seek to identify, investigate and prosecute any illegal Domestic Animal Businesses operating in the municipality.

Current Activities

- Inspect and process new Domestic Animal Business applications.
- Annual inspections undertaken in accordance with the Act; and issue annual registration certificates.
- Actively seek and identify illegal domestic animal businesses and prosecute where appropriate.
- Provide online information on registering a new domestic animal business.
- Provide online information on reporting a concern about a domestic animal business.
- Respond to and investigate breaches / complaints.
- Enforcement activities including official warnings, infringements, notices to comply and court prosecution.

Our Plan

Objective 14: Identify operating Domestic Animal Businesses (DABs).

| | Activity | When | Evaluation |
|------|---|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 14.1 | Identify businesses that should be registered DABs by reviewing advertisements - including pets advertised for sale (e.g. social media, local papers, notice boards). | Ongoing (current activity) | Number of unauthorised businesses |

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Follow up for registration compliance / or need to shut down.

selling pets reduced.

Objective 15: Ensure compliance by Domestic Animal Businesses (DABs).

| | Activity | When | Evaluation |
|------|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 15.1 | Continue annual property inspections for compliance as per the Act. | Annual Ongoing (current activity) | Inspections undertaken. |

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Review and Evaluation

To ensure that all programs and activities are monitored and evaluated.

Objective 16: Annual review of Plan and reporting.

| | Activity | When | Evaluation |
|------|---|----------|--|
| 16.1 | Establish an annual timeline and program for reviewing the Plan and evaluating its implementation. | 2021 | Ensure reporting requirements are met. |
| 16.2 | Complete an evaluation of the Plan, including proposed amendments. Seek Council approval where amendments are proposed. | Annually | Evaluation completed. |
| 16.3 | If the Plan is amended, submit a copy to the Secretary. | Annually | Amended Plan submitted to Secretary. |
| 16.4 | Publish an evaluation of the Plan's implementation in Council's Annual Report. | Annually | Evaluation published in the Annual Report. |

Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021-2025

Acknowledgements

The Shire would like to thank the many community members who participated in the consultation. Your input has been valuable in developing the Plan.

Thank you to Councillors for providing their feedback. Thank you also to the Shire teams who provided input towards development of the Plan.

Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021-2025



Contact Us

Phone

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If you need the assistance of an interpreter, please phone 131 450

If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, you can contact us through the National Relay Service, www.relayservice.com.au then ask for 1300 850 600

In Writing

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or

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Service Centres

Open from 8.30am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays)

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Mornington

2 Queen Street, 3931

Hastings

21 Marine Parade, 3915

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