

# Yorke Peninsula Council



## Plan of Management Relating to Dogs and Cats Adopted by Council 12 September 2018

December 2018 – 2023



## **1. Executive Summary**

The Yorke Peninsula Council, established in 1996, covers an area of 5,834 square kilometres, and has a distance of approximately 175 kilometres between its northern and southern boundaries. The Peninsula, has a varying width east to west, averaging approximately 30 kilometres. The Council district typography is unique in comparison to other Local Government Authorities in that it is bordered by sea on three sides, and as such has 435 kilometres of coastline.

The Council's population is estimated to be approximately 11,060, (2016) which is less than 1% of the total population of South Australia. During holiday periods, the population grows considerably. The Council district contains 12 larger towns and 33 smaller townships and holiday settlement zones, the latter being predominantly along the coastline.

The Yorke Peninsula Council respectfully acknowledges the Narungga people, traditional owners of the land.

The Yorke Peninsula Council is situated approximately 108km from the Adelaide CBD. The major income sources for the area are Agriculture and Tourism.

The Council has approximately 2,600 dogs registered each year and is relatively stable in the areas of enforcement and complaints.

Statistical data has not been retained by Council in relation to cat ownership.

Council's vision for the community is:

***"We will foster opportunities to support and enhance Yorke Peninsula which is valued for its natural beauty, rich agriculture, spectacular coastline and unique blend of seaside and rural lifestyles."***

## **2. Background**

The Dog and Cat Management Act (the Act) provides for the management of dogs and cats in South Australia. The Act requires Councils to prepare a five year plan relating to the management of dogs and cats within its area. Council first introduced a Management Plan in 2006, which was reviewed in 2011. This plan will become operational on a date to be confirmed, subject to approval by the Board and Council.

The objectives and strategies in this plan are consistent with Goal 5 of Council's Strategic Plan 2016 – 2020:

### **GOAL: Responsible Governance**

***STRATEGY; Meet all legislative requirements and compliance with Councils internal controls.***

The plan outlines how Council will manage dogs and cats as required by the Act and Council strategies to:

- encourage responsible dog and cat ownership,
- improve public safety by reducing public and environmental nuisance caused by dogs and cats, and
- meet all legislative requirements by the effective management of dogs and cats.

### **2.1 Current Statistics and Figures**

	<b>2015/2016</b>	<b>2016/2017</b>	<b>2017/2018</b>
<b>Registered Dogs</b>	2745	2678	2719
<b>Dogs Impounded</b>	31	14	19
<b>Dogs returned to owner</b>	28	13	18
<b>Dog Attacks</b>	25	22	23
<b>Cat complaints</b>	14	37	41

<b>Income registration</b>	73,661.00	73898.00	\$103,510
<b>Income Expiations</b>	1,840.00	3,242.00	8253
<b>Expenditure</b>	148,616.00	142,548.00	\$152,309

### **3. The Law/Guidelines**

The Act sets out Council's responsibilities for managing dogs and cats.

The objectives of the Act are to:

- encourage responsible dog and cat ownership,
- reduce public and environmental nuisance caused by dogs and cats, and
- promote the effective management of dogs and cats (including through the enforcement of de-sexing and microchipping of dogs and cats).

The Act prescribes Council's responsibilities for managing dogs and cats relating to:

- Registration of dogs
- Microchipping of dogs and cats
- Desexing of dogs and cats
- Nuisance barking
- Dog attacks
- Dogs wandering at large
- Dogs defecating in public places
- Specific duties relating to dogs
- Seizure and detention of dogs
- The preparation of a Dog and Cat Management Plan
- Power to make by-laws for the control of management of dogs or cats in their area
- Cats in remote or fragile areas and unidentified cats in other areas
- Dog and Cat breeder registration
- Selling requirements for dogs and cats

#### **3.1 The Delegation of Responsibility**

Utilising the powers contained in Section 44 of the Local Government Act 1999, Council has delegated powers, functions and duties under the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 to the persons occupying the office of the Chief Executive Officer of Council.

The Chief Executive Officer has sub-delegated some powers, functions and duties to other officers of the Council. This allows the Officers to carry out all the routine responsibilities of Council contained in the Act.

#### **3.2 Council's Allocated Resources**

Council's legislative responsibilities with respect to the Act are enforced by staff of the Development Services Department. The collection of fees received by Council in relation to the Act is managed by the Corporate Services Department of Council.

Council's Director of Development Services has been appointed by Council as the Register of Dogs.

Council's Senior Compliance Officer is the main contact person for the management of dogs and cats and is a full time authorised officer pursuant to the Act. Council also has a full time and part time Ranger who are both authorised officers pursuant to the Act.

## **4. Revenue**

### **4.1 Income and Expenditure**

Money received by Council under Section 26(3) of the Act must be expended in the administration or enforcement provisions of the Act relating to dogs.

Council keeps separate accounts of money received under the Act and of money expended in the administration and enforcement of the provisions of the Act relating to dogs. Council pays into the Dog and Cat Management Fund by way of a percentage fixed by regulation of the dog registration fees received by Council.

Expenditure for the administration of the Act is derived from:

- dog registration,
- expiation fees and fines for breaches of the Act,
- dog pound fees, supplemented by;
- general rate revenue.

Dog registration fees are set by Council. The expiation fees in relation to the Act are set under the Act. Council currently has a Dogs and Cats By-Law. Breaches of the By-Law carry an expiation fee of \$100. Fines can also be applied as a result of Court Action.

The revenue from both Expiation Notices and court fines are retained by Council. Council also sets other fees in relation to the management of dogs and cats, such as the hire of equipment and pound fees.

## **5. Council's Management of Dogs**

### **5.1 Dog Registration**

Significant changes to the Act were introduced in July 2017, resulted in two mandatory registration fee categories.

- Standard Dog (mandatory legislated rebate) – this applies to a dog that is both desexed and microchipped. The Act requires that councils provide a percentage rebate off the non-standard fee for a standard dog registration. The Dog and Cat Management Board (the Board) has recommended that councils offer a 50% rebate on the non – standard fee.
- Non-Standard Dog- This fee is the full fee endorsed by Council. This fee applies to all dogs that are not desexed and microchipped.

Council is able to change the fees charged for dog registration as a result of a resolution of Council. The fees are reviewed annually. Council's registration fees align with the Board's direction and include:

- Non-Standard dog
- Standard Dog
- Working Dog
- Concession Card Holder (applies to Standard and non-standard dogs only)
- Business registration (per dog)

Council also sets fees for dog management which include:

- Late payment fee for late dog registration renewal
- 50% reduction of registration fees if the dog is under 3 months of age at 1 January of the registration period
- Pound charges, which includes a seizure and impounding fee and a daily pound fee
- Additional fees are set for dog seized out of normal business hours

## **5.2 Arrangements For The Detention of Dogs Seized**

Council has two facilities that have been approved by the Board for the purpose of detaining dogs. These are located in the vicinity of the Works Depots at Maitland and Yorketown.



**Yorketown Depot Dog Facility**

## **5.3 By-laws**

Council's By-law No 5 of 2013, "Dogs and Cats", limits the number of dogs kept on premises and for the management and control of dogs in the area. This By-law will be reviewed in 2020 as it expires on 1 January 2021.

Council has an excellent working relationship with many of the local organisations that are involved in the welfare of both dogs and cats, which include:

- RSPCA
- Animal Welfare League
- Other Local Government Authorities
- Veterinarians
- Dog Trainers
- Rehoming Facilities
- Kennel facilities

## **6. Council's Management of Cats**

Council does not require cats to be registered.

As from 1 July 2018 all cats are required to be microchipped. As of this date another new initiative was introduced "Dogs and Cats Online" (DACO) which has been introduced as a state wide data base for the registration of dogs.

DACO will also be used as a data base to contain the microchip details of cats. Cat owners have a legal obligation to ensure their cat microchip details are contained within DACO. This will ensure that all the information of microchipped cats will be contained on the DACO system, which will become a register of cats.

### **6.1 Arrangements For The Detention of Cats Seized**

Council does not have any endorsed facilities for the detention of cats.

Unidentified cats are assessed by Council staff upon being seized. An unidentified cat that has been seized and is assessed as likely to be a pet, will be released where it was detained. Occasionally a cat of this nature will be rehomed. Steps are usually immediately taken for all other unidentified cats to be euthanised.



## **6.2 Services Available from Council.**

Cat traps are available for hire from Council to assist managing un-owned cats. Currently Council has a deposit fee for the hire of the trap and upon the return of the trap in good order, the deposit is refunded. Any unidentified cat that has a poor temperament is collected by Council and euthanised at no cost to the hirer of the cage.

An identified cat that is detained in the cage must be released immediately.



**Cat Traps are available to members of the community to trap and remove unwanted cats**

## **6.3 By-laws**

Council's By-law No 5 of 2013, Dogs and Cats, requires that all cats must be identified by either microchipped or identified with a collar. The introduction of significant changes to the Act in July 2018, with the compulsory microchipping of cats, now overrides this part of the by-law. Introduction of local rules for cats will be considered when this By-law is reviewed in 2020 as it expires on 1 January 2021.

## **7. Objectives and Strategies**

Council's objectives in relation to dog and cat management is to:

- encourage responsible dog and cat ownership,
- ensure public safety by reducing public and environmental nuisance caused by dogs and cats,
- effectively manage dogs and cats by meeting all legislative requirements.

Council's Annual Business Plan allocates necessary resources annually for the management of dogs and cats. The resources for dog and cat management is managed by the Manager, Development Services.

### **7.1 Encourage Responsible Dog and Cat Ownership.**

In order to encourage responsible dog and cat ownership Council will:

- Educate the community on responsible dog and cat ownership
- Provide Education material to residents and visitors to the Council area.
- Enforce the provision of the Dog and Cat Management Act.
- Utilize publications available from the Board
- Utilize Council communication tools to communicate key messages to the community
- Promote responsible dog ownership so that all dogs are registered, microchipped, desexed and immunized

Every effort is made to reunite a lost/seized dog with its owner. If a dog is reported to be wandering at large and it is identified, contact is made with the owner to collect the dog rather than first impounding the dog. If a seized dog is not claimed and Council staff believe it is of a temperament that would be suitable for rehoming, the dog will be given to a rehoming facility for a temperament test.

If the dog is not suitable for rehoming, Council will take possession of the dog. Euthanising of a dog is a last resort.

When a dog is seized, Council follows the appropriate notifications as per the Act. Council also utilises its Facebook page and web site, which has proved to be a very effective tool in reuniting lost dogs with their owners.

Council also uses its website and Facebook to promote responsible dog and cat ownership. New articles are regularly included to assist dog and cat owners be responsible pet owners.

## **7.2 Encourage Public Safety**

Dogs can bark excessively, which can persistently occur or continue to such a degree that it reasonably interferes with the peace and comfort of other persons. Excessive barking complaints will be investigated and if the complaint is substantiated, actions will be taken until the barking is managed in a satisfactory manner to nearby noise sensitive receivers. Citronella collars are available for hire from Council to assist in the management of dogs that bark excessively.

Dog attacks or harassment are a major concern and are given a high priority to investigate. If the offending dog is at large, Council's Authorised Officers will take appropriate action to ensure the safe wellbeing of the community. A serious injury to a person or animal may result in a destruction order being placed on the offending dog.

Council's by-law 5, Dogs and Cats limits the number of dogs that can be kept on premises and provides for the management and control of dog exercise areas, dogs on leashes and dog prohibited areas.

The by-law also requires that a person with a dog in a public place must have in their possession a bag or suitable container for the collection and lawful disposal of any dog faeces deposited by the dog.

Council has allocated categories to all its parks and reserves so that a dog may be off leash, on leash or prohibited. Dogs are prohibited from being on any children's playground on Local Government land. Council has 435 kilometers of coastline, which is deemed a park under the Act, so dogs can be off leash in these areas. Council reminds dog owners that when exercising their dog off leash, they need to ensure their dog is well behaved and that the dog owner needs to ensure their dog can safely and sociably interact with other dogs and members of the public. People walking with their dogs on the foreshore need to be aware of the environmental impact that their dogs have on nesting birds. Dogs that are not under effective control can destroy nests. Council has developed an information sheet, IS122, Dogs on Beaches and Public Spaces to educate the community and visitors on keeping dogs under effective control and protecting beach nesting birds.

Council has available for hire cat traps, so as to reduce the unowned/feral cat population in the community. The fee for the hire of the cat trap includes the disposal of any unidentified cat detained.

## **Meet All Legislative Requirements**

Council conducts patrols of the district to ensure compliance with the Act.

All complaints are investigated in line with Council's Enforcement Policy. Depending on the nature and seriousness of the complaint appropriate action may include a caution, expiation notice, control orders or a court appearance. Reports of dog attacks/harassment are given a high priority. Appropriate action will be taken to reduce the likelihood of a similar incident reoccurring.

An Inspectorial report is presented to Council each month advising of the duties undertaken in the previous month in relation to animal management.

## **On-leash and Off leash Locations**

A 'Park' is defined in the Act as "a park, garden, reserve, or other similar open space, or a foreshore area, within the area of a council".

Dogs prohibited at all times:

- All children's playgrounds on Local Government Land
- Edithburgh Oval, Yorketown Road, Edithburgh
- Edithburgh Tidal Pool, O'Halloran Parade, Edithburgh
- Yorketown Oval, Stansbury Road, Yorketown
- Warooka Oval, Oval Ave Warooka

Dogs on leash at all times:

- Port Victoria Jetty, Victoria Terrace, Port Victoria
- Port Rickaby Jetty, Nelcebee Square, Port Rickaby
- Port Turton Jetty, Bayview Rd, Port Turton
- Marion Bay Jetty, Slow Street Marion Bay
- Stansbury Jetty, Jetty Road, Stansbury
- Port Julia Jetty, Jetty Road, Port Julia
- Ardrossan Jetty, Jetty Road, Ardrossan

Dogs off-leash whilst under effective control at all times:

- All foreshore areas
- Walk the Yorke Walking Trail (except those parts of the walking portion of the trail that are on a road)
- Designated Bush Camping Grounds
- All Local Government Land to which the public have access that is not a road.

### **Related Documents**

Strategic Management Plan 2016-2020

<https://yorke.sa.gov.au/content/uploads/2016-2020-Strategic-Management-Plan.pdf>

By Law 5 Dogs and Cats

<https://yorke.sa.gov.au/content/uploads/By-Law-No-5-Dogs-Cats.pdf>

### **Objectives/Strategies/Measures (KPI)**

In order to implement and measure Council's Animal Management Plan the Council will implement a series of objectives, strategies and measures during the life of the plan.



## 8. OBJECTIVES/STRATEGIES/MEASURES (KPI)

### PLAN OF MANAGEMENT RELATING TO DOGS AND CATS

COUNCIL OPERATIONS			
a) Council authorised persons have capacity to administer and enforce the Dog and Cat Management Act			
	Objective	Strategies	Measures
i.	Appropriately Trained Workers.	Staff undertake training, as required, relating to legislative provisions under the Dog and Cat Management Act.	➤ Type and number of training sessions attended.
b) Education of the community			
	Objective	Strategies	Measures
i.	Greater knowledge of the dog and cat legislative provisions.	Promote the requirement for breeders to be registered with the Dog and Cat Management Board.	➤ Number of promotional activities undertaken. ➤ Number of breeders registered in Council district with the DCMB.
ii.		Promotion of introduction of legislation requiring all new generations of dogs and cats over 6 months of age to be desexed.	➤ Number and types of promotional activities undertaken. ➤ Number of new registrations annually of new generation dogs desexed.
iii.		Promotion of introduction of legislation requiring dog and cats, three months of age, to be microchipped.	➤ Number and types of promotional activities undertaken. ➤ Number of dogs and cats three months of age microchipped annually.
iv.	Proactive education of pet owners to ensure they are aware of their responsibilities.	Implement various campaigns, such as Wandering Dog Campaign, to highlight various issues relating to responsible pet ownership.	➤ Number and type of campaigns undertaken annually. ➤ Annual reduction in Dog Wandering at Large. Annual reduction in dogs found not microchipped or desexed.

v.		Participate at community events to promote dog and cat ownership and encourage positive behaviours of pets and their owners.	➤ Events participated in and target audience.
vi.		Provide educational material for display and circulation to membership, clients etc. to promote responsible pet ownership to Veterinary Clinics, Library, Dog Club, Local Rescue Group, Schools.	➤ Number of pamphlets/brochures circulated.
vii	Ensure up-to-date promotional Materials available.	Regularly review and update promotional Material to ensure it is accurate.	➤ Types and promotional material provided.
<b>c) Effective Reporting and Management Structures</b>			
	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Strategies</b>	<b>Measures</b>
i.	Maintain appropriate reporting mechanisms for all reporting requirements under the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 to ensure timely reporting to the Board.	Implement reporting system for compliance with regulatory provisions.	➤ Reporting System developed and implemented Number and type of reports generated.
ii.	Maintain a schedule of accredited persons who can accredit Assistance Dogs.	Establish a schedule of all local accredited persons.	➤ Schedule developed and maintained.
<b>d) Community awareness of pet ownership benefits and responsibilities</b>			
	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Strategies</b>	<b>Measures</b>
i.	Encourage Responsible Pet Ownership.	Undertake community awareness activities, using various communication mediums, to highlight the benefits and responsibilities of pet ownership.	➤ Number of activities completed. ➤ Types of communication mediums used to advertise.
ii.	Provide links on Council's Website to other appropriate websites for easy access to relevant services.	Links to other animal websites provided to ensure community aware of services available to them.	➤ Number of links listed on Council Website and names of Groups/Services.
iii.	Community adequately informed of Dogs On- Leash, Off-Leash and Prohibited areas.	Review and update the Dogs On-leash, Off-leash and Prohibited areas. Distribute IS0122 Dogs on Beaches and Public spaces to the community.	➤ Schedule of On-Leash, Off-Leash and Prohibited areas reviewed and attached to Animal Management Plan and advertised on Council's Website.

e) Visitor Information/Facilities			
	Objective	Strategies	Measures
i.	Ensure that visitors to the area are aware of the local dog laws and abide by the provisions of the Dog and Cat Management Act.	Supply Brochures to accommodation facilities.	➤ Number of facilities provided with brochures.
f) Registration of Dog Breeders			
	Objective	Strategies	Measures
i.	Promote the legislative requirements for all breeders to be registered with the Dog and Cat Management Board.	Promote the requirement for all owners having to be registered with the Board if their dog has a litter of pups.	➤ Number of local breeders registered with the Board.
ii.		Investigate any pup litters identified for Sale as per legislation and ensure that the owners are registered with the Dog and Cat Management Board	➤ Number of breaches of the Act. ➤ Number of local breeders registered with the Board.
DOG MANAGEMENT			
a) Dog Registration			
	Objective	Strategies	Measures
i.	High level of dog registration achieved.	Promote dog registrations annually.	➤ Annual reduction in dogs not registered.
ii.	Increased knowledge of legislative provisions around registration.	Undertake door knocks to identify and ensure any unregistered dog is registered.	➤ Number of Door Knocks undertaken and number of dogs identified and registered as a result.
b) Mandatory Microchip Identification			
	Objective	Strategies	Measures
i.	High level of compliance in relation to dogs being microchipped.	Promote microchipping of dogs.	➤ Annual reduction in the number of dogs found not to be microchipped.

c) Mandatory Desexing			
	Objective	Strategies	Measures
i.	High compliance in relation to new dogs being desexed.	Promote compulsory desexing of dogs.	➤ Annual reduction in the number of <del>new dogs</del> found not to be desexed.
ii.	Increase awareness of benefits of desexing.	In conjunction with local vets, promote the benefit of dog desexing.	➤ Promotional material provided by Council.
d) Wandering At Large			
	Objective	Strategies	Measures
i.	Reduced number of dogs wandering at large.	Respond to complaints regarding Wandering dogs.	➤ Number of complaints/incidents of dogs wandering at large.
ii.	Identification of Dogs in public places, whether Wandering at Large or under effective control.	Random patrols of all public places, detain dogs found to be wandering and speak to owners of dogs under effective control to ascertain if identified.	➤ Number of dogs seized. ➤ Number of dogs not identified whilst under effective control in public places.
iii.	Return of identified dogs found wandering at large to their owners prior to being placed in the pound.	Educate dog owners to identify their dogs so that dogs wandering at large are returned directly to their owners.	➤ Number of dogs return to owners prior to being placed in the pound.
e) Faeces Management			
	Objective	Strategies	Measures
i.	Dog owners remove all faeces deposited by their dog in public places.	Rangers monitor dogs in public places to ensure owners are carrying a suitable bag to collect any faeces. Provide and promote facilities to ensure collection of faeces in public spaces by pet owners.	➤ Number of dog owners not carrying suitable bag to collect faeces. ➤ Reduction in complaints re faeces left in public places.
f) Barking Dogs			
	Objective	Strategies	Measures
i.	Reduction in the number of Complaints regarding barking dogs.	Liaise with dog owners and complainants on an ongoing basis until the nuisance barking has been reduced.	➤ Number of complaints received and resolved.
g) Attacks and harassments reporting			

	Objective	Strategies	Measures
i.	All dog attacks to be reported to Council.	Promote the reporting of dog attacks on Councils web site and social media and develop an information sheet that can be left in accommodation outlets, caravan parks and doctor clinics.	➤ Number of dog attacks.
ii.	Reduce the number of dog attacks.	Educate the public in dog attack prevention strategies and that the majority of dog attacks occur on private property.	➤ Number of dog attacks. ➤ Type of promotion and educational material.
iii.	Investigate all reported Dog attacks.	Fully investigate all dog attacks and take appropriate action re issuing of expiations and dog control orders.	➤ Number of attacks reported. ➤ Orders and expiations issued.
h) Exercise and enrichment of dogs			
	Objective	Strategies	Measures
i.	Provide walking trails and parks that encourage dog owners to exercise their dogs both on leash and off leash in a safe environment.	Monitor the foreshore areas and parks to ensure they are appropriately designated as on/off leash areas to encourage dog owners to exercise their dogs.	➤ Number of off leash/on leash areas provided.
i) Impounded Dogs			
	Objective	Strategies	Measures
i.	Dogs are properly identified so that they can be returned to their owner prior to be placed in the pound.	Promote the compulsory microchipping of dogs and the registration of dogs so that they are identified.	➤ Number of dogs not identified.
ii.	Rehome any suitable unclaimed impounded dog.	Have unclaimed dogs temperament tested to see if suitable for rehoming.	➤ Number of Dogs euthanised.
j) Dog By-law			
	Objective	Strategies	Measures
i.	Ensure Council's Dog and Cat By-law effectively assists in the management and control of dogs.	Review Council's Dog By-Law with endorsement of the Dog and Cat Management Board	➤ New Dog By-Law commences no later than 1 January 2021.

#### CAT MANAGEMENT

a) Mandatory Microchip Identification			
	Objective	Strategies	Measures
i.	High level of compliance in relation to cats being microchipped.	Partner with service providers offering microchipping.	➤ Reduction in the number of cats not microchipped.
b) Mandatory Desexing			
	Objective	Strategies	Measures
i.	High compliance in relation to new cats being desexed.	Partner with service providers offering desexing.	➤ Reduction in the number of cats not desexed.
ii.	Increase awareness of benefits of desexing.	In conjunction with local vets, promote the benefit and legal requirements of desexing your cat.	➤ Cats that are microchipped and desexed that are registered in DACO.
c) Owner responsibility			
	Objective	Strategies	Measures
i.	To reduce the nuisance caused by owned domestic cats.	Promote responsible cat ownership.	➤ Number of cat nuisance complaints received.
ii.	Educate cat owners in relation to being a responsible cat owners.	Promote the information contained on the Good Cat web site to educate cat owners.	➤ Number of cat complaints received.
d) Cat Trap Hire			
	Objective	Strategies	Measures
i.	Proactively manage the feral and unowned cats within the townships.	Cat Traps are available for hire as required.	➤ Number of cat traps hired.
ii.		Feral and unowned cats to be euthanised.	➤ Number of cats euthanised.
e) Receiving seized cats and impounding Cats			
	Objective	Strategies	Measures
i	Efficient management of cats trapped.	Develop an association with local vets to euthanise any unidentified feral cat.	➤ Number of cats euthanised.



f) Cat By-Law			
	Objective	Strategies	Measures
i.	Ensure Council's Dog and Cat By-law effectively assists in the management and control of cat.	Review Council's Cat By-Law with endorsement of the Dog and Cat Management Board.	➤ New Cat By-Law commences no later than 1 January 2021.