



# **DRAFT**

## **DOG & CAT MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022-2026**

**City of Salisbury**

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# MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Our pets provide us with so much joy. Every morning I get up early, make a cup of tea and sit with our toy poodles, Bella and Tessie (pictured), on my knee. The unconditional love and peace pets bring us is so special and I feel I could not live without a pet as they enrich day-to-day life so much.

This is why it is our responsibility to keep these pets safe and healthy. We all need do our part to keep our pets safe and healthy, including socialising and training them to interact safely with other animals and all other members of the community.

Like us, our dogs and cats need to adhere to the rules and laws that are designed to increase public safety and enhance our surroundings by reducing public and environmental nuisances. But of course our pets need our help to follow these rules.

Council plays its part by providing dog and cat regulatory services to enforce the laws and protect the health and safety of the community. It also offers a range of services to benefit the community including a local pound for returning lost dogs to their owners and support for our community to address issues relating to cats under the enforcement of local nuisance laws.

The following Dog and Cat Management Plan provides a strategic approach to managing pets and pet ownership. It provides Council with a sound basis and direction in order to plan, coordinate and make future decisions to meet the needs of the community over the next five years.

We can all play our part to make life better for our pets and in turn the wider community and with your support this Plan will allow us to move towards a great environment for pet owners and residents without pets alike.

Thanks for doing your bit to make our community great.

*Mayor Gillian Aldridge OAM*

*“Good pets with good owners help make great communities”*

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

***Every Council in South Australia is required under section 26A of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 (the Act) to prepare a plan of management relating to dogs and cats every five years.***

Council has prepared this Plan to guide the direction of the City of Salisbury's dog and cat management priorities for the next five years (2022-2026). This Plan provides Council with an opportunity to address dog and cat management at a strategic level and consider initiatives that address the legislative changes introduced in 2018 whilst exploring the requirements of both pet and non-pet owners within the local community.

Besides Council's statutory obligations under the Act, this Plan also contributes to the City of Salisbury's City Plan 2035, and Age-Friendly Salisbury Strategy 2015-2020. Companion animals have positive connections with the health and wellbeing of pet owners and in facilitating social and community connections.

Community engagement was undertaken with a range of stakeholders including Elected Members, the general community via an online survey, and Council staff to inform the preparation of this Plan. Over 2,000 community members provided valuable feedback via the community survey.

This Plan is divided into two parts: (i) context and background and (ii) objectives and actions for dogs and cats.

The key objectives and action areas include:

- **Objective 1. Encourage responsible dog and cat ownership**  
Action areas: Community education, compulsory desexing of dogs and cats
- **Objective 2. Increase public safety and enhance the amenity and environment**  
Action areas: Wandering dogs and harassment, dog faeces
- **Objective 3. Reduce public and environment nuisances from dogs and cats**  
Action areas: Nuisance barking, dogs in public places and effective control
- **Objective 4. Ensure council delivers effective and efficient dog and cat management services**  
Action areas: Authorised Management Officers, Animal pound, Dog friendly parks and inclusiveness

# **PART ONE**

## **CONTEXT & BACKGROUND**

# 1. INTRODUCTION

The Dog and Cat Management Plan will guide the City of Salisbury's management of dogs and cats for the next five years (2022-2026). It provides Council with an opportunity to consider dog and cat management at a strategic level, identify priorities, emerging issues and set actions to address the changes to the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995.

The Plan aligns with the City of Salisbury's City Plan 2035 and there are connections between companion animals such as dogs and cats with other services within Council such as supporting pet ownership for older people and understanding pets in the community for new arrivals. There is now evidence to better understand the various benefits of pet ownership to the pet owner and to the wider community (see section 4).

This Plan will provide Council with a sound basis and direction from which it can plan, co-ordinate and make future decisions to meet the needs of the community over the next five years.

There is growing recognition that enforcement of laws will not, on its own, result in lasting, voluntary changes in people's attitudes and behaviour towards responsible dog and cat ownership. It needs to be supplemented by a range of non-regulatory approaches such as public education campaigns and a growing presence of online information along with support to facilitate compliance including accessible and affordable services.

The preparation of this Plan involved an online community survey and over 2,000 community members provided valuable feedback and insights on the management of dogs and cats. You can read more about the community engagement process in **Appendix A**.

The following key steps were undertaken in preparing the Dog and Cat Management Plan.

Steps	Description
Community and geographic profiles	Understanding of the profiles and unique characteristics of the City.
Strategic context	Identification key plans including the City Plan 2035, and Age-Friendly Salisbury Strategy.
Legislation	Review of the Dog and Cat Management Act, 1995 and recent amendments to the Act introduced in 2018.
Council by-law	Consideration of the City of Salisbury's Dog by-law No. 5.
Existing animal management services	Identification of existing animal management services provided by Council.
Review of existing dog controls	Identification of current on-leash, off-leash and dog prohibited areas to inform this Plan.
Records and data	Review of dog and cat data to identify any significant changes and key complaints.
Community engagement	Engagement with the community via online survey and public exhibition of the Draft Plan.
Research and industry best practices	Review of best practices in animal management relevant to local councils.

## 2. OBJECTIVES & STRATEGIC CONTEXT

This Dog and Cat Management Plan is based on the following objectives:

- ☒ Encourage responsible dog and cat ownership
- ☒ Increase public safety, and enhance the amenity and environment
- ☒ Reduce public and environment nuisances from dogs and cats
- ☒ Ensure Council delivers effective and efficient dogs and cat management services.

The Dog and Cat Management Plan supports the strategic directions in the **City of Salisbury City Plan 2035** and the **Age friendly Salisbury Strategy 2015-2020**.

## City Plan 2035

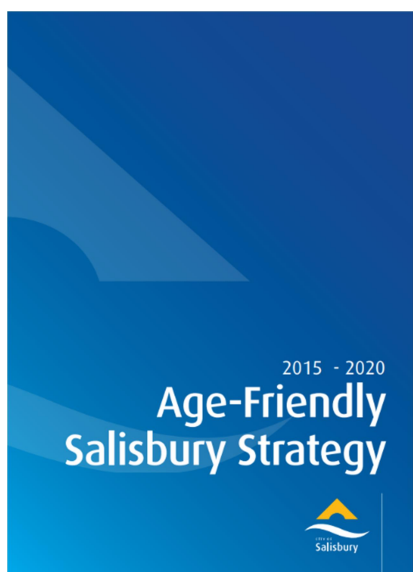
The Plan supports the strategic direction of 'A Welcoming and Liveable City'.



A Welcoming & Liveable City	Dog & Cat Management Plan
<p>Foundations: The <b>health and wellbeing of our community is a priority</b>. Council’s commitment to develop a welcoming and liveable City includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Deliver and support programs that promote active living, health and wellbeing throughout the community</li> <li>- Design services, places and programs that are safe and welcoming for all.</li> </ul>	<p>Research shows that pets can bring a range of health and wellbeing benefits to individual pet owners such as providing companionship, boosting activity levels, facilitating community connections and social interactions with other people (see Section 4: Pets in Communities).</p>

## Age-Friendly Salisbury Strategy 2015-2020

The Plan supports the direction of 'Social Participation'.



Social Participation	Dog & Cat Management Plan
An age-friendly Salisbury fosters opportunity for our diverse community to connect and participate throughout their lives.	Pets have shown to support older people's connections and interactions within the community (see Section 4: Pets in Communities).

### OTHER COUNCIL STRATEGIES, POLICY AND BY-LAWS RELEVANT TO DOG AND CAT MANAGEMENT

- City of Salisbury Enforcement Policy
- City of Salisbury Dog By-law No. 5

### 3. RELEVANT LEGISLATION

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

- Encourage responsible dog and cat ownership
- Reduce public and environmental nuisance caused by dogs and cats
- Promote the effective management of dogs and cats.

#### COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibilities delegated to Councils under the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* (Section 26) that apply to the preparation of this Plan are outlined below.

##### Dog Registration

- Maintain a register of dogs (26 (1) (a))
- Appoint a suitable person to be the Registrar (26b)
- Make satisfactory arrangements for issuing and replacing certificates of registration and registration discs (26c)
- Appoint at least one full-time authorised person or make other satisfactory arrangements for the exercise of the functions and powers of authorised persons (26d)
- Make satisfactory arrangements for the detention of dogs seized under this Act; (and may make such arrangements for cats seized under this Act) (26e)
- Make satisfactory arrangements for fulfilling other obligations under this Act (26f)
  - The City of Salisbury currently has its own pound facilities for dogs and relocates dogs to an approved shelter facility, which also provides cat impounding services.

##### Money Received

- Money received by a council under this Act must be expended in the administration or enforcement of the provisions of this Act relating to dogs and cats (26 (3))

##### Payment into Fund

- Council must pay into the Fund the percentage fixed by regulation of the dog registration fees received by the council (26 (5))

##### Setting of Fees

- Council has the responsibility for setting registration fees (26)

##### Establishing By-laws

- Council can pass a by-law for the control and management of dog and cats within their area (Section 90).
  - The City of Salisbury has Dog By-Law No. 5 which addresses:
    - Limits on dog numbers in private premises
    - Dog exercise areas
    - Dog on leash areas
    - Dog prohibited areas, and
    - Dog faeces collection.

##### Dog and Cat Plans of Management

- Under the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995, each Council must prepare a plan relating to the management of dogs and cats within its area (26A 1)

- These plans must include provisions for parks where dogs may be exercised off-leash and for parks where dogs must be under effective control by using physical restraint, and may include provisions for parks where dogs are prohibited (section 26A 2)
- The Board must approve the plan of management before it can take effect

### **Effective Management of Dogs and Cats**

The management of dogs and cats requires Council to work with the community to educate, encourage and enforce the provisions set out in the Act. This includes compliance with provisions relating to:

- Dog registration
- Dogs wandering at large
- Dog attacks
- Dog noise
- Removal and disposal of dog faeces
- Dogs of prescribed breed
- Greyhounds
- Guard dogs
- Unidentified cat seizure and disposal
- Microchipping and Desexing

### **DOG AND CAT REFORM**

The Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 underwent a major review with significant changes taking effect from 1 July 2018. The changes that apply include:

#### **Mandatory Microchipping and De-sexing**

- As of 1 July 2018, all dogs, and cats are to be microchipped by 12 weeks of age, **and**
- All new generations of dogs and cats (born after 1 July 2018) to be de-sexed. Exemptions apply for working dogs and registered breeders.

#### **Breeder and Seller Registration**

- As of 1 July 2018, breeders and sellers who breed dogs and cats for sale must register with the Dog and Cat Management Board of SA as a breeder.
- Sellers of dogs and cats are required to provide specific information including:
  - breeder registration number
  - breeder details
  - details of vaccinations, microchipping, de-sexing and any medical conditions known to the seller at the point of sale
  - details of any dog control order.
- Any person who breeds or trades companion animals must also abide by the *South Australian Standards and Guidelines for Breeding and Trading Companion Animals 2017*.

### **CHANGES TO DOG AND CAT REGISTRATION**

From 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018, a new state-wide registration system known as '*Dogs and Cats Online*' (DACO) was introduced to replace the individual dog registration system of each Council. This new centralised system is managed by the Dog and Cat Management Board of SA and combines several existing databases including dog and cat registrations, microchip and breeder information.

This means, dog registration fees are now paid online through the DACO website as well as at Council directly via the Civic Centres. This central database is available to dog and cat owners 24/7 and owners have the responsibility to keep their details up to date. The Dog and Cat Management

Board is responsible for issuing dog and cat registration renewals, reminder notices and registration discs on behalf of local Councils.

### **Changes to Dog Registration Categories**

As of 1 July 2018, the dog registration categories in South Australia were simplified to the following two categories:

- Standard dog - a dog that is both microchipped and de-sexed, and must have a percentage rebate of a fee that would otherwise be charged for the registration of a dog or cat under this Act
- Non-standard dog - all other dogs
- Concessions and other rebates are at the discretion of Council.

### **Other Relevant Legislation**

- Local Government Act 1999
- Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016
- Animal Welfare Act 1985
- Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016.

## 4. PETS IN COMMUNITIES

In Australia, it is estimated that around 62% of households own a pet: 38% owning a dog and 29% owning a cat (Pet Industry Association of Australia, 2018).

### BENEFITS OF PET OWNERSHIP

Companion animals such as dogs and cats play a significant role in the lives of many Australians. Pets can enrich people's lives, provide physical and mental health benefits, and facilitate community connections and social interactions with other people. There is research (ACAC, 2009; PIAS, 2010) to show the benefits of pet ownership including:

#### Pets are good for general health and well-being

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

#### Pets are good for an ageing population

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

#### Pets are good for children

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

#### Pets are good for social facilitation

- Pets can help people build social bridges
- Pet owners are more likely to have conversations with other people.

### BEST PRACTICES IN ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

Best practices in animal management relevant to local councils include:

#### Positive reinforcement training and handling techniques

- The **Australian Veterinary Association (AVA)** recommends the use of positive reinforcement dog training methods as the preferred method of training.  
*"the use of positive reinforcement is the most humane and effective training method as it avoids undesirable behavioural side effects. Positive reinforcement makes training more enjoyable and helps improve the bond between the trainer and the pet."* ([AVA website](#))
- The **Dog and Cat Management Board** *"believes a commitment to positive reinforcement training is an aspect of being a responsible dog owner. The Board does not condone training methods that cause a dog to feel pain, fear, aggression or anxiety"* ([DCMB 2017](#)).
- The **RSPCA of South Australia** promotes the use of Force-Free dog training methods and has a current list of qualified Force-free Dog Trainers in SA (RSPCA, website, 2021).

# SNAPSHOT OF DOGS & CATS

The following is a snapshot of Council's dog and cat statistics for 2019/20.

## Dogs

22,905	Dog registrations
16,274	Dogs de-sexed & microchipped (standard dog)
1,160	Total number of dog complaints
897	Dog wandering complaints (77% of total number of complaints)
65%	Dogs collected and returned to the owner before impoundment (12% before impoundment and 53% from the pound)

## Cats

4,340	Cats registered in DACO
99%	Registered cats in DACO that are microchipped
84%	Registered cats in DACO that are de-sexed
122	Number of cat complaints
997	Total cats impounded (includes Council and community trapping and handovers)
24	Cats reclaimed by owners (2%)

## 5. DOGS AND CATS IN THE CITY OF SALISBURY

The City of Salisbury is an outer metropolitan Council in Adelaide, located north of the City of Adelaide, about 25 kilometres from the Adelaide CBD. The City of Salisbury is the second largest local government community in South Australia, covering 158 km<sup>2</sup> and with an estimated resident population of 143,560 (City of Salisbury Community Profile 2019).

### OVERVIEW

In 2019/2020, there were **22,905** dogs listed as registered at home in the City of Salisbury on DACO. The suburbs with the highest registered dog populations are listed below, and they correlate closely with suburb population and household numbers (see **Appendix B** for additional data on suburb, population, and households).

**Table 1: Top 10 suburbs for dogs and cats**

Top 10 Suburbs for Dogs	Registered Dogs	Top 10 Suburbs for Cats	Cats Registered on DACO
Paralowie	3176	Paralowie	507
Parafield Gardens	2640	Parafield Gardens	392
Salisbury North	1901	Salisbury North	275
Salisbury East	1682	Salisbury East	236
Ingle Farm	1527	Mawson Lakes	225
Mawson Lakes	1370	Ingle Farm	203
Para Hills	1162	Salisbury	200
Burton	1136	Para Hills	199
Pooraka	1087	Salisbury Downs	148
Salisbury Heights	1010	Pooraka	145

**Table 2: Dog registration trends**

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,759</b>	<b>24,242</b>	<b>23,569</b>	<b>23,019*</b>	<b>22,905*</b>

\* DACO Registration Data. Previous period data is from Council Proprietary Dog Registration Data Base.

**Table 3: Summary of dog complaints**

Customer Request	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Dog Attack	126	137	151	123	134
Dog Noise	60	60	37	45	30
Dog Nuisance	117	82	106	124	99
Dog Wandering at Large	1577	1419	1140	1058	897
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,880</b>	<b>1,698</b>	<b>1,434</b>	<b>1,342</b>	<b>1,160</b>

In 2019/20, there were 1,160 dog complaints and wandering dogs accounted for 77% of complaints. Over the past five years, there has been a reduction in the number of dogs wandering at large and in 2019/20, 65% of dogs were returned home.

Council makes every effort to reunite wandering dogs as soon as possible with their owner. If a dog can be identified via a microchip, collar, or tag with contact details every effort is made to ensure that the animal is taken home, or collected, the same day rather than be transported to Council's pound which offers a short-term (72-hour) detention. If a dog is not claimed within 72 hours, the animal is handed over to a suitable shelter facility (at present the Animal Welfare League) for rehoming, where possible. The City of Salisbury currently has its own pound facilities for dogs and a new pound is being developed in collaboration with the City of Tea Tree Gully.

### EXISTING SERVICES

The responsibility for the management of dogs and cats within the City of Salisbury rests within the City Development Department. Council has six (6) full-time Authorised Persons (also known as General Inspectors) who are authorised to carry out specific functions and powers under the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995. They are supported by a Team Leader, two (2) full-time Registration Assessment Officers and two (2) administration support staff.

Council's dog management services are funded by a combination of general rate revenue, and fees generated under the provisions of the Act including dog registrations, and fees from penalties and fines for breaches of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995. Dog registration fees collected in 2019/20 totalled \$790,409.85 Twenty-four percent (24%) of these fees are payable to the Dog and Cat Management Fund as required under the Act and administered by the Dog and Cat Management Board. The remaining funds allocated to animal management and initiatives within the City of Salisbury including:

- Responding to dogs wandering at large
- Reuniting lost dogs with their owners
- Providing after-hours and weekend animal management services
- Investigating incidences of dog attacks and nuisance barking
- Liaising and educating pet owners about responsible pet ownership
- Providing Council pound facilities for dogs, and making adequate arrangements for cat impounding
- Providing dog waste bags and stations throughout the City
- Constructing and maintaining nine (9) fenced dog parks.

### DOG BY-LAW (NO. 5)

In 2015, Council passed a Dog By-law (No. 5) for the control and management of dogs including:

- A limit of dog numbers in private premises
- Dog exercise and on-leash controls
- Dog faeces
- Enforcement.

You can read more about the [Dog By-law No. 5](#) on the City of Salisbury's website.

### EXISTING ON-LEASH, OFF-LEASH AND DOG PROHIBITED AREAS

The City of Salisbury provides a range of public open space where dogs can exercise on and off-leash, including sporting ovals, parks and reserves, linear walking trails and fenced dog parks. You can read more about the current off-leash, on-leash and dog prohibited areas in **Appendix C**.

### CAT OWNERSHIP

There are currently 4,340 cats registered in DACO, and 99% of registered cats are microchipped and 84% de-sexed.

**Table 4: Cat nuisance investigations**

Year	Cat Nuisance
2015/16	60
2016/17	56
2017/18	78
2018/19	78
2019/20	122

Cat nuisance investigations undertaken by Council's Authorised Officers have consistency increased over the last five years. This may be because of the increased awareness in the community to cat issues and increased ability for Council to deal with nuisance animals under the Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016.

Council also provides community cat cages for free hire to trap any wandering or stray cats. If a trapped cat is:

- Identifiable via a collar, tag with contact details or microchip, then the cat must be returned to the owner by the person who trapped the cat
- Un-identifiable then the cat must be taken to the Animal Welfare League or the RSPCA within 12 hours by the person who trapped the cat.

**Table 5: Summary of cats impounded and reclaim rate**

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Total cats impounded	1332	1122	1168	933	997
Cats reclaimed by owners	22	22	23	32	24

Data from the Animal Welfare League (AWL) for cats taken from the City of Salisbury show a very low reclaim rate of all impounded cats, which suggests that most of the concerns may be attributed to unowned cats. These figures are a disturbing fact, but one that may be controlled by desexing.

Cats have the propensity to breed rapidly. Female cats can reach sexual maturity and breed from four months of age. Female cats typically produce three-five kittens per litter and can have two-three litters per year. As a result, one female cat can be responsible for the reproduction of 41 kittens in 12 months (DCMB, 2014, p. 20).

# **PART TWO**

## **OBJECTIVES & ACTIONS**

## 6. ACTION PLAN

Key objectives and action areas contained in this Plan include:

### Objective 1: Encourage responsible dog and cat ownership

	Community education
	Compulsory de-sexing of dogs and cats
	Cat management

### Objective 2: Increase public safety & enhance the amenity and environment

	Wandering dogs and harassment
	Dog faeces

### Objective 3: Reduce public and environmental nuisances from dogs and cats

	Dogs in public places and effective control
	Nuisance barking

### Objective 4: Ensure council delivers effective, efficient dog and cat management services

	Authorised Animal Management Officers
	Animal pound
	Dog friendly parks and inclusiveness

### Monitoring progress

This Plan is reviewed annually to track implementation and progress against the performance measures.

## Objective 1: Encourage responsible dog & cat ownership

### Community Education

**Did you know? Under the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995, dogs are required to be on-leash on all streets, roads, and footpaths.**

Council recognises that community education is an important aspect of animal management to raise pet owners understanding of their legal obligations and of responsible pet ownership. Council reinforces and distributes the Dog and Cat Management Board's (DCMB) messages regarding responsible pet ownership to pet owners and the broader community via social media, council publications and at community events.

Community education combined with compliance and enforcement of legislation plays a key role in ensuring responsible dog and cat management. Education can take a variety of forms including online information, seminars, and workshops on topics including pet owners' legal obligations, understanding of what effective control means for dogs, dog bite prevention, and nuisance barking. Council also recognises the importance of working with other stakeholders such as qualified dog trainers, veterinarians, and animal organisations in educating current and prospective pet owners and the broader community on responsible pet ownership.

No.	Actions	Performance Measures	When	Resources
1	Develop a <b>targeted education campaign for pet owners on responsible pet ownership</b> . This could include information on topics such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is effective control in simple, practical terms, how to use a fenced dog park safely, and how to keep your yard 'dog secure'.</li> </ul> See Resources & Links for ideas on effective control, 'dog secure' yards and dog park tips.	Campaign developed and delivered over the life of this Plan.	Year 1 & ongoing	Operational: Environmental Health and Safety  Managed within operating Budgets  Support: Community Experience & Relationships
2	Develop a <b>targeted campaign on good dog etiquette for outdoor farmers markets</b> .	Campaign developed and delivered over the life of this Plan.	Year 1 & ongoing	Operational: Environmental Health and Safety  Managed within operating Budgets  Support: Community Experience & Relationships  Dog and Cat Management Board
3	Continue to promote the state-wide statutory requirements on <b>compulsory microchipping of dogs</b>	Promotional material posted on Council's website,	Year 1 & ongoing	Operational: Environmental Health and Safety

No.	Actions	Performance Measures	When	Resources
	and cats.	social media and other formats.		Managed within operating Budgets
4	Develop a <b>targeted campaign ‘Buyers Beware’</b> to educate <b>prospective dog and cat owners</b> about <b>responsible purchase of dogs and cats</b> .	Campaign developed and implemented over the life of this Plan.	Year 1 & ongoing	Operational: Environmental Health and Safety  Managed within operating Budgets  Support: Community Experience & Relationships  Dog and Cat Management Board
5	Investigate the development of educational materials or program to support <b>new arrivals and</b> culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) <b>communities to better understand pets in the South Australian context</b> .  This could be developed in collaboration with the Community Health and Wellbeing Team through existing CaLD networks and include topics such as: role of Council in animal management, how council can help with dog and cat issues and pets in Australian context.	Investigation completed and recommendations for consideration.	Year 2	Operational: Environmental Health and Safety  Managed within operating Budgets  Support: Community Experience & Relationships  Community Health and Wellbeing Team  Dog and Cat Management Board

## Compulsory De-sexing of Dogs and Cats

**Did you know?** It is a statutory requirement for all dogs and cats born after 1 July 2018 to be de-sexed by six months of age by a registered veterinary surgeon.

This new state-wide requirement was introduced by the Dog and Cat Management Board to reduce the number of unwanted litters of puppies and kittens. De-sexing has several benefits including:

- Dogs: reduces anti-social behaviours such as leg mounting and urine marking in male dogs, reduces territorial behaviour and helps control the dogs urge to wander, and
- Cats: reduces the problem and costs of unwanted pets in the community and reduces undesirable behaviours, such as spraying, marking, fighting, and yowling (DCMB website, 2020).

In 2019/20, 71% of registered dogs were de-sexed and microchipped within the City of Salisbury. A vet may exempt a dog or cat on health and wellbeing grounds or provide an extension of time. Dogs and

cats can be sold entire if they are under 6 months of age; born before 1 July 2018; or owned by breeders registered with Dogs and Cats Online (DACO).

No.	Actions	Performance Measures	When	Resources
6	Continue to promote the Dog and Cat Management Board's information about <b>mandatory de-sexing of dogs and cats</b> .	Promotional material posted on Council's website, social media and other formats.	Year 1 & ongoing	Operational: Environmental Health and Safety  Managed within operating Budgets
7	<b>Investigate the Cooperative Desexing Program</b> with the National De-sexing Network (NDN) for subsidized low-cost de-sexing.  See Resources & Links section for additional information.	Investigation completed and considered for implementation.	Year 2	Operational: Environmental Health and Safety  Subject to further report and New Initiative Bid for any resource or funding implications.
8	Continue to <b>review the DACO database to identify un-desexed dogs and cats</b> and follow up.	Increase percentage of de-sexed dogs and cats over the life of this Plan.	Year 1 & ongoing	Operational: Environmental Health and Safety  Managed within operating Budgets

## Cat Management

**Did you know? All cat owners are required to microchip their cats and register their microchip and owner details on DACO.**

Unlike dogs, which are required to be registered every year under the *Dog and Cat Management Act, 1995*, cat by-laws such as paid registration are determined by individual Councils in South Australia. Under section 90 of the Act, local councils have the power to implement a by-law for the control or management of cats. The Dog and Cat Management Board's publication '*A Guide to Preparing a Cat By-Law*' identifies the type of provisions a Council may address in a cat by-law including cat registration, limits on the number of cats per property, curfews, confinement and wandering at large. Currently, there are no cat by-laws within the City of Salisbury.

In 2019/20, Council received 122 cat complaints including stray and wandering cats and multiple cats per household. The top three issues identified in the City of Salisbury's community survey (2021) included:

- Cats attacking wildlife
- Cats causing a nuisance and
- Cats wandering into neighbouring yards.

Most survey respondents (i.e. cat and non-cat owners) were in favour of state-wide cat laws, however, they also supported Council introducing a cat by-law if these were not available.

No.	Actions	Performance Measures	When	Resources
9	Continue to promote the state-wide statutory requirements for <b>mandatory de-sexing and microchipping of cats</b> .	Promotional material posted on Council's website, social media and other formats.	Year 1 and ongoing	Operational: Environmental Health and Safety  Managed within operating Budgets  Support: Community Experience & Relationships  Dog and Cat Management Board
10	Develop a <b>targeted feral cat management strategy</b> including budgetary resources to enable management of cat colonies.	Strategy developed, & recommendations for consideration.	Year 2	Operational: Environmental Health and Safety  Subject to further report and New Initiative Bid for any resource or funding implications.
11	Encourage residents to take <b>unwanted cats, and cats they can no longer care for to a shelter</b> – do not dump pets.	Promotional material posted on Council's website, social media and other formats.	Year 1 and ongoing	Operational: Environmental Health and Safety  Managed within

No.	Actions	Performance Measures	When	Resources
				operating Budgets  Support: Community Experience & Relationships  Dog and Cat Management Board
12	Promote the <b>use of cat runs and other appropriate containment measures</b> to prevent cats from wandering.	Promotional material posted on Council's website, social media and other formats.	Year 1 and ongoing	Operational: Environmental Health and Safety  Managed within operating Budgets  Support: Community Experience & Relationships  Dog and Cat Management Board
13	Encourage people to take <b>full responsibility for un-owned cats they are feeding</b> including de-sexing and microchipping of cats.	Promotional material posted on Council's website, social media and other formats.	Year 1 and ongoing	Operational: Environmental Health and Safety  Managed within operating Budgets  Support: Community Experience & Relationships  Dog and Cat Management Board
14	Encourage <b>cat owners to register their cats on DACO.</b>	Increase in number of cats registered on DACO over the life of this Plan.	Year 1 and ongoing	Operational: Environmental Health and Safety  Managed within operating Budgets  Support: Community Experience & Relationships  Dog and Cat Management Board
15	Determine future directions for <b>cat management in the Council including cat by-law</b> to address top 3 issues in the	Investigation conducted and recommendations	Year 1	Operational: Environmental Health and Safety

No.	Actions	Performance Measures	When	Resources
	community survey: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>cats attacking wildlife</li> <li>cats wandering into yard</li> <li>cats causing a nuisance.</li> </ul>	for consideration.		Subject to further report and New Initiative Bid for any resource or funding implications.

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## Objective 2: Increase public safety & enhance the amenity and environment

### Wandering Dogs and Harassment

**Did you know?** Council makes every effort to reunite dogs as soon as possible with their owner.

Dogs that wander or roam from their property can “cause a nuisance, are often distressed and may attack or harass people or other animals. In some cases, they cause road accidents resulting in injury to the dog and on occasion to vehicle occupants and may cause property damage – all of which becomes the responsibility of the owner of the dog” (DCMB, 2014).

In 2019/20, Council picked up 897 dogs wandering at large, which accounts for 77% of all dog related complaints. Dog’s wandering has been Council’s top complaint for over the last five years. Losing a pet can be a distressing time for both the dog and the owner. Council makes every effort to reunite dogs as soon as possible with their owners. If a dog can be identified via a microchip or collar and tag with contact details the animal is taken home the same day if owners are present, otherwise he/she is impounded in Council’s pound facility. If a dog is not claimed by the owners within 72 hours, the animal is handed over to the Animal Welfare League for rehoming, if suitable.

To ensure community safety and to avoid a dog escaping, dog owners are encouraged to conduct a yard check to ensure there are no areas where dogs can get out. Escaped dogs roaming the streets present a risk to the community. Dogs escape for many reasons, such as inadequate fencing, being left alone for long periods of time and becoming bored and frustrated, fear of loud noises, thunder and fireworks or opportunistic escapes through opening roller door, gates or screen doors being left open. **Dogs that escape their yard may attack or harass people, other dogs, cats and wildlife** and yard security and containment is a key strategy to reduce dog harassment and attacks.

No.	Actions	Performance Measures	When	Resources
16	<p>Develop a <b>targeted campaign to educate dog owners</b> on how to <b>keep their yard ‘dog secure’</b>.</p> <p>This could include a yard checklist and suggested solutions on how to make yards ‘dog secure’.</p> <p>See Resources &amp; Links for ideas on dog secure yards.</p>	Campaign developed and implemented over the life of this Plan.	Year 1 and ongoing	<p>Operational: Environmental Health and Safety</p> <p>Managed within operating Budgets</p> <p>Support: Community Experience &amp; Relationships Dog and Cat Management Board</p>
17	Encourage the community to report to Council if dogs rush at them or their animals, with the aim of preventing future acts of harassment or attack.	Education campaign implemented over the life of this Plan.	Year 1 and ongoing	<p>Operational: Environmental Health and Safety</p> <p>Managed within operating Budgets</p> <p>Support: Community Experience &amp; Relationships</p>

## Dog Faeces

**Did you know?** Dog owners are required under the City of Salisbury's Dog by-law (no. 5) to carry a bag or other suitable receptacle to pick up after their dog's faeces and dispose of it correctly.

When owners are about and out with their dogs in public places, they are required to clean up after them. This can easily be done using a scooper and a plastic bag to remove and dispose of the faeces. Council provides dog bag dispensers and bins in various parks and reserves including fenced dog parks to encourage dog owners to do the right thing. The penalty for failing to clean up after a dog is \$210 (on the spot fine).

The issue of people not picking up and/or disposing of dog faeces properly in public parks and reserves was the top issue identified in the City of Salisbury community survey (2021).

No.	Actions	Performance Measures	When	Resources
18	Promote the legal requirement for <b>dog owners to carry a plastic bag, for faeces disposal</b> when in a public place.	Promotional material posted on Council's website, social media and other formats.	Year 1 and ongoing	Operational: Environmental Health and Safety  Managed within operating Budgets  Support: Community Experience & Relationships
19	<b>Respond to demonstrated demand for the provision of additional bins and dog tidy bags</b> along popular walking routes and at entry/exit of parks, reserves, and sporting grounds.	Respond as required.	Year 1 and ongoing	Operational: Environmental Health and Safety  Subject to further report and New Initiative Bid for any resource or funding implications.  Support: Community Experience & Relationships  City Infrastructure and Field Services
20	Undertake <b>targeted campaigns around 'picking up after dogs and disposing correctly'</b> in public places.	Education campaign implemented over the life of this Plan.	Year 1 and ongoing	Operational: Environmental Health and Safety  Support: Community Experience & Relationships  Dog and Cat Management Board

## Objective 3: Reduce public and environmental nuisances from dogs and cats

### Dogs in Public Places and Effective Control

**Did you know?** There are nine (9) fenced dog parks in the City of Salisbury where dogs can be off-leash at all times.

Council provides a range of public open space where dogs can be exercised on and off-leash such as sporting ovals, parks and reserves, and linear walking trails, and supporting amenities such as dog water bowls, dog bag dispensers and bins. It is a statutory requirement under the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 to have dogs under effective control at all times. For dogs off-leash, effective control refers to dog owners having their dogs under voice command, and in close proximity, so owners can see their dog at all times.

Having your dog under effective control in a public place is not only a statutory requirement, but also respects the rights and safety of other users in shared spaces. It is not appropriate to allow a dog to rush up to children, adults, and other animals in a public place unless you have permission for your dog to approach. Dog owners who cannot demonstrate effective control should keep their dogs on a leash. You can read more about the existing dog off-leash, on-leash and dog prohibited areas in **Appendix C**.

No.	Actions	Performance Measures	When	Resources
21	<p>Investigate a <b>standard suite of signs</b> and messages on dog controls across the City.</p> <p>Signage could consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Easy, and accessible format to read</li> <li>• Placement of signs in highly visible locations e.g. at entry/exit points.</li> </ul>	Investigation completed and recommendations for consideration.	Year 3	<p>Operational: Environmental Health and Safety</p> <p>Subject to further report and New Initiative Bid for any resource or funding implications.</p> <p>Support: Community Experience &amp; Relationships City Infrastructure and Field Services Dog and Cat Management Board</p>
22	<p>Investigate the use of <b>SMART technology</b> in Council's fenced dog parks.</p> <p>This could consider a visitor counter, and digital information kiosk e.g. dog friendly parks, walking trails, dog etiquette and dog park safety messages.</p>	Investigation completed and recommendations for consideration.	Year 3	<p>Operational: Environmental Health and Safety</p> <p>Subject to further report and New Initiative Bid for any resource or funding implications.</p> <p>Support:</p>

No.	Actions	Performance Measures	When	Resources
				Business Systems & Solutions City Infrastructure and Field Services
23	Develop a <b>targeted campaign for off-leash 'hotspots'</b> to educate dog owners/handlers to have their dogs on leash (i.e. dogs off-leash in on-leash areas).	Campaign developed and delivered over the life of this Plan.	Year 2	Operational: Environmental Health and Safety  Managed within operating Budgets  Support: Community Experience & Relationships City Infrastructure and Field Services
24	Investigate <b>stencilling signs or stickers on pathways</b> including shared walkways to inform dog owners of their responsibilities and legislated obligations.	Investigation completed and recommendations for consideration.	Year 2	Operational: Environmental Health and Safety  Subject to further report and New Initiative Bid for any resource or funding implications.  Support: Community Experience & Relationships City Infrastructure and Field Services
25	Develop an <b>ongoing education campaign on the practical meaning of effective control</b> for off-leash dogs.  See Resources & Links for ideas on effective control.	Education campaign implemented over the life of this Plan.	Year 2	Operational: Environmental Health and Safety  Managed within operating Budgets  Support: Community Experience & Relationships  Dog and Cat Management Board

## Nuisance Barking

**Did you know? Barking is a normal dog behaviour; however, when excessive it is often considered unacceptable behaviour particularly to surrounding residents.**

In 2019/20, there were 30 complaints relating to nuisance barking (i.e. 2.5% of all dog complaints). There are various reasons why a dog may bark excessively including boredom, loneliness, ill health, separation anxiety or reacting to something in the environment such as a bird, cat, or people walking past the property. Some dog owners may not be aware that their dog is barking and creating a nuisance as the dog tends to bark when they are not at home.

Enforcing compliance and responding to nuisance barking complaints is a key responsibility of Council's Authorised Officers. Some complaints are resolved easily whilst others can be challenging, and time consuming for all parties involved as dog noise can be a very subjective.

The investigative process can be lengthy and require detailed evidence to justify the noise nuisance resulting in many neighbours failing to continue with their complaint. Helping dog owners acknowledge and recognise that dogs can have behavioural issues that lead to noise complaints and encouraging suitable training techniques can assist in resolving concerns.

No.	Actions	Performance Measures	When	Resources
26	<p>Promote <b>Force-free/positive reinforcement Trainers as a resource for residents seeking help with dog behaviour issues.</b></p> <p>See Resources &amp; Links for a list of trainers.</p>	Promotional material posted on Council's website, social media and other formats.	Year 1 and ongoing	<p>Operational: Environmental Health and Safety</p> <p>Managed within operating Budgets</p> <p>Support: Community Experience &amp; Relationships Dog and Cat Management Board</p>
27	Investigate technological solutions to assist in the recording of dog noise to facilitate successful evidence gathering and investigations.	Technological solutions investigated and trialled.	Year 2	<p>Operational: Environmental Health and Safety</p> <p>Subject to further report and New Initiative Bid for any resource or funding implications.</p> <p>Support: Business Systems &amp; Solutions</p>

## Objective 4: Ensure council delivers effective, efficient dog and cat management services

### Authorised Animal Management Officers

**Did you know?** Council provides animal management services 7 days a week and offers an on-call service for urgent animal management issues after hours. All our staff are authorised under the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 to carry out specific functions and powers.

An educated, professional, visible, and responsive team is required to deliver effective and efficient services to the community. The Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 requires Council to enforce the provisions of the Act. The approach by the City of Salisbury is to educate and encourage people to do the right thing before the need to enforce the provisions of the Act. Maintaining a high standard of service requires staff to be educated and informed on relevant legislation, and best practice in animal management. Council supports attendance at relevant professional development courses and continuous learning.

No	Actions	Performance Measures	When	Resources
28	Provide <b>staff development in animal behaviour and handling.</b>	Staff development undertaken.	Year 1 and ongoing	Operational: Environmental Health and Safety  Managed within operating Budgets
29	Raise <b>awareness of council animal management services to pet owners and general community.</b>	Promotional material posted on Council's website, social media and other formats.	Year 1 and ongoing	Operational: Environmental Health and Safety  Managed within operating Budgets  Support: Community Experience & Relationships
30	Schedule <b>patrols to focus on peak times of animal-related activity 'hot spots'.</b>	Patrols conducted in targeted locations.  Data captured and evaluated.	Year 1 and ongoing	Operational: Environmental Health and Safety  Managed within operating Budgets

## Animal Pound

**Did you know? Council must provide a suitable pound to hold dogs whilst they wait to be reunited with their owners.**

Effective dog and cat management services include providing the right services and facilities for our community, and Council must make satisfactory arrangements for the detention of dogs seized under this Act. This is undertaken by providing a local pound. A recent review of our facilities and an opportunity to partner with the City of Tea Tree Gully has allowed us to develop a new pound to better serve our local community and provide a safe and comfortable environment for impounded pets.

No	Actions	Performance Measures	When	Resources
31	Provide suitable pound facilities to service the community and provide an environment that caters for the welfare of impounded animals and a safe environment for staff.	Pound developed and maintained in a compliant way.	Year 1 and ongoing	Operational: Environmental Health and Safety  Construction and Maintenance: City Infrastructure  Any changes to approved program and funding subject to further report and New Initiative Bid for any resource or funding implications.  Support: City of Tea Tree Gully

## Dog Friendly Parks and inclusiveness

**Did you know? Greyhounds are restricted under legislation and can't be off-leash unless under a supervised event by Council.**

Council requires on leash activity during 8.30am to 6.00pm across all parks and reserves and provides nine (9) dog friendly parks for off-leash activity at any time. Greyhounds are restricted under legislation to remain on-leash at all times in a public place. The provision of Council supervised off-leash events can provide opportunities for greyhounds to be off-leash.

No	Actions	Performance Measures	When	Resources
32	Implement the outcomes of the dog park review endorsed by Council including signage, maintenance and construction of small dog areas to existing fenced dog parks.  Refer to the Dog Park Review Report 2020.	Dog park program implemented and completed.	Year 1 and ongoing	Operational: City Infrastructure  Managed within operating Budgets and Approved Capital Works Program  Any changes to approved program and

				funding subject to further report and New Initiative Bid for any resource or funding implications.
33	Provide opportunities for off-leash activity for restricted breeds such as greyhounds.	Grey hound off-leash events investigated and implemented.	Year 1 and ongoing	Operational: Environmental Health and Safety  Subject to further report and New Initiative Bid for any resource or funding implications.

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## 7. References

City of Salisbury 2020, Dog Park Review Report. May 2020.

City of Salisbury 2019, Community Profile. Accessed 24 March 2021  
<https://profile.id.com.au/salisbury/home>.

Animal Medicines Australia 2019, Pets in Australia: A national survey of pets and people. Accessed 29 March 2021 <https://animalmedicinesaustralia.org.au/report/pets-in-australia-a-national-survey-of-pets-and-people/>.

Australian Companion Animal Council (ACAC) 2009, The Power of Pets, the benefits of companion animal ownership. Accessed 29 March 2021 [http://www.extraordinarydogs.org/2011/10/australian-companion-animal-council\\_19.html](http://www.extraordinarydogs.org/2011/10/australian-companion-animal-council_19.html).

Petcare Information and Advisory Service (PIAS) 2010 Pets in the City. Accessed 29 March 2021 <http://www.petnet.com.au/pets-city-0/>.

## 8. Resources & Links

Here are some resources and links to further the actions contained in this Plan.

### **Effective control (supervision for off-leash areas) messages from the City of Greater Geelong:**

- “the handler must have a dog lead in their possession and place their dog back on the leash when leaving the off leash area
- the handler must be able to demonstrate audible control of the dog
- dogs must remain in visual and audible range of their handler to allow it to be effectively recalled at any time
- when encountering other people or animals using this area, the dog must be recalled and restrained until both parties have moved apart at a safe distance
- dogs must not enter water habitats that contain wildlife, beach nesting birds or chase wildlife in these areas
- dogs attracted to the motion of wheels must be controlled at all times
- **Website:** [City of Greeter Geelong, Dogs in Public Places](#)

### **Dog secure yards**

- Common ways dogs escape and suggested solutions by the City of Greater Geelong
- **Website:** [Dog security in backyards](#)

### **How to use a Dog Park Safely**

- Video produced on dog parks by the DCMB
- **Website:** [Tips for Dogs Parks](#)

### **RSPCA (SA) Force-free Dog Training List**

- A current list of Force-free trainers in SA is on the RSPCA SA website
- **Website:** [RSPCA SA Force-free Dog Trainers](#)

### **National De-sexing Network (NDN)**

- The [National Desexing Network](#) (NDN) is an Australia-wide referral system giving pet owners in financial need access to low-cost desexing.
- **Website:** [NDN](#)

# APPENDIX A: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement was undertaken in the preparation of this Plan. The community engagement sought input from the general community, elected members, and staff through the following opportunities:

- Online community from 11 Jan to 18 Jan 2021
- Elected Member presentation
- Staff meetings
- Social media campaign.

**The community was notified about the engagement activities by the following strategies:**

- Social media i.e. Facebook, Instagram, Twitter
- Stakeholder emails
- Project Web page.

## SNAPSHOT OF SURVEY FINDINGS

- 2,475 completed surveys

### Dog Issues

#### **Top three dog issues**

1. Not picking up dog faeces
2. Lack of effective control and dog attacks
3. Excessive barking

- 59% of respondents (dog owners) were happy with the current availability of public places to exercise dogs
- 63% of respondents indicated no change to current off-leash hours

### Cat Issues

#### **Top three cat issues**

1. Cats attacking/ harassing wildlife
2. Cats wandering into adjoining yards
3. Cats causing a nuisance

- 68% of cat owners support the introduction of a Council cat -bylaw if the state government do not address the issue
- 93% of non-cat owners the introduction of a Council cat -bylaw if the state government do not address the issue

You can read more about the community engagement activities and findings in the Summary of Survey Results: Dog and Cat Management Plan (dated 11 February 2021) available from Council.

## APPENDIX B: SUBURB, POPULATION & HOUSEHOLDS

Suburbs	Population	Households
Parafield Gardens	17109	5986
Paralowie	16518	5620
Mawson Lakes	13294	4874
Salisbury North	10159	3833
Salisbury East	8966	3605
Ingle Farm	8817	3513
Para Vista - Valley View - Walkley Heights	8713	3341
Salisbury	8217	3353
Burton	7966	2672
Pooraka	7223	2877
Brahma Lodge - Salisbury Park - Salisbury Park	7196	2860

Source: <https://profile.id.com.au/salisbury/home>

## APPENDIX C: ON-LEASH, OFF-LEASH & DOG PROHIBITED AREAS

City of Salisbury maintains and enforces a By Law requiring all dogs to be leashed on all Local Government Land except for parks and open spaces marked with signs permitting unleashed exercise from 6.30pm to 8am daily.

Council provides nine (9) fenced dog parks where dogs can be off-leash at all times and under effective control.

Fenced dog park	Suburb	Type of dog park
Baltimore Oval	Parafield Gardens	All dog area
Canterbury Drive	Salisbury Heights	All dog area
Happy Home Reserve	Salisbury North	Separate large and small dog area
Golding Oval	Para Vista	Separate large and small dog area
Jenkins Reserve	Salisbury Park	Separate large and small dog area
Kingswood Crescent	Paralowie	Separate large and small dog area
Mawson Lakes/Dry Creek Linear Park	Mawson Lakes	All dog area
The Paddocks	Para Hills West	All dog area
Unity Park	Pooraka	All dog area

### Dog prohibited areas

Dogs are prohibited in designated parks and reserves including:

- Fenced children's playgrounds
- St Kilda Play Space