



ANIMAL MANAGEMENT DIRECTIONS PLAN

**PLAN OF MANAGEMENT RELATING TO
DOGS AND CATS**

2017 - 2021



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Executive Summary

The City of Holdfast Bay is situated approximately 11km south west of the Adelaide CBD and has a population base of 34,000 residents. During the 2015/2016 registration period the Council registered 4,458 dogs, impounded 91 dogs and returned 124 dogs to their owners. In addition the Council investigated 27 dog attacks/harassments and 85 noise complaints.

This Animal Management Plan has been prepared by the City of Holdfast Bay (the Council) in response to the Council adopting a planned approach to undertake its responsibilities under the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995, and will guide domestic animal management by the Council over the next 5 years. The Plan identifies strategies and actions to implement the mission, aims and objectives for domestic animal management, and relates these back to the wider policy context. The Strategy has been prepared by Council's Regulatory Services Section, drawing information from a broad range of stakeholders, with the community being asked to comment on the draft prior to its adoption by the Council.

Animal control has widened into a greater array of contexts following the introduction of the Act. Knowledge of both animal and human behaviours is now a requirement for those working in this field. There is growing recognition that enforcement of laws will not, on its own, result in lasting, voluntary changes in behaviour. It needs to be supplemented by a range of non-regulatory approaches such as public education and improved signage.

The core purpose of the City of Holdfast Bay's Animal Management Services are:-

Firstly, to recognise that pets are integral to the lives of many people and recognise the health and social benefits associated with pet ownership.

Secondly, to inform and educate the community about the needs of companion animals and promote responsible pet ownership.

Thirdly, to ensure that the sentiment of the wider community is reflected through Council's Animal Management Directions Plan and,

Finally, to secure the safety and well being of members of our community including the animals.

On a day to day basis Council is required to provide an Animal management Service to ensure that animals do not denigrate the amenity and community safety of the Council area. Council is required to respond to public queries, provide advice to residents and provide enforcement of relevant Act, regulations and by-laws.

Introduction

Background

The Dog and Cat Management Miscellaneous Amendment Act came into effect on 6 July 2016. This amended the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 in many ways including, introducing microchipping, desexing of dogs and cats amongst administration improvements.

Section 26A placed responsibility on Council's to develop and maintain Animal management Plans.

This Section in part states:-

Section 26A Dog and Cat Management Act 1995

26A Plans of management relating to dogs and cats

- 26(1) Each council must, in accordance with this section, prepare a plan relating to the management of dogs and cats within its area.
 - (2) A plan of management must be prepared and presented to the Board as follows:
 - (a) the first plan must cover a 5 year period and be prepared and presented within 3 years after the commencement of this section;
 - (3) subsequent plans must cover subsequent 5 year periods and each plan must be prepared and presented at least 6 months before it is to take effect.
 - (4) A council may, with the approval of the Board, amend a plan of management at any time during the course of the 5 year period covered by the plan.

Directions Plan Outline

The Council's management of urban animal issues impacts on the health, well-being and lives of the whole community and the welfare of animals in the City. The 2017-2021 Animal Management Direction Plan is designed for everyone in the City of Holdfast Bay, both animal owners and non-owners. Dogs and cats represent by far the most significant number and type of animals and have the most significant impact on our community, environment, health and well being.

As a result of a review of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 several changes have come into effect. The Council is required to administer and enforce the provisions of this Act. 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 encouragement for the de-sexing and microchipping of dogs and cats).

The plan's mission is to create an environment which encourages responsible pet ownership, where people and pets integrate safely and harmoniously within the Holdfast Bay community.

This Plan also contains recommendations for a wide range of actions to be undertaken by the Council to achieve these objectives. It provides a sound basis and direction from which it can plan and make future decisions over the next five years, and relates back to the wider Council policy context. It identifies strategies and actions to implement the mission, aims and objectives, including:-

- Educating and promoting responsible pet ownership
- Highlighting the importance of desexing of dogs and cats
- Obtaining the right pet and “pet friendly” housing
- Reducing dog attacks and bite avoidance
- Managing dog faeces in public places
- Reducing the numbers of dogs wandering at large
- Promoting the importance of dog socialisation and training
- Reducing dog barking and nuisance
- Reviewing officer image and staff training
- Meeting our Corporate Responsibilities
 - Risk Management
 - Service Levels.

Education, Prevention, Encouragement and Enforcement

This Plan emphasises the proactive combination of education, prevention, encouragement and enforcement to achieve Council’s objectives. Education and promotion are key priorities in changing attitudes to result in an increase in responsible pet ownership in the future. At the same time Council must be proactive in investigating and implementing preventative measures where possible and by providing encouragement to members of our community to comply with our policies and regulations which is on going.

Although it is expected that there will be a progressive decline in complaints and less reliance on enforcement, this will occur over the longer term. At the same time there may be a counter balancing effect due to increasing community expectation, increased profile on the Regulatory Services department and its services and encouragement of reporting (eg. All dog attacks and variables such as impacts from proposed legislative amendments to the Act).

Animal Management Directions Plan 2017-2021 (Plan of Management relating to dogs and cats)

While some long term planning (5 years) is appropriate, it is not anticipated that there will be any significant changes in the direction that this Plan sets out. However, the Plan will be routinely reviewed to ensure its alignment to Council’s strategic directions over the life of the Plan.

The Law and Guidelines

The responsibilities for dog and cat management in South Australia are prescribed in the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995. Under the Act, councils are required to administer and enforce the provisions relating to dogs within its area. Prescribed responsibilities include the appointment of a Registrar, maintenance of a Dog Register, the appointment of authorised persons and to make arrangements for dogs seized. A council is also able to make By-Laws relating to the management of dogs and cats within its area.

(The City of Holdfast Bay currently has (5) appointed/authorised persons.

The Act also provides for the appointment of the Dog and Cat Management Board, which has responsibilities to plan, promote, and advise on effective management of dogs and cats in the State, to monitor councils' management of their responsibilities, to issue Guidelines for councils and to advise and assist councils to undertake their responsibilities. The Board also has a role to provide advice to the Minister to keep the Act under review, to undertake research into companion animal management and to provide education programs for dog management officers and community awareness information.

While these provisions provide the legal framework for the council's responsibilities and the penalties that can be imposed on dog owners for non compliance, this Plan seeks to implement a balanced approach that caters to everyone's needs that will not only benefit dogs/cats and their owners as a group with legitimate needs but also the wider community as well as those charged with the responsibility of animal management By-Laws.

Mission Statement

"To create an environment which encourages responsible pet ownership, where people and pets integrate safely and harmoniously within the City of Holdfast Bay community. To recognise that companion animals are part of the community, contributing to its quality of life, and to ensure that the needs of animals and their owners are accommodated while recognising the differing needs of all members of the community such as non pet owners".

Aims

- To provide effective management and a suitable environment for dogs within the community.
- To encourage responsible dog and cat ownership.
- To increase public safety through the reduction of public and environmental nuisance caused by dogs and cats.
- To provide for the welfare and safety of dogs and cats.
- To acknowledge the importance of dogs and cats in society.
- To encourage the enjoyment of and benefits from dogs and cats by people.
- To ensure public safety and amenity in relation to dogs and cats.
- To protect native fauna and flora from the impact of dogs and cats.
- To ensure the expenditure of registration fees addresses the needs of pet owners as well as domestic animal management issues.

Objective

The objectives of the City of Holdfast Bay's Animal Management Directions Plan in conjunction with the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 and the Local Government Act 1999 are to:

Objective 1.: Creating a Safe Public Environment

To promote and enforce compliance with relevant legislation being the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995.

Council has a responsibility to safeguard community safety and health. To do this, it is necessary to manage the activities of dogs. This involves avoiding potential conflict, preventing danger and minimising distress that may be caused to the community.

The Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 requires Council to develop an Animal Management Plan and to ensure that adequate community consultation takes place. Council is committed to the viability of this process and produced this Plan in partnership with the community and all interested parties to ensure quality of life for dog owners, cat owners, and non dog and cat owners.

The Plan aims to:

- promote responsible dog and cat ownership;
- provide for the welfare and safety of dogs and cats;
- ensure public safety and enhance the amenity and environment;
- harness the benefits of dog and cat ownership; and
- ensure that the expenditure of registration fees addresses domestic animal issues.

Strategies and Actions

1. *Legislation & Image*

Council Staff cannot operate consistently without clear direction and guidelines, as individuals will often interpret Legislation in differing ways. The Dog and Cat Management Act is the primary Legislation, by-laws introduced by Council are subordinate Legislation and Procedures are the mechanism to implement the Act and by-laws.

Generally speaking most dog and cat owners want to do the right thing. Registration of dogs and general compliance with the Act is relatively high throughout the community. Council must do everything in its power to ensure that residents and visitors understand their obligations to act responsibly with their pets.

1.1 *Ensure that Officers of Council operate within the provisions of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995.*

1.2 *Ensure that Officers operate within predetermined guidelines in accordance with the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995.*

1.3 *Encourage education of dog and cat owners.*

Actions:

- ⇒ *Ongoing review Staff training and development to ensure that all staff have a clear understanding of animal management issues..*
- ⇒ *6 monthly performance reviews for all Staff involved in animal management.*
- ⇒ *Update procedural guidelines for all Staff to follow.*
- ⇒ *Update a brochure for all residents and visitors to the City of Holdfast Bay. The brochure should be distributed through as many outlets as possible including Council Buildings, Associations and Interest Groups. This will be in conjunction with Animal Management stakeholders.
Promote Council's website - www.holdfast.sa.gov.au*

2. Dog Registrations

Legislation in SA requires all dogs of or over 3 months of age must be registered. Councils cannot expect to obtain an acceptable level of dog management without obtaining maximum registration. This can therefore be seen to be the most important issue at hand and is the key factor controlling all other effective and successful dog management strategies.

Dog registration ensures that:

- *Owners are registered as well as their dogs.*
- *Maximum funding is available for councils to carry out responsibilities under the Act.*
- *Responsible dog owners and the rest of the community do not have to financially support irresponsible and unthinking dog owners.*

2.1 Maximise dog registrations.

Actions:

- ⇒ *Conduct a survey for unregistered dogs as required.*
- ⇒ *Use the media to inform the public of dog registrations.*
- ⇒ *Educate the community to register their dogs annually.*

3. *Wandering Animals*

A dog wandering at large can be a threat to members of the public, particularly children and older people and Council is aware that serious attacks can arise in these circumstances. Council will therefore implement strategies to minimize its occurrence in the community.

Dog wandering at Large

For the purposes of this Act, a dog will be taken to be wandering at large while –

- (a) The dog is in a public place (other than a park) or a private place without the consent of the occupier, and no person is exercising effective control of the dog by means of physical restraint; or*
- (b) the dog is in a park and no person is exercising effective control of the dog either –*
 - (i) by means of physical restraint; or*
 - (ii) by command, the dog being in close proximity to the person and the person being able to see the dog at all times.*

However a dog will not be taken to be wandering at large while –

- (a) the dog is being used in the droving or tending of stock or is going to or returning from a place where it will be, or has been, so used; or*
- (b) the dog is being trained for, or participating in, an organised activity being a race, trial, class or show or in retrieving, hunting or other sporting exercise customarily involving the running of one or more dogs; or*
- (c) the dog is in a vehicle.*

The strategies are in two parts; the first to encourage owners to have adequate fencing and control over their dog and the second is the actions of the Council to the dogs 'wandering at-large'.

3.1 *Minimise dogs wandering at large.*

Actions:

⇒ *Make owners be made aware of their responsibilities including:-*

- *Register their dog,*
- *Adequately fence their property to control their dog,*
- *Train their dog so as to not leave their premises,*
- *Keep their dog under effective control when in a public place.*

Other Key Issues to be aware of:-

- *That an animal management officer conducts random patrols of all public areas and detain dogs wandering at large.*
- *That Council responds to calls from the general public that a dog is wandering at large. The priority of the Council will be to return the dog to the owner.*
- *Un-identified dogs will be impounded in accordance with the Act.*

- *Unclaimed dogs that are suitable as pets will be eligible for distribution to persons seeking a pet, dogs being re-homed under this program will be required to be de-sexed, immunized and registered.*
- *Unclaimed dogs, which are unsuitable as pets, will be euthanased.*
- *To encourage compliance, animal management officers are encouraged to reinforce complying behaviour, particularly in children, to give warnings to first offences that are of a minor nature where no harm to a person or property has occurred. Penalties prescribed by the Act will be applied in certain circumstances.*

4. *Identification of Dogs and Cats*

Identification of dogs is imperative to provide sound animal management practices. Residents and visitors to the area must identify their dogs at all times. Generally speaking pet owners do not allow their pets to wander at large.

Accidental escape accounts for approximately 90% of dogs wandering at large. Often these dogs are not identified and therefore cannot be returned to the owner. The costs associated with impounding unidentified dogs and cats and the stress placed on the animal and their owners can be avoided.

4.1 **Enforce identification of dogs**

Actions:

- ⇒ *Educate the public regarding the correct identification of dogs and cats.*
- ⇒ *Introduce microchipping days throughout the year to promote identification of pets, via dog clubs and reputable groups.*
- ⇒ *Authorised Persons will identify dogs and cats by their microchips.*

5. *Community Responsibility*

Knowledge is the Council's best tool to reduce the number of dog attacks that occur in the community. Due to the high number of visitors to the area it is difficult for Council to implement a strategy to reduce dog attacks and harassment. The collection of data will enable Council to understand the situations that lead to such attacks and therefore the community must be encouraged to provide information regarding all attacks regardless of their severity

5.1 Encourage the community to report all dog attacks and harassments to Council.

Actions:

- ⇒ *Implement an education programme that targets the reporting of all dog attacks/harassments throughout the community.*
- ⇒ *Provide dog attack/harassment forms throughout the community.*
- ⇒ *All dog attack/harassment incidents to be placed on the Dog and Cat Management Board's "Dog Incident System" – www.sadogincident.com.au*

6. Dog Exercise Areas

Providing suitable on and off leash activity areas is vital to the success of animal management in the area. Dog owners must have suitable areas to exercise their dogs safely.

Equally, other members of the community must have the ability to use the amenities without fear of harassment by uncontrolled dogs. In areas such as streets, roads, and places the public congregate such as shopping areas, dogs must be restrained effectively. In parks assessed by Council for their suitability, dog owners should be able to exercise their dogs without restraint providing the owner exercises effective control.

On beaches and foreshores many councils have considered restricting dog activities to on-leash only. In all foreshore areas designated times for off-leash activities are considered during daylight saving and unrestricted off-leash activities allowed during the rest of the year.

Maximise the public's understanding of the Animal Management Officers and the Council's role in the community.

Many people have little or no understanding of the role performed by Animal Management Officers and Council in the Community. This can lead to mistrust and in the worst cases a total lack of respect for the Officers and the Council. Officers must become better at providing information regarding the very important role they perform in the Community on behalf of Council.

Refer: By-Law No. 5 – Dogs – (Section 6)

6.1 Provide suitable on and off leash activity areas.

Actions:

- ⇒ Council do not have any “on leash” parks or reserves.
- ⇒ Maintain current foreshore restrictions on dog owners during daylight savings, currently at 10am to 8pm
- ⇒ Provide public information to inform the public of their role and current animal management issues and the role of the Animal Management Officer is to also catch the public doing the right thing e.g. picking up after their dog, keeping under effective control.

7. Restrictions on Animal Numbers

Council has for some time now placed limits on the number of dogs per dwelling. Under the provisions of the Council's By-Law the limit on the number of dogs in a dwelling is two.

It is possible under certain circumstances to obtain permission to keep more than the prescribed number of dogs with the written consent of Council.

Council must have accurate information in order to fully understand animal management issues. Currently there is a reliance on the officer's knowledge of issues and complaints received. Works instructions are generated for complaints with the outcomes recorded but to date this information is only used for reference should further complaints be received. This information should now be analysed to better understand animal management issues.

Refer – By-Law Number 5 – Dogs – (Section 2)

7.1 Limit the number of dogs and cats per dwelling.

Actions:

- ⇒ *Analyse all works instructions received over the past twelve months to better understand any trends regarding animal management issues.*

- ⇒ *Database established to monitor trends.*

8. Responsible Ownership

Provide Education material to residents and visitors to the Council area.

There are three factors that contribute to successful pet ownership. They are:

- *The Owner, who needs to be aware of responsibilities of pet ownership and ensures that the dog is registered, immunized, and desexed. The owner is also responsible to ensure that the dog is trained, and needs to be aware of the dog's behaviour at all times, including when the owner is away from the home such as at work. The owner is also responsible to ensure that the dog has adequate food, water and shelter and that the dog is regularly exercised.*
- *The Breed determines the size, and often the temperament of the dog and its susceptibility to genetic defects. When selecting a pet it is important to seek appropriate advice on the soundness of animals being considered and their suitability to the home / yard that the dog will be kept in and the family that the dog will be joining, particularly if small children are involved.*
- *The Home environment is made up of the part of the home that the dog will have access to. In most cases this will include an enclosed yard and possibly part of the house. Important factors are the adequacy of the fencing, whether the dog can see out of the yard through a gate, adequacy of shelter, food / water and whether there are children, closeness of neighbours and other dogs and access to on-leash and off-leash exercise areas are all important factors.*

Successful pet ownership has both financial and time commitments and it is therefore important that people contemplating pet ownership endeavour to match their choice of pet to their particular home and family circumstances.

8.1 Encourage responsible dog and cat ownership

Actions:

- ⇒ *Encourage people contemplating obtaining a dog or a cat to consider the factors affecting the suitability of successful pet ownership in their particular circumstances.*
 - *Sources of this information include: Advice being available from the Council Animal Management Officer.*
 - *Advise available on line information DCMB online resources e.g.*
 - <http://gooddogsa.com/>
 - <http://goodcatsa.com/>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/goodcatsa>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/gooddogsa>
 - *To discourage people from obtaining dogs or a cat from other than registered breeders, and to ensure that the dog or cat is sound from defects, immunised and de-sexed and microchipped.*

- *That people contemplating obtaining a dog or a cat be encouraged to become familiar with the responsibilities of dog or cat ownership prior to obtaining a dog or a cat.*
- *That people who obtain a new dog ensure that it is appropriately trained with reputable training groups including the RSPCA and the Animal Welfare League.*

9. Enforcement

Consistent enforcement of the provisions of the Dog and Cat Management Act is an important factor in educating the public to act responsibly with their pets. Responsible pet owners expect irresponsible pet owners to be dealt with through the provisions of the Act. Effectively there cannot be an incentive to act responsibly with our pets unless there is a disincentive for those who are not responsible.

9.1 Enforce the provision of the Dog and Cat Management Act.

Actions:

- ⇒ *Increase public safety through the reduction of public and environmental nuisance caused by dogs and cats.*
- ⇒ *Promote microchipping with appropriate veterinarians.*
- ⇒ *Increase public knowledge on how to own non-nuisance dogs and cats in association with reputable Animal Management organisations.*

10. Noise

Barking dog complaints are one of the most difficult and time consuming areas of Council responsibility. Barking dog complaints are subjective depending on an individual's tolerance for dog noise. Council must investigate and resolve these types of complaints. In order for Council to resolve the complaint they require full cooperation from the complainant to collect meaningful evidence suitable to a Court of law. In order to do this Council has set up a standard operating procedure for all dog noise nuisance complaints.

The complainant must follow this standard operating procedure, as failure to do so will result in the matter being set aside by Council. On receipt of a complaint Council will provide information to the dog owner and diaries to the complainant. If and when the diaries are returned, an investigation will follow. Upon substantiation of a complaint the Council will take the appropriate course of action.

10.1 Control of Barking Dogs.

Actions:

- ⇒ *Implement a standard operating procedure for the investigation of dog and cat related noise nuisance complaints.*
- ⇒ *Implement an education brochure for dog owners which will be sent out in the event of a complaint regarding dog noise nuisances.*
- ⇒ *Promote force free alternatives, education and environmental enrichment options to owners of barking dogs.*

11. Dog attacks/harassment

As previously stated all dog attacks/harassment must be recorded and investigated. In order to reduce the incidence of dog attacks, Council must educate the public to act responsibly. The issue of dog attacks and harassment is of great concern to the general community, particularly in relation to children and the elderly.

Also of great concern is the number of unreported attacks and the fact that the majority of attacks (60%) occur on private property.

Although only a minority of dogs are involved in attacks and harassment, all dogs have the potential to bite, regardless of size, age, breed or temperament, particularly in situations where they are frightened, dominant, protective or possessive. How to avoid being bitten or how to read a dog's body language are important issues on which to educate the public.

11.1 Minimise dog attacks/harassments.

Actions:

- ⇒ Collate statistics related to dog attacks.
- ⇒ Examine the types and breeds of dog registered in the Council area to determine any trends applicable.
- ⇒ Promote the level of risk relating to litigation and public safety.
- ⇒ Collaborate with welfare organisations to educate the public how to interact safely with dogs – familiar and unfamiliar.
- ⇒ All dog attack/harassment incidents to be placed on the Dog and Cat management Board's Dog Incident System. – www.sadogincident.com.au

12. Environmental

The management of dog faeces is an important environmental and health issue. Anecdotally, large amounts of dog faeces pollute our waterways and public places each year and it is an issue on which the community has strong feelings. In addition, the City of Holdfast Bay relies heavily on tourism and animal faeces littering our public places has a detrimental effect on visitors. Although the responsibility lies with dog owners, an increasing number of councils are providing leadership in this area by providing dog tidy bags to promote the picking up of dog faeces. It is widely acknowledged that councils that provide faeces removal dispensers dramatically reduce the incidence of discarded faeces in the community. Problems associated with vandalism have been overcome by placing the bag dispensers in areas of high visibility such as Council buildings.

Council also has a by-law which requires dog owners to carry a bag for the picking -up of dog droppings.

Refer – By-Law Number 5 – Dogs – (Section 7)

12.1 Reduce dog faeces in public places to minimise environmental harm.

Actions:

- ⇒ *Implement strategically placed signs to encourage responsible dog ownership in the area of faeces removal.*
- ⇒ *Investigate the feasibility of providing dispensers and dog tidy bags with Environmental Officer and survey the community.*
- ⇒ *Gather data how often dispensers need to be refilled to reduce the length of time a dispenser is empty.*
- ⇒ *Enforce the by-law for dog owners to carry a bag for picking-up dog droppings.*

13. *Animal Safety*

All reported dogs/cats wandering at large are picked up by Council Animal Management Officers and if the owner is known, returned to them as soon as possible. If the owner cannot be located the animal is taken to the local pound for safe keeping until claimed.

13.2 Provide for the welfare and safety of dogs and cats.

Actions:

- ⇒ *Ensure that impounded dogs/cats are returned to owners as soon as practical.*
- ⇒ *Ensure that all impounded dogs and cats have clean safe facilities while impounded.*
- ⇒ *Contact made with owner (if known) of deceased dog/cat found on Council Land.*
- ⇒ *Educate the community about acting fast and what to do if dogs go missing.*
- ⇒ *Enforce mandatory microchipping of Dogs and Cats – Encourage Community to update their contact details.*
- ⇒ *Encourage cat owners to keep their cats confined to keep them safe from harm.*

14. *Benefits of Responsible Pet Ownership*

There is a wealth of scientific evidence to support the benefits of owning pets and their use in therapy. However, until recently this evidence has not been considered by local government, which has focused instead on the negative aspects alone.

Evidence of a link between pet ownership and better health has been demonstrated by a range of different studies. More work needs to be done to determine whether this link is causal or merely correlational (i.e. do pet owners share some other factor which yields health benefits?), and not all studies demonstrate a link between pet ownership and better health outcomes. However, as the evidence mounts, the public health profession is starting to take note, eg:

The National Health and Medical Research Council's Strategic Plan for the Prevention of Overweight and Obesity is considering dog walking as one key to getting overweight and obese people moving.

- *Dogs encourage people to enjoy the outdoors. They have been shown to stimulate conversation between strangers in public places and they improve people's sense of security - both in the home and with their owner in public places. Pets are also wonderful companions. In some cases helping combat loneliness and social alienation. These benefits are as important for the elderly and single person households as they are for households with children.*

Part of the challenge involves removing barriers to owning pets.

Local government has a role to play in harnessing these benefits - not to encourage people to buy a pet but to even up the balance in the consideration of domestic animals issues and by removing unnecessary barriers to pet ownership.

14.1 Acknowledge the importance of dogs and cats in society.

Actions:

- ⇒ *Provide residents and visitors with up to date information regarding the benefits of responsible dog and cat ownership.*
- ⇒ *Promote the benefits to the community of responsible pet ownership with the Dog and Cat Management Boards publications.*

15. *Public Safety*

Conduct regular patrols to ensure compliance with Legislative requirements. Invite regular input regarding dog and cat management issues from interest groups throughout the community.

Council has 5 Part time Animal Management Officers and several Administration Support Staff. These staff are trained in all areas of animal management, and are the public face of animal management in the area. The officers educate, mediate and enforce the provision of the Act and have a good understanding of the issues affecting public safety and amenities in relation to dogs and cats. Council is providing adequate patrols for non-compliance with the Act.

15.1 *Ensure public safety and amenity in relation to dogs and cats*

Actions:

- ⇒ *Continue regular patrols of the area to ensure compliance with the Act.*
- ⇒ *Invite members of the public to input into animal management.*
- ⇒ *Promote the role of the Animal Management Officer in the media, community events etc.*

16. Fee Structures

Under the provisions of the Act Council must utilise money generated from dog management in the area of dog management. The implementation of this plan is a clear demonstration of Councils desire to fulfil this obligation. In addition Council's Finance Manager is responsible for ensuring that an independent ledger of funds is kept and is available for scrutiny by the Dog and Cat Management Board.

16.1 Ensure that revenue generated from registration fees is allocated to activities that address the needs of pet owners as well as domestic animal management issues.

Actions:

- ⇒ *Conduct regular reviews of income and expenditure to ensure that Council is using best practice with available funds in a cost effective way.*

17. Cat Management

Under the provisions of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 a cat must be identified by wearing a collar or tag with owners details and by micro-chipping. There is community support for greater control of cats and accountability of cat owners for their pets. Reasons commonly raised to better manage cats include: protection of birds, lizards and native fauna; to minimise disturbance to neighbours from defecation and spraying; to reduce disruption caused by the interaction between dogs and cats; and to manage territorial and other disputes between cats.

With the above in mind, Council decided at its meeting on 28 April 2009 to adopt a Cat By-law for the community. The Council Cat By-law came into operation on 7 September 2009.

Refer – By-Law Number 6 – Cats – (Sections 1 to 4)

17.1 Promote the contents of council's Cat By-law.

Actions:

- ⇒ *Promote Council's Cat By-law and Cat Policy, which outlines the requirements for keeping a cat within the City of Holdfast Bay.*
- ⇒ *Provide cat cages, for property owners to humanely trap on their property, unowned, feral or stray cats in accordance with RSPCA Guidelines and to hand them over to Council.*
- ⇒ *Support the compulsory microchipping of cats in the Council area.*

COUNCIL BY-LAWS

CITY OF HOLDFAST BAY

*By-law made under the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995
and the Local Government Act 1999*

By-Law No 5 - Dogs

To limit the number of dogs that can be kept on premises and to provide for the management and control of dogs within the Council's area.

1. Definitions

In this by-law unless the context otherwise requires:

- 1.1 'approved kennel establishment' means a building, structure, premises or area approved by the relevant authority pursuant to the Development Act 1993 or otherwise lawfully established for the keeping of dogs and/or cats on a temporary or permanent basis;
- 1.2 'assistant dog' means an accredited hearing dog, guide dog or disability dog as defined in the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995;
- 1.3 'local government land' has the same meaning as in the Local Government Act 1999;
- 1.4 'premises' includes land and part of any premises or land whether used or occupied for domestic or non-domestic purposes;
- 1.5 'small dwelling' means a self-contained dwelling commonly known as a flat, service flat, home unit or the like.

2. Limit On Dog Numbers

A person must not, without the Council's permission, keep more than:

- 2.1 one dog in a small dwelling; and
- 2.2 two dogs in any premises other than a small dwelling.

3. Exemptions

The limits set out in paragraph 2 of this by-law do not apply:

- 3.1 to an approved kennel establishment operating in accordance with all required approvals and consents; or
- 3.2 to any business involving dogs which is registered in accordance with the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995; or
- 3.3 where the Council otherwise grants permission.

4. **Dog Free Areas**

A person must not, on any local government land to which this paragraph applies, cause, suffer or permit any dog (except an assistant dog) under that person's control, charge or authority to be or remain in that place.

5. **Dog On Leash Areas**

A person must not, on any local government land to which this paragraph applies, cause, suffer or permit any dog under that person's control, charge or authority to be or remain in that place unless such dog is restrained by a strong chain, cord or leash not exceeding 2 metres in length and either tethered securely to a fixed object or held by a person capable of controlling the dog and preventing it from being a nuisance or a danger to other persons.

6. **Dog Exercise Areas**

Subject to paragraphs 4 and 5 of this by-law,

6.1 any person may enter upon any part of local government land for the purpose of exercising a dog under that person's control; and

6.2 where a person enters upon such part of local government land for that purpose, he or she shall ensure that the dog or dogs remain under effective control either by means of physical restraint or by command, the dog or dogs being in close proximity to the person and the person being able to see the dog or dogs at all times.

7. **Dog Faeces**

A person must not, on any local government land, while in control or charge of a dog, fail to carry a bag or other suitable receptacle for the purpose of picking up and lawfully disposing of any faeces that the dog deposits on local government land.

8. **Application Of Paragraphs**

Paragraphs 4 and 5 of this by-law shall apply only in such portion or portions of the Council's area as the Council may by resolution direct in accordance with Section 246(3)(e) of the Local Government Act 1999.

The foregoing by-law was duly made and passed at a meeting of the City of Holdfast Bay held on the 14th day of February 2012 by an absolute majority of the members for the time being constituting the Council, there being at least two thirds of the members present.

Mr Justin Lynch
Chief Executive Officer

CITY OF HOLDFAST BAY

*By-law made under the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995
and the Local Government Act 1999*

By-law No 6 - Cats

To limit the number of cats that can be kept on premises and to provide for the management and control of cats in the Council's area.

1. Definitions

In this by-law unless the context otherwise requires:

- 1.1 'approved kennel establishment' means a building, structure, premises or area approved by the relevant authority pursuant to the Development Act 1993 or otherwise lawfully established for the keeping of cats and/or dogs on a temporary or permanent basis;
- 1.2 'cat' has the same meaning as in the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995;
- 1.3 'keep' includes the provision of food or shelter;
- 1.4 'identified cat' means a cat identified in the manner set out in Regulation 9 of the Dog and Cat Management Regulations 1995;
- 1.5 'premises' includes land and part of any premises or land whether used or occupied for domestic or non-domestic purposes;
- 1.6 'unidentified cat' means a cat that is not identified in the manner set out in Regulation 9 of the Dog and Cat Management Regulations 1995.

2. Cats Not to Be a Nuisance

No person shall keep or allow to remain on any premises of which he or she is the owner or occupier, any cat or cats so as to be a nuisance or injurious to health by reason of:

- 2.1 the noise or odour generated by the presence of the cat or cats;
- 2.2 the aggressive nature of the cat or cats; or
- 2.3 the cat or cats being allowed to wander from the land.

3. Limit on Cat Numbers

3.1 No person shall, without permission:

- 3.1.1 keep a cat of or over the age of three months unless the cat is an identified cat;
 - 3.1.2 keep more than two cats on any premises.
- 3.2 The limit set out in subparagraph 3.1.2 of this by-law does not apply to a person who is keeping more than two cats on any premises at the time this by-law comes into effect provided that:

- 3.2.1 all the cats being kept on the premises are desexed;
 - 3.2.2 no insanitary condition is being caused by the cats or the keeping of the cats on the premises; and
 - 3.2.3 no nuisance is being caused by the cats or by the keeping of the cats on the premises.
 - 3.3 Notwithstanding subparagraph 3.2 of this by-law, the limit set out in subparagraph 3.1.2 of this by-law will apply where the number of cats kept on any premises increases after the time this by-law comes into effect.
 - 3.4 The limit set out in subparagraph 3.1.2 of this by-law does not apply to:
 - 3.4.1 an approved kennel establishment operating in accordance with all approvals and consents; or
 - 3.4.2 where the Council otherwise grants permission.
4. **Notice to Remedy**
- 4.1 If the Council, or such other person as the Council may authorise for that purpose, is satisfied that any cat kept or allowed to remain on any premises is or is likely to become a nuisance or injurious to health, the Council, or such other person as the Council may authorise for that purpose, may by notice in writing require the owner or occupier of those premises, within the time stated in the notice, to take such measures as the Council, or such other person as the Council may authorise for that purpose, considers necessary to prevent the cat from being or continuing to be a nuisance or injurious to health.
 - 4.2 Any person to whom notice is given shall comply with the requirements of the notice.
 - 4.3 If any person to whom notice is given fails to comply with the requirements thereof, the Council, or such other person as the Council may authorise for that purpose, may carry out the requirements and recover the cost of so doing from the person who failed to comply with the notice.

The foregoing by-law was duly made and passed at a meeting of the City of Holdfast Bay held on the 14th day of February 2012 by an absolute majority of the members for the time being constituting the Council, there being at least two thirds of the members present.

Mr Justin Lynch
Chief Executive Officer

Implementation

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

Strategies and Actions – Animal Management

Strategy	Actions	Responsibility	Budget Implications	Other Resource Implications	KPI
Key Focus Area				N/A	
CREATING A SAFE PUBLIC ENVIRONMENT					
OBJECTIVE 1.1 REGULATORY SERVICES					
Strategy 1 Provide effective management and a suitable environment for dogs and cats within the community.-	1.1 Ongoing review Staff training and develop to ensure that all staff have a clear understanding of animal management issues.	Manager Regulatory Services	Ongoing	N/A	All CSOs have Certificate 4
	1.2 6 monthly performance reviews for all Staff involved in animal management.	Manager Regulatory Services	Ongoing	N/A	6 Monthly Review all CSOs
	1.3 Update procedural guidelines for all Staff to follow.	Manager Regulatory Services	Ongoing	N/A	6 Monthly Review all CSOs
	1.4 Introduce a brochure for all residents and visitors to the City of Holdfast Bay. The brochure should be distributed through as many outlets as possible including Council Buildings, Associations and Interest Groups. This will be in conjunction with Animal Management stakeholders. Promote Councils website – www.holdfast.sa.gov.au	Manager Regulatory Services	Ongoing	N/A	6 Monthly Review of all flyers to be updated.
Strategy 2 Maximise dog registration.	2.1 Conduct a survey for unregistered dogs.	Manager Regulatory Services	Ongoing	N/A	Every 12 months increase dog registrations by 1% annually.
	2.2 Use the media to inform the public of dog registrations.	Manager Regulatory Services	Ongoing	N/A	6 Monthly Flyers to be relevant.
Strategy 3 Minimise dogs wandering at large	3.1 Make owners aware of their responsibilities including:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register their dog. • Adequately fence their property to control their dog. • Train their dog so as to not leave their premises. 	Manager Regulatory Services	Ongoing	N/A	Reduction of Dogs wandering at large.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep their dog under effective control when in a public place. <p>Other key Issues to be aware of:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That an animal management officer conducts random patrols of all public areas and detain dogs wandering at large. • That Council responds to calls from the general public when a dog is wandering at large. The priority of the Council will be to return the dog to the owner. • Un-identified dogs will be impounded in accordance with the Act. • Unclaimed dogs that are suitable as pets will be eligible for distribution to persons seeking a pet, dogs being re-homed under this program will be required to be de-sexed, immunised and registered. • Unclaimed dogs, which are unsuitable as pets, will be euthanised. • To encourage compliance, animal management officers are encouraged to reinforce complying behaviour, particularly in children, to give warnings to first offences that are of a minor nature where no harm to a person or property has occurred. Penalties prescribed by the Act will be applied in certain circumstances. 				
<p>Strategy 4.</p> <p>Enforce identification of dogs.</p>	<p>4.1 Enforce identification of dogs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate the public regarding the correct identification of dogs and cats. • Introduce microchipping days throughout the year to promote identification of pets, via dog clubs and reputable groups. • Authorised Persons will identify Dogs and Cats by their microchips. 	<p>Manager Regulatory Services</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Increase Number of dogs microchipped.</p> <p>Increase Number of dogs returned to owners.</p>
<p>Strategy 5.</p> <p>Encourage the community to report all dog attacks and harassments to Council.</p>	<p>5.1 Implement an education programme that targets the reporting of all dog attacks/harassments throughout the community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide dog attack/harassment forms throughout the community. • All Dog Attack/Harassment incidents to be placed on the Dog and Cat management board's "Dog Incident System" www.sadogincident.com.au 		<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Monitor trends with dog attacks.</p> <p>Provide report to council</p>
<p>Strategy 6.</p> <p>Provide suitable on and off leash activity areas.</p>	<p>6.1 Council do not have any "on Leash" parks or reserves.</p>	<p>Manager Regulatory Services</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Monitor trends from the public. Provide report to council</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain current foreshore restrictions on dog owners during daylight savings, currently at 10am to 8pm. 	<p>Manager Regulatory Services</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Monitored Daily by GI's</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide public information to inform the public of their role and current animal management issues and the role of the Animal Management Officer is to also catch the public doing the right thing e.g. picking up after their dog, keeping under effective control. 	Manager Regulatory Services	Ongoing	N/A	<p>All flyers reviewed 6 Monthly</p> <p>Positive feedback to public.</p>
<p>Strategy 7.</p> <p>Limit the number of dogs and cats per dwelling</p>	<p>7.1 Analyse all works instructions received over the past twelve months to better understand any trends regarding animal management issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Database established to monitor trends. 	Manager Regulatory Services	Ongoing	N/A	Yearly by CSOs
<p>Strategy 8.</p> <p>Encourage responsible dog and cat ownership.</p>	<p>8.1 Encourage people contemplating obtaining a dog or a cat to consider the factors affecting the suitability of successful pet ownership in their particular circumstances.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sources of this information include: Advice being available from the Council Animal Management Officer. Advise available on line Information DCMB online resources e.g. http://goodogsa.com/, http://goodcatsa.com/, https://www.facebook.com/goodcatsa, https://www.facebook.com/goodogsa To discourage people from obtaining dogs or a cat from other than registered breeders, and to ensure that the dog or cat is sound from defects, immunised and de-sexed and microchipped. That people contemplating obtaining a dog or a cat be encouraged to become familiar with the responsibilities of dog or cat ownership prior to obtaining a dog or a cat. That people who obtain a new dog ensure that it is appropriately trained with reputable training groups and the RSPCA and the Animal Welfare League. 	Manager Regulatory Services	Ongoing	N/A	<p>By Authorised Officers Daily when dealing with the public. Introduce Interactive Dog Ownership online training on Council's website</p>
<p>Strategy 9.</p> <p>Enforce the provision of the Dog and Cat Management Act.</p>	<p>9.1 Increase public safety through the reduction of public and environmental nuisance caused by dogs and cats.</p>	Manager Regulatory Services	Ongoing	N/A	Conduct daily while CSOs on patrol.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote microchipping with appropriate veterinarians. 	Manager Regulatory Services	Ongoing	N/A	Advise Public as required.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase public knowledge on how to own non-nuisance dogs and cats in association with reputable Animal Management organisations. 	Manager Regulatory Services	Ongoing	N/A	Via information from Dog and Cat Board.
<p>Strategy 10.</p> <p>Control of barking dogs.</p>	<p>10.1 Implement a Standard operating procedure for the investigation of dog and cat related noise nuisance complaints.</p>	Manager Regulatory Services	Ongoing	N/A	Update Yearly or as required.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement an education brochure for dog owners which will be sent out in the event of a complaint regarding dog noise nuisances. 	Manager Regulatory Services	Ongoing	N/A	Reduction of noise complaints.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote force free alternatives, education and Environmental enrichment options to owners of 	Manager Regulatory Services	Ongoing	N/A	Provide options available.

	barking dogs.				
Strategy 11. Dog attacks /harassment.	11.1 Collate statistics related to dog attacks. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examine the types and breeds of dog registered in the Council area to determine any trends applicable. Promote the level of risk relating to litigation and public safety. Collaborate with welfare organisations to educate the public how to interact safely with dogs – familiar and unfamiliar. All dog attack/harassment incidents to be placed on the Dog and Cat Management Board’s Dog Incident System, www.hsadogincident.com.au 	Manager Regulatory Services	Ongoing	N/A	Update Yearly by all CSOs
Strategy 12. Reduce dog faeces in public places to minimise environmental harm	12.1 Implement strategically placed signs to encourage responsible dog ownership in the area of faeces removal.	Manager Regulatory Services	Ongoing	N/A	Monitor complaint trends and locations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the feasibility of providing dispensers and dog tidy bags with Environmental Officer and survey the community. 	Manager Regulatory Services	Ongoing	N/A	Monitored Daily by CSOs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gather data how often dispensers need to be refilled to reduce the length of time a dispenser is empty. 	Manager Regulatory Services	Ongoing	N/A	Monitored Daily by CSOs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enforce the by-law for dog owners to carry a bag for picking-up dog droppings. 	Manager Regulatory Services	Ongoing	N/A	Monitored Daily by CSOs
Strategy 13. Provide for the welfare and safety of dogs and cats	13.1 Ensure that impounded dogs/cats are returned to owners as soon as possible.	Manager Regulatory Services	Ongoing	N/A	Increase in returning dogs to owners by CSO
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that all impounded dogs and cats have clean safe facilities while impounded. 	Manager Regulatory Services	Ongoing	N/A	On a Routine Daily Basis by CSOs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact made with owner (if known) of deceased dog/cat found on Council land. 	Manager Regulatory Services	Ongoing	N/A	As Required by CSOs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educate the community about acting fast and what to do if dogs go missing. 	Manager Regulatory Services	Ongoing	N/A	As Required by CSOs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enforce mandatory microchipping of Dogs and Cats – encourage community to update their contact details. 	Manager Regulatory Services	Ongoing	N/A	As Required by CSOs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage Cat owners to keep their cats confined to keep them safe from harm. 	Manager Regulatory Services	Ongoing	N/A	As Required by CSOs
Strategy 14. Acknowledge the importance of dogs and cats in society.	14.1 Provide residents and visitors with up to date information regarding the benefits of responsible dog and cat ownership.	Manager Regulatory Services	Ongoing	N/A	Update Yearly by CSOs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the benefits to the community of responsible pet ownership with the Dog and Cat Management Boards publications. 	Manager Regulatory Services	Ongoing	N/A	By Authorised Officers Daily while in contact with the public.

Strategy 15. Ensure Public safety and amenity in relation to dogs and cats	15.1 Continue regular patrols of the area to ensure compliance with the Act.	Manager Regulatory Services	Ongoing	N/A	By Authorised Officers Daily and at night.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invite members of the public to input into animal management. 	Manager Regulatory Services	Ongoing	N/A	By Authorised Officers Daily
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the role of the Animal Management Officer in the media, community events etc. 	Manager Regulatory Services	Ongoing	N/A	As required.
Strategy 16. Ensure that revenue generated from registration fees is allocated to activities that address the needs of pet owners as well as domestic animal management issues.	16.1 Conduct regular reviews of income and expenditure to ensure that Council is using best practice with available funds.	Manager Regulatory Services	Ongoing	N/A	Yearly (Budget Period) by Manager.
Strategy 17. Promote contents of Cat By-law.	17.1 Promote Council's Cat By-law and Cat Policy which outlines the requirements for keeping a Cat within the City of Holdfast Bay.	Manager Regulatory Services	Ongoing	N/A	By Authorised Officers Daily and at night.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide cat cages for hire, for property owners to humanely trap on their property, unowned, feral or stray cats in accordance with RSPCA Guidelines and hand them over to Council. 	Manager Regulatory Services	Ongoing	N/A	By Authorised Officers Daily and at night.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the compulsory microchipping of cats in the council area. 	Manager Regulatory Services	Ongoing	N/A	By Authorised Officers Daily and at night.

Note 1: The Animal Management Directions Plan will be reviewed every 5 years.

Note 2: Responsibility of Key Actions – Manager Regulatory Services (MRS)