

COMPANION ANIMALS MANAGEMENT PLAN – 2009. ACTION ITEM REVIEW AND REPORT

SUBJECT	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	COMPLETION DATE	Update and comments i.e. what has happened to achieve this action
Responsible Pet Ownership	1. Develop and provide education programs within schools and community to encourage responsible pet ownership.	Team Leader Compliance	Ongoing	SCHOOLS: This role is handled by NSW Office of Local Government (OLG) and is run by accredited trainers in line with curriculum requirements of the schools. COMMUNITY: Rangers continue to educate at community events and to individuals on a daily basis
	2. Use of enforcement procedures only when necessary.	Senior Ranger	Ongoing	Aligning with the adopted Compliance and Enforcement Policy October 2019: <i>'We must focus on achieving outcomes through proactive educational programs'</i> Rangers continue with proactive education as a first response. Issuing infringements when the breach is deemed necessary and/or serious after investigation.
Identification and Registration	1. Develop and provide educational material to local companion animal service industries to promote identification and registration of companion animals.	Team Leader Compliance	Ongoing	Most of the education and promotional material is produced by OLG. The material is distributed manually and where possible in an online version via shared Facebook and links via web site.
	2. Liaise with interested organisations, clubs or businesses to schedule community events and promotional activities to increase awareness of the requirements for identification, registration and responsible pet ownership.	Senior Ranger	Ongoing	Continued commitment to community events through 'Keep Track of Your Best Mate' program which involves numerous local organisations and businesses.
	3. Develop and provide information packs containing registration, de-sexing and	Senior Ranger	Ongoing	Council provides information to vets to be handed out to owners.

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	educational material to owners of companion animals when their animal is microchipped.			Rangers distribute info and brochures through the community.
	4. Continue to provide reduced cost microchipping services to members of the community during community events and promotional activities.	Senior Ranger	Ongoing	Through Keep Track of Your Best Mate program
	5. In conjunction with local veterinarians and interested parties, investigate and develop mechanisms to promote the two step microchip and registration process and encourage simultaneous microchipping and registration by animal owners.	Senior Ranger	Ongoing	Companion Animals Task Force Discussion Paper completed in 2012. One step process discussed. Ongoing promotion of online NSW Pet Registry with the community and vets which enables owners to register pets and change details themselves. Vets have the ability to mark dogs and cats as de-sexed.
Impounding Animals	1. Monitor the animal transport and impounding process to reflect best practice guidelines provided by the NSW Department of Local Government (OLG)	Senior Ranger & Officers	Ongoing	Ongoing monitoring. Two vehicles have K9-Kubes reducing the risk of manual handling of large animals.
	2. Investigate technological advances such as wireless communications to improve efficiency of database checking and facilitate prompt animal return to the owner.	Senior Ranger & Officers	Ongoing	Smart Phones provided to enable access to Register in field. Purchased iPads for each vehicles. Improvements to responding to community concerns (through Customer Response Mgt – CRM) in the field through use of ACTUS App.

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	3. Investigate the potential for digital photos of unidentified stray animals to be placed on Council's website to facilitate the release of animals from the pound and reduce the current rates of euthanasia.	Senior Ranger & Officers		AlburyCity website has link to Albury/Wodonga Animal Rescue & Pound Contractor. Current Albury Animal Management Facility (AAMF) contract with Council does not give Council ability to monitor photos. This is undertaken by AAMF Contractor.
	4. Encourage authorised individuals to record and provide as much owner contact information within the required time frame of seven days to improve the prompt return of animals.	Senior Ranger & Officers	Ongoing	Continue to work on reuniting animals with owner prior to taking to pound. If taken to pound using social media to try and locate owner if animal has no ID or details are out of date.
	5. Develop an understanding with local veterinarians, kennel clubs and interested parties to educate companion animal owners in the importance of accurate details being recorded onto the NSW Companion Animals Register.	Senior Ranger & Officers	Ongoing	Rangers have very good working relationships with local vets, rescue clubs, welfare groups who all promote the importance of this role.
Animal Welfare	1. Encourage and promote the benefits of de-sexing of companion animals.	Senior Ranger & Officers	Ongoing	Promoting daily
	2. Investigate the potential to provide discounted rates for de-sexing of companion animals through partnerships with veterinary practices.	Senior Ranger & Officers	Ongoing	Ongoing commitments with RSPCA and vets. Will continue to investigate other options in the future for different partnerships.

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	3. Provide information to the community on appropriate animal housing and welfare as recommended by the RSPCA.	Senior Ranger & Officers	Ongoing	Promoting daily and educating individuals as situations arise
	4. Research and provide information on established linkages between nuisance behaviour such as barking and animal welfare issues.	Senior Ranger & Officers	Ongoing.	This is continued to take place when handling complaints. Attending conferences and seminars when possible has been valuable in keeping informed with best practice initiatives and changes.
Public Safety	1. Investigate any dog attack in Albury to identify recurrent or seasonal trends and adapt education and enforcement procedures accordingly.	Senior Ranger & Officers	Ongoing	All attacks are investigated with education and promotion during different times of the year. Social media campaigns, facebook posts.
	2. Develop and conduct six-monthly audits of any premises where a declared dangerous dog is housed to ensure compliance including the adequacy of child proof enclosures.	Senior Ranger & Officers	Ongoing	Monitor does take place when and if required. Currently no Declared Dangerous Dog in Albury.
	3. Continue to provide Council's school education program and utilise the education staff and resources of the RSPCA to assist in program delivery where appropriate.	Senior Ranger & Officers	Ongoing	SCHOOLS: This role is handled by NSW Office of Local Government (OLG) and is run by accredited trainers in line with curriculum requirements of the schools. COMMUNITY: Rangers continue to educate at community events and to individuals on a daily basis
	4. Investigate options for community involvement to assist Council officers in identifying irresponsible pet	Senior Ranger & Officers	Ongoing	This is continued to be promoted but Community involvement is becoming more reluctant due to fear of abuse, ramifications or retaliations.

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	ownership and remind owners of their responsibilities under the Companion Animals Act.			
Leash Free Areas	1. Investigate the potential to upgrade leash-free areas to provide further options for stimulating and exercising dogs	Senior Ranger & Officers	Ongoing	This role is primarily the responsibility of Parks and Recreation Team. 'Albury- A Dog Friendly City' Strategy was adopted by Council February 2013. As at end June 2019 there were five designated off-leash areas. Rangers provide input and assistance.
	2. Investigate the possibility of holding activity days in key leash-free areas to promote the use of the facilities by dog owners.	Senior Ranger & Officers	Ongoing	Discussions ongoing with Panel and stakeholders
	3. Continue to incorporate patrols of leash-free areas to manage inappropriate use as part of the normal patrolling duties.	Senior Ranger & Officers	Ongoing	Weekly patrols. Rangers monitor and replace Poo Bags at off-leash parks. Engagement with park users in an endeavour to break down that barrier with the community.
Environmental Issues	1. Monitor and review complaint data to ascertain outcomes, the most successful control techniques, problematic areas of the city and success rates in reducing barking.	Senior Ranger	Ongoing	Data is gathered from CRM system to establish different trends, seasonal habits. Along with Ongoing training making sure best practice is being met. Bench marking other council's techniques / processes.
	2. Investigate the feasibility of purchasing and hiring out 'recording collars' for barking dog complaints.	Senior Ranger	Incomplete	Currently this option is unavailable and external companies are quite expensive with their equipment.

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	3. Investigate and research any linkage between nuisance behaviour such as barking and animal welfare issues.	Senior Ranger	Ongoing	Weekly conversations are had with animal owners in regards to this as it is a proven factor they do contribute to nuisance behaviour.
	4. Encourage confinement of cats between dawn and dusk to reduce the noise nuisance caused by cats fighting.	Senior Ranger	Ongoing	Ongoing promotion but limited by legislation.
Water Pollution	1. Investigate the success or otherwise of the use of specific strategies which have been trialled in other municipalities for disposal of animal faeces in leash-free areas.	Senior Ranger	Complete	Bins and bags are installed
	2. Continue to promote and educate community members on the importance of picking up after their animals.	Senior Ranger	Ongoing	Ongoing. Facebook and media promotion
	3. Investigate and respond appropriately to areas of Albury where the extent of dog faeces being left in the environment is an issue.	Senior Ranger	Ongoing	Attend to this areas when identified, increased patrols and visible presence.
	4. Investigate and analyse the benefits of providing specifically designed animal waste bins as opposed to general purpose bins for all waste including servicing and maintenance costs.	Senior Ranger	Complete	Currently have separate bins in the off leash parks.
Native Flora & Fauna	1. Increase community awareness regarding the impact of companion	Senior Ranger & Officers	Ongoing	Continue to promote and educate community.

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	animals on native fauna, and environmentally sensitive areas.			
	2. Investigate and identify specific local areas that inhabit threatened or endangered species that could benefit from a focussed companion animal community education program.	Senior Ranger & Officers	Ongoing	Continue to promote and educate community. Deal with each scenario on its merits as NSW legislation is limited around cat control and curfews.
	3. Investigate the potential benefits of a community awareness campaign highlighting the benefits of keeping cats inside, particularly during night time hours including a voluntary cat curfew and education program.	Senior Ranger & Officers	Ongoing	Continue to promote and educate community.
	4. Investigate and consider the prohibition of companion animals from new residential developments adjacent to areas designated environmentally sensitive.	Senior Ranger & Officers		Local policy cannot be more onerous than the Act. Needs to have more work completed in this space as prohibiting certain companion animals from certain locations can be problematic if the legislation has lesser control measures than what the actual policy is.
	5. Continue to provide cat traps to the community on request.	Senior Ranger & Officers	Ongoing	Continue to provide service. In depth questioning with personal prior to loaning trap.
	6. Encourage and promote the benefits of de-sexing of companion animals to reduce feral and stray cat numbers.	Senior Ranger & Officers	Ongoing	Always promoted. New legislation implemented requiring Annual Permits for non-de-sexed cats from July 2020.