



**DISTRICT COUNCIL**



**of**

**PETERBOROUGH**

# **ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN**



**1 July 2011 – 30 June 2016**

**Council meeting :-15<sup>th</sup> October 2012  
Resolution No.:- 138/10/12**

# INDEX

Purpose:.....	3
Demographics:.....	3
Registrations (2011-2012):.....	3
Vision Statement:.....	4
Aims:.....	4
Objectives:.....	5/6
The Law/Guidelines:.....	7
Strategic Direction:.....	8
Definitions:.....	9
<b>Animal Management Plan:.....</b>	<b>10</b>
Animal Management Strategies	
Educating & Promoting Responsible Pet Ownership.....	11
<i>Statement , Strategies &amp; KPIs</i>	
<b>Specific Dog Management Strategies:.....</b>	<b>11</b>
Promoting Micro-chipping.....	12
<i>Statement , Strategies &amp; KPIs</i>	
Maintain Off-Leash Areas for Dog Owners.....	12
<i>Statement , Strategies &amp; KPIs</i>	
Reduce Numbers of Dogs Wandering at Large.....	13
<i>Statement , Strategies &amp; KPIs</i>	
Promote Dog Training.....	14
<i>Statement , Strategies &amp; KPIs</i>	
Reducing Dog Attacks & Bite Avoidance.....	14
<i>Statement , Strategies &amp; KPIs</i>	
Reducing Barking Complaints.....	15
<i>Statement , Strategies &amp; KPIs</i>	
Faeces Management.....	15
<i>Statement , Strategies &amp; KPIs</i>	
Enforce identification of Dogs.....	16
<i>Statement , Strategies &amp; KPIs</i>	
Maximise Public Understanding.....	16
<i>Statement , Strategies &amp; KPIs</i>	
<b>Specific Cat Management Strategies:.....</b>	<b>17</b>
Encourage & Implement Strategies.....	17
<i>Statement &amp; Strategies</i>	
Nuisance Caused by Cats.....	17
<i>Statement &amp; Strategies</i>	

## **PREPARED PURSUANT TO THE DOG & CAT MANAGEMENT ACT 1995**

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1999 AND THE DEVELOPMENT ACT 1993**

This has been prepared as a working document and as such is subject to amendment at any time by the District Council of Peterborough subject to the approval of the DCMB (Dog and Cat Management Board).

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this plan is to improve the management and control of dogs and cats within the District Council of Peterborough.

### **DEMOGRAPHICS**

The District Council area is approximately 3000 square km. It encompasses the Townships of Peterborough, Yongala and Oodla Wirra.

The District Council of Peterborough is situated in the Southern Flinders Ranges, which includes very hilly country with large areas of inaccessible scrub. Other areas are used for grazing and general farming.

The main employer in the district is Samex Meat Works industries and tourism is being actively pursued.

The population of the district is 1939 with 16.2% unemployment. Numbers fluctuate because some residents attain seasonal work in other areas of the state.

### **REGISTRATIONS**

For 2011/2012	682	
Full Reg	41	not desexed
Full Reg	62	desexed
Pensioner rebate	173	not desexed
Pensioner rebate	156	desexed
Working dogs	125	

## **VISION STATEMENT :**

This Plan contains recommendations for actions to be undertaken by the Council

These actions will enable Council to maintain a balance between competing interests and to reposition domestic animals management to accommodate new requirements.

The Plan is to promote and facilitate responsible ownership of dogs and cats, animal welfare and the benefits of animal companionship focusing on the legitimate needs of pets and their owners while respecting the rights of other members of the community and protecting the environment.

## **AIMS :**

To provide effective management and a suitable environment for dogs and cats within the community, which can be achieved within Council's Resources.

To develop innovative and proactive approaches to dog and cat management.

To encourage responsible dog and cat ownership.

To increase public safety through the reduction of public and environment nuisance caused by dogs and cats.

Provide for the welfare and safety for dogs and cats.

Harness the benefits of dog and cat ownership.

Ensure that the expenditure of registration fees addresses domestic animal issues and capital purchases.

## **OBJECTIVES :**

There is now considerable evidence to support our understanding of the benefits of owning pets. This implies a potentially new role for Council in harnessing the benefits of pet ownership or at least maintaining the ability of the community to continue to own dogs and cats. In this new environment, it is essential that Council take a strategic approach to managing domestic pets. This strategy 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 (5) years.

### **Provide effective management and a suitable environment for dogs and cats within the community**

Operate in accordance with the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995.

Continued change of emphasis from only enforcement to a proactive approach of “education, prevention, encouragement and enforcement”.

Undertake community consultation to ascertain the views of the community in relation to Council’s strategies and policy directions, relating to dog and cat management.

Co-ordinated approach between Community Land Management Plans and the Dog & Cat Management Plans to ensure the needs of both the general community, pet and pet owners are accommodated in Open Space Areas.

Implement effective policies relating to dog and cat management controls and review by-laws where necessary, to ensure adequate and appropriate access to open space areas including off leash areas.

Improve community recognition and understanding of the role of Animal Management Officers.

Develop innovative and proactive approaches to dog and cat management

Research best practice methodology for dealing with animal management issues.

Effective use of statistics when making decisions and influence policy directions.

Trial new initiatives and different approaches to dog and cat management.

### **Encourage responsible dog and cat ownership.**

Encourage and provide community education concerning pets in the environment in conjunction with other animal agencies.

Establish ongoing programmes for de-sexing, socialisation, training and micro-chipping.

Obtain maximum registration and identification, re-uniting pets to owners where possible.

Promote the welfare of dogs and cats in the community.

**Increase public safety through the reduction of public and environment nuisance caused by dogs and cats.**

Ensure adherence to the new “dogs on leash on streets, roads and footpath” amendments in the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995.

Implement strategies to assist pet owners/public who are experiencing difficulties with pets (barking collars, re-homing, cat cages etc).

Reduce the number of dog attacks and harassments through bite avoidance education and encourage the reporting of all dog attacks.

Reduce the number of dogs wandering at large to minimise public nuisance and increase public safety.

Encourage dog owners to pick up dog faeces and carry dog waste bags to reduce the amount of dog faeces in the environment.

**Increase public understanding of the enforcement provisions pursuant to the Dog & Cat Management Act 1995.**

Council’s Animal Control Officers will enforce the provisions of the Dog and Cat Management Act in the Council area.

The approach of the Council in the first instance will be to encourage people to accept their responsibilities of pet ownership and comply with the provision of the Act voluntarily.

Ensure the general public are aware of enforcement measures as outlined within the Act, through ongoing promotional material (displays on noticeboards, notices in “The Informer” etc).

## **THE LAW/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 a dog management officer/s and to make arrangements for dogs seized, and its other obligations under the Act.

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, to advise and assist Councils to undertake their responsibilities.

The Board also has a role to provide advice to the Minister for Urban Animal Management 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.

The Act also provides that a Council may appoint a cat management officer for its area of responsibility.

Listed below are the main legislations that influence the management of dogs and cats, which Council has a responsibility to adhere to:

- Dog & Cat Management Act 1995
- Local Government Act 1999
- Public and Environment Health Act 1987
- In addition, Council is also able to make by-laws and to adopt policies for the control and management of dogs and cats within its area. The District Council of Peterborough currently has adopted the following By-laws and Policies, which will influence the management of dogs within its area:
  - By-law #. 4– Local Government Land
  - By-Law # 3 – Roads
  - By-Law # 5 – Dogs & Cats
  - By-Law # 1 – Permits & Penalties

While the provisions as listed above, provide a legal framework outlining Council's responsibilities and the penalties that can be imposed on dog and cat owners for non compliance, this Plan seeks to implement a balanced approach that caters to the public's needs that will not only benefit dogs, cats and their owners as a group, but also the wider community.

## STRATEGIC DIRECTION :-

Council's Strategic Plan provides a broad overview of Council's strategic direction for the period 2011-2015.

### *Key Result Area 3 – Community Well-Being*

Although animal management is not specifically mentioned within Council's Strategic Plan, it is embraced under the above key strategy.

#### The key actions within the Animal Control are to:

- Compile and implement an Animal Management Plan.
- Encourage re-homing practices, where pet owners determine they are no longer able to care for their pets.
- Endeavour to maintain and upgrade the off-leash Dog Park for the community and travellers alike.
- Continue to provide appropriate staff training to relevant officers, to improve knowledge and skills in the area of Dog & Cat Management.

There is now considerable evidence to support our understanding of the benefits of owning pets.

This implies a potentially new role for Council in harnessing the benefits of pet ownership or at least maintaining the ability of the community to continue to own dogs and cats.

In this new environment, it is essential that Council takes a strategic approach to managing domestic pets.

This strategy 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 (5) years.



## DEFINITIONS :-

At times the general public can become confused, unless they are conversant with the Dog & Cat Management Act, as to what some specific terms mean. To ensure the terms are clearly understood a list will be included within this document, and a copy of the list will be placed periodically on the noticeboards, in the local newsletter “The Informer”, in the Community Library and in Council’s Main Street office.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b><i>Effective Control</i></b>	<p>A person is exercising <b>effective control</b> of a dog by means of a physical restraint if:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) the dog is on a chain, cord or leash that does not exceed 2 metres in length;</li><li>2) the dog has been effectively secured by placing it in a cage, vehicle or other object or structure; or</li><li>3) by tethering it to a fixed object by means of a chain, cord or leash that does not exceed 2 metres in length.</li></ol> <p>A dog is also taken to be under <b>effective control</b> if the owner is able to control the dog on command, with the dog being in close proximity to the person and the person being able to see the dog at all times.</p>
<b><i>Wandering at large</i></b>	<p>A dog is taken to be <b>wandering at large</b> while in a public place (other than a park) or a private place without the consent of the occupier, and no person is exercising <b>effective control</b> of the dog either by physical constraint or by command (refer above definition).</p>
<b><i>Dangerous Dog</i></b>	<p>A <b>Dangerous Dog</b> means a dog in relation to which:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Council has made a Control (Dangerous Dog) Order; or</li><li>2) A court has made an order the terms of which generally correspond to a Control (Dangerous Dog) Order.</li></ol>
<b><i>Guard Dog</i></b>	<p>A <b>Guard Dog</b> means a dog that is kept on premises primarily for the purpose of guarding or protecting a person or property at those premises.</p>
<b><i>Attack Trained Dog</i></b>	<p>An <b>Attack Trained Dog</b> means a dog trained, or undergoing training, to attack a person on command.</p>
<b><i>Prescribed Breed</i></b>	<p>A <b>Prescribed Breed</b> means any of the following breeds:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) American Pit Bull Terrier</li><li>2) Fila Brasileiro</li><li>3) Japanese Tosa</li><li>4) Dogo Argentina</li><li>5) Presa Canario</li></ol>

## **District Council of Peterborough's Animal Management Plan**

This Plan has twelve (12) Key Issue areas, including :-

1. Educating and Promoting Responsible Pet Ownership
2. Promoting Micro – Chipping
3. Maintaining Off-Leash areas for Dog Owners to Exercise their Pets
4. Reducing the Number of Dogs Wandering at Large
5. Promoting Dog Training
6. Reducing Dog Attacks and Bite Avoidance
7. Reducing Barking Complaints
8. Faeces Management
9. Enforcing Identification of Dogs
10. Maximising Public Understanding of the Animal Management Officers' and Council's Role in the Community
11. Encouraging and Implement Cat Management
12. Reducing Nuisance caused by Cats

Each Key Issue has one or more strategies which provide the specific actions that Council will undertake in the next five (5) years.

Implementation of the Plan will be monitored according to the associated Key Performance Indicators (K.P.I.s)

## **ANIMAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES :-**

The following Animal Management Strategies have been developed to address various issues relating to the management of animals within our Community. Each strategy is seen to play an essential part in the overall success of this Plan.

With the ongoing commitment of Council and the community by working collaboratively in implementing this Plan, it is felt that the most appropriate outcomes will be able to be achieved.

### ***Educating and promoting responsible pet ownership.***

#### **Statement**

Encourage and provide community education concerning pets in our community.

A combination of education, encouragement and enforcement is seen to be the most successful method of animal management. A singular method of enforcement can not provide a full solution to pet owner and pet issues.

#### **Strategies**

- a) Continue to provide education to the community via Council's brochures, website, pet information kits, Council's newsletter, Customer Service staff and Dog & Cat Management flyers which are displayed in Council's office and on notice boards.
- b) Provide educational material for display in the Veterinary Clinic and at Community Library
- c) Review educational and promotional materials, including Dog & Cat Management Board publications.
- d) Provide links on Council's website to other appropriate websites, such as the Dog & Cat Management Board, Animal Welfare League.
- e) Investigate the possibility of holding free "Responsible Pet Ownership" education sessions, with cooperation of the local Vet.
- f) Review and monitor resource material available at the Council office
- g) With cooperation from the local Vet, provide education to school students to encourage responsible pet ownership from an early age.
- h) All staff to promote our 'Responsible Pet Ownership' philosophy in their day to day interactions with the community.
- i) Provide effective management and a suitable environment for dogs and cats within the community.  
*Ensure that Officers of Council operate within the provisions of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995. The strategies to ensure that Officers of Council operate within the provisions of the Dog and Cat Management Act are to create a set of guidelines for use by staff and to ensure that regular training and development of skills are provided on an ongoing basis. Consistency of advice is critical and must be a high priority.*
- j) Ensure that Officers operate within predetermined guidelines in accordance with the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995.  
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.

#### **K.P.I.**

Review of Council education initiatives via annual survey in 'The Informer'.  
Monitor and evaluate feedback from public- reduction of dog complaints by 2% from previous year.

## **Specific Dog Management Strategies**

### ***Promoting Micro-Chipping***

#### **Statement**

To enable pets to be re-united with their owners, and to ensure they can be identified, a proactive approach through achieving an increase in dog registration plus micro-chipping for dogs and micro-chipping of cats will be promoted.

Encouragement of dog & cat owners to have their pets de-sexed, irrespective of whether it is a male or female animal, as de-sexing of animals has the following benefits:

- a) Significant reduction of life threatening diseases in both male and female dogs when de-sexed at an early age.
- b) Reduction of excessive, unnecessary and unplanned breeding.
- c) Reduction of the likelihood of aggressive behaviour, predominantly in male unde-sexed dogs.
- d) Reduction of dogs wandering at large.
- e) Ability to identify and return to owners cats that are caught in cat traps.

#### **Strategies**

- a) Availability of cat cages for hire.
- b) Encourage the local Vet to promote the benefits of pet de-sexing.
- c) Provide education to ensure community is aware of the legislative requirement, that all dogs over 3 months of aged are to be registered.

#### **K.P.I.**

Monitor annual dog registrations for the number of micro-chipped dogs – maintain current levels or increase by 5% over the life of the Plan.

### ***Maintain off leash areas for dog owners to exercise their pets***

#### **Statement**

As a result of the changes to the Act which came into effect 1 July 2004, all dogs must be on a leash when in a public place “*means a place to which the public has access*”.

This means places such as streets, roads, footpaths, shopping centre car parks etc but does not include parks and reserves.

#### **Strategies**

- a) Animal Management identified the various Parks and Reserves within the Council area, that they consider dogs should either be : on-leash, off-leash, prohibited, or subject to Special Restrictions.
- b) Maintain and review the times and level of patrols in line with service standards. Dog owners are encouraged to exercise their dogs off leash within designated parks and/or off-leash areas, while demonstrating effective control at all times.
- d) Maintain the signage around all Parks and Reserves
- e) Regular advertisements to be placed in ‘The Informer’ and on public notice board
- f) An annual survey to be placed in ‘The Informer’ and on notice board.

#### **K.P.I.**

Review annual survey placed in ‘The Informer’ for public understanding of off-leash park locations and dog owners’ obligations.

## ***Reduce numbers of dogs wandering at large***

### **Statement**

A dog will be taken to be ‘wandering at large’ while it is in a public place (other than a park) or a private place without the consent of the occupier, and is not under effective control of a person. The owner, or person who is responsible for the dog wandering at large, has committed an offence and is responsible for the prescribed penalties under the Act.

As a dog wandering at large can be a threat to members of the public, Council will implement strategies to minimize the occurrence of dogs wandering at large within the community and to increase public safety.

### **Strategies**

#### **\* *Owner’s Responsibilities***

- a) All dog/s over three (3) months of age are to be registered.
- b) Adequately fence their property or provide an enclosure within the property boundary to control their dog.
- c) Train their dog so as not to leave their premises, through dog obedience training (effective voice control and commands).
- d) Keep their dog under effective control when in a public place.
- e) That dog owners continue to be made aware of their responsibilities

#### **\* *Council’s Responsibilities***

- a) Animal Management Officers continue to conduct random patrols of all public places and detain dogs found to be wandering at large.
- b) That Council continues to respond to calls from the public regarding dogs wandering at large.
- c) That the priority of Council will be to promptly return registered or identified dogs found wandering at large to their owners.
- d) That unregistered or unidentified dogs are to be promptly impounded and held at Council’s dog pound in accordance with the legislation and Standard Operating Procedures.
- e) To encourage compliance, Animal Control Officer/s are encouraged to reinforce complying behaviour, particularly in children. At the discretion of the Animal Control Officer/s, warnings (except in the case of unregistered dogs) may be given for first offences which are of a minor nature where no harm to a person or property has occurred. Penalties prescribed by the Act will be applied for re-offenders.
- f) No dog will be released from the pound unless it is currently registered and all fees associated with the impounding have been paid in full.
- g) That all unclaimed dogs are to be temperament tested prior to being considered for re-housing
- h) Dogs that fail the temperament test are to be humanely destroyed.

### **K.P.I.**

Maintain or increase registration rates by 5% over the life of this Plan, from previous year.

## ***Promote dog training***

### **Statement**

Encourage dog owners to socialise and train their dogs to an acceptable level within the community as ‘Training = Discipline = Pet Ownership Enjoyment’.

### **Strategies**

- a) Support and promote the local Dog Obedience Club.

### **K.P.I.**

Monitor trained dogs’ registrations rebate. Maintain levels or increase by 2% over the life of this Plan.

## ***Reducing dog attacks and bite avoidance***

### **Statement**

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 and the number of transient residents, it is difficult for Council to implement an effective 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.

While 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.

### **Strategies**

- a) Support and assist in the facilitation of the Dog and Cat Management Board’s programs through schools.
- b) Promote and encourage the reporting of all dog attacks whether in public places or on private property.
- c) Review current education material and methods on bite avoidance, and seek opportunities to emphasise the importance of adult supervision of children at all times.
- d) Promote the level of risk relating to litigation and public safety, through advertising initiatives.
- e) Council to continue to provide dog attack/harassment forms to the community.
- f) Conduct surveys t public education presentations (schools).

### **K.P.I.**

Conduct surveys at public education presentations – aim to increase public knowledge and awareness of dog attacks and bite avoidance by 2% per annum for the life of this Plan.

## ***Reduce barking complaints.***

### **Statement**

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.

However, Council must investigate and attempt to resolve this type of complaint. 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 these standard operating procedures, 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 require diaries to be maintained by the complainant for fourteen days.

If and when the diaries are returned, an investigation will follow. Upon substantiation the Council will take the appropriate course of action.

### **Strategies**

- a) Mediate between neighbours to deal with dog barking complaints, if required.
- b) Support owners, where complaints have been received relating to their dog/s, by way of suggesting various methods to control barking. Dog barking muzzles/collars are options that can be used.
- c) Promote the keeping of cats inside at night to assist in reducing barking nuisance.
- d) That Council continue to adhere to its Standard Operation Procedure for the investigation of complaints of noise nuisance created by dogs.

### **K.P.I.**

Monitor barking complaint numbers – maintain level or reduce by 2% per annum.

## ***Faeces Management***

### **Statement**

As dog owners are legally required to retrieve and dispose of their dogs' faeces, we will continue to encourage dog owners to pick up dog faeces from public places in order to reduce the amount of dog faeces harming our environment and spoiling the enjoyment of others.

### **Strategies**

- a) Promote pet owners to carry their own dog tidy bags to enable faeces to be retrieved.
- b) Ensure bins are available within public places for the collection of dog faeces.
- c) Provide owners with doggie bags free of charge, as an incentive to pick up after their dog/s. Bags can be sourced at the Council office, Main Street – also available within the off-leash dog park.

### **K.P.I.**

Monitor number of dog tidy bags given to the public – maintain numbers or increase by 10% over the life of the Plan.

## ***Enforce identification of dogs***

### **Statement**

Identification of dogs is imperative to provide sound animal management practices. Residents and visitors to the area must identify their dogs at all times. Responsible 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 stresses placed on the animal and their owners should be avoided.

### **Strategies**

- a) That Council Staff continue to enforce identification of dogs.
- b) That Council continue to educate the public regarding the correct identification of dogs and cats.

### **K.P.I.**

Monitor dog registration numbers per estimated dog population – target 10% rise for life of the Plan after the first year.

Monitor number of micro-chipped dogs – maintain or increase by 10% over life of the Plan.

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

### **Statement**

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 strive to achieve an open and honest rapport with the public and assist in providing information and education of the public regarding the very important role those Officers perform in the Community on behalf of Council.

### **Strategies**

- a) Provide effective management and a suitable environment for dogs and cats within the community.  
That regular training and development of skills are provided on an ongoing basis. Consistency of advice is critical and must be a high priority.
- b) *Ensure that Officers operate within predetermined guidelines in accordance with the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995.*  
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.

### **K.P.I.**

Monitor feedback from public and maintain or reduce complaints by 2% over the life of the Plan.



## **Specific Cat Management Strategies :**

### ***Encourage and implement cat management***

#### **Statement**

Encourage responsible cat ownership and support the micro-chipping and de-sexing of cats as a means of cat identification and control.

#### **Strategies**

- a) Continue to identify and implement various methods for educating and promoting responsible cat ownership within the community.
- b) Develop a permit system process for those residents who wish to keep more than 2 cats on their property.
- c) Monitor cat cage hire and ensure adequate cages are available to residents.
- d) Encourage cat enclosures.
- e) Review Council's Cat By-Law as required.
- f) Advertise offering cat cage hire and free cat disposal to assist in controlling the feral cat problem within the town and district.

#### **K.P.I.**

Monitor cat cage hire rates and ratepayers' complaints – maintain or reduce both by 2% over the life of the Plan.

### ***Nuisance caused by cats***

#### **Statement**

Under the provision of the Dog and Cat Management Act a cat can be trapped when found wandering on private property.

Council hires cat traps to residents affected by nuisance cats.

Full details of the terms are available from the Council office on :- [08 8651 3566](tel:0886513566).

When a cat is trapped the General Inspector must be contacted within 12 hours of capture. The cat/s will then be transported by the General Inspector to the Council pound.

If the cat is identifiable by either a collar with ownership details, or by way of a microchip, the owner will be contacted. Penalties may apply.

#### **Strategies**

- a) That Council continues to make cat traps available to residents affected by nuisance cats;
- b) That the owners of trapped cats identified by micro chip or collar and tag will be contacted to retrieve the cat;
- c) Unidentified and unclaimed cats may be humanely destroyed;
- d) Penalties and expiations may be given to cat owners who do not adhere to the Council's cat bylaws

#### **K.P.I.**

Monitor cat cage hire rates per annum – monitor number of cats humanely destroyed and number of cats returned to owner, or re-housed.

Increase cat cages by 10% over the life of the Plan.