

Review of the Animal Management Plan

'People, Pets and Places'



**THERE IS ALSO
MOUNTING EVIDENCE
THAT PETS PROVIDE
SIGNIFICANT
PSYCHOLOGICAL
AND PHYSIOLOGICAL
BENEFITS INCLUDING
IMPROVEMENTS TO
CARDIOVASCULAR
HEALTH, FEWER VISITS
TO THE DOCTOR, A
BUFFERING AGAINST
GRIEF AT TIMES OF
BEREAVEMENT, A
LOWERING OF STRESS
AND DELAYING OF THE
AGEING PROCESS.**

What will this Presentation Cover?

1. What is the Animal Management Plan
2. Why do we have a Plan?
3. Outcomes from current Plan
4. What we want to achieve themes of new Plan?
5. Review Process and Timeframe



**KNOWN AS
DOGS AND CATS
ONLINE (DACO)
WILL REPLACE
INDIVIDUAL
COUNCIL ANIMAL
REGISTRATION
REGISTERS.**

Animal Management Plan Review

What is the Animal Management Plan?

- Provides a framework for Council's Management of animals in our Council District
- Provides Council with the opportunity to address animal management at a strategic level



Animal Management Plan Review

What is the Animal Management Plan?

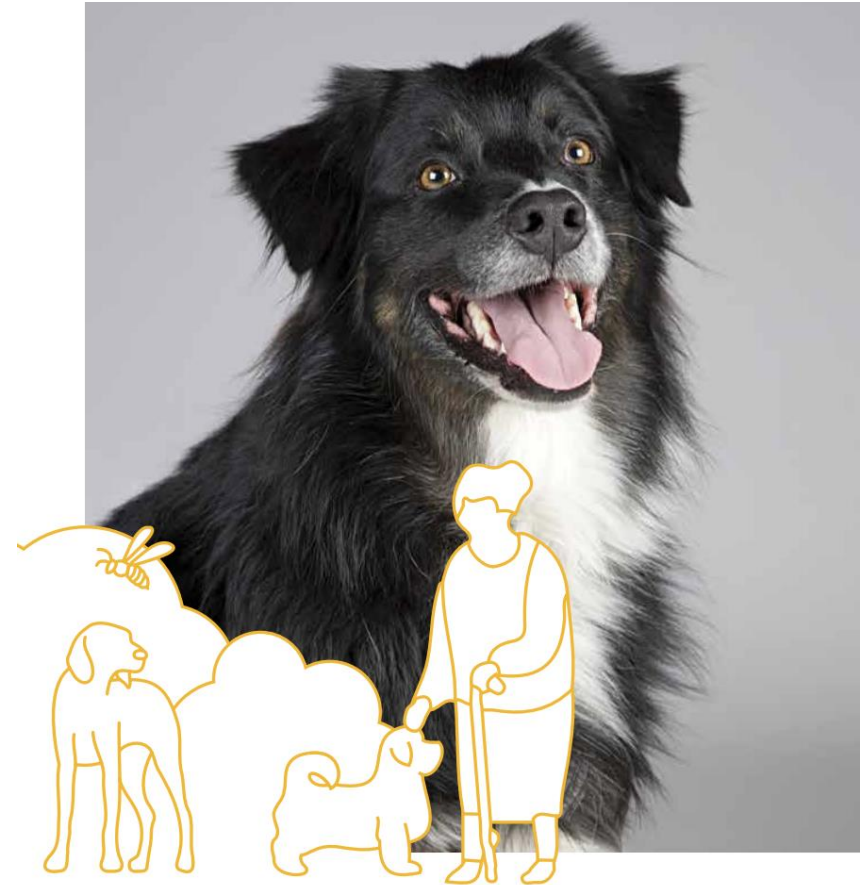
- Implement initiatives to address legislation and changes to legislation
- Underpins the objectives of the Dog and Cat Management act 1995, which include:
 - Encourage responsible dog and cat ownership;
 - Reduce public and environmental nuisance caused by dogs and cats;
 - Promote the effective management of dogs and cats



Animal Management Plan Review

Why do we have a plan?

- It is a requirement of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 to have a plan
- Sets the direction for the management of animals within the City of Mitcham for the next 5 years; and
- Aims to achieve some key outcomes by developing key themes and strategies
- These themes and strategies articulate Council's and the community's animal management priorities over the next 5 years



Animal Management Plan Review

What have we achieved from the existing plan?

- Development of Hannaford Reserve as a dog enhanced reserve as a shared dog off leash park
- Introduction of Cat Confinement
- Held on-line barking dog education and information zoom session



Animal Management Plan Review

What have we achieved from the existing plan?

- Successful transition of DACO (central database for dog & cat registration)
 - Highest % of dogs and cats re-registered in Metro area (number 11 in the state) – just over 80%
 - Registration follow up program – phone and doorknock program
 - 53 more dogs compared to this time 2022
 - 75 more cats compared to this time 2022
- Education and DACO working well
 - Only impounded 16 dogs during 2022/2023
 - Only 3 dogs impounded so far in 2023/2024



Animal Management Plan Review

So - what do you want to see in the new plan?

- What are some of the key focus areas and strategies you would like to see in the plan?



Proposed Key Themes in revised plan

Three Key Themes/Outcomes

- Create Great Places
- Be Responsible
- Respond and Act



Key Focus Areas and Strategies

- Barking Dogs
- Review Open Space Areas
- Dog attacks and Dog Behaviour
- Links with Animal Management Agencies
- Define what makes a Responsible Dog and Cat Owner
- Cat Management



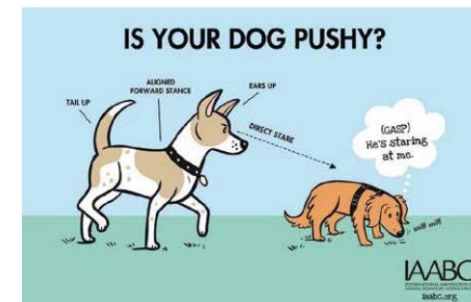
Key Focus Areas and Strategies

- Barking Dogs
 - Barking dog Library and Reference Centre
 - Barking dog forum
- Review Open Space Areas
 - Review all current open space areas and the current dog access to areas
 - Interactive maps
 - Review of signage at parks



Key Focus Areas and Strategies

- Dog attacks and Dog Behaviour
 - Develop strategies for reducing instances of dog incidents
 - Use of forums and Information Sessions
 - More information about how and why dog attacks occur
 - Better understanding by dog owners – people looking at their dog differently in their home
- Links with Animal Management Agencies
 - Discounted desexing and microchipping for dogs and cats
 - Access to animal management services – e.g. Jamie's Farm Stays



Key Focus Areas and Strategies

Define what makes a Responsible Dog and Cat Owner

Better understanding of what a responsible owner is:

A responsible dog/cat owner does this.....
in turn

A responsible dog/cat does this.....
in turn

A responsible dog/cat does not do this.....

Need owners who know and can read their dogs and their behaviours and warning signs and know what to do with them - early intervention

'A responsible animal owner is about doing the right thing by their animal and their animal only – but recognising the impacts their animal can have on others and the environment'



Key Focus Areas and Strategies



Cat Management

- Continue to promote responsible cat ownership and cat confinement
- Develop strategy to address colonies of unowned and other feral cat colonies
- Use of forums and Information Sessions – cat confinement and cats, the environment and cat nuisance
- Provide links for providers and services for confining cats to yards
- Continue to develop and promote the Home is Where your Cat Is – Happy at Home cat confinement program

Animal Management Plan Review

What are some of the key focus areas and strategies you would like to see in the plan?



Animal Management Plan Review

Community Engagement

Two Phase approach to Community Engagement

Phase 1 – Informal consultation via Have Your Say

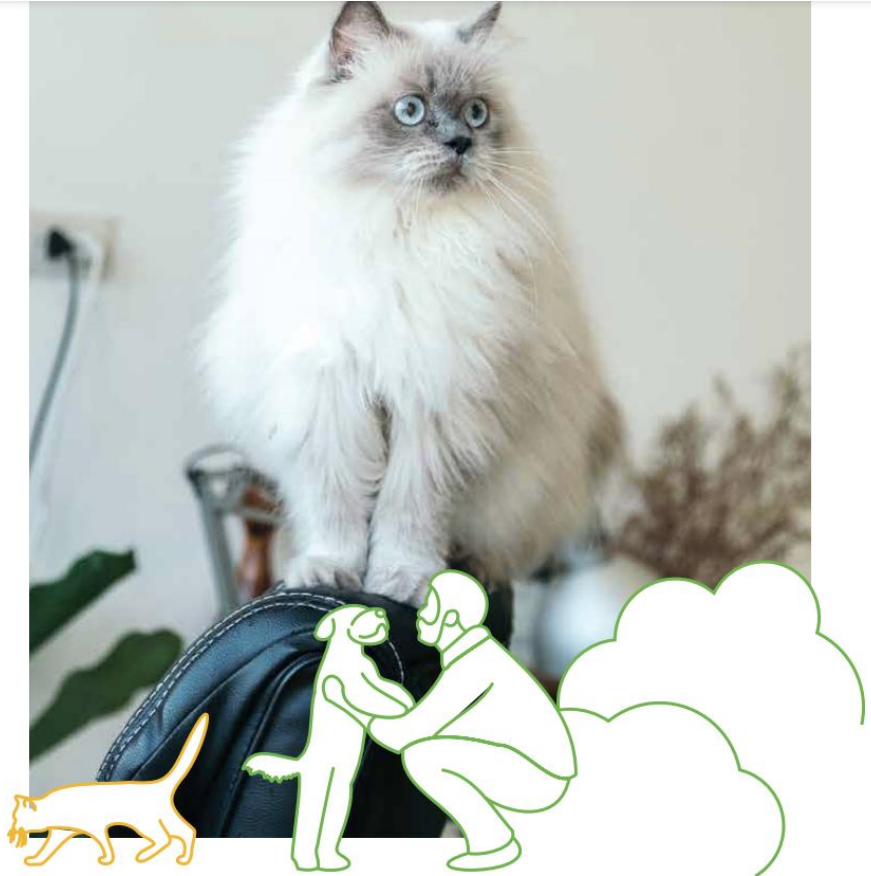
- Use existing plan and ask the community what are their views, wants and needs
- Webinar and Q&A drop in sessions

Phase 2 – Formal consultation on draft plan

- Endorsed draft plan will be provided to Community for full formal consultation and feedback prior to coming back to Council for final adoption



Animal Management Plan Review



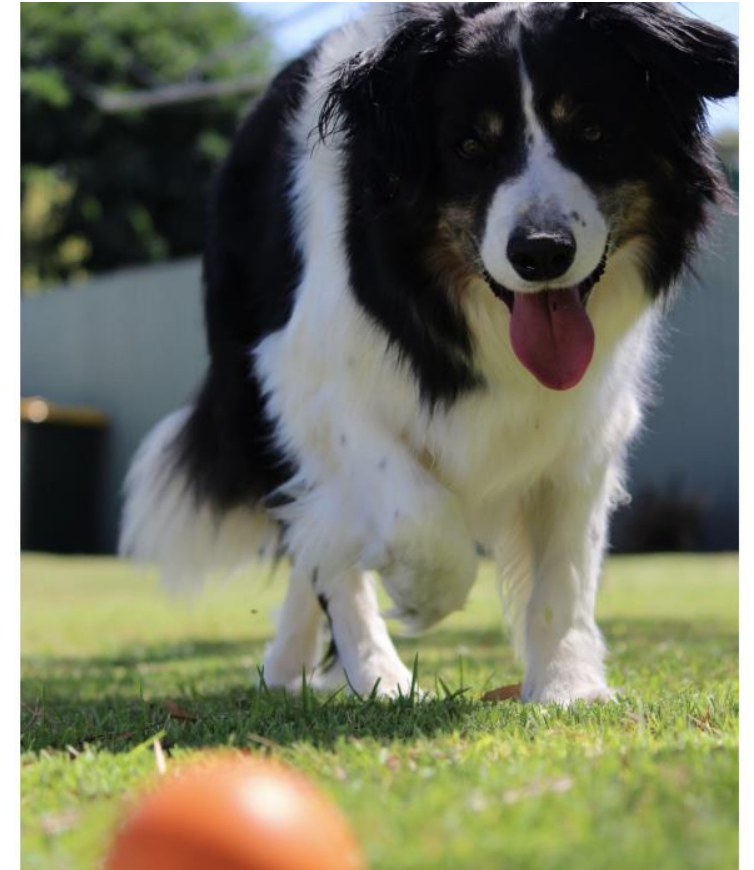
Where to from here?

- **Phase 1 of Community Consultation** – asking the community to help identify the main dog and cat concerns, issues, potential solutions and opportunities they would like to see in the new plan *November/December 2023*
- **Schedule Q&A Webinars and drop in Sessions** during consultation period *November/December 2023*
- **Review and evaluate** the priorities highlighted by the community from Phase 1 consultation *January 2024*

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Where to from here?

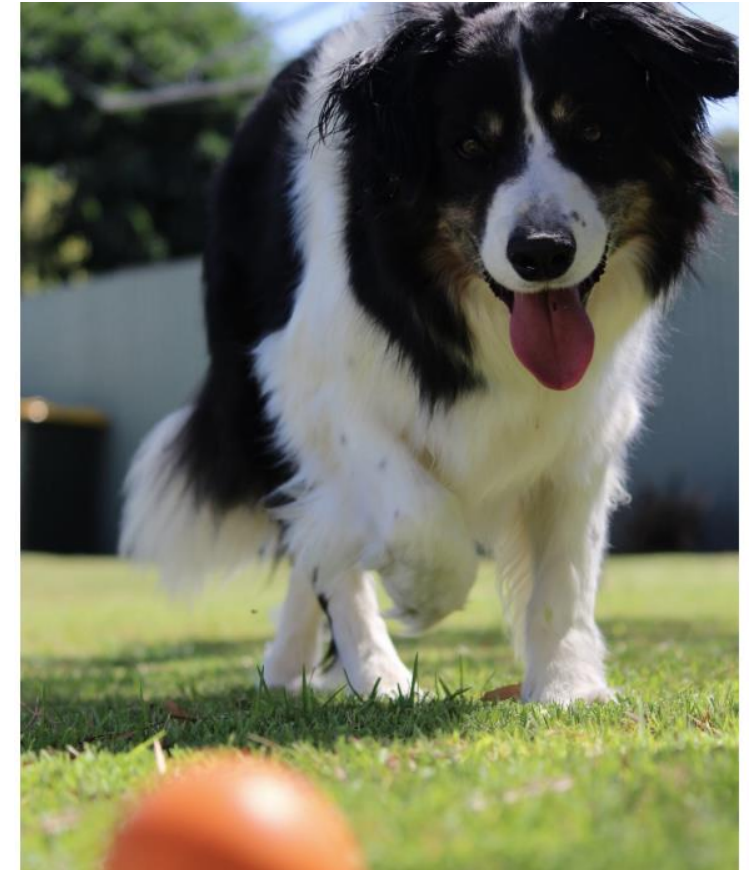
- **Develop a Draft Animal Management Plan** to come back to Council for consideration to go to Phase 2 of consultation – *February 2024*
- **Phase 2 Community Consultation** – undertake formal community consultation on the draft Animal Management Plan – *March 2024*
- **Collate, Review and Evaluate** the outcomes of the Phase 2 community consultation – *March 2024*
- **Present Final Animal Management Plan** to Council for adoption – *April 2024*



Animal Management Plan Review

Next Steps

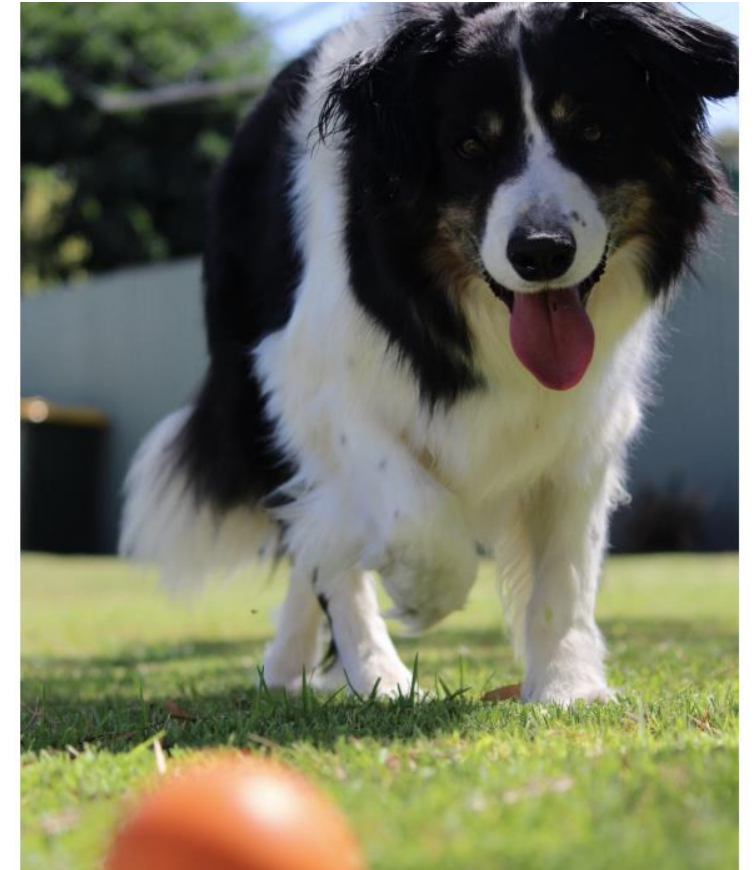
- This presentation will be circulated to Elected Members
- Phase 1 informal community engagement to be undertaken to gather community views
- Collate, Review and Evaluate the outcomes of the phase 1 community consultation and a briefing and report provided back to Council to:
 - Seek endorsement of key strategies/focus areas
 - Proceed with developing draft plan
- Detailed draft AMP to come back to Council for endorsement to proceed to phase 2 formal community consultation



Animal Management Plan Review

Next Steps – Around the Room?

- Are you comfortable with the 2 phase approach to Community Engagement commencing with phase 1 seeking community feedback to help shape the draft plan during November/December?
- Are you comfortable with the suggested key focus areas:
 - Barking Dogs
 - Review Open Space Areas
 - Dog attacks and Dog Behaviour
 - Links with Animal Management Agencies
 - Define what makes a Responsible Dog and Cat Owner
 - Cat Management



Questions and Feedback

