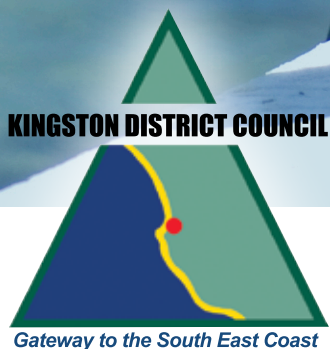


Kingston District Council

Animal Management Plan 2018 - 2023



Gateway to the South East Coast
www.kingstondc.sa.gov.au

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1. Introduction

Kingston SE is located on the South East coast of South Australia and is approximately 300 km from Adelaide, South Australia's capital city. Kingston SE offers superb safe beaches, tourist facilities, parks and gardens, extensive sporting and recreational facilities and national parks; including the world recognised Coorong. The Council area covers about 3,400 square kilometres with a population of approximately 2,300.



The Kingston District Council's "Animal Management Plan" has been prepared in order to provide a planned approach to the responsibilities Council has under the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*. This Plan will guide domestic animal (dog and cat) management within the district over the next five years.

2. Background

The *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* (the Act) was enacted in 1995. 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.

Animal control has changed substantially since the introduction of the Act. Knowledge of both human and animal behaviour is required for those working in the field. There is a growing recognition that enforcement of laws will not, on its own, result in lasting, voluntary changes in owner behaviour. It needs to be supplemented by a range of non-regulatory approaches such as public education and promotion.

The significant changes brought about by the *Dog and Cat Management (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2016* provides Council with the opportunity and responsibility to address dog and cat management at a strategic level.

The key legislative changes include:

- Microchipping – a requirement for all dogs and cats to be microchipped by the age of three months, from 1 July 2018.
- Desexing – a requirement to desex all dogs and cats born after 1 July 2018 and by the age of six months.
- Breeders – a requirement that a person must not sell a dog or cat they have bred unless they are registered as a breeder with the Dog and Cat Management Board.
- Sellers – a requirement for sellers to provide certain information to the buyer.
- Council Powers – providing councils that are responsible for dog and cat management in their local areas with greater powers to administer the Act.
- Assistance Dogs – changes to who can accredit dogs.

The implementation of the amendments to the Act and Regulations commenced rolling out from 1 July 2017 and all requirements will be fully enforceable by 1 July 2018.

There is now evidence to support our understanding of the benefits of owning pets. It is essential that Council takes a strategic approach to managing domestic pets. The Animal Management Plan will provide the Council with a sound basis and direction from which it can plan, coordinate and make future decisions to meet the needs of the community over the next five years.

The core purpose of the Animal Management Plan of the Council is to:

- Recognise that pets are integral to the lives of many people and recognise the health and social benefits associated with pet ownership.
- Inform and educate the community about the needs of companion animals and promote responsible pet ownership.
- Ensure that the sentiment of the wider community is reflected through Council's Animal Management Plan.
- Secure the safety and well-being of members of our community, including the animals.

3. The Law/Guidelines

The *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* (the Act) and *Dog and Cat Management Regulations 2017* provides the legislative framework to be adhered to in relation to the management of dogs and cats within the community.

The Council delegates powers under the Act to the Chief Executive Officer who in-turn, with the approval of Council, sub-delegates these powers to the relevant officers within the organisation.

Enforcement Provisions:

- The Act requires the Council to enforce the provisions of the Act and Regulations in the area of the Council. The approach in the first instance will be to encourage people to become responsible pet owners and comply with the provisions of the Act voluntarily.
- However, the community has an expectation that public places are monitored to ensure that the provisions of the Act are complied with and that appropriately trained and authorised persons are available to respond to concerns of the community and serious breaches of the Act and Council By-Laws.
- Council will provide appropriate resources for an after-hours service to meet the community's expectations; however the after-hours service will be provided for emergency situations and/or for injured animals, at the discretion of the on-call officer.
- The Chief Executive Officer is appointed as the Registrar and Council has delegated a number of its employees as Authorised Officers. After-hours support is provided by these Authorised Officers and other Council officers as required.
- Council will respond to calls/complaints from members of the public regarding possible non-compliance with the provisions of the Act and/or Council By-Laws.

4. Revenue

Pursuant to Section 25 of the Act, the Dog and Cat Management Board (the Board) administer a Dog and Cat Management Fund. The Kingston District Council is required to contribute 10% of revenue raised through dog registration fees to the Board. This contribution will increase to 12% from July 2018, to assist in maintaining a new Dogs and Cats Online (DACO) centralised database.

Section 26(3) of the Act requires that all money received by Council under the Act must be expended in the administration or enforcement of the provisions of the Act relating to dogs and cats.

Section 26(6) of the Act enables Council to annually determine its proposed dog registration fees. The Act requires a mandatory rebate for a '**standard dog**' which is an animal that is both microchipped and desexed. Council offers other discretionary rebates.

The fee structure is available within Council's Fees and Charges Policy, which can be viewed at Council's Office and on Council's website: <http://www.kingstondc.sa.gov.au>.

The community benefits from dog registration are:

- The effective management and provision of a suitable environment for dogs within the community.
- Provide for the welfare and safety of dogs by maintaining a Dog Pound, located at the Council Depot, in accordance with the Board's policy and guidelines for detention facilities.
- Increased public safety through investigation of animal attacks and complaints.
- Provision of off-leash areas.

Expiations are issued to dog owners who breach the Act. Expiations are most commonly issued to owners for breaching dog registration requirements, dog/s wandering at large, dog harassment and/or attack of a person or animal.

5. Council's Management of Dogs

Dog Registration

Pursuant to the Act, dogs over 3 months old must be registered. Expiation fees apply to unregistered dogs so it is important that dog owners ensure that their dog/s registration and details are up to date and renewed by the due date. As from 1 July 2017, Council will apply an expiation fee set in the Act (as at 1 July 2017 it is \$170.00) and a late payment fee to all dogs that have not had their registrations renewed by the due date of 31 August each year.

The benefits of dog registration and microchipped dogs/cats is that lost and stray animals can be identified and reunited with their owner at the earliest possible time, reducing stress for both the owner and the pet.

Detention Arrangements for Seized Dogs

Council has a secure holding area (Dog Pound) for all dogs that are seized, which is located at the Council Works Depot on Adams Road, Kingston SE. When a dog owner cannot be identified due to lack of dog identification (no registration disk or microchip) an Impounded Dog Notice is placed at the Council's Office and on Council's website and Facebook Page. This assists in reuniting the impounded pet with the owner as soon as possible.

When a dog is found wandering at large and is seized, the Authorised Officer will endeavour to identify the owner by checking for a registration disc, name tag/owner details and if these are not available, scan for a microchip. In instances where the owner can be identified and contacted, the pet will be reunited with the owner as soon as practicable.

If an owner cannot be identified, the dog will be impounded at Council's Dog Pound for a minimum of 72 hours, as required by the Act. After this period dogs that are unable to be rehomed may be transported to South East Animal Welfare League at Mount Gambier for assessment and re-homing when appropriate.

If circumstances are such that the dog is unable to be re-homed or transported, Council will as a last resort use the services of the Kingston Veterinary Clinic to dispose of the dog in a humane way.

As of 1 July 2018 dog owners will be required to **de-sex all new-generation** dogs born after 1 July 2018 by the age of six (6) months.

Owners will not be required to de-sex dogs born before 1 July 2018, however de-sexing of all dogs is encouraged.

Dog owners will also be required to **microchip all dogs** from 1 July 2018 including new pups by the age of three (3) months.

Services Available

Council has available barking collars to assist owners in managing nuisance barking dog/s. Barking collars can be loaned for up to a week at the time and require a bond payment of \$50.00, which is refundable on the return of the barking collar.

By-Laws

The Kingston District Council has a 'By-Law No. 5 - Dogs' that provides further legal provisions in relation to the management and control of dogs within the Council area. A copy of the By-Law is available at the Council Office and on Council's website: <http://www.kingstondc.sa.gov.au>.

Other Community Organisations / Services that Can Assist with Dog and Cat Management:

- South East Animal Welfare League
Section 228 Penola Road, Mount Gambier
Phone: 08 8723 9133
- Kingston Veterinary Clinic
36 Cooke Street, Kingston SE
Phone: 08 8767 2516
- Pet Education – The Dog and Cat Management Board provides the 'Living Safely With Pets' program, which is offered to all schools across the State.

6. Council's Management of Cats

Detention Arrangements for Seized Cats

Kingston District Council has decided not to make cat registration mandatory at this point in time. Council may decide to introduce cat registration in the near future.

All cats caught by Council or handed into Council are impounded. If the owner of a cat can be identified through a microchip or identification tag on the cat, the Authorised Officer will contact the owner and arrange for the cat to be collected. The Authorised Officer will endeavour to promote to the owner the importance of responsible pet ownership and of containing the cat within the boundaries of their property.

Cats, like dogs, will be impounded for 72 hours. Impounded cats will be advertised at the Council Office and on Council's website and Facebook Page. It is in the owner's best interest that the cat is microchipped (which is mandatory for all cats from 1 July 2018) and that the details are registered on the microchip registry so it can be identified and reunited with the owner quickly and safely.

Every effort will be made to find the owner of a cat. If this is not possible, the Council may try to rehome the cat or alternatively as a last resort use the services of Kingston Veterinary Clinic to dispose of the cat in a humane way.

Cat owners will be required to de-sex all new generations of cats born after 1 July 2018 by the age of six (6) months. Cats born before 1 July 2018 will not be required to be desexed; however the desexing of all cats is highly encouraged and recommended.

Cat owners will be required to microchip all cats from 1 July 2018 and by the age of three (3) months.

Council deals with wandering cats as time and circumstances allow. Council has a number of cat traps that are available to assist residents in the capture and removal of nuisance cats.

Services Available

Council has a cat trap loan process whereby members of the community experiencing a nuisance cat can loan a cat trap. Cat trap loans are for up to a period of two weeks and require a bond payment of \$50.00, which is refundable on the return of the trap. The trap can be collected from the Council Office or in some circumstances arrangements can be made to have the trap delivered.

7. Objectives/Strategies/Measures

	Objective - DOGS	Strategies	Action
1	Appropriately trained staff.	Staff undertake training, as required, relating to new legislative provisions under the <i>Dog and Cat Management Act 1995</i> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Authorised Officers complete training in dog management and handling. All Authorised Officers maintain their dog management and handling skills through refresher courses as and when required
2	Good knowledge and understanding of the dog and cat legislative provisions.	Promotion of the need for breeders to be registered with the Dog and Cat Management Board.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Ad in Coastal Leader Post on Council's website Annual post on social media
		Promotion of legislation requiring all new generations of dogs and cats over six (6) months of age to be de-sexed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Ad in Coastal Leader Post on Council's website Annual post on social media
		Promotion of legislation requiring all dogs and cats three (3) months of age or older to be microchipped.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Ad in Coastal Leader Post on Council's website Annual post on social media
3	Proactive education of pet owners to ensure they are aware of their responsibilities.	Implement various campaigns, such as wandering dog and cat campaigns and the benefits of identification to highlight various issues relating to responsible pet ownership.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Ad in Coastal Leader Post on Council's website Annual post on social media
		Participate at community events to promote responsible dog and cat ownership and encourage positive behaviours of pets and their owners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual attendance at the NRM Board's 'Dog's Breakfast' program. Attend community events that provide opportunity to promote responsible dog ownership.
		Provide educational material for display and circulation to promote responsible pet ownership to Veterinary Clinics, Visitor Information Centre, Schools, and Holiday Rentals, Council's website and Facebook page.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain supply of educational material at promotional display locations. Update educational material at promotional display locations as the information changes.

4	Ensure up-to-date promotional materials are available.	Regularly review and update promotional material to ensure it is accurate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep educational material up to date as new promotional material becomes available
5	High level of dog registrations achieved.	Promote dog registrations annually.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annually display in strategic locations on the way into the town "dog registrations are now due" signage.
6	Increase awareness of the benefits of de-sexing.	<p>Promote voluntary de-sexing for older dogs through the new mandatory rebate for 'standard dog' (dog that is de-sexed and microchipped).</p> <p>Distribute information on the benefits of de-sexing through the local Veterinary Clinic, Council Office and Council website.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep promotional material available at the distribution points, i.e. Veterinary Clinic Keep promotional material up to date as new material becomes available.
7	Reduce the number of dogs wandering.	<p>Respond to complaints regarding wandering dogs to ensure safety of the public.</p> <p>Council Staff to maintain an awareness of public places and report dogs found to be wandering.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where possible, restrain wandering dog/s. Where possible, wandering dogs to be picked up.
8	Return registered or identified dogs found wandering to their owners.	Use available resources to identify and return wandering dogs to their owners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use DACO to identify wandering and or impounded dog. Return dog to rightful owner.
9	Publicise events where fireworks or weather could impact on the number of dogs wandering.	Proactively promote events as a reminder to pet owners to take the necessary steps to secure their pets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advertise events through Coastal Leader, Council Website and Social Media.
10	Dog owners to remove all faeces from public places when exercising their pets.	Provide doggie bag dispensers and promote use of bags to facilitate collection of faeces in public spaces by dog owners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place dispensers in strategic places for ease of access. Maintain regular inspection of the dispensers and refill as required.
11	Reduction in the number of barking dog complaints.	<p>Provide information to owners where a complaint has been received regarding their pet barking and highlight various methods to help control barking.</p> <p>Provide educational information through the Council website to the reasons why dogs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verify nuisance barking dog/s by use of bark counter collars. Recommend the use of barking collars in dealing with nuisance barking dog/s.

		bark and how to address the issues.	
12	Decrease in dog attacks.	Promote the consequences of dog attacks and prevention strategies. Promote and encourage the reporting of all dog attacks and harassments whether in a public place or on private property. All reported dog incidents to be lodged onto the DCMB Dog Incident System.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote and provide access to dog attack prevention information on Council's Website and Social Media Report all verified dog attacks to DCMB.
13	Provide effective management and a suitable environment for dogs within the community.	Education of the community of the importance of exercise and enrichment, and things they can do for their pets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote and provide information pamphlets on benefits of exercising your dog on Council's Website and social media.
14	Continue to re-home suitable dogs (a suitable dog for re-homing should have no aggressive or behavioural traits and will be assessed on a case by case basis).	Advertise any impounded dogs that are not claimed and are suitable for re-homing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with other organisations and animal welfare groups to rehome unclaimed or unwanted dog/s.
15	Public Signage advertises on-leash and off-leash requirements.	Update Council dog on-lead off-lead signage to ensure the Public fully understands areas in which a dog may or may not be on a lead. Fun and interactive dog signage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install new signs by 30 June 2018.

	Objective - CATS	Strategies	Action
1	Increase awareness in the benefits of desexing and microchipping.	Distribute information on the benefits of de-sexing through the local Veterinary Clinic, Council Office and Council website.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place annually Ad in Coastal Leader Post on Council's website Annual post on social media
2	Increased awareness of owner responsibility and types of enclosures available to reduce wandering cats.	Pamphlets provided to owners of seized cats to enable them to consider an appropriate enclosure to secure their cat to their property.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide to owners of seized cat pamphlets promoting responsible cat ownership. Update promotional material as it becomes available.
3	Proactively manage feral and unowned cats within the Kingston District.	Cat traps are available for loan as required.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote availability of cat traps through Council's website and social media. Maintain cat traps in good working condition and or replace when warranted.
		Cat traps made available at the discretion of the Authorised Officer/s where feral cat numbers are high.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain cat traps in good order and ready for use.
4	Appropriate management of wondering cats.	Council will endeavour to identify the cat/s and return, re-home or as a last resort euthanise the animal as determined on a case by case basis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use DACO to identify cat's owner. Work with other organisations, animal welfare groups, to rehome unclaimed cat/s.

8. Related Documents

- Dog and Cat Management Act 1995
- Dog and Cat Management Regulations 2017
- By-Law No.5, Dogs

9. Schedule On-Leash, Off-Leash and Prohibited Areas

The Act provides that a dog can be in a public place, provided that it is under the effective control of a person. The effective control can be by command of a person that is in close proximity to the dog, and able to see the dog at all times. However there are circumstances where the community has an expectation that tighter controls are required.

This tighter control identifies circumstances when and or where the dogs will have to be 'on-leash'. The dogs must be on-leash in the following circumstances (but not limited to):

- Where there is a congregation of people and traffic movement.
- Where there is a congregation of children.
- Where there is a congregation of families in a recreational setting.
- Where there is an expectation in the community that certain public and recreational areas are free from domestic animals.
- Playing of sport.

Monitoring of By-Law No. 5 – Dogs; to promote compliance with Council’s policy of the on-leash and off-leash areas as per table attached below:

Table of dog on-leash and off -leash areas

DOG ON-LEASH AREAS	
Kingston and Cape Jaffa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On all Local Government Land including all ovals, sport arenas and parks

DOG OFF-LEASH AREAS	
Kingston and Cape Jaffa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the beach and foreshore reserve between Thredgolds Beach access point and Pinks Beach access point: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At all times when Daylight savings is not in force Before 9am and after 8pm during Daylight Saving On the beach and the foreshore reserve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> North of the Kingston Jetty South of Pinks Beach access point Maria Creek Reserve (north of Maria Creek) Old School Oval during such times as there are no organised sporting or community events taking place