



two ways :: one outcome



ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

CENTRAL DESERT REGIONAL COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 2014

ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

February 2014

Central Desert Regional Council

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<i>Version</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Reviewer</i>	<i>Date</i>
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AIM

Council's Animal Management Plan aims to work with communities and outstations to achieve responsible pet ownership, better animal welfare outcomes and safer, healthier communities.

Through education, communication and support, we can achieve this goal for the benefit of all residents, businesses and visitors within our communities and for the improvement of our environment.

The plan is designed to guide our approach to animal management issues for the next three years. Although there are legislative requirements regarding animal welfare, this plan is based on a cooperative, non-regulatory approach to animal management, with legislation as a back-up measure.

The Animal Management Plan includes the following animals:-

- Dogs and Cats
- Feral Animals
- Poultry and Caged Birds
- Stock Animals
- Native Animals

OBJECTIVES

The objectives that the Animal Management Plan seeks to fulfil are to:-

- Improve the health and well being of people living within Council communities through improved animal health
- Achieve an acceptable level of animal health and well being within Council communities
- Educate community members about the rights and responsibilities of animal owners
- Reduce overall dog numbers in communities, with a maximum of 2 dogs per household
- Minimise incidents of animal related aggression within Council communities
- Reduce environmental harm caused by animals within Council communities
- Allow Council to administer effective animal management services and actions

The Plan will be implemented by Council through the Animal Management Coordinator, regional Council staff, contract veterinarians and associated personnel.

SCOPE

This Plan applies to all towns, communities and outstations within the Central Desert Regional Council area. It does not apply to pastoral properties, mine camps or other non-community areas.

IMPLEMENTATION

Council will implement its Animal Management objectives through the following actions:-

1. Draft and implement By Laws for animal management
 2. Educate community residents in regards to responsible dog ownership
 3. Continue veterinary visits at six month intervals
 4. Reduce dog numbers through de-sexing, natural attrition and euthanizing as required.
 5. Train local Council Field Officers in safe dog handling techniques
 6. Maintain a database of owned animals
 7. Encourage free registration of dogs and cats. This is not mandatory.
- Implementation of By-Laws will ensure that issues relating to Dog Management are enforceable, fair and appropriate for Council communities.
 - Education of people will be achieved by community visits, engagement and information transfer.
 - Veterinary visits will continue to be scheduled with assistance from the Animal Management Coordinator. Equipment has been purchased to ensure dogs can be effectively handled and contained as part of veterinary visits, with the assistance of trained local Council Field Officers.
 - On going basic dog treatment will be facilitated by the Animal Management Coordinator between veterinary visits to minimise dog health related illnesses.
 - Dog numbers will be reduced by encouraging de-sexing and where required the euthanizing of diseased, suffering and abandoned dogs.
 - Owners of problem dogs will be asked to control their dogs. Ongoing aggressive or problematic behaviour may result in removal of the dog, as allowed by the Animal Management Bylaws.

1. RESPONSIBLE ANIMAL OWNERSHIP

The Central Desert Regional Council expects all its residents to practice responsible animal ownership for the well being, health and safety of the community.

Responsible animal ownership includes:-

- providing basic welfare and care of animals including water, food, shelter and control
- making sure that animals are treated humanely and receive veterinary treatment as required
- ensuring owned animals in the community do not impact on the health, well being and safety of people or other animals
- keeping animals under control and making sure that they don't enter areas that they shouldn't, such as schools, health clinics and food shops
- looking after the environment, making sure that animal faeces are cleaned up in a hygienic manner and disposed of properly

2. ANIMAL WELFARE ISSUES, ANIMAL ATTACKS AND NUISANCE ANIMALS

All issues relating to Animal Welfare, Animal Attacks and Nuisance Animals are to be reported to the Animal Management Coordinator. This can be done by contacting the Animal Management Coordinator directly or reporting issues to community-based Council staff.

The Animal Management Coordinator's function is to make sure that any issues relating to animals within Council communities and outstations are investigated and where necessary follow up action is taken.

As part of the cooperative and consultative approach of the Animal Management Plan, residents in the community can contact the Animal Management Coordinator at any time for advice and assistance with any animal issues that they may have.

Council will establish Animal Restriction Areas to prohibit dogs living in or entering Council buildings, Aged/Child Care buildings and the landfill. Local Authorities can establish additional Animal Restriction Areas to prohibit the entry of dogs into other areas such as stores or schools.

3. VETERINARY VISITS

The Central Desert Regional Council provides communities with veterinary visits as an integral part of the Animal Management Plan. At present, vet visits are conducted every six months. This is subject to adequate on-going funding.

The Visiting Vets provide the following animal treatments:-

- parasite and tick control
- de-sexing
- euthanizing of sick/injured animals where required

The Animal Management Coordinator will provide liaison and scheduling of the Veterinary Visits to communities and outstations as required. All residents are encouraged to use the contracted Veterinary Visits to have their animals health checked and treated.

It is an expectation of Council that residents give their full cooperation and assistance to regional staff and Veterinary Service Providers in the delivery of veterinary services, as community involvement and cooperation is key to achieving the goals of the Animal Management Plan.

4. EDUCATION

An integral part of the Animal Management Plan is to educate community members on the rights and responsibilities of animal owners.

The Animal Management Coordinator will lead Council's education program, involving community-based Council staff and contract veterinarians as part of a holistic strategy. This includes:

- Understanding what is responsible animal ownership and animal welfare
- Understanding the effects of poor dog health on human health
- Understanding the amount and quality of food required to sustain healthy dogs
- Adequate control of animals is important for safe and secure communities
- Promoting the benefits of de-sexing dogs

It is expected through education that a greater number of residents will make use of Veterinary visits, accepting treatments for their animals and practicing a greater degree of responsible animal ownership.

5. ENFORCEMENT

Council's current animal management focus is to emphasize non-regulatory approaches such as public education and community consultation. However, there are instances where enforcement is necessary as a last resort to protect the health and safety of residents and/or animals.

In the Northern Territory, the Animal Welfare Act gives Animal Welfare Officers the power to act on animal welfare issues within any town or community. Council's Animal Management Bylaws also allow Council to appoint Authorized Persons to administer its Bylaws. Council's Animal Management Coordinator is an Authorized Person.

Voluntary compliance, if it can be achieved, will provide more meaningful, lasting changes in attitudes and behavior.

6. OTHER ANIMALS ON COMMUNITIES

Central Desert Regional Council recognizes that the following other animals may reside within its' communities:-

- Poultry and Caged Birds
- Stock Animals
- Native Animals

Any animal kept or residing within communities will be subject to the Animal Management Plan.

In all cases of animal ownership it is expected that owned animals are kept according to the Animal Welfare Act, and are subject to responsible ownership.

7. FERAL ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

Council will take necessary steps to manage the number of feral animals within its communities.

Cat owners need to be aware that cats that are found as strays, without identification, will be treated as feral. Cat-trapping will be introduced to manage feral cats. It is considered that feral cats cannot be effectively managed, and their uncontrolled breeding and attacks on wildlife threaten the environment.

Central Desert Regional Council expects community residents to assist in managing feral animal issues within communities for the cooperation, safety and well being of all people living within the region.

8. FACILITIES

Council currently has no Pound facilities within its communities. Funding constraints mean this is likely to continue for some time.

Council provides Waste Management Facilities (landfills) within its communities, and these are utilized for the burial of animals.

9. FUNDING

Council will as part of its commitment to the Animal Management Plan continue to provide funding for Animal Management. This is primarily the employment of an Animal Management Coordinator and engagement of contract veterinarians.

Council operates on a tight budget, and Animal Management service levels will be reviewed annually to reflect available funds and resources. Council will continue to seek additional funding from Government, Non Government agencies and sponsorship arrangements to support its Animal Management objectives.

10. REVIEW

Council will review the Animal Management Plan on an annual basis.

Council will reassess the plan in response to changes in community expectations, budgetary considerations and changes to Policy and Procedure. Local Authorities will be consulted as a part of reviews.

Reporting procedures and databases will assist in the review process and ensure the Animal Management Plan can be modified to improve its efficiency and respond to priorities as required.

ENDS