

A large, stylized orange silhouette of a cat, facing forward, with a white outline, positioned on the left side of the cover.

ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

2018/19–2023

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This plan has been developed by Fiona De Rosa
Balancing Act Adelaide | People + Pets + Cities on behalf of the Town of Walkerville.

Message from the Mayor of Walkerville

As a pet owner to a much loved four year old Cavoodle called Cobber, I am familiar with the wellbeing benefits, as well as the responsibilities, that come with owning a pet.

Although this *2018/19–2023 Animal management plan* is primarily intended for domestic dog and cat owners in the Town of Walkerville, it also includes information on other animals such as snakes, possums, chickens and even bees and wasps.

Under section 26A of the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*, Councils are required to produce a management plan and update it every five years.

The *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* has undergone significant changes that will take effect from the 1st July 2018. All these changes are detailed in the plan and dog and cat owners as well as breeders and sellers need to ensure they comply with the relevant legislation.



Ray Grigg

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ray Grigg'.

Mayor of Walkerville
(and Cobber).

Executive summary

Why do we need this plan?

Every Council in South Australia is required under section 26A of the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 (the Act)* to prepare a plan of management relating to dogs and cats every five years.

This plan provides Walkerville Council with an opportunity to address dog and cat management at a strategic level and implement initiatives to address the recent changes to *the Act*. Besides Council's statutory obligations under *the Act*, this plan also supports Council's strategic plan, *2016–2020 Living in the Town of Walkerville: a strategic community plan*.

This new plan replaces the Town of Walkerville's existing *Strategic urban animal management plan* (which expires in 2018).

What's in this plan?

The majority of this plan focuses on the management of domestic dogs and cats. However, Council also deals with a range of other animals which are addressed in section 8.

This plan is divided into four parts:

1. overview and context
2. priority areas, objectives and actions
3. dogs in public places
4. other animals.

Part 1

Part 1 provides an introduction and contextual information about Council, legislation and reforms, and current research on planning for pets. It also provides a summary of Council's dog and cat data and existing animal management services.

Part 2

Part 2 contains information about the priority areas for Council over the next five years.

The priority areas include:

- dog registration
- desexing and microchipping of dogs
- wandering dogs
- nuisance barking
- pets in the community
- community education
- cat management
- breeder registration.

Each priority area comprises an objective, a series of actions and performance measures. This plan incorporates ongoing issues from the previous *Strategic urban animal management plan* and introduces new actions to address the recent changes to the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*.

Part 3

Part 3 focuses on dogs in public places identifying the on-leash, off-leash and dog prohibited areas within the Town of Walkerville.

Part 4

Part 4 deals with other animals including bees, chickens, European wasps, possums and snakes.

Part 1:

Overview and context

1. Introduction

Purpose

The purpose of this *2018/19–2023 Animal management plan* is to guide Council's approach to animal management for the next five years (2018/19–2023). This new plan replaces Council's existing *Strategic urban animal management plan* (which expires in 2018).

This plan has been prepared in accordance with Section 26A of the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* which requires all councils in South Australia to develop a plan of management relating to dogs and cats within their area.

The majority of this plan focuses on the management of domestic dogs and cats. However, Council also deals with a range of other animals which are summarised in Part 4.

Methodology

The preparation of this plan included an examination of:

- Council's existing plan, which expires in 2018
- Council's dog and cat data
- recent changes to the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*.

Working with community

Council recognises the value of working with a wide range of external stakeholders to build partnerships with individuals, community groups and organisations for the management of dogs and cats within the Town of Walkerville.

Some stakeholders identified as potentially having an interest in the management of dogs and cats include:

- local schools
- dog and cat owners
- general public
- veterinary clinics
- animal businesses
- Animal Welfare League (AWL)
- RSPCA
- Australian Veterinary Association (AVA)
- Dog and Cat Management Board (DCMB)
- local media
- surrounding councils
- dog training schools
- sports clubs and park users.

This plan identifies potential collaborations with external stakeholders in Part 2 – Priority areas, objectives and actions.

Community consultation

Community consultation was undertaken between the 9th April 2018 to the 7th May 2018. During this period, the community had the opportunity to comment in the following ways:

- online survey on Council website
- hard copy of the plan and survey available from Council's Civic & Community Centre
- drop-in session on Saturday 28 April 2018, 9.30am – 12.30pm at the Civic and Community Centre.



2. Relevant Council strategies and plans

This management plan for dogs and cats supports some of Council's strategies and plans including:

- *2016–2020 Living in the Town of Walkerville: a strategic community plan*
- *2016–2020 Living Walkerville: wellbeing for every age and stage*

2016–2020 Living in the Town of Walkerville: a strategic community plan

This plan supports several of the key focus areas in the strategic community plan including:

Key focus area 1 –

Vibrant local culture, inspired by diversity and inclusivity

- The planning and design of public places for dogs and their owners supports this focus area. This includes walking trails and streetscapes that provide interest to both dogs and their owners, encouraging people to get out and about in the community.

Key focus area 2 –

Sustainable and resilient future, based on a sensitive and sensible approach to planning, heritage, economic development and the public realm

- Cities that provide walkable, convenient and safe areas for owners to walk their dogs encourage healthy and active lifestyles. Off-leash areas that are within walking distance also support the development of more sustainable communities as people are less reliant on cars.
- The implementation of this new plan provides an opportunity for Council to take a lead role in the creation of communities that cater for the needs of dogs and their owners in the planning and design of public spaces.

Key focus area 3 –

Transparent and accountable local tier of Government that is respected for its forward-thinking approaches and cross-council collaborations

- There is a role for Council to work with other Councils in the management of dogs and cats i.e. shared service arrangements.

Key focus area 4 –

Healthy, connected and inspired community

- Research has shown that pets can provide a range of physical and mental health benefits to their owners. People with pets make fewer visits to the doctor, pets can boost activity levels in older people and pets can help build social bridges in communities.

2016–2020 Living Walkerville: wellbeing for every age and stage

- The *2018/19–2023 Animal management plan* aligns with some themes in the *2016–2020 Living Walkerville: Wellbeing for every age and stage* including:
 - active ageing
 - support at home.

Pets play an important role in improving the general health and wellbeing of individual dog and cat owners. Given our ageing population, pets provide companionship for older people living on their own, boost activity levels and improve their general health.

3. Legislation and reforms

The objectives of the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* are to:

- encourage responsible dog and cat ownership
- reduce public and environmental nuisance caused by dogs and cats
- promote the effective management of dogs and cats.

Council's responsibility for dog and cat management

The responsibilities delegated to Councils under the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* (section 26) that are relevant to the preparation of this plan include:

Dog registration

- maintain a register of dogs (26 (1) (a)).
- appoint a suitable person to be the Registrar (26b).
- make satisfactory arrangements for issuing and replacing certificates of registration and registration discs (26c).
- appoint at least one full-time authorised person or make other satisfactory arrangements for the exercise of the functions and powers of authorised persons (26d).
- make satisfactory arrangements for the detention of dogs seized under this *Act* (and may make such arrangements for cats seized under this *Act*) (26e).
- make satisfactory arrangements for fulfilling other obligations under this *Act* (26f).

Money received

- money received by Council under this *Act* must be placed in a fund and expended in the administration or enforcement of the provisions of this *Act* relating to dogs and cats (26 (3)).

Payment into fund

- council must pay into the fund the percentage fixed by regulation of the dog registration fees received by the Council (26 (5)).

Setting of fees

- council has the responsibility for setting and reviewing registration fees.

Establishing By-laws

- council can pass a by-law for the control and management of dog and cats within their area (section 90). The Town of Walkerville has introduced Dog By-law no. 5

Plans of management

- under *the Act*, each Council must prepare a plan relating to the management of dogs and cats within its area (26A 1).
- plans must include provisions for parks where dogs may be exercised off-leash and for parks where dogs must be under effective control by means of physical restraint and may include provisions for parks where dogs are prohibited (section 26A 2).
- the Dog and Cat Management Board must approve the plan before it takes effect.

Dog and cat reforms

The *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* has undergone a major review with significant changes to take effect from 1 July 2018. Significant changes that will impact on Councils, dog and cat owners and dog and cat breeders and sellers include:

Mandatory microchipping and desexing

As of 1 July 2018, it will be compulsory for:

- all dogs and cats to be microchipped before 12 weeks of age.
- all new generations of dogs and cats (born after 1 July 2018) to be desexed before 6 months of age with exemptions for working dogs and registered breeders.

Breeder and seller registration

- as of 1 July 2018, breeders and sellers who breed dogs and cats for sale must register with the Dog and Cat Management Board of South Australia as a breeder.
- any person who breeds or trades companion animals must also abide by the *South Australian standards and guidelines for breeding and trading companion animals*¹ which took effect from August 2017.
- a new requirement for dog and cat sellers will be to provide certain information in advertisements (i.e. breeder registration number) and to the buyer.
- the seller will be required to provide detailed information about the dog or cat including: desexing, microchipping, vaccinations, illness and medical conditions to the buyer.

Changes to registration

Dog and cat online (DACO)

From 1 July 2018, a new State-wide registration system known as Dog and Cat Online or DACO will be replacing the existing dog registration system with a centralised system to be managed by the Dog and Cat Management Board of South Australia.

This new system will combine a number of existing data bases (such as dog and cat registrations, microchip and breeder information) to provide a central resource. This means registration fees will be paid online through a central website.

Council will be responsible for issuing dog and cat registration reminder notices, and the Dog and Cat Management Board will issue the registration discs.

New dog registration categories

As of 1 July 2017, the dog registration categories in South Australia were simplified to two categories:

- standard dog (a dog that is both microchipped and desexed)
- non-standard dog (all other dogs).

1. The Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, Animal Welfare Unit administers the guidelines, regulated under the Animal Welfare Regulations 2012, and enforced by the RSPCA.



4. Big picture – planning for pets

“Two in every three homes in Australia have at least one pet. When you consider that lot sizes are getting smaller and census data showing an increase in apartment living, pets need to be catered for in parks and other public spaces”

(Planning Institute of Australia, 2012: n.p.).

Benefits of pets

Australia has one of the highest pet ownership rates in the world with 38% of households owning a dog (Animal Health Alliance, 2016). Research shows that companion animals such as dogs and cats play a significant role in the lives of many Australians.

Pets can enrich our lives, provide physical and mental health benefits and companionship, and help facilitate social interactions within the community.

There is research (ACAC, 2009 and PIAS, 2010) that demonstrates the benefits of pet ownership including:

Pets are good for our general health and wellbeing

- people with dogs and cats make fewer visits to the doctor.
- people with pets are at lower risk of cardiovascular disease than non-pet owners.

Pets are good for an ageing population

- pets can boost activity levels in older people, helping to improve overall health.
- pets provide companionship for elderly people living alone.

Pets are good for children

- young children with pets are more likely to exercise.
- children or adolescents with pets have shown to have higher self-esteem.

Pets are good for the community

- pets can help people build social bridges in communities.
- people with pets are more likely to have conversations with other people.

Planning for pets

As block sizes get smaller and dwellings extend closer to fence lines and property boundaries, there is less private outdoor space available for companion animals leading to a greater demand for dog access to public open spaces.

“Between 1991 and 2001 the number of separate houses in Australia increased by 18% while the number of higher density dwellings increased by 37%” (PIAS, 2010:5).

Almost a quarter of Australians live in medium to high-density housing. With this trend expected to continue, there will be new challenges as we learn to live in smaller spaces and compete for valuable public open space while accommodating the needs of dogs and their owners in the planning and design of communities.

Planning for pets (particularly dogs in public places) is a key consideration for local councils given dogs are the most popular pet in Australia. The quote below draws attention to the importance of planning for pets.

“a higher proportion of us live in households with a dog and/or cat than a child. 50% of Aussies live in a household with at least one cat or/and dog in it, whereas 35% share their household with a least one child aged under 16.” (Roy Morgan, 2015, article 6272, n.p.)

Dogs in public places

Research shows there is a trend towards casual, unstructured activities with dog walking being in the top 10 activities.

“Adults are moving away from structured sports to casual activities with dog walking being number three of the top 10 activities in Australia” (One Eighty Degree, n.d.; p. 23).

A key consideration in taking dogs out into public places is for dogs to be under effective control and not cause a nuisance to other people and other animals. It is important for dogs and their owners to be trained in how to cope with everyday experiences such as walking down a street with their dog, visiting a local cafe or exercising a dog at a park.

Dog training that teaches real-life skills is fundamental if dogs are to be taken out and about with their owners in public places. Basic etiquette and respect for all users sharing a space (i.e. people, dogs and wildlife) is an important part of being a responsible dog owner.

Best practice in animal management and welfare

The Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) recommends the use of positive reinforcement dog training methods as the preferred method of training.

“the use of positive reinforcement is the most humane and effective training method as it avoids undesirable behavioural side effects. Positive reinforcement makes training more enjoyable and helps improve the bond between the trainer and the pet” (AVA website).

The Dog and Cat Management Board (DCMB) also *“believes a commitment to positive reinforcement training is an aspect of being a responsible dog owner. The Board does not condone training methods that cause a dog to feel pain, fear, aggression or anxiety” (DCMB 2017).*

The Animal Welfare League also promotes the use of positive reinforcement methods for dog training.

The RSPCA (SA) promotes the use of force-free dog training methods and have developed a list of force-free dog trainers in South Australia (RSPCA, website, 2017).



5. Local picture – pets in the Town of Walkerville

The Town of Walkerville is the smallest Council in inner metropolitan Adelaide and covers a land area of 3.5km². The Town encompasses the suburbs of Gilberton, Medindie, Vale Park and Walkerville and is home to an estimated resident population of 7,838 (2016, census).

The Town of Walkerville is located immediately north-east of the City of Adelaide, about 4 kilometres from the Adelaide GPO. The Town of Walkerville is bounded by the City of Port Adelaide Enfield in the north and north-east, the Torrens River and City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters in the east and south-east, the City of Adelaide in the south, and the City of Prospect in the west and north-west.

Table 1: Registered dogs

Registered dogs	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Total number of registered dogs	871	874	835	855	840

In 2016/17, the total number of registered dogs within the Town of Walkerville was 840.

Over the last five years the number of registered dogs has decreased by 31 or 3.5%. This may be due to dogs being deceased and/or dog owners moving out of the Council area.

Of the dogs registered in the Council area in 2016/17, 709 or 85% were desexed (i.e. desexing rebate claimed) and 708 or 84% were microchipped.

Overview of dogs

In 2016/17, there were 840 dogs registered in the Town of Walkerville. The distribution of registered dogs across the Council area included²:

- Walkerville – 265
- Vale Park – 225
- Medindie – 171
- Gilberton – 163.

The most registered dog breeds (including cross breeds) in the Town of Walkerville in order of popularity included:

- Maltese
- Labrador
- Golden Retriever and Cavoodle
- Jack Russell Terrier
- Spoodle
- Border Collie

- Labradoodle
- Kelpie and Cocker Spaniel
- German Shepherd
- Beagle and Schnauser.

2. Total number of dogs equal 824. A difference of 16 with the total number of registered dogs is due to replacement tags.

Table 2: Dog complaints

Complaints	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
barking (nuisance)	12	10	11	21	10
wandering	19	50	41	17	5
reports of dog attacks to humans ³	0	1	1	3	3
reports of dog attacks to other animals (ie. dogs & cats)	3	0	1	1	2
reports of dog harassment to humans ⁴	0	8	1	0	1
reports of dog harassment to other animals (ie. dogs & cats)	0	2	1	4	1
Total	34	71	56	46	22

3. Dog attack refers to a dog acting with force or harmfully resulting in physical injury such as bruising, punctures, wounds or lacerations (Dog and Cat Management Board website, 2018).

4. Dog harassment refers to a dog troubling or annoying a person without being the primary cause of physical injury i.e. the dog may chase, rush at people or animal but not bite them (Dog and Cat Management Board website, 2018).

In 2016/17, there were 22 registered complaints with the Town of Walkerville. Over the last five years the number of complaints has reduced by 12 or 35%.

In 2016/17, the top complaint was nuisance barking accounting for 45% of all complaints. Over the five-year period, the number of wandering dogs has reduced by 14 or 26%.

Table 3: Dogs impounded

Dogs Impounded	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
number of dogs collected and returned to owner before impounded	18	19	13	3	4
total number of dogs impounded	21	9	18	13	6
total number of dogs impounded and subsequently returned to owner from Animal Welfare League	19 (90%)	7 (78%)	16 (89%)	13 (100%)	5 (83%)

Lost dogs

Council makes every effort to reunite lost dogs as soon as possible with the owner if the animal can be identified (i.e. via a registration disc or microchip).

Dogs that cannot be returned to their owner are impounded at the Animal Welfare League at Wingfield for collection. In 2016/17, 83% of dogs impounded were returned to their owner from the Animal Welfare League.

Current dog management services

The responsibility for the management of dogs and cats rests with Council's Planning, Environment and Regulatory Services Team.

The Group Manager of Planning, Environment and Regulatory Services is the appointed Registrar as per the requirement under the *Dog and Cat Management 1995 Act (section 26)*. As of 2018, there is one fulltime Dog and Cat Management Officer.

Council's dog management services are funded by a combination of general rate revenue, dog registrations, expiation fees and fines for breaches of the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*.

Dog registration fees

Dog registration fees collected in 2016/17 totalled \$26,176.00. Ten per cent (10%) of these fees are transferred to the Dog and Cat Management Board, and the remaining funds are allocated to a range of dog services including:

- reuniting lost dogs with their owners
- helping neighbours resolve dog related issues
- providing after-hours callout services
- investigating incidences of dog attacks and harassment
- investigating nuisance barking complaints through mediation and formal investigations
- providing funds to support impounded dogs at the Animal Welfare League (AWL)
- educating and liaising with pet owners about their responsibilities.



Standard operating procedures

Council has adopted the Local Government Association's standard operating procedures (SOP's) including:

- wandering dogs
- destruction and control orders
- dog attacks and harassment
- dogs barking
- seizing and impounding dogs.

Dog By-law

In 2015, the Town of Walkerville passed Dog By-law No. 5 for the management and control of dogs within the council area including:

- dog controls regarding on-leash, off-leash and dog prohibited areas
- limit on the number of dogs per property (i.e. one dog in a small property or 2 dogs in other premises)
- management of dog faeces (i.e. carry a bag or other object to pick up and dispose of any faeces from their dog).

Shared service arrangement

The Town of Walkerville is investigating a shared service arrangement with the City of Unley.

On-leash, off-leash and dog prohibited areas

The Town of Walkerville provides a range of public open spaces for dogs and their owners including the River Torrens Linear Park, Walkerville Oval and a range of pocket parks. Refer to Part 3 for more information regarding dogs in public places.

Overview of cats

The number of owned cats in the Council area is unknown as cats are not required to be registered with the Town of Walkerville.

In 2016/17, there was a total of 2 cat complaints. The number of complaints relating to cats per annum is minimal. Council refers residents to the Animal Welfare League at Wingfield for the hire of cat traps.

Table 4: Cat complaints

Year	Cat complaints
2012/13	0
2013/14	3
2014/15	7
2015/16	2
2016/17	2



Part 2:

Priority areas, objectives and actions

6. Priority areas and actions

There are eight priority areas to guide the implementation of Council's 2018/19–2023 *Animal management plan* for dogs and cats over the next five years.

Priority areas include:

1. dog registration
2. desexing and microchipping of dogs
3. wandering dogs
4. nuisance barking
5. pets in the community
6. community education
7. cat management
8. breeder registration.

Each priority area is made up of an:

- objective
- actions
- performance measures.

Performance measures have been developed in this plan to track progress against the objectives and actions. Addressing these priority areas will involve regular monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the actions identified in this plan. Refer to page 37 for more information on implementing the plan.

This plan includes a combination of qualitative and quantitative performance measures. The key quantitative performance measures are outlined below.

Performance measures

Area	Performance measure
dog registration	increase percentage of registered dogs decrease number of expiations issued annually for unregistered dogs
microchipping & desexing of dogs	increase percentage of microchipped and desexed dogs
barking	increase percentage of nuisance dog barking complaints resolved at Stage 1: via mediation, education and awareness decrease percentage of nuisance dog barking complaints resolved at Stage 2: via formal investigation
dogs wandering	increase percentage of dogs collected by Council and return to owner before impoundment
dog attacks	decrease percentage of dog attacks to other animals decrease percentage of dog attacks to humans
cats	increase percentage of microchipped and desexed cats



Priority area 1 – dog registration

Overview

In 2016/17, the total number of registered dogs in the Town of Walkerville was 840. The suburbs with higher numbers of registered dogs included Walkerville and Vale Park.

Dogs are valued family members, so when they go missing it can be a stressful time for both the pet and the owner. If a dog is registered, Council can easily identify a lost dog, ensuring a quicker return to the owner.

Dog registration provides Council with a better understanding of the level and distribution of dogs in the area which is helpful in planning for off-leash areas.

Happening now

Council's existing initiatives to promote dog registrations include:

- registration rebates for dogs that are microchipped and desexed
- web-based information on dog registration.

Did you know?

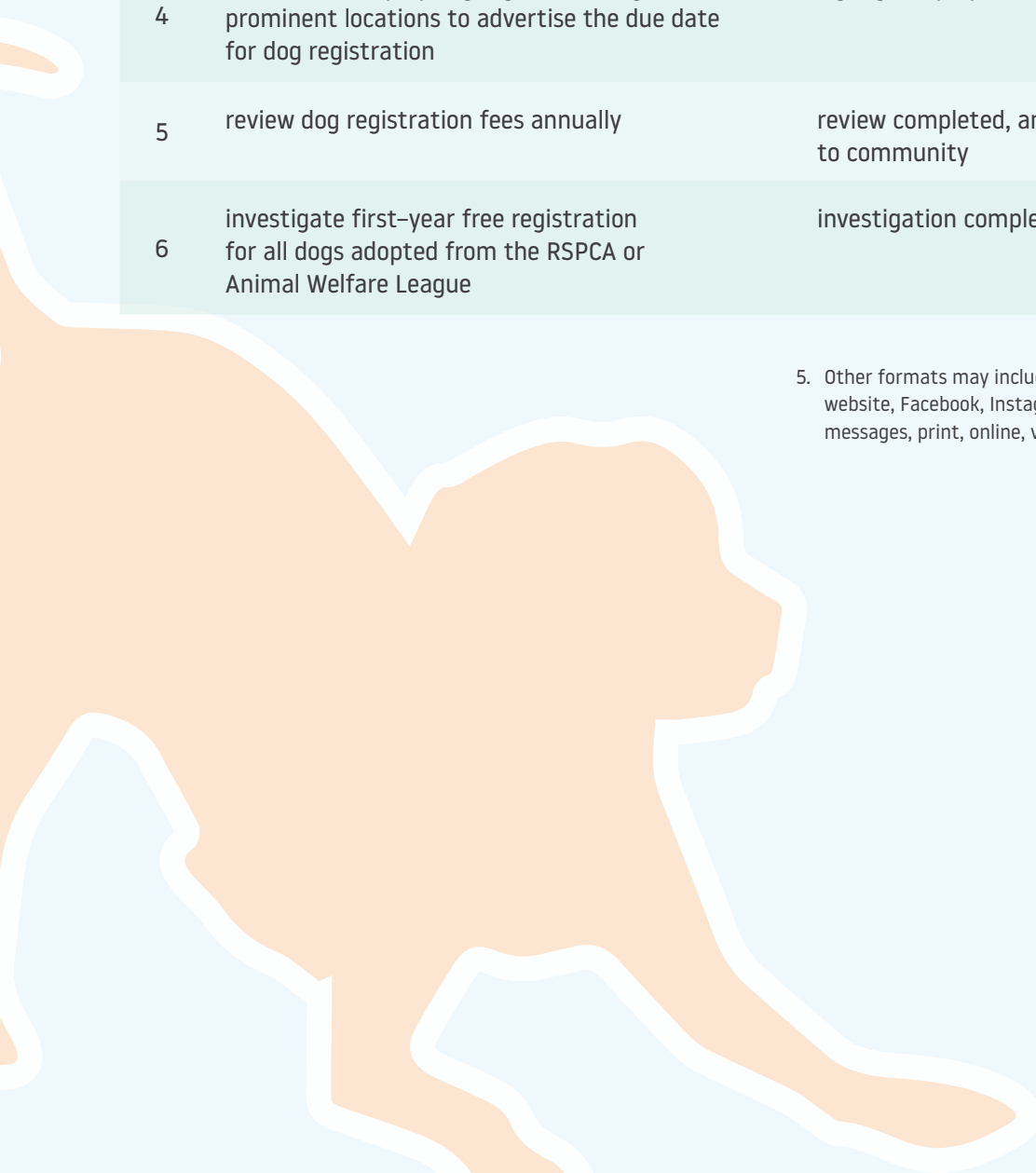
All dogs aged three months or over must be registered with the Town of Walkerville each year?

Objective:

Increase the percentage of registered dogs over the life of this plan

No.	Actions	Performance measures
1	undertake a door knock campaign to identify unregistered dogs, un-microchipped and non desexed dogs	number of properties visited number of registration uptakes
2	promote the benefits of dog registration and the implications of having an unregistered dog	information posted on website, social media and other formats
3	promote the Dog and Cat Management Board's (DCMB) information on the new State-wide dog registration system – Dog and Cat Online (DACO)	promotional material posted on website, social media and other formats ⁵
4	continue to display dog registration signs in prominent locations to advertise the due date for dog registration	signage displayed at prominent locations
5	review dog registration fees annually	review completed, and new fees promoted to community
6	investigate first-year free registration for all dogs adopted from the RSPCA or Animal Welfare League	investigation completed and next steps actioned

5. Other formats may include: rolling banner on Council's website, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, on-hold phone messages, print, online, video and Council displays.



Priority Area 2 – desexing and microchipping dogs

Overview

The desexing of all new generations of dogs (and cats) by six months of age is a key change under the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* which will come into effect on 1 July 2018. While this new desexing requirement only affects dogs and cats born after 1 July 2018, all dogs and cats before 12 weeks of age must be microchipped by this date.

There are many benefits of desexing a dog including:

- reducing the tendency for aggressive behaviours towards people and other dogs
- reducing dogs to wander, and anti-social behaviours like leg mounting and urine marking, and
- increasing the likelihood of a dog living a longer life (DCMB 2014).

Permanent identification such as microchipping assists in a quicker return causing less stress to the dog and the owner, making the process simpler and preventing the animal being impounded at an unfamiliar location.

Of the dogs registered in 2016/17 with the Town of Walkerville, 709 dogs or 85% were desexed (i.e. desexing rebate claimed) and 708 dogs or 84% microchipped.

Did you know?

All dogs (and cats) born after 1 July 2018 will be required to be desexed by 6 months of age. This is a new requirement under the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*.

Happening now

Councils existing initiatives to encourage microchipping and desexing of dogs include:

- registration discount for microchipped and desexed dogs
- web-based information on microchipping.

Objective:

Increase the percentage of microchipped and desexed dogs over the life of this plan

No.	Actions	Performance measures
7	promote the Dog and Cat Management Board's (DCMB) information on mandatory microchipping and desexing of dogs (and cats)	promotional information posted on website, social media and other formats information distributed to dog owners via rates notices
8	facilitate discount microchipping events for dog (and cat) owners ⁶	number of dogs (and cats) microchipped at events
9	promote the benefits of microchipping and desexing of dogs (and cats) and the implications of having un-desexed and un-microchipped dogs and (cats)	promotional information posted on website, social media and other formats
10	promote the National Desexing Network (NDS) on Councils' website for low cost desexing	provide a related link to the National Desexing Network on Council's website

6. These events could be undertaken in collaboration with the Animal Welfare League, RSPCA, Chip Blitz, veterinary clinics and adjoining councils

Priority Area 3 – wandering dogs

Overview

Wandering dogs was the second most recorded animal related complaint with Council in 2016/17, accounting for 23% of all dog complaints. Over the past five years the number of complaints relating to wandering dogs has reduced by 35%.

Dogs that wandering without an owner can “cause a nuisance, are often distressed and may attack or harass people or other animals. In some cases, they cause road accidents resulting in injury to the dog and on occasion to vehicle occupants and may cause property damage – all of which becomes the responsibility of the owner of the dog” (DCMB, 2014).

Dogs can escape from their yards for a variety of reasons including:

- poorly maintained or inappropriate fencing to contain a dog (i.e. dogs can escape under, over and through fencing)
- gates left open or not properly secured
- dogs getting under the roller door when the owner is going in/out
- dogs being spooked by loud noises such as thunder and fireworks.

In 2016/17, 83% of all impounded dogs by Council were returned to their owner from the Animal Welfare League.



Happening now

Council's existing initiatives to manage wandering dogs include:

- list of dogs impounded available on Council's website
- standard operating procedure (SOP) for wandering dogs.

Objective:

Decrease the percentage of dogs wandering in the community

No.	Actions	Performance measures
11	promote owner responsibilities and consequences of dogs wandering	information posted on website, social media and other formats
12	inform dog owners about Council events that may cause dogs to escape	information posted on website, social media and other formats

Did you know?

In 2016/17, 83% of all impounded dogs by Council were returned to their owner from the Animal Welfare League.

Priority area 4 – nuisance barking

Overview

Nuisance barking is the top animal related complaint reported to Council for over the five-year period. In 2016/17, 45% of all complaints related to nuisance barking.

Although barking is a natural behaviour for dogs, persistent barking can be annoying to their owners and neighbours. The causes of dogs barking can range from boredom or frustration, being left alone, physical discomfort or pain, to reacting to an external stimulus such as a bird, someone passing by the fence or another dog barking.

If persistent barking is to be managed effectively, the trigger for the barking needs to be identified.

“... Dogs bark for a variety of reasons and it is important to work out why your dog is barking excessively. Once the underlying cause and ‘triggers’ for the barking are identified, training techniques can be used to treat the excessive barking.” (RSPCA, 2015 online)

Sometimes, dog owners don't know their dog is barking excessively or know where to go for help. For owners who need help with their dog's behaviour the RSPCA force-free dog trainers list is a good resource to find a qualified dog trainer. Refer to the link here: www.rspcasa.org.au/force-free-dog-trainers/

Happening now

Council's existing initiatives to manage persistent barking include:

- standard operating procedure (SOP) for dogs barking
- community safety officer negotiations between neighbours.

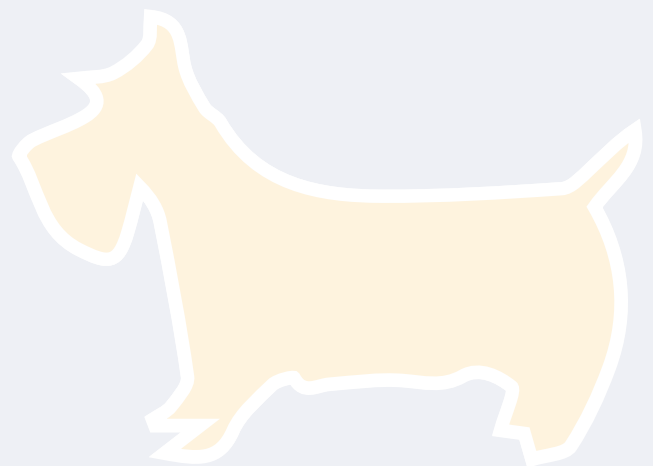
Objective:

Reduce the impact of persistent barking on the community

No.	Actions	Performance measures
13	investigate a dog behaviour support program to assist dogs and their owners with excessive barking problems ⁷	investigation completed and next steps implemented
14	promote the RSPCA list of force-free dog trainers to the community ⁸	related link to the RSPCA Force-free trainers list posted on Council's website
15	provide educational information to the community on strategies to prevent and manage persistent barking	education material posted on website, social media and other formats

7. This investigation could include costings for a qualified dog behaviour trainer to work 1–1 with owner and their dog (subsidised program).

8. The RSPCA Force-free trainers list could be used as a resource for general customer service enquiries regarding dog training and behaviour support.



Did you know?

“Barking is a normal behaviour for dogs and makes up part of the way dogs communicate vocally, along with yipping, yelping, howling, growling and whining.” (AVA, n.d.)

Priority Area 5 – pets in the community

Overview

The Town of Walkerville provides a range of public open space for dogs and their owners including on-leash and off-leash areas such as the Walkerville Oval, River Torrens Linear Park and a range of pocket parks. There are also designated areas where dogs are prohibited such as fenced children's playgrounds. Refer to Part 3 for a detailed list of on-leash, off-leash and prohibited areas within the Town of Walkerville.

Council also provides dog bags and dispensers in some parks and along the River Torrens Linear Park. Refer to page 41 for a list of dog bag locations.

Happening now

Council's existing initiatives for dogs in communities include:

- on-leash, off-leash and dog prohibited areas
- provision of doggy bags and dispensers at various parks and reserves.

Did you know?

Research shows that pets can be linked to happier, healthier owners and better connected communities.

Objective:

Facilitate the planning and inclusion of pets in the community

No.	Actions	Performance measures
16	investigate the establishment of a pet care support program to promote the benefits of pet ownership ⁹	investigation completed and next steps implemented
17	promote the on-leash, off-leash and dog prohibited areas (refer to the complete listing of parks and associated dog controls in Part 3). ¹⁰	information posted on website, social media and other formats
18	review all signage relating to off-leash, on-leash and dog prohibited areas.	signage review completed and to determine: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • content of signs • location of signs • need for additional signs
19	encourage the community to report dog attacks and harassment incidents to Council	number of dog attacks/harassments reported
20	review all standard operating procedures (SOPs) relating to dogs	review completed and next steps implemented

9. A useful resource for this investigation is the RSPCA (SA) publication *Companion animals program toolkit*.

10. This could include an interactive map online brochure suitable for download and hard copy information.



Priority area 6 – community education

Overview

Education supported by enforcement of legislation plays a key role in the effective management of pets in the community. This includes educating dog owners, prospective dog owners, children, and the wider community. Education can take the form of school-based programs, online information, practical demonstrations, and information sessions on a range of topics relating to responsible pet ownership.

There are a several agencies in South Australia that offer educational programs and resources including:

- Dog and Cat Management Board of SA – *Living safely with pets*
- RSPCA SA – *Empathy education program*
- Animal Welfare League – *Community education programs*
- Australian Veterinary Association – *Pets and people (online resource)*.

Community education programs could address topics such as:

- selecting the right pet for your family and lifestyle
- procuring a pet from responsible and ethical sources
- value of puppy pre-school, socialisation and dog training
- dog bite prevention
- environmental enrichment i.e. physical and mental
- safe interactions around dogs in the home and public places
- good dog etiquette in public places (i.e. off-leash enclosed dog parks).

Happening now

Council's existing education initiatives include:

- web-based information.

Did you know?

Dogs are required to be on-leash on all streets, roads, footpaths and some parks within the Town of Walkerville.

Objective:

Promote responsible pet ownership through community education

No.	Actions	Performance measures
21	collaborate with other organisations and individuals to develop and deliver community education programs	opportunities investigated and programs delivered
22	develop <i>Did you know</i> messages to promote information on responsible pet ownership	information developed and promoted on a regular cycle on social media
23	review and update Council's website relating to animals and reflect changes to the <i>Dog and Cat Management Act 1995</i>	website reviewed and updated
24	review information sheets relating to dogs and reflect changes to the <i>Dog and Cat Management Act 1995</i>	information sheets reviewed and updated

Priority area 7 – cat management

Overview

Cats are companion animals for an estimated 29% of Australian households. Cats can be valuable family members providing companionship and affection, but they can also be perceived as causing a nuisance in the community. Cats can stray from their property, defecate in neighbouring properties and cause environmental damage by attacking and harassing wildlife.

In South Australia, there are around half a million unowned cats with thousands of stray cats and kittens euthanized in animal shelters every year (DCMB 2017, website). The number of owned cats in the Council area is unknown as they are not required to be registered with the Town of Walkerville.

In 2016/17, there were 2 cat complaints recorded with the Town of Walkerville relating to stray or feral cats and cats wandering into neighbouring properties. The number of complaints relating to cats per annum is minimal.



Did you know?

As of 1 July 2018, all cats will be required to be microchipped by 12 weeks of age.

Happening now

Council's existing initiatives for cat management include:

- Referring residents to the Animal Welfare League for the provision of cat traps.

Objective: Encourage responsible cat ownership

No.	Actions	Performance measures
25	promote the Dog and Cat Management Board's information on mandatory desexing and microchipping requirements for cats	information posted on website, social media and other formats
26	continue to promote the hire of cat traps from the Animal Welfare League	information posted on website, social media and other formats
27	provide educational information about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cat selection • environmental enrichment for cats • appropriate cat enclosures, cat runs and other containment solutions • cats and wildlife 	information developed and published on Council website
28	investigate what other councils are doing regarding cat management	investigation completed and actions implemented



Priority area 8 – breeder registration

Overview

The *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* has undergone a major review with significant changes to take effect from 1 July 2018. Some of these changes will impact on those who breed and sell dogs and cats including:

- sellers of dogs and cats will be required to provide certain information in advertisements such as their breeder registration number and provide the buyer with relevant paperwork. The seller will be required to provide detailed information about the dog or cat including: desexing, microchipping, vaccinations, illness and medical conditions to the buyer.
- any person who breeds or trades companion animals must also abide by the new *South Australian Standards and guidelines for breeding and trading companion animals standards*. These guidelines are administered by the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, Animal Welfare Unit and enforced by the RSPCA.

Happening now

This is a new initiative to be introduced in 1 July 2018.

Objective:

Educate and enforce compliance with the breeder registration requirements

Did you know?

As of 1 July 2018, breeders and sellers who breed dogs and cats for sale must register with the Dog and Cat Management Board of South Australia as a breeder.

No.	Actions	Performance measures
29	promote the Dog and Cat Management Board's new requirements for dog and cat breeders and sellers to register with the Dog and Cat Management Board of South Australia	promotional material posted on website, social media and other formats
30	educate residents about the new breeder registration requirements	promotional material posted on website, social media and other formats

Implementing the plan

Implementing the dog and cat initiatives will involve regular monitoring, and reporting on the actions and performance measures. The key implementation actions are outlined below.

Actions	Performance measures
assign overall responsibility for implementation of the <i>2018/19–2023 Animal management plan</i> to the Group Manager of Planning, Environment and Regulatory Services	responsibilities inserted into position description
submit this plan to the Dog and Cat Management Board (DCMB) for approval	plan submitted and approved by the DCMB
assign staff responsibilities for the implementation of specific actions	responsibilities assigned
collect and record relevant dog and cat statistics to monitor the quantitative and qualitative performance measures in this plan	system in place to record and collate data
conduct an annual review on the progress of actions and performance measures contained in this plan	report submitted to Council
undertake continuous professional development of staff ¹¹	staff attended professional development
develop collaborative initiatives with external stakeholders to assist in implementing the plan	collaborative initiatives established
refer to sections 1 and 6 for potential stakeholders for collaboration	

11. This may include attendance at conferences, seminars, training sessions, induction programs and enrolment in courses for a relevant qualification



Part 3:

Dogs in public places

7. Dogs in public places

The Town of Walkerville has three types of provisions or controls for dogs in public places:

- off-leash (at all times)
- on-leash (at all times)
- dogs prohibited (at all times).

Off-leash

Off-leash means the owner or handler must have the dog under effective control at all times.

Effective control means:

- dogs must respond to a command (or cue) from the owner or handler e.g. come (recall), wait, stop
- dogs must be in close proximity of the owner or handler, and
- the owner or handler must be able to see the dog at all times.

Effective control is a requirement under the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*.

On-leash

On-leash means a dog must be restrained by a leash no more than 2 metres in length. This is a requirement under the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*.

A dog must be on-leash in the following areas or situations:

- on all public roads, footpaths, and carparks. This is a requirement under the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*.
- when formal (organised) sporting events are being conducted. This is a requirement under Council's Dog By-law No.5.
- within 5 metres of children's playground equipment i.e. an unfenced children's play area. This is a requirement under Council's Dog By-law No.5.
- in or near any wetland area. This is a requirement under Council's Dog By-law No.5.




Dogs prohibited

A dog prohibited area means a dog is not allowed in the public place at any time.

The current on-leash, off-leash and dog prohibited areas are shown on Map 1 and listed on pages 37–40.

This list of on-leash, off-leash and dog prohibited areas has been compiled as a part of a review of dogs in public places. As there was no existing inventory of parks/ reserves and their associated dog controls an important first step in managing dogs in public places was to develop a complete list from various documents containing this information including the Town of Walkerville's *Open space strategy*, *Community land management plan* and information posted on Council's website.

Map 1:**Dogs in Public Places – Town wide**

-  on-leash
-  off-leash
-  dog prohibited areas



Town wide: on-leash, off-leash and dog prohibited areas

On-leash areas (at all times)

	Park/Reserve	Address	Suburb
	River Torrens Linear Park & shared path	Various locations	Vale Park, Walkerville & Gilberton
1	Fife St Reserve (Part of Linear Park)	Fife St	Vale Park
2	Ascot Reserve (Part of Linear Park)	Ascot Ave	Vale Park
3	Belt Reserve	Church Tce	Walkerville
4	Bickle Reserve (Part of Linear Park)	Gilbert St	Gilberton
5	Crawford Reserve (Opposite aged care facility)	Walkerville Tce	Walkerville
6	Creswell Reserve (Near Walkerville Lawn Tennis Club & part of Linear Park)	Creswell Crt	Gilberton
7	Gawler Tce Reserve	North East Rd (Crn North East Rd & Smith St)	Walkerville
8	Hawkers Reserve	Hawkers Rd (Crn of Hawkens Rd & Dutton Tce)	Medindie
9	Howie Reserve	Victoria Tce	Walkerville
10	Mary P Harris Reserve 'Bundilla'	Walkerville Tce	Walkerville
11	Playground near The Watson (unfenced playground)	Warwick St	Walkerville
12	Rose St Reserve	Rose St	Gilberton
13	St Andrews Reserve	St Andrews St	Walkerville
14	Soldiers Memorial Reserve	Severn St (Near Swing Bridge)	Gilberton
15	Thiele Reserve	Northcote Tce	Gilberton
16	Walkerville Memorial Gardens	Church Tce	Walkerville
17	Walkerville Wesleyan Cemetery	Smith St	Walkerville
18	Webster Reserve	2-4 Angas Ave (Crn of Lansdowne Tce & Angas Ave)	Walkerville
19	Willow Bend Reserve (Part of Linear Park)	Ascot Ave	Vale Park

Off-leash areas (at all times)

	Park/Reserve	Address	Suburb
20	Hamilton Reserve & Stewart Ave Park	Stewart Ave	Vale Park
21	Levi Park Reserve	Lansdowne Tce	Vale Park
22	EC Scales River Park (Part of Linear Park)	Fuller St	Walkerville
23	Frome Reserve	Jeffrey Rd	Vale Park
24	Walkerville Oval	Smith St	Walkerville

Dog prohibited areas (at all times)

	Park/Reserve	Address	Suburb
25	Levi Park Children's Playground (fenced)	Lansdowne Tce	Vale Park
26	Alfred St Playground (fenced)	Alfred St (adjoins Walkerville Oval)	Walkerville



Areas for Improvement

A review of dogs in public places revealed that there was no single document of on-leash, off-leash and dog prohibited areas within the Town of Walkerville. The first step of this review was to develop a comprehensive list of all public parks/reserves and their associated dog controls. This complete listing is provided on pages 37–40.

Following this review, there are two key areas identified for improvement including:

A complete listing of on-leash, off-leash and dog prohibited areas be made available to Council staff and the community

- The listing of parks/reserves and their associated dog controls i.e. on-leash, off-leash and dog prohibited areas within the Council area should be available to the community in a range of formats (e.g. online and hard copies) so the public are aware of the relevant dog controls in individual parks and reserves.
- This improvement has been incorporated into the *2018/19–2023 Animal management plan*. Refer to Part 2 – Priority Area 5, pets and community, action 17.

A review of signage regarding off-leash, on-leash and dog prohibited areas

- A review of all signage relating to dog provisions should be undertaken to clearly identify where people can take their dogs on-leash, off-leash and where dogs are prohibited. The signage needs to reflect the provisions contained in the complete listing of on-leash, off-leash and dog prohibited areas outlined on pages 37–40.
- This review may include an assessment of sign locations, content or key messages and need for additional signs.
- This improvement has been incorporated into the *2018/19–2023 Animal management plan*. Refer to Part 2 – Priority Area 5, pets and community, action 18.

Location of dog bag dispensers ¹²

Linear Park

- Burlington Street
- Creswell Reserve
- Fife Street
- Fuller Street
- Jeffery Street
- Severn Street
- Willow Bend

Parks and reserves

- Belt Reserve
- Bickle Reserve
- Crawford Reserve
- Hawkers Reserve
- Levi Park Reserve
- Rose Street Reserve
- Walkerville Oval – east side
- Walkerville Oval – west side
- Walkerville Wesleyan Cemetery
- Webster Reserve

Public realm

- Town of Walkerville Civic and Community Centre (carpark)
- Walkerville Terrace (near post office)

12. This information was provided by the Town of Walkerville in November 2017.

Part 4:

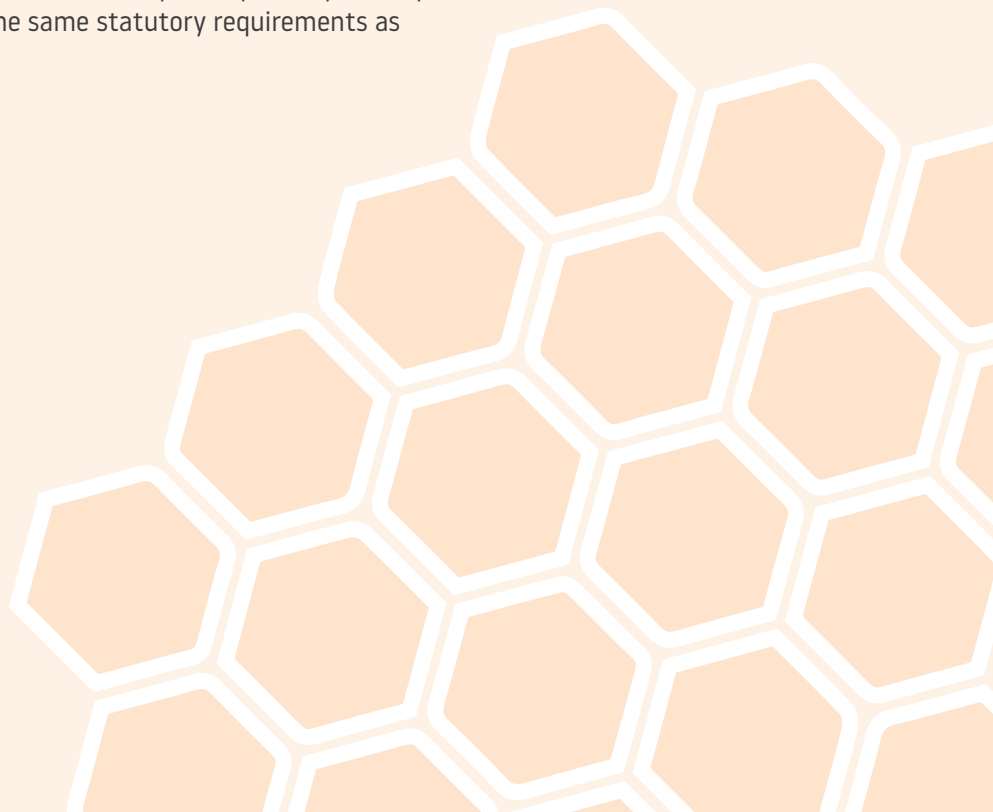
Other animals

8. Other animals

The Town of Walkerville deals mainly with the management of dogs and cats, although at times staff are required to respond to and address other animals including:

- bees
- chickens
- european wasps
- possums
- snakes.

These animals are included in this plan separately as they are not covered by the same statutory requirements as dogs and cats.



Bees

Residents within the Council area are permitted to keep bees on their property as long as they do not become a nuisance or hazard to other people. People keeping bees are by law required to register as a beekeeper and comply with the SA Apiary Code of Conduct.

Further information on bee keeping is available from the Department of Primary Industries and Resources SA (PIRSA).

Chickens

Chickens can be kept on residential properties within the Town of Walkerville as long as they are for domestic purposes. Currently, there is no limit on the number of chickens per property within the Council area. Chickens should be kept in such a location, structure and condition that will not cause a nuisance or risk to health in any way.

Further information on chickens is available on Council's website.

European wasps

Council has introduced a new service to assist with the removal of European Wasp nests from residential properties. Council offers a service to all residents and upon request will locate the wasp nest and arrange for its removal.

Further information on wasps is available on Council's website.

Possums

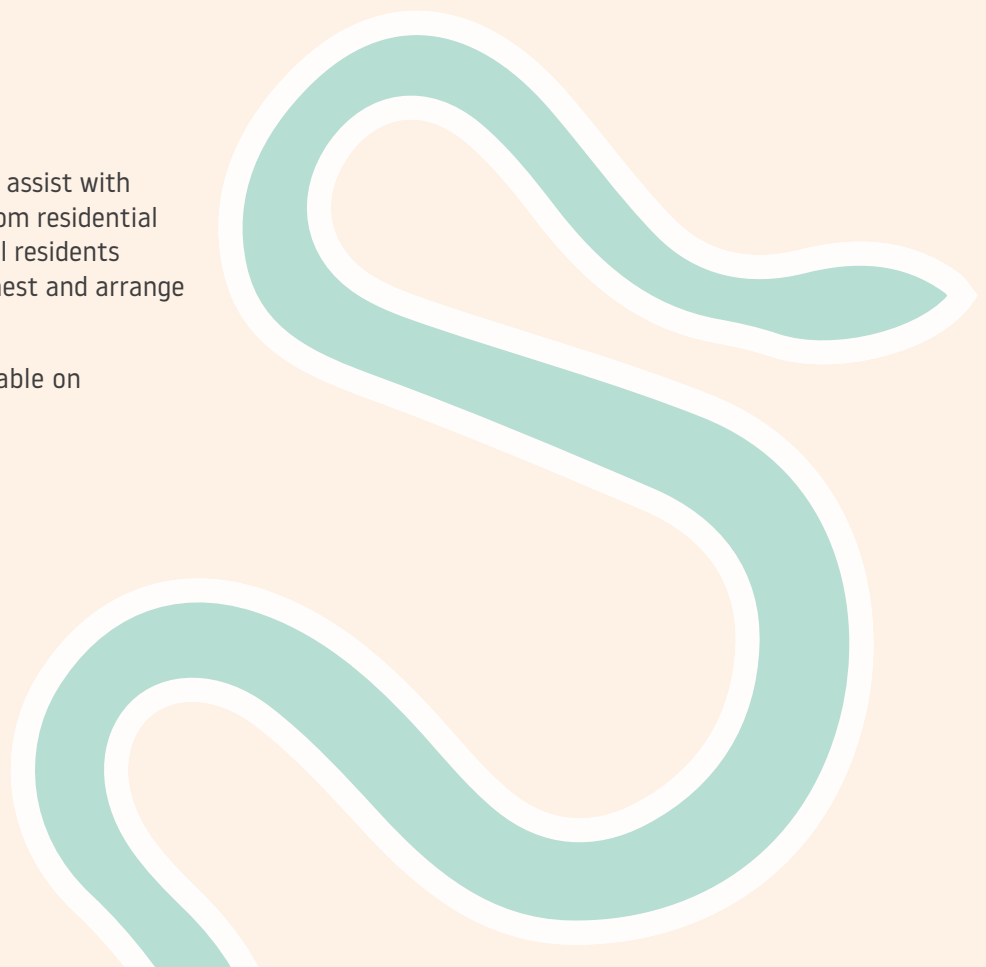
The Town of Walkerville has developed a guideline for the management of possums. In South Australia possums are protected under the provisions of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*.

Further information on possums is available on Council's website.

Snakes

Council does not provide a snake removal service for private properties. However, Council will remove snakes found on Council land.

Further information on snakes is available on Council's website.



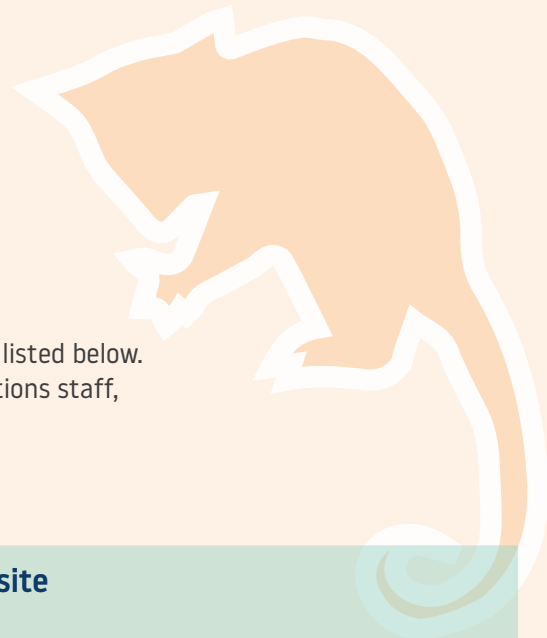


Table 5: Where to get help – other animals

Further information on other animals is available from the organisations listed below. This information could be turned into a resource sheet for customer relations staff, but would need to be updated on a regular basis.

Animal	Responsible Organisation	Phone	Website
Bees	Primary Industries & Regions SA	8226 0995	www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/animal_health/bees
Birds (other than poultry)	Department of Environment and Water	8204 1910	www.environment.sa.gov.au
Bats	SA Health & Department of Environment and Water	8226 6000	www.sahealth.sa.gov.au www.environment.sa.gov.au
Bed Bugs	SA Health & Department of Environment and Water	8226 6000	www.sahealth.sa.gov.au www.environment.sa.gov.au
Foxes	Primary Industries & Regions SA	8226 0995	www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/weeds_and_pest_animals/animal_pests_in_south_australia/established_pest_animals/european_red_fox
	Natural Resources Adelaide & Mt Lofty	8273 9100	www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/adelaidentloftyranges/home
Farm Animals	Department of Primary Industries & Regions SA	8226 0996	www.pir.sa.gov.au
Fruit Fly	Department of Primary Industries & Regions SA	Hotline 1300 666 010	www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/fruit_fly
Horses	Department of Planning, Transport & Infrastructure	1300 872 677 (transport)	www.sahealth.sa.gov.au

Table 5:
Where to get help – other animals

Mosquitoes	SA Health	8226 6000	www.sahealth.sa.gov.au
Pigeons (feral)	SA Health & Department of Environment and Water	8226 6000	www.sahealth.sa.gov.au www.environment.sa.gov.au
Possums	Department of Environment and Water	8204 1910	www.environment.sa.gov.au
Poultry	Eastern Health Authority	8204 1910	www.eha.sa.gov.au/public-health/pests-and-vermin
Rats & Mice	SA Health & Department of Environment and Water	8226 6000	www.sahealth.sa.gov.au www.environment.sa.gov.au
Snakes	Department of Environment and Water	8204 1910	www.environment.sa.gov.au
	Snake-Away Services	0413 511 335	
	Snake Catchers Adelaide	0413 511 440	
	Adelaide Snake Catchers	0413 635 373 or 0407 290 219	



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