



GLEN EIRA
CITY COUNCIL


BENTLEIGH
BENTLEIGH EAST
BRIGHTON EAST
CARNEGIE
CAULFIELD
ELSTERNWICK
GARDENVALE
GLEN HUNTLY
MCKINNON
MURRUMBEENA
ORMOND
ST KILDA EAST

GLEN EIRA DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022–2026



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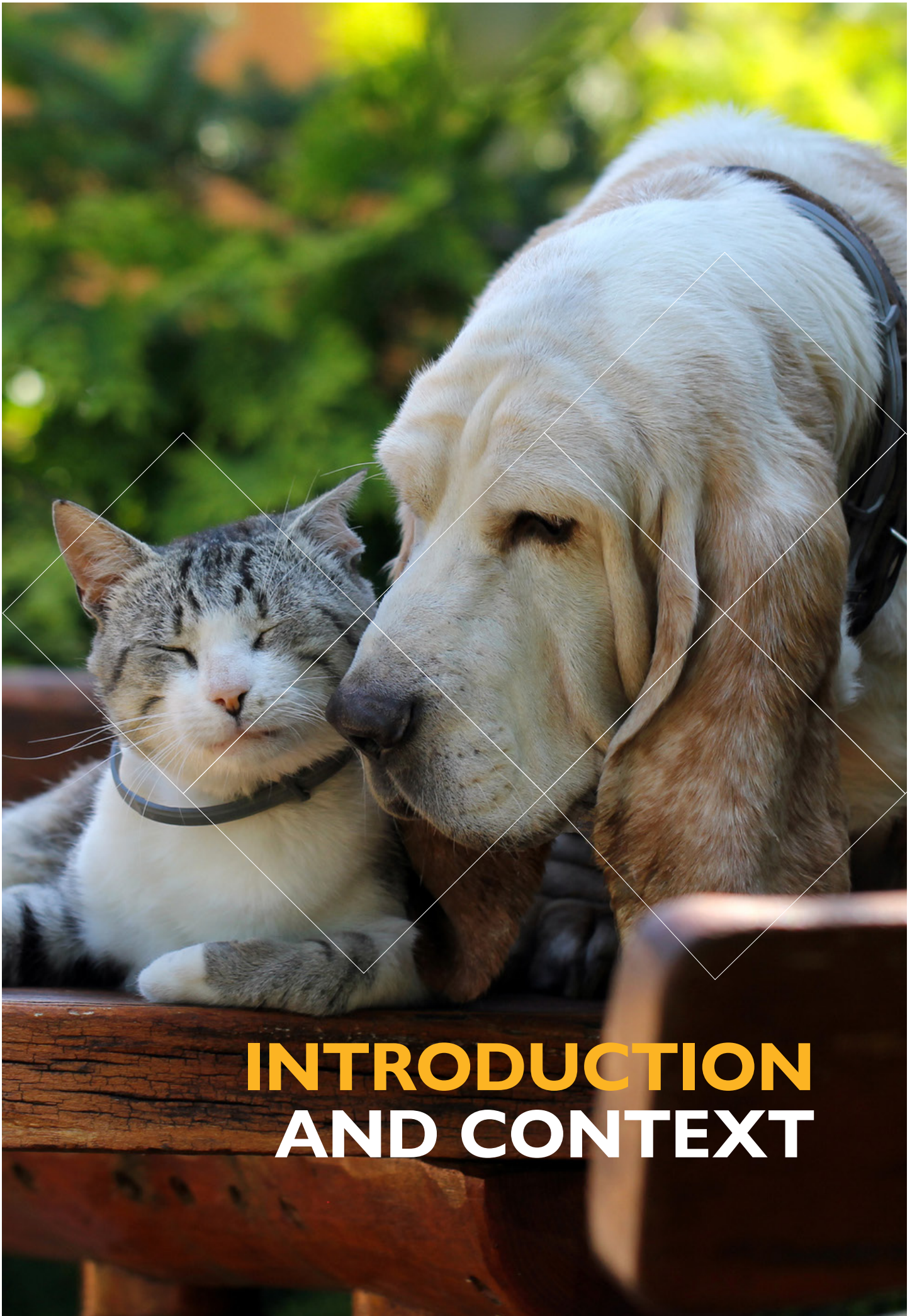


ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

Glen Eira City Council acknowledges the Boonwurrung/ Bunurong and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung peoples of the Eastern Kulin Nation as Traditional Owners and Custodians, and pays respect to their Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and uphold their continuing relationship to land and waterways. Council extends its respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Council honours the rich histories and cultures of First Nations peoples and recognises and values the important contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in enriching our community. We support the Uluru Statement from the Heart and are committed to a *Reconciliation Action Plan* which is underpinned by the principles of self-determination. We work towards improved outcomes and long-term generational change, and to consolidate Glen Eira as a culturally safe place for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We are committed to achieving equality for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to live healthy and prosperous lives and to improve life outcomes for current and future generations.

Glen Eira resides on country that always was, and always will be, Aboriginal land.



**INTRODUCTION
AND CONTEXT**

PURPOSE

The *Domestic Animals Act 1994* requires Victorian councils to have in place a four-year *Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP)* that leads the management of cats and dogs in the community. Council recognises that companion animals are part of our community and contribute to the health and wellbeing of many people.

The *Plan* covers the entire municipality and its implementation must be evaluated annually, with results included in Council's annual report. The objective is to teach responsible cat and dog ownership through education and innovative strategies that allow pets and people to live together harmoniously and safely across Glen Eira.

The *Plan* must also outline programs for the training of Authorised Officers accompanied by services and strategies to:

- > ensure that people comply with the *Act*, the regulations and any related legislation;
- > minimise the risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals;
- > address any overpopulation and high euthanasia rates for cats and dogs;
- > encourage the registration and identification of cats and dogs;
- > minimise the potential for cats and dogs to create a nuisance;
- > effectively identify all dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs to ensure that those dogs are kept in compliance with this *Act* and the regulations;
- > provide for the review of existing orders made under the *Act* and local law with a view to determine whether further orders or local laws dealing with the management of cats and dogs are required;
- > provide for the review of any other matters related to the management of cats and dogs; and
- > provide for the periodic evaluation of any program, service, strategy or review outlined under this *Plan*.

The principles which have guided the development of this *Plan* are as follows:

- > It is written with community perspective and reflects what is important to them.
- > It complies with the legislative requirements of the *Act*.
- > It sets an effective strategic direction in terms of the management of cats and dogs.

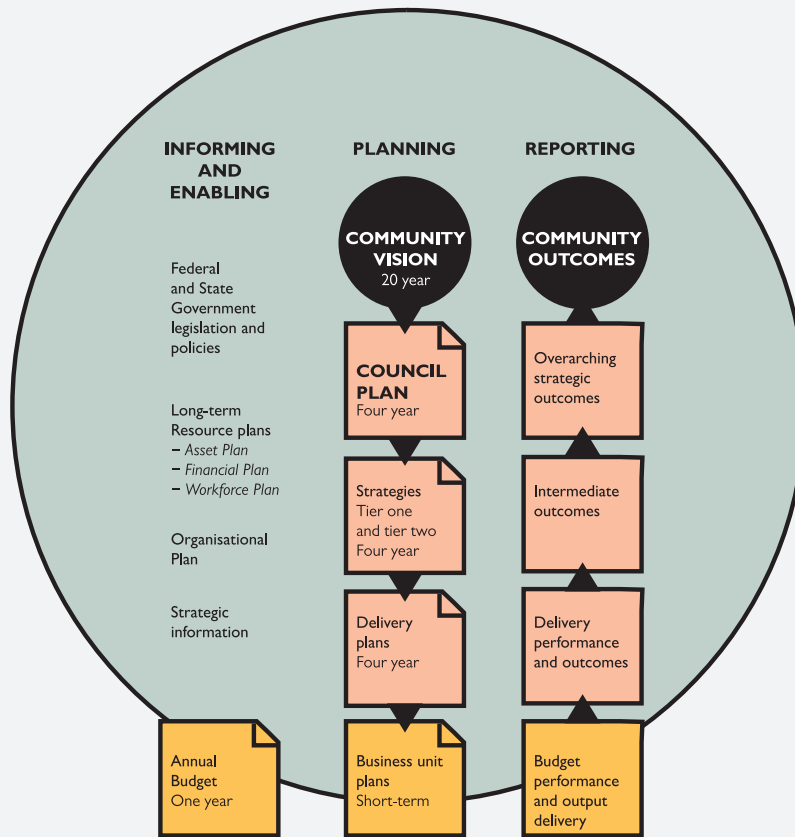
DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN LEGISLATION

Pursuant to Section 68A of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994 (Act)*, every Victorian council must prepare a plan as follows:

68A councils to prepare domestic animal management plans

1. Every council must, in consultation with the Secretary (of the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources) DEDJTR, prepare at four-year intervals a domestic animal management plan.
2. A domestic animal management plan prepared by a council must —
 - a. set out a method for evaluating whether the animal control services provided by the council in its municipal district are adequate to give effect to the requirements of this Act and the regulations; and
 - b. outline programs for the training of authorised officers to ensure that they can properly administer and enforce the requirements of this Act in the council's municipal district; and
 - c. outline programs, services and strategies which the council intends to pursue in its municipal district —
 - i. to promote and encourage the responsible ownership of dogs and cats; and
 - ii. to ensure that people comply with this Act, the regulations and any related legislation; and
 - iii. to minimise the risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals; and
 - iv. to address any overpopulation and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats; and
 - v. to encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats; and
 - vi. to minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance; and
 - vii. to effectively identify all dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted-breed dogs in that district and to ensure that those dogs are kept in compliance with this Act and the regulations; and
 - d. provide for the review of existing orders made under this Act and local laws that relate to the council's municipal district with a view to determining whether further orders or local laws dealing with the management of dogs and cats in the municipal district are desirable; and
 - e. provide for the review of any other matters related to the management of dogs and cats in the council's municipal district that it thinks necessary; and
 - f. provide for the periodic evaluation of any program, service, strategy or review outlined under the plan.
3. Every council must —
 - a. review its domestic animal management plan annually and, if appropriate, amend the plan; and
 - b. provide the Secretary with a copy of the plan and any amendments to the plan; and
 - c. publish an evaluation of its implementation of the plan in its annual report.

4. Integrated planning and reporting



INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING FRAMEWORK

Along with the *Community Vision* and the *Council Plan*, the *DAMP* is an important component of Glen Eira’s *Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework*. The *Framework* describes how strategic planning and reporting will be developed and managed by Council to ensure it contributes to the goals and aspirations of the Glen Eira community.

The *Framework* outlines how Council will plan for the future across multiple functions, levels and locations to contribute to those aspirations. It also shows how the obligations from our regulators and relationships with our partners impact and contribute to the community’s desired outcomes. From a reporting perspective, the *Framework* ensures there are mechanisms in place to monitor progress towards achieving those outcomes and reporting transparently to the community.

The *DAMP* will contribute to the *Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework* as a key informing and enabling element, facilitating an integrated approach to all of Council’s operational activities. This will in turn support the integrated strategic planning and reporting of all Council activities across the organisation.



The *Domestic Animal Management Plan* appears as a major initiative in the healthy, inclusive and resilient theme of the *Council Plan 2021–2025*.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INVOLVEMENT

A community consultation was undertaken through the Have Your Say portal which received 1,846 survey responses. Questions were framed on a range of issues on how Council could improve animal management services. Council advertised this through the following mediums:

- > A text message with the link to the Have Your Say survey was sent to all registered pet owners encouraging engagement.
- > Two online pop-up sessions were conducted via Zoom.
- > Social media posts were placed on Facebook and Instagram.
- > Communication was held with culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities through community leaders.
- > An advertisement was placed in the August edition of the *Glen Eira News*.
- > A survey was sent to residents via Community Voice which was aimed at reflecting a broad cross-section of Glen Eira in terms of age, suburb and gender.

The community consultation resulted in the following themes in terms of community feedback:

- > Limited open space designated to off-leash dog areas.
- > Need for increased signage in parks with improved dog water and waste disposal facilities.
- > Introduction of a cat curfew to reduce trespassing and protect wildlife.
- > Education and increased enforcement of dog faeces in parks, nature strips and footpaths.
- > Increased presence in parks from authorised officers.

DEMOGRAPHIC AND PROFILE OF COUNCIL

The City of Glen Eira is located in Melbourne's south-east suburbs, approximately 10 kilometres from Melbourne's central business district. The City includes the suburbs of:

- > Bentleigh
- > Bentleigh East
- > Carnegie
- > Caulfield
- > Caulfield East
- > Caulfield North
- > Caulfield South
- > Elsternwick
- > Gardenvale
- > Glen Huntly
- > McKinnon
- > Murrumbeena
- > Ormond
- > Brighton East
- > St Kilda East

Glen Eira has a vibrant and diverse community which is proud of its cultural heritage. It has 68 beautiful parks, 45 sporting ovals, 40 educational institutions, 35 strip shopping centres and almost 6,000 businesses. It is home to significant Melbourne icons such as the Ripponlea Estate, the Caulfield Cup, Yarra Yarra Golf Club and the Jewish Holocaust Museum.

Home to 158,216 people, Glen Eira's median age is 37 years, with 118 nationalities. The most common countries of birth outside Australia are China, India, England, South Africa and Israel, and 250 residents are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. More than half (56 per cent) of Victoria's Jewish population live in Glen Eira. Disability is a priority with 12.3 per cent of Glen Eira residents living with disability. Couples with children are the most common type of household, followed by lone person households.

DEMOGRAPHIC AND PROFILE OF COUNCIL

POPULATION



2020 population

158,216**

2026 forecast

167,052‡



Median age

37‡

** Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Estimated Resident Population 2020*.

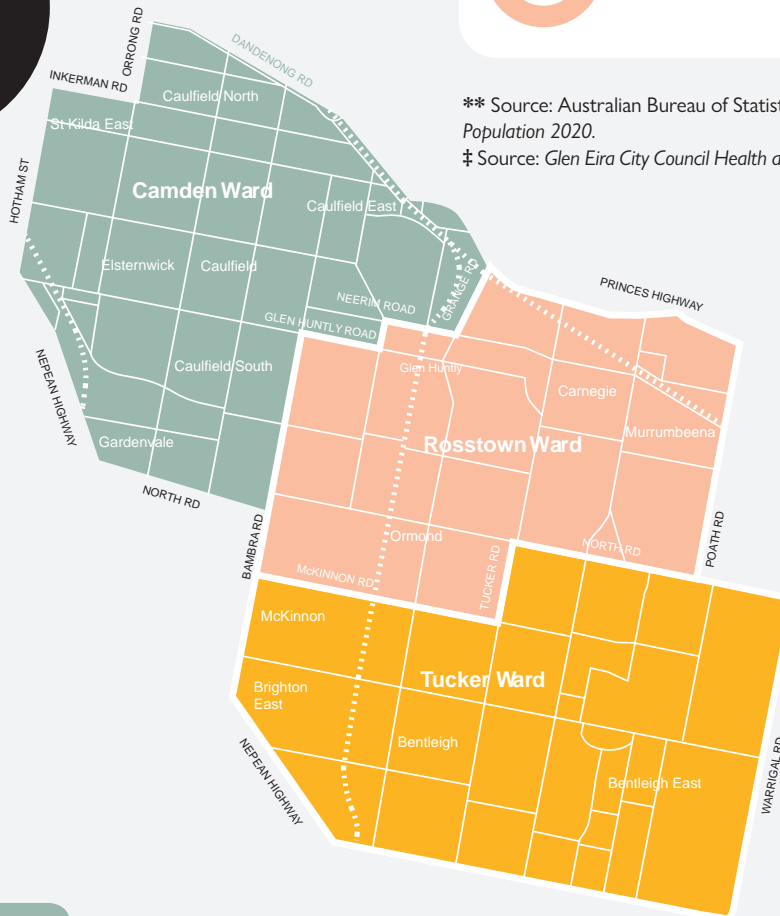
‡ Source: *Glen Eira City Council Health and Wellbeing Profile 2020–2021*.



THE CITY OF GLEN EIRA



TO CITY



DIVERSITY*



Top five backgrounds

1. China
2. India
3. Great Britain
4. South Africa
5. Israel



Living with a disability (2018)

18,811

12.3% of population



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders (2016)

250

0.2% of population



Jewish population

More than half (56%) of Victoria's Jewish population live in Glen Eira (30,644)

* Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Census of Population and Housing 2016*.

DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Council currently reports in the *Council Plan* the indicators outlined in the table below.

INDICATOR	TARGET (%)	2016–17 (%)	2017–18 (%)	2018–19 (%)	2019–20 (%)	2020–21 (%)	2020–21 (FIGURES)
Dog registration rate: (per cent dogs registered/estimated dog population)	85	92	89	91	97	92	12,941 / 14,000
Cat registration rate: (per cent cats registered/estimated cat population)	85	86	80	78.5	82	77	4,620 / 6,000
Enforcement success rates: (per cent successful prosecutions/ total prosecutions)	100	100	100	100	100	100	19
Dog return/reclaim rate: (per cent total dogs reclaimed-returned/total dogs impounded) (includes adopted/sold dogs)	90	93	94.1	98	98	93	95 / 102
Cat reclaim/return rate: (per cent total cats reclaimed/total cats impounded) (includes adopted/ sold cats)	20	71	73.9	83	85	96	118 / 122
Domestic animal business compliance rates: (registered/ compliant)	93	100	100	100	100	100	7
Dog desexing rate: (per cent dogs desexed/actual registered)	70	79	80	81	78.4	60	7,760 / 12,941
Cat desexing rate: (per cent cats desexed/actual registered)	80	93	94	94.4	89.4	76	3,518 / 4,620
Infringements versus official warnings rates: (per cent of infringements/warnings)	<40	43.5	43	39.4	54	64	47 infringements 73 warnings



**TRAINING OF
AUTHORISED
OFFICERS**

CURRENT SITUATION

The Civic Compliance team is part of the Community Safety and Compliance department within the Planning, Place and Sustainability directorate. The team is responsible for domestic animal management, compliance with Council's local law and administering education and enforcement.

Enforcement activities can place authorised officers in confronting situations; therefore, officers are trained in all aspects of the role to promote personal and animal safety.



Council is committed to providing appropriate training to all officers to enable them to carry out their duties safely and in accordance with their delegate authority and instrument of appointment.

The team has appropriate authorisation and receives routine training. All officers have or will be required to gain the Certificate IV Animal Control and Regulation and Certificate IV in Government (Statutory Compliance) which addresses the skills of animal handling, investigation, report writing, communication and time management.

Assisting the team are three business support officers who provide front end customer service for all enquiries and complaints. Additionally, they process permits, registrations and support authorised officers.

Council is committed to ensuring that the Civic Compliance team has the capacity to achieve goals and objectives and to provide an effective and professional animal management service to the community. Council's *Corporate Training* program incorporates a diverse range of development and learning opportunities for employees. All authorised officers undergo an induction program to ensure familiarity with the relevant standard work practices and guidelines.

Individual staff training and development programs are developed and reviewed annually in accordance with Glen Eira's *Organisational Performance Development* program.

The table below sets out the current activities undertaken by authorised officers; those activities will be in place for the life of this *Plan*. Officers will continue to be provided training in fraud awareness, customer service, operational procedures, and animal handling. All officers will also continue to attend industry information and training sessions.

ACTION		TIMEFRAME	MEASURE
1.2.1	Customer interactions	2023 and 2025	Attendance record — refreshed every two years
1.2.2	Privacy training	Annually	Attendance record — ongoing
1.2.3	Certificate IV in Animal Control	As required	Certificate obtained
1.2.4	Certificate IV in Government (Statutory Compliance)	As required	Certificate obtained
1.2.5	Restricted breed dog identification	As offered	Attendance record — ongoing
1.2.6	Statement taking/evidence gathering	As offered	Attendance record — ongoing
1.2.7	Animal assessment and handling	As offered	Attendance record — ongoing

PLANNED TRAINING FOR AUTHORISED OFFICERS

Section 68(A)(2)(b) of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* states that councils must outline programs for the training of authorised officers to ensure they can properly administer and enforce the requirements of this Act in the Council’s municipal district.

Council continues to have authorised officers administer their enforcement duties with the approach of ‘reasonable laws, reasonably enforced’. What this means is that where appropriate, officers take an educative approach to gain compliance rather than resorting to enforcement action initially.

During the next four-year period, Council will form a community reference group in an effort to assist with domestic animal management matters. The group will be tasked with:

- > raising community awareness;
- > enhancing the relationship between authorised officers, stakeholders of the community reference group and the broader community; and
- > agreeing on a routine patrol program during seasonal peak times to encourage compliance.

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	MEASURE	
1.3.1	First Aid Level 2	2023	Certificate obtained — renewed every three years
1.3.2	Dangerous Dog Management Training	2022 and 2024	Certificate obtained — renewed every two years
1.3.3	Situational Awareness Training	2025	Certificate obtained — refreshed every four years
1.3.4	Defensive Driving	2024	Certificate obtained
1.4.1	Develop safe operating procedures in consultation with authorised officers	2022	Documented procedures developed — review to be conducted as per Council requirements
1.4.2	Develop an <i>Authorised Officer Manual</i> (including after-hours/on-call duties) in consultation with authorised officers	2022	Manual produced — review to be conducted as per Council requirements



REGISTRATION AND IDENTIFICATION

Council must outline programs, services and strategies to encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats. This section of the *Plan* addresses the requirement of Section 68A(2)(c)(v) of the *Act*. It outlines Council's programs and strategies for the registration and identification of dogs and cats.

OBJECTIVES

- > To ensure all dogs and cats over the age of three months that reside in Glen Eira are registered annually with minimal delay and implanted with a microchip.
- > To ensure that registration fees are set at a level that reflects the greater cost of enforcing the *Act* within the municipal district and make a fair contribution to the costs associated with administering Council's animal management services.

CURRENT SITUATION

All dogs and cats over the age of three months must be implanted with a microchip and registered with Council. Registration must be renewed annually by 10 April.

The annual registrations data within the following table illustrates the registration trends:

ANNUAL REGISTRATIONS	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21
Dogs	12,347	13,214	12,998
Cats	4,755	5,032	4,655
Total	17,102	17,332	17,653

CURRENT EDUCATION/ PROMOTION ACTIVITIES

In regards to educational and promotional activities to boost animal registration within Glen Eira, Council:

- > offers a registration fee reduction to owners of pets if they desex their dog or cat, or have their dog undertake obedience training via an accredited trainer;
- > issues a reminder notice, SMS and email to pet owners who have failed to renew registration;
- > liaises with local veterinary practices to ensure registration and responsible pet ownership information is available;
- > schedules routine park patrols by authorised officers where registration education is provided;
- > follows up registrations for cats and dogs that have been adopted through pounds and animal shelters;
- > provides the means for online payments for registrations renewals,
- > places monthly articles in *Glen Eira News*;
- > writes media releases relating to topical animal management issues;
- > distributes animal management brochures and sector booklets; and
- > co-ordinates the *Pet Expo* in conjunction with Council's *Party in the Parks* events.

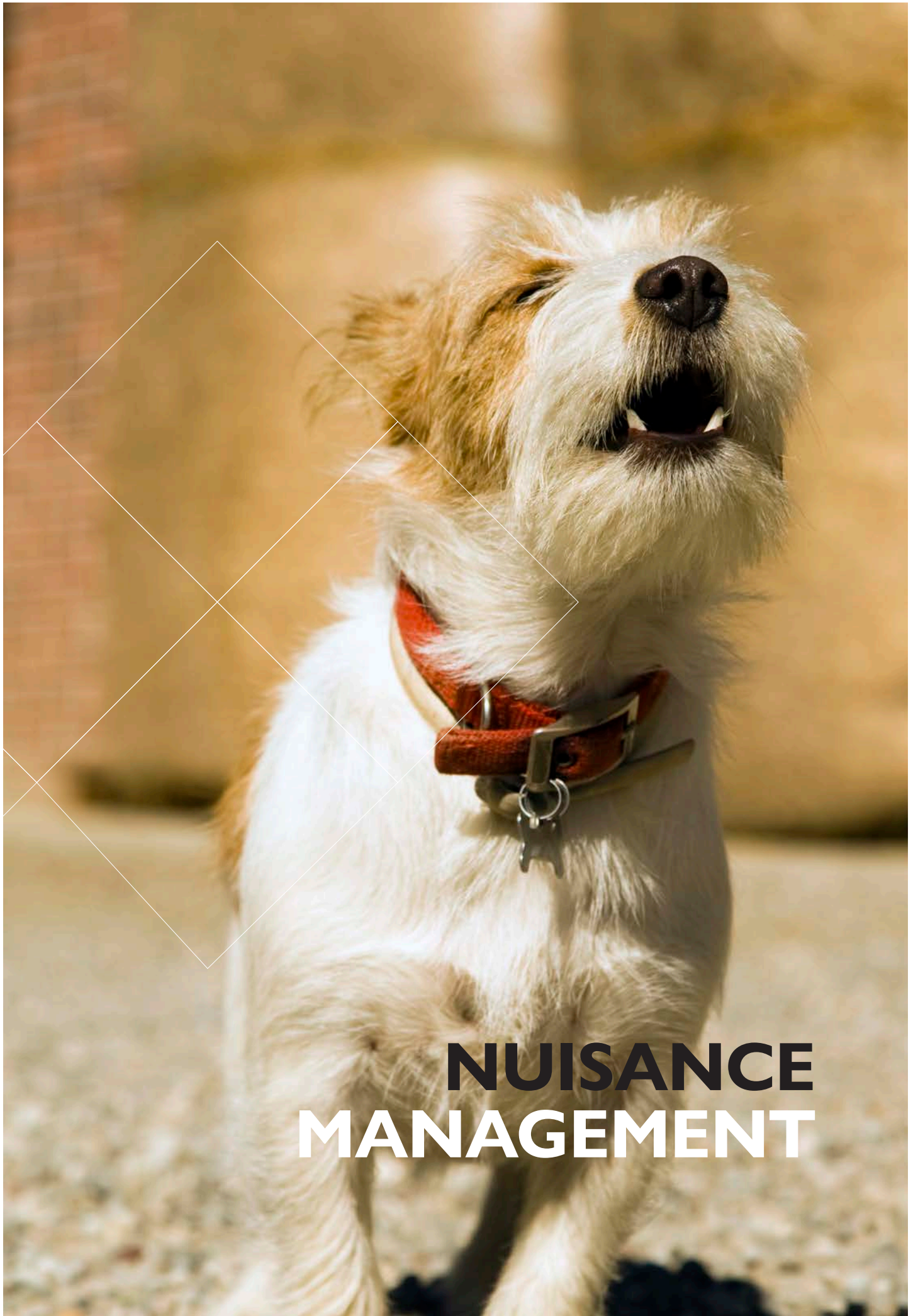
CURRENT COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

Compliance activities specific to animal registration (including the renewal process) include:

- > routine park patrols which include random animal registration checks;
- > scanning all collected cats and dogs for a microchip to reunite the animal with their owner prior to being impounded;
- > requiring the owner of any unregistered animal that has been collected, to register it prior to its release;
- > conducting a door knock and telephone campaign of properties where cats and dogs were previously registered, and where the registration has not been renewed; and
- > undertaking an animal registration benchmarking exercise prior to implementing new fees.

PLANNED ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE REGISTRATION AND IDENTIFICATION

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	MEASURE
<p>2.1.1 Administer responsible pet ownership information sessions in local primary schools to promote registration</p>	<p>2023</p>	<p>The number of new registrations that have eventuated from the sessions</p>
<p>2.1.2 Ensure all seized and impounded animals are registered to their owner prior to release</p>	<p>Prior to every release</p>	<p>Annual review of number of dogs and cats being seized and impounded which are not registered to their owner</p> <p>Review of registration records to ensure these animals are subsequently registered</p>
<p>2.1.3 Follow-up of unregistered dogs and cats</p>	<p>Annual door knocks conducted between May and July each year</p>	<p>Review registration records to ensure previously detected unregistered dogs and cats are now registered</p>
<p>2.1.4 Continue to offer incentive scheme that encourages ‘early’ initial registration and desexing of dogs and cats</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Annual review to evaluate effectiveness</p>
<p>2.1.5 In consultation with Council’s Recreation and Open Space department, we will explore the feasibility of installing a QR code at every off-leash park that, when scanned, takes park users to an online registration form and a map of the boundaries of the designated area</p>	<p>2022</p>	<p>Audit of all off-leash locations at end of Year 1 to ensure codes have been installed</p> <p>Data analytics of QR code use</p>
<p>2.1.6 Provide 12 months free registration for animals adopted from pounds and animal shelters</p>	<p>2024</p>	<p>Keep a register which identifies which residents have received free registration</p>
<p>2.1.7 Increase awareness regarding registration requirements amongst culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities</p>	<p>2023</p>	<p>Material published specific to targeted audiences</p>
<p>2.1.8 Produce information regarding registration and de-sexing requirements in multilingual formats</p>	<p>2023</p>	<p>Additional communication introduced via Council’s website and customer service centres</p>



**NUISANCE
MANAGEMENT**

This section of the *Plan* aims to minimise nuisance behaviour which includes wandering dogs and cats, barking dogs and dog excrement issues. The *Act* outlines the requirement for Council to have in place programs, services and strategies to minimise the potential for cats and dogs to create a nuisance.

OBJECTIVES

Council must balance the needs of cat and dog owners and those of the wider community to establish effective ways to monitor and, where appropriate, undertake enforcement that will provide for safe and clean open space.

CURRENT SITUATION

The issues associated with animal nuisance and fair compliance are a priority for owners and the wider community. Balancing the needs of the community and having effective compliance processes, at times can be difficult. Council's 'reasonable laws, reasonably enforced' is a fair and effective approach in balancing the expectations.

NUISANCE COMPLAINTS	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21
Barking dogs	230	294	312	232
Cat collection	125	119	131	75
Dog excrement	58	74	55	69
Dog collection	286	255	252	148
Dog off-leash	172	115	148	175
Dog wandering at large	123	144	101	69

The issue of dog excrement in open space and public places, and dogs being exercised off-leash in areas not permitted, continues to be a theme. Council has a peak period, routine *Proactive Park Patrol* program, and targets locations which are known to Council, in addition to addressing complaints received. Council will investigate whether additional educational tools are appropriate near boundaries between on and off-leash areas. Nuisance continues to be created by factors such as:

- > dogs living in higher density areas, which can result in barking dog complaints;
- > limited open-space areas; and
- > lack of understanding of dog behaviour.

CURRENT EDUCATION/PROMOTION ACTIVITIES

Council undertakes the following educational and promotional activities to minimise cat and dog nuisance within Glen Eira:

- > Authorised officers provide advice on methods of resolving nuisance. The information is reviewed regularly and updated as required.
- > Council encourages residents to speak with the owner of the animal and, where appropriate, encourages residents to seek guidance from the Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria.
- > Authorised officers provide a routine, *Proactive Park Patrol* program which targets locations that are known to Council and provide education to park users.

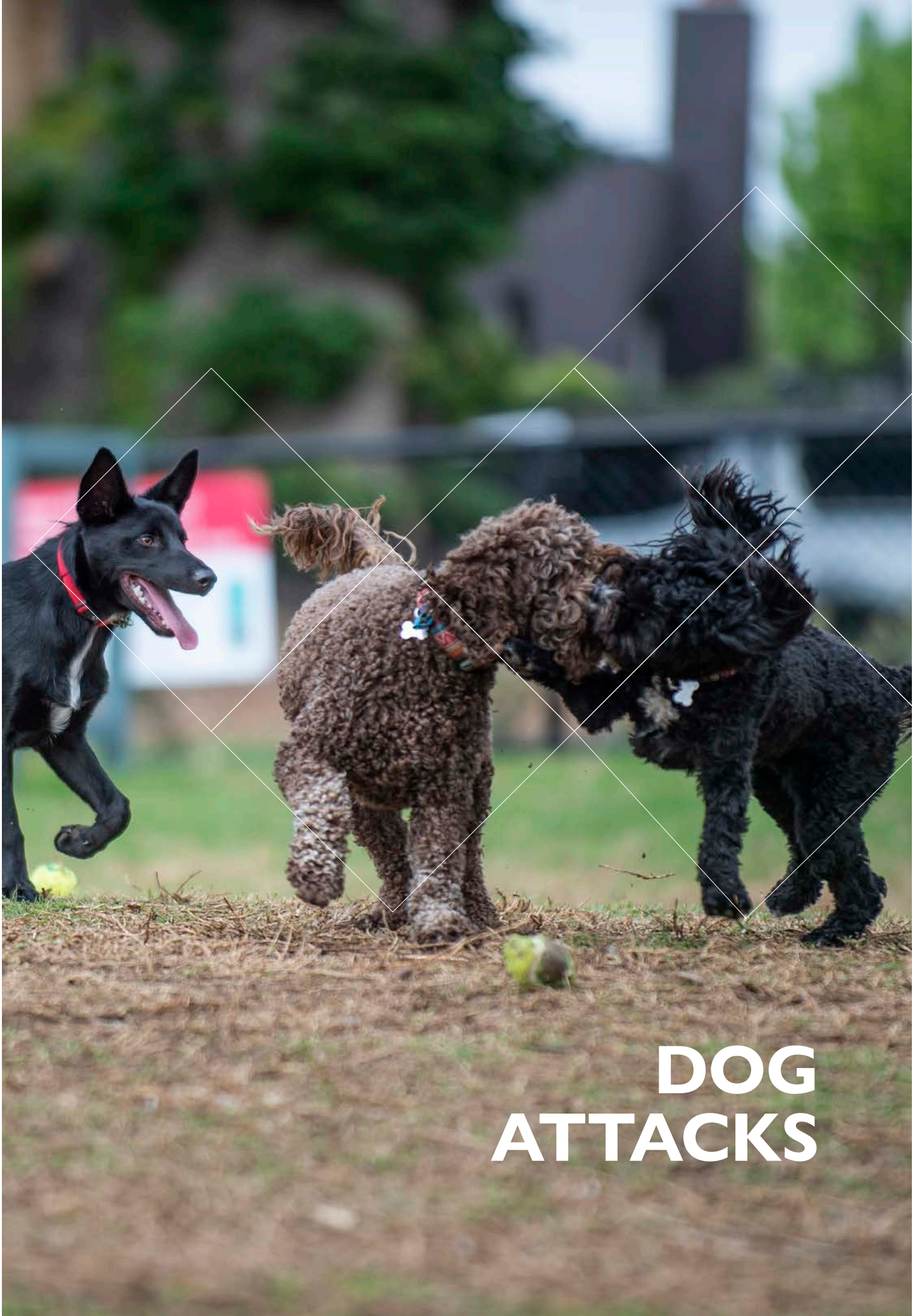
CURRENT COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

Compliance activities specific to nuisance management include:

- > authorised officers investigating all nuisance complaints, which can then result in an official warning, notice to comply or an infringement notice being issued;
- > a Council-run free-of-charge *Cat-trapping Program* that residents can access (the *Program* results in directives being provided to the owner of the cats trapped and returned); and
- > Council working actively with agencies on broader nuisance issues.

PLANNED ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES TO MINIMISE NUISANCE

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	MEASURE
3.1.1 Identify and understand the parks and reserves where there is a significant issue with owners failing to remove dog excrement	2022 and ongoing	Work with the Parks department to assist in identifying the areas, then complete a review over a 12-month period Investigate the use of Snap Send Solve or a similar data collection application to gather annual data on the amount of dog excrement at a particular location
3.1.2 Run a media campaign to focus on the message of 'Pick up your doggie poo'	2022	Decrease in nuisance complaints relating to dog excrement
3.1.3 Conduct a feasibility study to determine if the timeshare arrangement in open space needs extending to offer additional options such as 'Seniors Hour' or 'Puppy Time'	2023	Assess outcome of feasibility study and implement a trial
3.1.4 Review and improve dog barking investigation and enforcement procedures to encourage residents to work together to achieve harmony	2024	Reduction in barking dog complaints and increased success rate
3.1.5 Review existing publications in relation to cat ownership and look to extend the publications where appropriate	2024	Review and update information as required
3.1.6 Consider whether a cat restriction is appropriate for Glen Eira	2024	Undertake benchmarking of the sector and investigate feasibility of implementation
3.1.7 Provide educational material about cat enclosures and provide a DIY cat enclosure workshop	2023	Source content, introduce material and provide the workshop
3.1.8 Circulate Safe Cat, Safe Wildlife education material throughout municipality (possibly collaborate with www.safecat.org.au)	2025	Source content and introduce material



DOG ATTACKS

The Act outlines the requirements of the plan to identify programs, services and strategies to minimise the risk of dog attacks on people and animals. This section addresses the following requirements by:

- > setting an evaluation method of animal management services to ensure Council is adequately addressing the requirements set out in the Act in relation to dog attack incidents; and
- > providing a periodic evaluation of programs and service strategies.

OBJECTIVES

- > To progressively lower the ratio of dog attack numbers to registered dog numbers in the municipality.
- > For authorised officers to effectively and promptly respond to dog-attack incidents.
- > To raise awareness of the consequences of owning a dog that has attacked.
- > To ensure full annual compliance of owners of declared dangerous, restricted breed or menacing dogs.

CURRENT SITUATION

Council currently investigates all dog-attack complaints and where a dog attack has occurred causing serious injury or resulted in the death of another animal, Council investigates and considers seizing the dog and lodges the matter before the Magistrates’ Court. Most dogs that attack do so when they have escaped the property where they reside. A very small percentage of dog attacks occur when the owner or person in control of the dog is present. Dog attack incidents remain a main priority for authorised officers. Council recognises the community’s expectations that Council act swiftly and in accordance with the Act.

The following table outlines the dog-attack statistics over the last four-year period:

DOG-ATTACK COMPLAINTS	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21
Dog rushes person	3	0	4	0
Dog attacks (animal or person)	101	108	83	105

CURRENT EDUCATION/PROMOTION ACTIVITIES

Educational and community awareness programs provided by Council are:

- > the annual audit of dog signage in parks and reserves; and
- > rule enforcement and education activities via routine, targeted park patrols.

CURRENT COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

Authorised officers currently utilise all enforcement decisions that are defined in the Act. They include:

- > official warnings;
- > verbal directions;
- > notices to comply;
- > infringement notices;
- > dangerous, menacing and restricted breed declarations;
- > prosecution; and
- > orders sought from the Court in relation to training, seizure, destruction and registration.

PLANNED ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES TO MINIMISE DOG ATTACK INCIDENTS

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	MEASURE
4.1.1	Publicise what the definition of a dog attack is and what the repercussions are for owning or being in control of a dog that attacks	2022 and ongoing
4.1.2	Upload content to Council's website and social media	Provide an education campaign on what 'effective control' means
4.1.3	Council will run an expression of interest with local primary schools seeking interest in running a pilot program	Seek interest from local primary schools about administering a pilot <i>Dog Safety Awareness</i> program (including dog safety and messages relating to 'my dog is part of my family')
4.1.4	Media releases as required and in consultation with affected parties	Where appropriate, publicise prosecution outcomes via <i>Glen Eira News</i> and social media



**DANGEROUS,
MENACING AND
RESTRICTED BREED
DOGS**

The Act sets the requirements that Council must outline programs, services and strategies to effectively identify all dangerous, menacing, and restricted breed dogs in the municipality and ensure those dogs are kept in accordance with the Act, regulations and Council guidelines.

OBJECTIVES

- > To implement an effective evaluation method to ensure compliance with declaration requirements to maximise public safety.
- > To promote and encourage responsible ownership of declared dogs.
- > Ensure compliance with the Act in relation to declared dogs.
- > To monitor and assess potential restricted breed dogs.

CURRENT SITUATION

Council administers the identification and control of dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs to maximise public safety.

The following table outlines the current state in Glen Eira:

DECLARATIONS	2020–21
Dangerous dog	5
Menacing dog	1
Restricted breed dog	0
Total	6

CURRENT EDUCATION/PROMOTION ACTIVITIES

Council provides dangerous, menacing and restricted breed information on its website. Over the next four-year period Council will investigate additional opportunities to promote compliance with the provisions and to provide information on choosing an appropriate breed specific to the home environment.

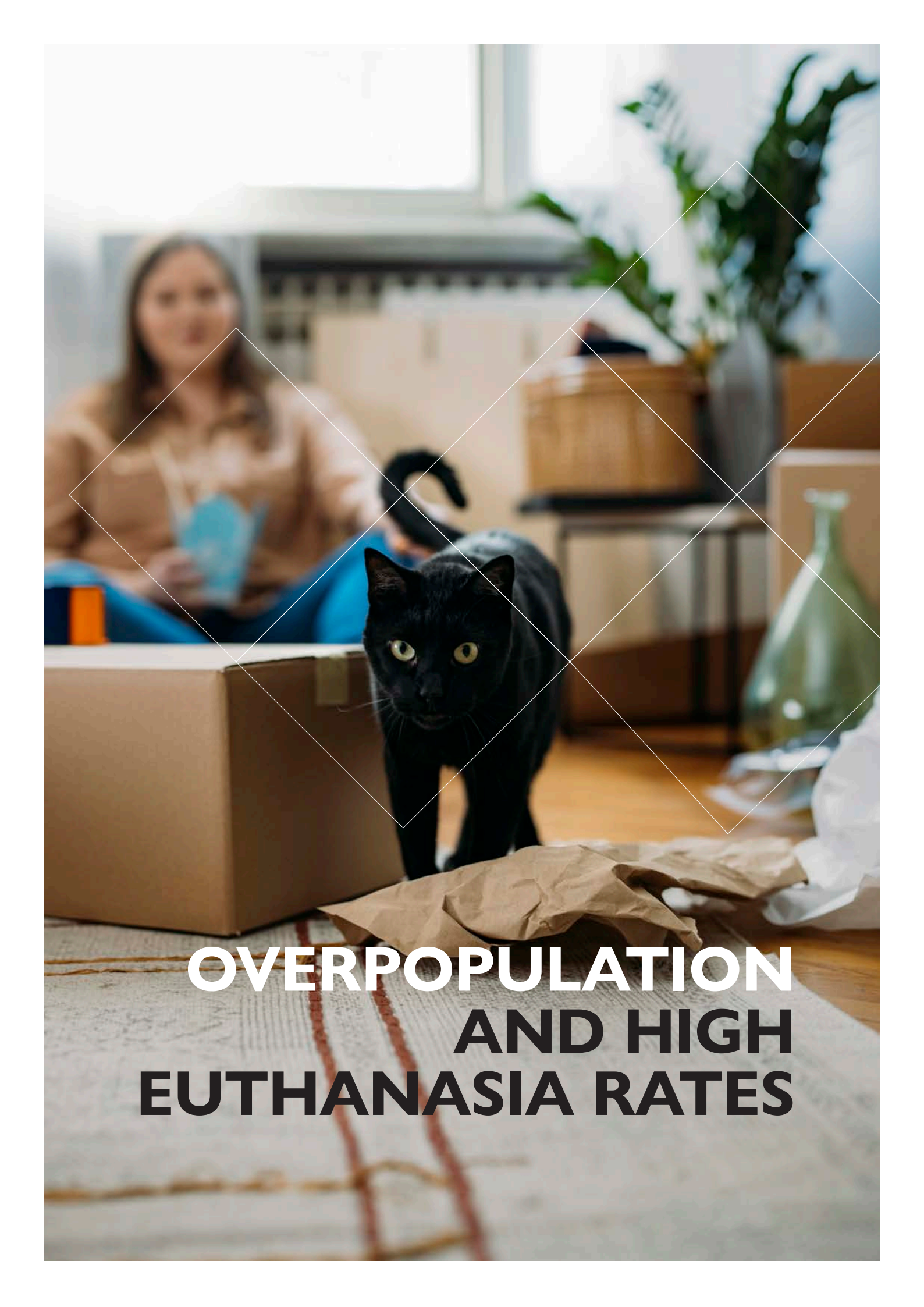
CURRENT COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

Current compliance activities include:

- > unscheduled and annual inspections of properties where declared dogs reside;
- > inspections of all properties where declared dogs have relocated to the municipality;
- > maintenance of data on the *Victorian Declared Dog Register*; and
- > investigation into all reports of restricted breed dogs.

PLANNED ADDITIONAL DECLARED DOG ACTIVITIES

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	MEASURE
5.1.1 Develop material which focuses on appropriate breeds for different types of households	2023	Upload content to Council’s website and social media.
5.1.2 Update existing declared material	2024	Assess, update and upload to website
5.1.3 Proactively audit the <i>Victorian Declared Dog Register</i>	2022	Update accordingly to ensure compliance with Act
5.1.4 Develop a procedure to assist decision-making regarding the declaration process	2022	Draft and implement to Council’s suite of procedures
5.1.5 Ensure compliance with legislative requirements	Annually	Audit inspections carried out and details recorded
5.1.6 Educate the community about what is a declared dog	Ongoing	Update information on Council’s website and one article in the <i>Glen Eira News</i> per annum

A black cat with yellow eyes is the central focus, looking directly at the camera. It is standing on a light-colored rug. In the foreground, there are several crumpled brown paper bags and a cardboard box. In the background, a woman with long dark hair is sitting on the floor, looking towards the camera. The room is filled with cardboard boxes, suggesting a moving or unpacking process. A large green plant is visible in the background on the right. The overall scene is brightly lit, likely from a window out of frame.

**OVERPOPULATION
AND HIGH
EUTHANASIA RATES**

The *Plan* outlines programs, services and strategies to address overpopulation and high euthanasia rates in dogs and cats. It reinforces the need for registration and identification to avoid impoundment so cats and dogs can be returned home.

Cat-trapping of both wild and domesticated cats, combined with sterilisation, has minimised the population of wild cats. This also assists with the conservation of wildlife. Cats are grouped into the following categories:

- > Wild — live and reproduce in the wild and survive by hunting or scavenging.
- > Stray — cats found within the municipality that can depend on some resources provided by humans but are not necessarily owned.
- > Domestic — cats which are owned and most of their needs are provided for by their owners.

OBJECTIVES

- > To reduce the population of wild cats to lower the requirement for euthanasia due to overpopulation.
- > To encourage cat owners to confine their cats to their land to minimise injury, unwanted breeding and nuisance.

CURRENT SITUATION

Council currently offers cat traps free of charge to Glen Eira residents, and will continue to do so. The *Cat-trapping Program* is aimed at managing wild cats to prevent overpopulation. It is also an effective tool in managing nuisance complaints and ensuring cat owners manage trespassing concerns.

The following table outlines cat impoundments, rehoming, and euthanasia statistics over the past four-year period:

CAT STATISTICS	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21
Cats impounded	138	89	103	51
Cats euthanised	48	31	31	23
Cats rehomed	108	132	143	77

CURRENT EDUCATION/PROMOTION ACTIVITIES

Community awareness activities provided by Council include:

- > promoting the *Who's For Cats?* education campaign and distributing the Bureau of Animal Welfare material;
- > promoting responsible cat ownership via media campaigns; and
- > distributing cat traps free of charge.

CURRENT COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

Current compliance activities include:

- > investigation of all reports of cat hoarding; and
- > education and enforcement action for ongoing non-compliance with registration or nuisance offences.

PLANNED ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBLE CAT OWNERSHIP PROMOTION ACTIVITIES

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	MEASURE
6.1.1 Promote the benefits of adopting a cat from an approved animal shelter	2022	Upload content to Council's website and social media
6.1.2 Consider programs to address wild and stray cats	2023	Conduct a benchmarking exercise to determine how other councils manage the issue
6.1.3 Consider whether a cat restriction is appropriate for Glen Eira	2024	Undertake benchmarking exercise across the sector then if appropriate present the view to Council for consideration
6.1.4 Investigation of the suitability of entering into section 84Y agreements with animal welfare, rehoming and adoption groups. A section 84Y agreement can allow for a person or body to seize, retain or dispose of cats or dogs	2024	Conduct a benchmarking exercise across the sector



**DOMESTIC ANIMAL
BUSINESSES**

The *Plan* must outline programs, services and strategies to ensure that domestic animal businesses comply with the Act, regulations and any related legislation.

OBJECTIVES

- > To manage all domestic animal businesses in accordance with legislative standards.
- > To detect non-compliance and implement effective enforcement to gain compliance.

CURRENT SITUATION

Council has 10 registered domestic animal businesses in the municipality. The relevant legislation in managing the provisions is contained in the *Act*. Chance and scheduled audits are carried out in response to complaints. All businesses are subject to a pre-permit inspection prior to registration being granted.

DOMESTIC ANIMAL BUSINESS	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21
Breeding and rearing	0	0	0	0
Pet shop	4	3	2	2
Dog training establishments	2	2	5	4
Shelters and pounds	0	0	0	0
Boarding establishments	8	4	3	4

CURRENT EDUCATION/PROMOTION ACTIVITIES

Council provides the following community awareness activities:

- > The relevant Code of Practice is provided to all businesses.
- > All Code of Practice documents are available at Customer Service.

CURRENT COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

Current compliance activities include:

- > chance and scheduled audits that are carried out in response to complaints; and
- > annual inspections that are carried out on all domestic animal businesses.

PLANNED ADDITIONAL DOMESTIC ANIMAL BUSINESSES ACTIVITIES

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	MEASURE
7.1.1 Formalise a domestic animal business audit procedure	2022	Draft and implement to Council's suite of procedures
7.1.2 Review application and renewal processes	2023	Conduct review and make amendments where appropriate
7.1.3 Investigate complaints regarding unregistered businesses and all instances of non-compliance	Ongoing	All complaints are to be actioned within the agreed timeframe
7.1.4 Monitor Council's registration database for owners with more than three fertile females	Annually	Conduct a site inspection to verify numbers and determine if the properties are unregistered breeding locations
7.1.5 Conduct proactive investigations to determine businesses that should be registered as domestic animal businesses	By December each year	Compare number of registered domestic animal businesses before and after investigations



**OTHER
MATTERS**

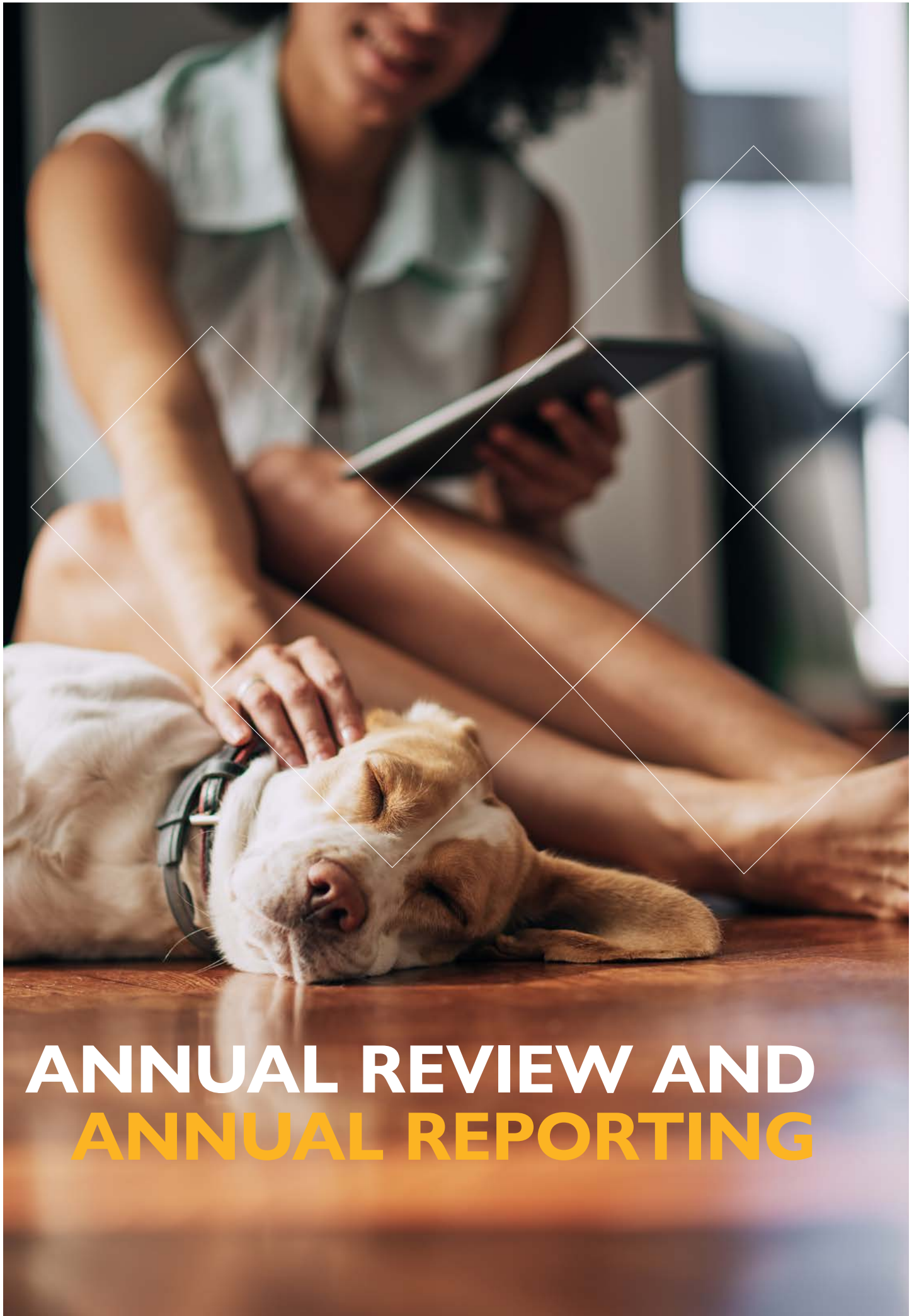
The *Plan* must address any other matters related to the management of dogs and cats in their municipal district that it thinks necessary.

CURRENT SITUATION

Council will continue to promote the role of pet ownership and its role in promoting healthy and happy communities.

Glen Eira is committed to preventing family violence. Therefore, Council will look to promote the availability to temporarily shelter domestic animals without charge, if residents are leaving situations of family violence. Council will provide 7–10 days without charge for animals that reside within the municipality in urgent circumstances where their owner requires to urgently relocate due to a violent situation.

Council will also consider whether a cat restriction is appropriate for Glen Eira. As part of the benchmarking exercise, Council will conduct community consultation to further determine community support.



**ANNUAL REVIEW AND
ANNUAL REPORTING**

Pursuant to the Act, Council must review its *DAMP* annually and, if appropriate, amend the *Plan*. Council must provide the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions secretary with a copy of the *Plan*, including any amendments, and publish an evaluation of the *Plan's* implementation in its annual report.

PLANNED ANNUAL REVIEW AND REPORTING ACTIVITIES

ACTION		TIMEFRAME	MEASURE
8.1.1	Complete an annual evaluation of the plan and submit to Council for approval along with suggested amendments	Annually	Evaluation completed and any amendments implemented
8.1.2	Submit the amended plan to the secretary	As required	Amend plan and submit to the secretary
8.1.3	Publish an evaluation of the plan in Council's annual report	Annually	Published in the annual report

A black cat with striking blue eyes is peering through a dense thicket of green, fern-like foliage. The cat's face is partially obscured by the leaves, with only its eyes and the tips of its ears visible. The scene is brightly lit, creating a high-contrast, naturalistic setting. A large, white, sans-serif text 'APPENDICES' is overlaid at the bottom of the image.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: ORDERS, LOCAL LAWS, COUNCIL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The following table details the orders, local law and work instructions in place to manage cats and dogs within the municipality:

TITLE	PURPOSE
Council Order Section 26(2) — <i>Domestic Animals Act 1994</i>	Control of dogs in public places
<i>Community Local Law</i> — Part 11 — Animals and Birds — Glen Eira City Council	Clause 58 — Keeping animals Clause 60 — Animal litter Clause 61 — Unsatisfactory fowl houses, kennels, pigeon lofts and animal enclosures Clause 62 — Animals and amenity Clause 63 — Dogs and adequate fencing
Council policies	Destruction of dogs Impoundment of animals
Council procedures	Trapping of cats and loan of traps Inspecting properties for keeping more than two dogs or more than two cats Dealing with barking dog complaints Animal pickups Registration of dogs and the fee structure for registration (schedule to the Act) Enforcement strategy associated with issuing notices to comply, infringement notices and filing charges for prosecution Serving notices of seizure relating to the seizing of identified dogs Seizure and impounding of dogs after a dog attack Dealing with owners when recovering dogs that have been seized by Council When a dog is declared dangerous (s.34) When a dog is declared menacing (s.41A) When a dog is declared to be of a restricted breed (s.98A) Provide details of dangerous dogs on the <i>Victorian Declared Dog Registry (VDDR)</i> (s.44AE) Provide details on <i>VDDR</i> of dogs destroyed in relation to s.84TA, TB and TC (s.44AEA) Seizure and impounding of dangerous and restricted breed dogs Assessment of restricted breed dogs Process for the registration/refusal of registration/renewal of registration of dangerous and restricted breed dogs (s.17)

APPENDIX B: EDUCATIONAL, SUPPORT AND PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

The following table details the educational, support and promotional activities in place to manage cats and dogs within the municipality:

TITLE	PURPOSE
<i>Glen Eira News</i>	Regular articles in the monthly edition
Social media	Topical issues distributed via Instagram and Facebook
Postcards and letter drop	Providing education on requirements
Council website	Online registration process and general information
Community noticeboards	Topical issues
<i>Pet Expo</i> (in conjunction with Council's <i>Party in the Parks</i> events)	Free event provided to the community

APPENDIX C: COMMUNITY CONSULTATION THEMES

The following table details the themes which came from the community engagement process in developing this *Plan*:

TITLE	PURPOSE
Signage	Increased signage in parks with improved dog water and waste disposal facilities
Off-leash areas	Limited open space designated to off-leash dog areas
Cat restriction	Introduction of a cat curfew to reduce trespassing and protect wildlife
Dog excrement	Education on and increased enforcement of the removal of dog faeces in parks, and on nature strips and footpaths
Authorised officer presence	Increased presence in parks from authorised officers



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CITY COUNCIL

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National Relay Service

If you are deaf, hearing-impaired, or speech-impaired, we ask that you call us via the National Relay Service and then ask for (03) 9524 3333.

Online: <https://internet-relay.nrscall.gov.au>

Teletypewriter (TTY): 13 36 77

Speak and Listen: 1300 555 727

Social media

Glen Eira City Council:

www.facebook.com/GlenEiraCityCouncil

@cityofgleneira:

www.instagram.com/cityofgleneira

Glen Eira arts, gallery and events:

www.facebook.com/gleneiraarts

www.instagram.com/gleneiraarts

Glen Eira Leisure:

www.facebook.com/GESAConline

<https://www.instagram.com/gleneiraleisure>

www.twitter.com/GESAConline

Glen Eira Libraries and Learning Centres:

www.facebook.com/GlenEiraLibraries

<https://www.instagram.com/gleneiralibraries>

Glen Eira Sustainable Living:

www.facebook.com/sustainablelivinggleneira

Glen Eira Youth Services:

www.facebook.com/GlenEiraYouthServices

www.instagram.com/gleneirayouthservices