



# **Tenterfield Shire Council**



## **STRATEGIC COMPANION ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN (SCAMP) 2013 - 2016**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The Tenterfield Shire is in a unique location in that it consists of rural farming both stock and pasture with National Parks and State Forestry. Tenterfield possesses opportunities for recreational hunting with the use of specially trained dogs with the aim in reducing ferrel pig numbers in the region. These factors bring special responsibilities for people with companion animals and animals used for the purpose of hunting. The keeping of companion animals although satisfying and rewarding can also impact on the immediate neighbourhood if a thoughtful approach to community living is not implemented.

Council has adopted a community endorsed policy known as “Local Orders for the Keeping of Animals in Urban Areas” while this document covers a range of animals it also focuses on the number of companion animals allowed to be kept in urban areas of the Tenterfield Shire.

Companion animals are an integral part of our community, culture and society. Our compassion for living things is reflected in the manner that we treat animals; this means that the ownership of companion animals is to be considered a privilege. This privilege comes with a range of responsibilities in relation to companion animals, the community, and the environment.

### **Why do we need a Strategic Companion Animal Management Plan (SCAMP)?**

- To ensure that the Companion Animals Act is understood and complied with;
- To balance the needs of pet owners and non-pet owners in the Tenterfield Shire;
- To provide the opportunity to create lasting, voluntary changes in human behaviour regarding the ownership of Companion Animals;
- To identify gaps within current planning mechanisms that affect Companion Animal ownership;
- To provide measurable indicators for the assessment of the plan outcomes; and
- To reflect the emerging understanding that Companion Animals can contribute to quality of life, and to integrate this with the need to minimize impacts on the environment and native wildlife.

### **Aim of the SCAMP**

This management plan aims to;

- Provide companion animal owners with support, education, regulation and facilities to accommodate their pets within the broader community and environment; and
- Manage companion animal issues and encourage responsible pet ownership via education and the knowledge of services and provisions available.

### **Benefits to Council and Community**

Information obtained from other Councils that have implemented a SCAMP indicated a wide range of benefits, including;

- A reduction in the number of complaints being received due to an increased community awareness of the responsibilities of pet owners;
- The provision of guidance, support and procedures to groups that are involved with companion animals;
- A means to integrate companion animal issues into other Council departmental strategies;
- The use of community education programmes to more effectively target the concerns of pet owners who may lack knowledge and an awareness of their actions; and
- The provision of a network to link the community with companion animal and animal welfare issues.

## **1. STATEMENT AND OBJECTIVES**

### **Statement for Companion Animal Management**

- To manage companion animal issues effectively;
- To generate voluntary compliance of pet owner requirements under the Companion Animals Act;
- To encourage best practice in animal welfare; and
- To maintain harmony between pet and non-pet owners, the environment and native wildlife in accordance with relevant legislation.

### **Objectives for Companion Animal Management**

- To encourage the permanent microchip identification and lifetime registration of all companion animals in the Tenterfield Shire in order to achieve the efficient return of companion animals to their owners;
- To provide an effective and efficient service for people updating or registering details on the NSW Companion Animal Register;
- To maintain the existing pound facilities to encourage best practice care for impounded animals;
- To minimize the number of unwanted animals that are euthanized;
- To ensure that Council staff regard animal welfare as a high priority in interacting with the community and their companion animal;
- To encourage companion animal owners to provide appropriate physical and mental challenges for their animals, to improve animal welfare and reduce adverse impacts on the wider community; and
- To improve community awareness of the importance of safety when dealing with companion animals.

- To improve the companion animal owner's awareness of their responsibility to maintain an effective control over their animals in public places;
- To ensure an efficient and effective response to reported dog attacks;
- To provide off-leash areas for dog exercise throughout the Tenterfield Shire that are as safe as possible for dogs and humans;
- To raise the awareness of companion animal owner's to minimise the noise pollution caused by their animals;
- To minimize the impact of companion animals and their faeces on water catchments; and
- To raise awareness and minimise the potential impact of companion animals on biodiversity.

The statement and objectives of the SCAMP will be identified under four primary headings:-

1. Animal issues;
2. Community issues;
3. Environmental issues; and
4. Action plans, monitoring and review.

## **2. ANIMAL ISSUES**

The NSW Companion Animals Act 1998 and its regulations set out the regulatory provisions for the management of domestic dogs and cats. Local Government is charged with implementing the Act. In Council, the enforcement of companion animal's management is primarily undertaken by Environmental Rangers who also perform a range of other important regulatory roles within the Local Government area. The actions outlined in this plan however include responsibilities of other areas of Councils operations thus ensuring a co-ordinated approach to companion animal management.

### **2.1 IDENTIFICATION AND REGISTRATION**

The Companion Animals Act outlines the provision for the compulsory identification and registration of companion animals. Part 2 of the Companion Animals Act deals with the following issues;

- Identification required from 12 weeks of age and before sale;
- Registration required from age 6 months;
- Regulations may require registration;
- Unregistered companion animal;
- Notice requiring companion animal to be registered;
- Owner required to notify certain changes and events; and
- Duties of Councils in relation to companion animals killed by traffic.

## **IDENTIFICATION**

Under the Companion Animals Act all companion animals that are sold or given away must be identified by a permanent microchip when ownership transfers, or by the age of 12 weeks. Cats that have been owned before 1st July 1999 must be identified by either a microchip or collar and tag. Authorised identifiers must return the Permanent Identification forms to Council within 3 days; this information will then be entered on the NSW Companion Animal Register (CAR).

Microchip identification is one aim of the Companion Animals Act, and is designed to facilitate the efficient return of Companion animals to their owners. This is a beneficial practice in 2 primary ways;

- It reduces stress being applied to the companion animals when seized; and
- It allows an opportunity for the Rangers to offer some companion animal owners responsibility, education, and if necessary undertake enforcement action.

## **REGISTRATION**

Under the Companion Animals Act all companion animals must be lifetime registered by the age of 6 months, cats owned prior to 1st July 1999 are exempt. There are several advantages in having a state-wide lifetime registration system;

- It allows owners to move within the state without incurring further registration costs;
- The system allows declared dangerous dogs to be tracked throughout the state; and
- The price differential of registration fees for an entire companion animal as compared with a de-sexed companion animal are designed to encourage de-sexing of animals at an early age.

## **CURRENT SITUATION**

Within the Tenterfield shire, the message that companion animals are meant to be permanently identified and registered has not been understood entirely or complied with. It appears that the procedure of micro chipping has been understood, but the registration step is being missed. The following data is accurate from July 1<sup>st</sup> 2012 to June 30<sup>th</sup> 2013.

- Total number of animals identified and registered 117
- Total number of animals identified only 78

## **GOALS**

- To encourage the permanent microchip identification of all animals in the Tenterfield Shire, in order to facilitate the prompt return of lost or roaming companion animals to their owners;
- To encourage the state wide lifetime registration of all companion animals in the Tenterfield Shire in accordance with the Companion Animals Act; and
- To provide an effective and efficient service for people updating or registering details on the NSW Companion Animal Register.

## **2.2 IMPOUNDING**

The Companion Animals Act outlines the procedure for dealing with seized or surrendered animals. Part 7 of the Companion Animals Act deals with the following issues;

- Interpretation;
- Seized animals must be delivered to owner, Council pound or approved premises;
- Owner of seized or surrendered animal to be notified;
- Seized animals detained at approved premises;
- Unclaimed seized animal may be sold or destroyed;
- Surrendered animals may be sold or destroyed;
- Fees and charges payable when animal detained or held;
- Owner not entitled to compensation for sale of animal;
- Recovery of fees and charges when animal destroyed;
- Reporting on pound activities;
- Offence of rescuing seized animal; and
- Protection of Council and Council officers.

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

Council aims to return as many companion animals to their owners as possible, however, animals must be impounded when the owners are unknown or cannot be contacted. Seized animals may be sold or destroyed;

- After a period of 14 days if the animal is identified and registered; and
- After a period of 7 days if there is no identification on the animal.

Council responds to complaints and actively patrols for animals straying in public places. When an animal is seized by a Ranger, the following actions are taken;

- The animal is scanned for identification (microchip);
- The contact details are accessed from the Register;
- Contact with the owner is attempted;
- The animal is returned to the owner's address if they are in residence, or; and
- The animal is transported to the pound facility, in accordance with the legislation.

There are a number of issues inherent in the current situation. These are;

- The difficulties in returning companion animals to their owners. Often owners are not contactable, not at home or have changed their address;
- The concern for disease transmission and stress factors on the animals when they are impounded;
- The significant costs for impounding and sustenance fees when animals have remained at the facility for extended periods; and

- The high numbers of animals that are being euthanized when they are unclaimed or determined to be unsuitable for resale/re-homing.

Council Rangers will also arrange to pick up stray companion animals from persons at their homes or businesses. Persons that managed to restrain or have been befriended by stray companion animals, can elect to take the animal to Council's pound located at the Transfer station on Sunny Side Loop road or, by arrangement with Council's office at Tenterfield, or to the local veterinarians. The response time for this type of service will vary depending on the rangers work commitments. Response times will be quicker in areas closer to the pound in Tenterfield, but time delays will be experienced with more distant locations.

Rangers patrol areas in Tenterfield, within the 50km speed zones of Tenterfield daily, with once monthly patrols in Urbenville. The smaller villages are generally patrolled once a month or when required. Ideally, pickups will occur to coincide with the regular patrols but there will be times when this will not be possible and delays will occur.

### **GOALS**

- To facilitate the prompt return of animals to their owners, and reduce the number of animals that need to be impounded;
- To undertake research and design work for improving the existing pound facility, so that the continued welfare of the seized animals can be maintained and to provide a safe working environment for staff; and
- To minimize the numbers of animals that are euthanized.

### **2.3 ANIMAL WELFARE/RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP**

All people who have animals in their care have a responsibility to ensure that they have adequate knowledge, training and skills to apply in the protection of the welfare of animals. Such people have an obligation to seek assistance where necessary to fulfil a duty of care for animals in their charge; this is called responsible pet ownership and includes the following;

- Attending to their pet's emotional and social needs;
- Attending to their pet's health and welfare including exercise, training and environmental enrichment as appropriate to the breed of animal;
- Confining dogs within the perimeter of the home to prevent roaming;
- Minimising any adverse effects to neighbours, such as excessive barking;
- Complying with relevant legislation (leash laws, removal of faeces from public places, maintaining dogs under effective control);
- The success of responsible pet ownership relies on 2 components;
- The knowledge of pet owners of their responsibilities; and
- The efforts of the owners to achieve these responsibilities.

Educational programs directed at the community of this shire have the potential to raise awareness of the need for responsible pet ownership and what this entails. Some examples are;



- **Appropriate Pet Selection**

Problems can be avoided by selecting the type of animal, breed and sex to suit the owners lifestyle and circumstances.

- **Basic Health and Welfare Principles**

Regular exercise, proper nutrition, water and shelter are crucial to the maintenance of animal health. Health care practices, such as worming and vet check-ups, must be maintained.

- **Permanent Identification and Registration**

- **De-Sexing**

This is a critical issue and has the capacity to reduce several unwanted animal behaviours, such as;

1. Unwanted litters;
2. Roaming by male animals;
3. Territorial aggression and noise complaints; and
4. Potential life threatening complications (e.g. reproductive organ cancer or infection).

De-sexing is encouraged under the Companion Animals Act, by having a discounted registration fee for de-sexed companion animals.

- ✓ **Secure Confinement and Environmental Enrichment**

Confining an animal reduces its risk of serious harm or death by misadventure. In addition, while this practice must be followed, there is the consideration of combating the boredom and frustrations that companion animals may feel while their owner is absent. Environmental enrichment is the inclusion of cognitive, dietary, physical, sensory and social stimuli to relieve boredom and frustration. If an animal is kept busy, it is less frustrated, less reactive and less of a potential nuisance (barking and roaming).

- ✓ **Socialisation, Training and Commitment**

Early socialization of companion animals is important to allow exposure to many different stimuli in the local environment (children/elderly people, other animals, noises, movement). Dog training is encouraged to ensure that owners have control of companion animals in public and private places; there are many programs available with Puppy Preschools, Canine Good Citizens and obedience training being highly recommended.

- ✓ **Attitude, Care and Philosophy**

Developing an attitude of love and respect for animals can help people to grow in their social and emotional relationships. Events such as the organization of dog fights, the theft of animals for fights and fur are illegal and should not happen in today's society. The commencement of the Companion Animals Act provides cats and dogs with a legal status in animal management; education targeting intolerance for this type of activity will raise awareness within the Tenterfield Shire.

**CURRENT SITUATION**

The following information demonstrates that the majority of animals that enter the Council pound facility through being seized, dumped or surrendered by their owners are euthanized. With the education of the need for identification and registration, the rates of animals being returned to their homes would be higher. The increased practice of de-sexing animals would also reduce the number of unwanted animals and those that are seized while roaming or surrendered.

Year	Seized/caught straying/abandoned		Surrendered		Reclaimed By Owner		Euthanized		Released to Organisations/re homed	
	Dogs	Cats	Dogs	Cats	Dogs	Cats	Dogs	Cats	Dogs	Cats
FY 12/13	69	16	29	14	35	1	59	29	4	0

**GOALS**

- To encourage further education regarding responsible pet ownership within the Tenterfield Shire;
- To promote the de-sexing of companion animals;
- To encourage companion animal owners to provide mental and physical challenges for their animals to improve the welfare of their animals and to reduce negative impacts on the local community;
- To encourage owners of hunting dogs to look after them in a responsible manner to minimise impact on the community; and
- To reduce the number of unwanted litters by joint funding operations between Council and other organisations such as the RSPCA and local veterinary surgeries to develop a one month annual de-sexing program.

**3. COMMUNITY ISSUES**

Conflict between humans and animals is inevitable; this is particularly due to the close proximity of neighbouring dwellings. The types of issues Council Rangers mainly receive complaints about from the community are as follows;

- Barking dogs
- Roaming cats/dogs
- Cat/dog faeces
- Number of animals per household
- Dog attacks

These complaints along with others paved the way to the development of the “*Local Orders for the Keeping of Animals in Urban Areas of Tenterfield Shire*” policy which was adopted by Council of 24 October 2012 (Resolution No.: 445/12).

This is one of many tools that Council Rangers use to reduce the above complaints particularly the number of animals per household. With less animals per house hold there are fewer complaints being received about barking dogs, roaming animals’ and dog attacks.

### **3.1 PUBLIC SAFETY**

A safe community for everyone is a high priority and particular attention needs to be paid to safety in public places. Research indicates that dog attacks are more likely to occur at the animal’s home or the near vicinity, and that these attacks are more common when a dominant, protective or injured dog is not adequately supervised with children or guests. These types of causes are usually not present when a dog is in the neutral territory of a park. Currently there are 2 designated leash-free areas within the Tenterfield Shire;

- Hockey Field Park, Crn of Landers Land and Martin Street - Tenterfield
- Apex Park, New England Highway South – Tenterfield.

Sections 12 and 13 of the Companion Animals Act state the general responsibilities of owners when their dogs are in public places. Dog owners are required to have their animal under the effective control of a competent person by means of an adequate chain, cord or leash when in public places. Council is required to provide at least 1 leash-free area, however, people using these facilities must have control of their animals.

#### **PROHIBITED AREAS**

Companion animals are also prohibited from some public places; this is stated in the Companion Animals Act, Sections 14 and 30. Dogs are prohibited from;

- Being within 10 metres of a children’s play area;
- Recreation and public bathing areas where dogs are declared to be prohibited;
- School grounds and child care centres and community event areas; and
- Shopping areas where dogs are prohibited.

Cats and dogs are prohibited from;

- Wildlife protection areas (where prohibited);
- Food preparation or consumption areas.

### **BITE AVOIDANCE**

The majority of dogs do not bite people or other animals, however, all dogs have the potential to do this, irrespective of their breed, gender, temperament or history. Strategies for bite avoidance involve;

- Appropriate breed selection;
- Early socialisation;
- Training;
- De-sexing; and
- Confinement to prevent dogs from roaming.

Education strategies should focus on reading the body language of dogs (eyes, head position, backline, tail, posture and attitude) and dealing with potentially threatening situations. Some types of attacks can be caused by;

- Teasing;
- Rough playing;
- Interfering with feeding;
- Invading a dog's space; and
- Predatory aggression caused by the victim running away from a dog.

### **DANGEROUS DOGS/RESTRICTED BREEDS**

Part 5 of the Companion Animals Act states the requirements of owners of declared dangerous dogs, including having them de-sexed, muzzling them in public, and confining them in a childproof enclosure. A Council dangerous dog declaration has effect throughout the State and ACO have the ability to seize a dog if the requirements for maintaining a dangerous dog are not met.

Sections 55 – 58f of the Companion Animals Act state the provisions for restricted dogs, whereby the owners are required to comply with similar requirements to the owners of dangerous dogs. The Companion Animals Act defines restricted dogs as;

- American pit bull terrier or pit bull terrier cross;
- Japanese tosa;
- Dogo Argentino (Argentinian fighting dogs);
- Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian fighting dogs); and
- Any dog declared by Council to be a restricted dog.

## **GOALS**

- To improve community awareness of the importance of safety around companion animals and methods to avoid dog bites;
- To promote the awareness of dog training and keeping dogs under effective control at all times; and
- To monitor dangerous dogs/restricted dogs throughout the Tenterfield Shire.

### **3.2 ENFORCEMENT AND EDUCATION**

Research indicates that compliance with legislation is related to perceptions of fairness and levels of enforcement. Compliance is linked to the extent to which Council is prepared to undertake enforcement procedures. There are a number of reasons why necessary levels are not occurring and most of them centre on the lack of resources available. Resulting from the difficulty in strongly enforcing legislation is the shift to encouraging voluntary compliance through educational programmes.

*Suggestions for future education opportunities include the following;*

- Public safety, dog attacks, dangerous dogs and restricted breeds;
- Barking dogs;
- De-sexing and unwanted litters;
- Responsible pet ownership;
- Appropriate pet selection;
- Basic health, welfare and dietary needs;
- Feral cats and dogs;
- Disaster preparedness;
- Roaming dogs;
- Disease transmission;
- Identification and registration;
- Early socialization and regular obedience training;
- Environmental enrichment;
- Interaction between companion animals and native animals; and
- Environmental protection.

In addition, target groups for raising awareness may include;

- Companion animal owners;
- Non-pet owners;
- Schools/Pre-schools;
- New pet owners;
- Streets/localities with ongoing companion animal issues; and
- Community groups.

## **GOALS**

- To encourage the training and education of companion animals to facilitate their integration into the community;
- To promote changes in the behaviour of companion animal owners through education on the responsibilities of being a companion animal owner; and
- To maintain links with professional animal industries to organise animal activities throughout the year.

## **4. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

Companion animals can create negative impacts on the environment in a number of ways, some of which are;

- Noise pollution;
- Water pollution; and
- Reduction to biodiversity - native animals.

By educating companion animal owners to be aware of the impacts that their companion animal may cause, as well as highlighting strategies to minimise adverse effects, a more sustainable relationship in the community will result.

### **4.1 NOISE POLLUTION – EXCESSIVE BARKING/MEOWING**

While all dogs bark, it is those that bark excessively that require management.

Barking dog complaints are extremely hard to resolve and often consume Council resources, the problems often recur and often involve unresolved neighbourhood disputes.

Proceeding to a Nuisance Dog Order under the Companion Animals Act or a Noise Abatement Order under the Protection of the Environment Operations Act, is time consuming and often complainants are unwilling to commit to this level of involvement.

Barking dogs are a significant community problem and can result in anxiety and depression. However, barking is a symptom of various issues facing the animal, some of which are;

- Territorial behaviour;
- Boredom;
- Playing;
- Separation anxiety;
- Visual stimuli/distractions;
- Teasing.

The noise of cats fighting in the middle of the night is reported less frequently than dogs, but it is still a cause of noise pollution. Education of companion animal owners is required in regards to; responsible pet ownership, training, diet, de-sexing, housing and confinement, as well as environmental stimuli, in order to assist with solutions.

Currently, Councils Rangers use a diary system regarding excessive barking complaints. This system has been effective in a number of ways; to determine if a legitimate complaint exists, it pinpoints the times of excessive barking, assists in providing solutions and builds a case if legal action is being sought.

### **GOALS**

- To educate the community and mitigate excessive barking;
- To raise awareness of the availability of Council's anti-barking collars; and
- To resolve barking complaints effectively with the resources at hand.

### **4.2 WATER POLLUTION – FAECES MANAGEMENT**

Companion animal faeces management is a significant environmental and public health issue. The pollution of urban yards, footpaths, parks and reserves by animal faeces and the resulting pollution of waterways by stormwater run-off are of great environmental concern, particularly for the water catchments of the Tenterfield shire. Animal droppings contribute to high levels of phosphorous and other potentially harmful chemicals/bacteria in our waterways.

Organisms such as parasites, protozoa and bacteria can be transferred to people and animals via faecal matter and contaminated stormwater. There is also the potential for infection to be passed to humans from the animals themselves. Roundworm is the primary health concern, as this organism resides in the small intestine of dogs, and its eggs are passed to the outside environment in the faeces. The eggs may remain infective in the soil for a number of years. While humans do not develop adult roundworm, the migration of the larvae through tissues and organs can cause disease.

Young children, active sports players and people confined to hand-activated wheel chairs have the greatest risks of exposure. At present, there is no legal requirement to remove cat faeces from a public place.

Whilst Council is required to provide appropriate rubbish receptacles for companion animal's faeces in leash-free areas, they are very expensive to install and maintain. Council actively encourages people to take their own plastic bags for animal droppings when they are out in public places, and bins for this purpose will be positioned in the leash-free areas. The Companion Animals Act, Section 20 states the duty of dog owners to remove the animal's faeces and properly dispose of this material.

## **GOALS**

- To minimise the impact of companion animals on the water catchment of the Tenterfield Shire;
- To install rubbish receptacles in leash-free areas with signage stating their purpose for animal waste;
- To educate the community about the responsibilities of companion animal owners to remove their animal faeces from public places; and
- To actively promote and encourage the use of the dog faeces bags provided in the parks.

To encourage people to take their own waste bags while walking their companion animal

### **4.3 REDUCTION TO BIODIVERSITY – NATIVE ANIMALS**

Biodiversity can be described as 'the variety of life', it includes plants, animals and micro-organisms, the genes that they contain and the range of ecosystems that they form, on land, in the ocean and river systems. In 2005 more, than 40 species of animals, 30 species of plants, 1 population and 9 ecological communities were listed as threatened under the NSW Threatened Species and Conservation Act 1995 or the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. Added to this list are 3 fish species and 2 fish populations being listed as threatened under the NSW Fisheries Management Act 1994. It is vital that companion animal strategies be implemented to assist in the protection of these threatened environmental systems.

Community education will be implemented to emphasise that the dumping of unwanted animals in bushland, industrial estates or nature reserves is irresponsible, environmentally destructive and illegal. Feral cats, as well as free-ranging domestic cats, are responsible for a significant number of wildlife deaths each year. It is imperative that awareness be raised regarding the care and control of pet cats, to limit their nocturnal wanderings. Cats can be confined to a house for their entire life, if there is sufficient environmental stimulus. An example of this is the modular cat fun-park, which is a fully contained cage system that is situated in the CA owner's backyard.

People using companion animals for the purpose of hunting ferret pig should acquire and use tracking collars to assist in finding the companion animal. This will minimise the loss of companion animals during this activity which in turn will reduce the number of companion animals becoming wild themselves and cause destruction of livestock and native flora and fauna.

## **GOALS**

- To minimise the impact of companion animals on the biodiversity of the Tenterfield Shire;
- To educate owners of cats about methods of safely confining their animals to the home;
- To raise awareness of Council's provision of cat-trapping equipment; and
- To promote the de-sexing of companion animals to reduce roaming, territorial and aggressive behaviours.

To promote the use of tracking collars for hunting companion animals used for hunting.



## **5. ACTION PLANS, MONITORING AND REVIEW**

Council aims to monitor, review and continually improve the management of companion animals within the Tenterfield Shire. Monitoring mechanisms have been built into the performance indicators of the action plans to modify strategies that are ineffective.

The action plans have been collected into key issue areas that relate to the goals already established in the management plan. These areas are;

- 5.1 Identification and registration;
- 5.2 Impounding;
- 5.3 Animal welfare/Responsible pet ownership;
- 5.4 Public safety;
- 5.5 Enforcement and education;
- 5.6 Noise pollution – excessive barking/meowing;
- 5.7 Water pollution – faeces management;
- 5.8 Reduction to biodiversity – native animals; and
- 5.9 Review and monitoring.

5.1 **IDENTIFICATION AND REGISTRATION**

Action	Priority	Related Goals	Performance Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide media advertising, educational materials and events for the community of the Tenterfield Shire to promote and encourage the permanent identification of CA</li> </ul>	<p>High</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To encourage the permanent microchip identification of all animals in the Tenterfield Shire;</li> <li>To facilitate the prompt return of lost/roaming CA to their owners; and</li> <li>To provide an effective and efficient service for people updating or registering details on the NSW Companion Animal Register.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase in the numbers of CA being microchipped;</li> <li>Increase in the number of CA being registered;</li> <li>Number of media advertising inserted into the local press; and</li> <li>Production of brochures and stickers advertising the identification and registration procedure.</li> </ul>

**5.2 IMPOUNDING**

Action	Priority	Related Goals	Performance Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To advertise the services that the pound provides, such as the purchase of animals, opening times and associated fee's.</li> </ul>	<p>High</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To reduce the number of companion animals that need to be euthanized; and</li> <li>To facilitate the prompt return of companion animals to their owners.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decrease in the number of companion animals being euthanized; and</li> <li>Number of media advertising inserted into the local press.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide information and educational material at the site of collection of animals to increase awareness for the identification and registration of animals</li> </ul>	<p>High</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To facilitate the prompt return of companion animals to their owners.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Production of brochures and stickers advertising the identification and registration procedure.</li> </ul>

**5.3 ANIMAL WELFARE/RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP**

Action	Priority	Related Goals	Performance Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design and implementation of a publicity campaign to provide pet owners with information relating to responsible pet ownership.</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To encourage further education regarding responsible pet ownership in the Tenterfield Shire.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of media advertising inserted into the local press; and</li> <li>Conduct educational events at schools and community groups.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage de-sexing of animals in all enforcement, education and public relations activities.</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To promote the de-sexing of companion animals to reduce roaming, territorial and aggressive behaviours.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decrease in the number of complaints where companion animals display seasonal/mating aggression;</li> <li>Decrease in number of complaints regarding roaming animals; and</li> <li>Decrease in the number of complaints about excessive seasonal noise from cats/dogs.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the importance and benefits of training in all of Council's enforcement and educational activities</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To encourage further education regarding responsible pet ownership in the Tenterfield Shire.; and</li> <li>To encourage companion animal owners to provide mental and physical challenges for their animals to improve their welfare and to reduce negative impact on the local community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decrease in number of complaints regarding roaming animals;</li> <li>Decrease in the number of complaints about excessive noise from dogs;</li> <li>Decrease in the number of dogs being surrendered; and</li> <li>Decrease in number of dogs being euthanized.</li> </ul>

**5.4 PUBLIC SAFETY**

Action	Priority	Related Goals	Performance Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the location of leash-free areas in the Tenterfield Shire.</li> </ul>	<p>High</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To encourage CA owners to provide mental and physical challenges for their animals to improve their welfare and to reduce negative impact on the local community; and</li> <li>To encourage further education regarding responsible pet ownership in the Tenterfield Shire.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decrease in number of complaints regarding roaming animals;</li> <li>Number of media advertising inserted into the local press.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To conduct research into the provision of more leash-free areas in the Tenterfield Shire.</li> </ul>	<p>High</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To conduct research into establishing more leash-free areas in the region; and</li> <li>To create more leash-free areas in the Tenterfield Shire.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research conducted; and</li> <li>Design plans.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To visit primary schools in the region to demonstrate bite avoidance techniques.</li> </ul>	<p>High</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To improve community awareness of the importance of safety around CA and methods to avoid dog bites.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of schools visited; and</li> <li>Decrease in the number of dog attacks reported.</li> </ul>

Action	Priority	Related Goals	Performance Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To educate and enforce the provision that dogs should be under effective control (leash, cord or chain) in public places.</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To promote the awareness of dog training and keeping dogs under effective control at all times; and</li> <li>To encourage further education regarding responsible pet ownership in the Tenterfield Shire.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decrease in the number of dog attacks reported;</li> <li>Decrease in number of complaints regarding roaming animals;</li> <li>Number of media advertising inserted into the local press; and</li> <li>Number of infringements issued.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the locations of dangerous and restricted dogs in the Tenterfield Shire on a six monthly basis.</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To monitor dangerous dogs/restricted dogs throughout the Tenterfield Shire.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decrease in the number of dog attacks reported; and</li> <li>Compliance with dangerous/restricted dog control requirements.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research previous dog attack incidents in the Tenterfield Shire to determine specific recurrent local issues or seasonal trends. To implement education and enforcement accordingly.</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To monitor dangerous dogs/restricted dogs throughout the Tenterfield Shire.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decrease in the number of dog attacks reported; and</li> <li>Compliance with dangerous/restricted dog control requirements.</li> </ul>

**5.5 ENFORCEMENT AND EDUCATION**

Action	Priority	Related Goals	Performance Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and implement an educational programme to promote responsible pet ownership throughout the Tenterfield Shire.</li> </ul>	<p>High</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To encourage the training and education of companion animals to facilitate their integration into the community.</li> <li>To encourage further education regarding responsible pet ownership in the Tenterfield Shire.</li> <li>To promote changes in the behaviour of companion animal owners through education on the responsibilities of being a companion animal owner.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft the educational programme;</li> <li>Implement the educational programme;</li> <li>Number of schools, community groups and animal organizations visited; and</li> <li>Number of complaints and infringements decrease.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To proactively patrol leash-free areas and those where companion animal owners are known to frequent. To implement education and enforcement accordingly.</li> </ul>	<p>High</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To encourage the training and education of companion animals to facilitate their integration into the community;</li> <li>To encourage further education regarding responsible pet ownership in the Tenterfield Shire; and</li> <li>To promote changes in the behaviour of companion animal owners through education on responsibilities of being a companion animal owner.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of complaints and infringements decrease.</li> </ul>

**5.6 NOISE POLLUTION – EXCESSIVE BARKING/MEOWING**

Action	Priority	Related Goals	Performance Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the link between nuisance behaviour, such as barking, and animal welfare issues. Refer companion animal and owner to an animal behaviourist where possible.</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To educate the community and mitigate excessive barking;</li> <li>To encourage further education regarding responsible pet ownership in the Tenterfield Shire; and</li> <li>To promote the de-sexing of companion animals.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of complaints and infringements decrease;</li> <li>Number of media advertising inserted into the local press;</li> <li>Decrease in the number of complaints about excessive noise from dogs.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To promote the provision of Council's anti-barking collars for community use.</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To raise awareness of the availability of Council's anti-barking collars.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of media advertising inserted into the local press;</li> <li>Decrease in the number of complaints about excessive noise from dogs;</li> <li>Increase in the use of the anti-barking collars.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to implement the diary system for investigating excessive barking complaints.</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To resolve barking complaints effectively with the resources at hand.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decrease in the number of diarised barking incidences; and</li> <li>Number of barking complaints handled.</li> </ul>



**5.7 WATER POLLUTION – FAECES MANAGEMENT**

Action	Priority	Related Goals	Performance Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install more dog waste bag dispensers for the provision of companion animal waste; and</li> <li>• Promote the removal of companion animal faeces by the owner.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;">High</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To minimise the impact of companion animals on the water catchment of the Tenterfield Shire;</li> <li>• To install rubbish receptacles and dog waste bag dispensers in leash-free areas with signage stating their purpose for animal waste; and</li> <li>• To educate the community about the responsibilities of companion animal owners to remove their animal’s faeces from public places.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of bins installed;</li> <li>• Number of infringements issued; and</li> <li>• Number of media advertising inserted into the local press.</li> </ul>



Action	Priority	Related Goals	Performance Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To promote a community awareness campaign highlighting the advantages of keeping cats confined and voluntarily using a 'cat curfew'.</li> </ul>	<p>High</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To educate owners of cats about methods of safely confining their animals to the home; and</li> <li>To encourage further education regarding responsible pet ownership in the Tenterfield Shire.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of media advertising inserted into the local press; and</li> <li>Decrease in number of complaints regarding roaming animals.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To promote the provision of Council's cat-trapping equipment for community use (only in the case of feral cats).</li> </ul>	<p>High</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To raise awareness of Council's provision of cat-trapping equipment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of media advertising inserted into the local press;</li> <li>Decrease in the number of complaints about feral cats; and</li> <li>Increase in the use of the cat-trapping equipment.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To promote the de-sexing of companion animals.</li> </ul>	<p>High</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To promote the de-sexing of companion animals to reduce roaming, territorial and aggressive behaviour.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase in the number of companion animals being de-sexed; and</li> <li>Number of media advertising inserted into the local press.</li> </ul>

**5.9 MONITORING AND REVIEW**

Action	Priority	Related Goals	Performance Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To monitor and review the SCAMP in June 2016.</li> </ul>	<p>High</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To manage companion animal issues effectively;</li> <li>To generate voluntary compliance;</li> <li>To encourage best practice in animal welfare; and</li> <li>To maintain harmony between pet and non-pet owners, the environment and native wildlife in accordance with the relevant legislation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduction in the number of complaints received;</li> <li>Reduction in the number of infringements issued;</li> <li>Increase in voluntary compliance to companion animal requirements; and</li> <li>Continual improvements to the SCAMP that incorporate future developments and advances.</li> </ul>

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