



DISTRICT COUNCIL
of
COOPER PEDY

ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

2021 – 2026

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1. Executive Summary

The Animal Management Plan has been prepared by the District Council of Coober Pedy to ensure the Council complies with the *Dog and Cat Management Act, 1995* (the Act) to prepare a plan of management relating to dogs and cats every five years.

The township of Coober Pedy is known nationally and internationally as the “Opal Capital of the World”, has a population of approximately 1,800 people and is situated within the far north of South Australia, 830 km north of Adelaide and 680 km south of Alice Springs on the Stuart Highway. The Council acknowledges and honors the thousands of years of indigenous heritage in this area and their culturally safe guidance to our community.

Council is responsible for domestic animal and public health regulatory commitment and this commitment has a significant impact on animal welfare and includes the provision of continual collaboration, feedback to State and Commonwealth governments to influence positive legislation changes, and for the promotion and maintenance of responsible animal ownership. Council acknowledges insufficient effort was put into animal management mainly due to the lack of resources, e.g. part time Ranger, and reactive instead of proactive responses.

The plan will focus on Council providing a responsible, effective and cohesive strategy aiming for Coober Pedy to be a safe place to live, acknowledging non pet owners principles in partnership with pet owners who comply with legislation and By-Laws and responding accordingly to the ever-changing needs of a remote community whilst administering and enforcing the Act.



2. Background

Following the introduction of the Act, animal management has improved; nonetheless this has brought with it the accommodating requirements of financial resources, applicable community knowledge, suitable cultural safety communication, understanding the complexities of both animal and human interactions, for all Council staff, in particular Council staff working out in the field.

There is growing recognition that enforcement of laws will not, on their own, result in lasting, voluntary changes in both animal and human behavior. Enforcement activities need to be supplemented by a range of non-regulatory approaches such as culturally appropriate community education and relevant media communication. We must also acknowledge the human-animal bond which has evolved throughout time and the health benefits that people owning companion animals and the interactions which are known to make major impacts in the lives of many people while accepting the viewpoints of non-pet owners.

The *Dog and Cat Management Act* brought a new legal framework to South Australia in the management of dogs and cats and has widened into a greater range of environments following its introduction.

The objectives of the *Dog and Cat Management Act* 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.

3. Objectives

3.1 Provide effective management and a suitable environment for dogs and cats within the community.

3.1.1 Operate in accordance with the Act.

3.1.2 Continued change of emphasis from only enforcement to a proactive approach of "education, prevention, encouragement and enforcement".

3.1.3 Undertake community consultation to ascertain the views of the community in relation to Council's strategies and policy directions, relating to dog and cat management.

3.1.4 Co-ordinate approach between Community Land Management Plans and the Dog and Cat Management Plans to ensure the needs of both the general community, pet and pet owners are accommodated in Open Space Areas.

3.1.5 Implement effective policies relating to dog and cat management controls and review by-laws where necessary, to ensure adequate and appropriate access to open space areas including off leash areas.

3.1.7 Improve community recognition and understanding of the role of Animal Management Officers.

3.2 Develop innovative and proactive approaches to dog and cat management.

3.2.1 Research best practice methodology for dealing with animal management issues.

3.2.3 Effective use of statistics when making decisions and influence policy directions.

3.2.4 Trial new initiatives and different approaches to dog and cat management.

3.3 Encourage responsible dog and cat ownership.

3.3.1 Encourage and provide community education concerning pets in the environment in conjunction with other animal agencies.

3.3.2 Establish ongoing programs for de-sexing, socialization, training and micro-chipping.

3.3.3 Obtain maximum registration and identification, re-uniting pets to owners where possible.

3.3.4 Promote the welfare of dogs and cats in the community.

3.4 Increase public safety through the reduction of public and environment nuisance caused by dogs and cats.

3.4.1 Ensure adherence to the "dogs on leash on streets, roads and footpath" amendments in the Act.

3.4.2 Implement strategies to assist pet owners/public that are experiencing difficulties with pets (barking collars, re-homing, cat cages etc).

3.4.3 Reduce the number of dog attacks and harassments through bite avoidance education and encourage the reporting of all dog attacks.

3.4.4 Reduce the number of dogs wandering at large to minimize public nuisance and increase public safety.

3.4.5 Encourage dog owners to pick up dog faeces and carry dog waste bags to reduce the amount of dog faeces in the environment.

3.4.6 Enforce the provisions of the *Dog and Cat Management Act* in the Council area.

3.5 Increase the public's understanding of the enforcement provisions pursuant to the Act.

3.5.2 Encourage people to accept the responsibilities of pet ownership and comply with the provision of the Act.

3.5.3 Ensure the general public is aware of enforcement measures as outlined within the Act, through ongoing promotional material (displays on Animal Control Notice boards etc).

3.5.4 Employ skilled and culturally astute animal management Rangers.

3.6 Provide for the welfare and safety of dogs and cats

3.6.1 Encourage pet owners to undertake routine preventative measures such as vaccination, worming, and other forms of parasite control.

3.6.2 Policing of provisions of Dog and Cat Management Act and Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act regarding animal welfare in general.

3.6.3 Maintain adequate local impoundment facilities for temporary protection of lost or unowned animals.

3.7 Capture lost pets and returning them to their rightful owner.

4. The Law / Guidelines

4.1 The information below provides a legal framework outlining Councils responsibilities and the penalties that can be imposed on dog and cat owners for non-compliance, this Plan seeks to implement a balanced approach catering to the communities needs that will not only benefit dogs, cats and their owners as a group, but also the wider community.

4.2 Council is focused on best practice, by working collaboratively, campaigning with and adhering to:

- *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*
- *Local Government Act 1999*
- *Public and Environment Health Act 1987*
- R.S.P.C.A (Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals)
- A.M.R.R.I.C (Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities)
- POCTA (The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986)
 - *allows for the authorisation of local government officers, who are employees of council and authorised under Section 72 of the Domestic Animals Act 1994*
- SA Health Animal Contact Guidelines.

4.3 Council is also able to make By-laws and to adopt policies for the control and management of dogs and cats within the Council area.

- *Council By-Law No. 5 of 2021 Dogs By-Law 2021*
- *Council By-Law No. 7 of 2021 Cats By-Law 2021*

5. Dog Registration

From 1st July 2018, a new state-wide registration system known as 'Dog and Cat Online or DACO' replaced the dog registration system which Council uses with a centralised system to be managed by the Dog and Cat Management Board of SA.

5.1 The 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 which therefore means registration fees will be paid online through a central website.

5.2 Council will set the animal registration fees each year and advise the Dog and Cat Management Board, who then send invoices to pet owners on behalf of the councils with the Council only requiring dogs over the age of 6 months.

5.3 The term 'standard dog or cat' is defined in the Act as "a dog or cat (as the case requires) that is both microchipped and desexed in accordance with this Act." The same terms are used for registration fees.

5.4 New Dog registration categories

5.4.1 From 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.

5.5 Dog registration

5.5.1 Maintain a register of dogs

5.5.2 Make satisfactory arrangements for the detention of dogs seized under this Act; (and may make such arrangements for cats seized under this Act) (26e)

5.6 Money received

5.6.1 Money received by a council under this Act must be expended in the administration or enforcement of the provisions of this Act relating to dogs and cats (26 (3))

5.7 Payment into Fund

5.7.1 Council must pay into the Fund the percentage fixed by regulation of the dog registration fees received by the council (26 (5))

5.8 Setting of fees

5.8.1 A council has the responsibility for setting registration fees (26)

5.9 Establishing By-laws

5.9.1 Councils can pass a by-law for the control and management of dog and cats within their area (Section 90)

6. On Leash, Off Leash Dog Prohibited Areas

6.1 On leash

6.1.1 If a dog is required to be on-leash the leash must be no more than 2 metres in length.

6.2 Off leash

- 6.2.1 If a dog is off leash the owner must have the dog under effective control at all times.
- 6.2.2 Effective control means a dog must be:
- Physically restrained by a leash or
 - Under a command [or cue]
 - Dog being in close proximity to the person responsible, and
 - Person being able to see the dog at all times.

6.3 Dog prohibited areas

- 6.3.1 Dog prohibited areas mean an area of Council land which has appropriate signage as dog prohibited”.
1. The Triangle Playground
 2. The Tennis Courts
 3. The Basketball Courts

6.4 Designated dog off leash exercise areas

- 6.4.1 Meaning and conditions of designated dog area that Council declares the following areas to be “Dog Off-Leash Exercise Areas”.

9.4.1.1 Within a public place dogs must be under effective control by voice command and in close proximity to their owners at all times.)

- 6.4.2 Meaning of a public space “a place to which the public has access”. This includes areas such as streets, roads, footpaths, shopping centres car parks etc. It does not include public parks and reserves.
1. The area of land adjacent to the Oodnadatta Road, the boundaries of which are: Oodnadatta Road from 17 Mile Road to Henri Street, south-east along Henri Street to Chadwick Road, south along Chadwick Road to Chucky Street, west along Chucky Street to the northwestern corner of Allotment 2094, south to the boundary of Allotment 1857, west along the southern boundary of Allotment 1864 and South to Seventeen Mile Road.
 2. The area known as the Water Conservation Reserve as depicted in Allotment 1 on Maps 16 and 17 of the Coober Pedy Street Directory and generally regarded as that land north of Burke Street to the Old Water Tank Road, Matrix Avenue and Clarky Road.
 3. The area of land adjacent to the Stuart Highway, the boundaries of which are Monument Road, Jungle Crescent, William Creek Road and the Stuart Highway

4. The Town Oval between the hours of 6:00am and 8:00am

MAP/draft



7. Cats

From 1st July 2018, a new state-wide registration system known as 'Dog and Cat Online or DACO' replaced the cat registration system which Council uses with a centralised system to be managed by the Dog and Cat Management Board of SA.

7.1 Overview of cats

The number of owned cats in the Council area is unknown but according to the animal medicines Australia (2016) 29% of Australian households own at least one cat.

7.2 Current cat management services

- 11.2.1 Provide subsidised microchipping and de-sexing vouchers
- 11.2.2 Facilitate subsidised microchipping days/events
- 11.2.3 Hire out cat traps.

7.3 Seized or impounded cats

- 11.3.1 Work with local vet and/or community to rehome work or euthanise unowned cats, as appropriate.