

# DRAFT DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

## Frequently asked questions



**Q: Why does Council have a domestic animal management plan?**

A: The VIC State Government requires all Councils to have a Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP). The plan focuses on education and awareness raising for pet owners, pet registration, managing nuisance and dangerous dogs, keeping dogs under control in shared public spaces, the management of pets so as not to adversely impact others, micro chipping, desexing, and encouraging people to pick up after their dogs. The plan also outlines how Council will enforce all legislative requirements and compliance with local laws.

**Q: How many registered animals are there in the City of Port Phillip?**

A: There are approximately 98,000 residents in Port Phillip and just 6,000 registered dogs and 3,000 registered cats. Council needs to balance the needs of pet owners with the needs of the much larger non pet owning community.

**Q: Do pet owner registration fees cover the cost of the City of Port Phillip's animal management services?**

A: No, registration fees do not fully pay for the provision of Council's animal management services.

**Q: What public consultation has been conducted and what is the domestic animal management community reference group and how have they been involved in the creation of the DAMP?**

A: As part of the community consultation that helped inform the plan, Council established a community reference group. The group is made up of six of community members, two Council officers and one Councillor to provide advice and feedback on issues and opportunities related to animal management in Port Phillip.

**Q: Why is Council euthanising animals?**

A: The number of dogs euthanised has been annually decreasing since 2007. Council works extremely hard to return lost animals to their owners. Council currently uses the Lost Dogs' Home as our pound contractor and all animals are assessed for suitability for re-homing. Animals are only euthanised if they are unsuitable for re-homing due to either temperament or health issues. A major aim of the DAMP is to educate pet owners about the importance and benefits of pet registration. Registration and microchipping is helping us reduce the number of animals' euthanised.

**Q: What is Council doing about dangerous dogs in Port Phillip?**

A: The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is responsible for the laws governing menacing & dangerous dogs. Council staff enforce the provisions of the Domestic Animals Act 1994. A major aim of the DAM plan is to educate pet owners about their responsibilities to prevent nuisance and dangerous behaviour. We do this through awareness raising campaigns and via information provided on the website, through patrols and as part of all new pet registrations. Council is also committed to enforcing all legislative requirements and compliance with local laws through regular patrolling and detailed investigation into complaints.

**Q: What can I do about a nuisance dog/cat in my neighbourhood?**

A: The easiest way to resolve the matter of a nuisance dog/cat is to speak with your neighbour and let them know the problem as they may not be aware of the issue. If the problem persists contact ASSIST on 9209 6777 to discuss your options.

**Q: Where can I find out more about my responsibilities as a pet owner?**

A: Visit [www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/animals.htm](http://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/animals.htm) or call ASSIST on 9209 6777.

**For more information about the DAMP**

Contact Kirsten Hughes, Coordinator Local Laws and Animal Management on 9209 6268 or email [khughes@portphillip.vic.gov.au](mailto:khughes@portphillip.vic.gov.au)

