



---

# CITY OF LOGAN ANIMAL CARE STRATEGY 2018-2022



## **Introduction**

Logan City Council promotes responsible pet ownership. Pets are an important part of people's lives and contribute to their wellbeing and the provision of companionship in many homes and families throughout our city.

The effective management of companion animals requires a commitment from the entire Logan community. This includes residents, Council staff, pet owners, retail outlets and veterinarians as well as all levels of government (commonwealth, state and local), associations and industry groups.

Through this strategy, Council invites our community and key stakeholders to work in partnership to promote responsible pet ownership in order, to enhance the safety and wellbeing of our community and our pets.

## **Council's Corporate Plan**

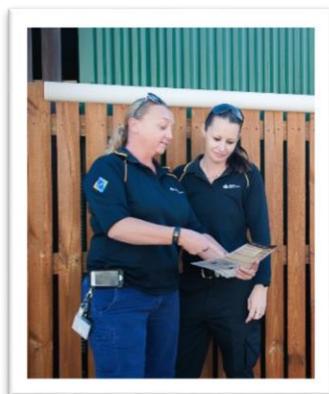
The Corporate Plan is an important document that shapes the visions and priorities for Logan City Council. The plan clearly outlines a strong purpose to make a difference in people's lives through the quality of the services provided to the community.

The Animal Care Strategy aligns itself strongly to the Corporate Plan fostering the same purpose to make a difference in the community through quality service and an inclusive community approach.

In particular, the Animal Care Strategy aligns to the Corporate Plan Priority of "Quality Lifestyles".

## **Community Involvement**

The success of a working strategy requires a collaborative approach to be taken in the development of this strategy and its key actions, with the involvement of key stakeholders including elected members, Council staff and community and industry experts.



### **What is Animal Care?**

For Logan City Council, Animal Care involves the control and regulation of domestic animals in line with local and State government laws to maximise community pet enjoyment and minimise domestic pet nuisance.

Logan City Council Animal Care aims to:

- Increase public awareness of the need to responsibly manage companion animals, thereby reducing the number of animal related nuisances
- Support animal owners to keep their pets in a manner consistent with the expectations of the community
- Minimise risk to community health, safety and amenity.

Council achieves this by:

- Providing required infrastructure
- Controlling and enforcing regulation
- Raising public awareness and educating the community.



### **Objectives**

The Animal Care Strategy 2018-2022 addresses opportunities associated with responsible pet ownership working in partnership with legislative requirements under the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008* and Council's local laws.

#### **The objectives of the Animal Care Strategy 2018- 2022 are:**

1. Develop innovative and proactive practices in the operation of Council's Animal Management Centre;
2. Reduce the number of unregistered, unidentified and unwanted cats and dogs in Logan;
3. Minimise the threat to public safety and enhance community enjoyment through the management of animals not under effective control, dog attacks and nuisance animal noise; and
4. Promote responsible pet ownership to enhance the community's attitude towards animal ownership.

**Objective 1:**

***Develop innovative and proactive approaches to the Animal Management Centre***

Thousands of animals pass through the Logan City Council Animal Management Centre every year. Currently the Animal Management Centre has 88 kennels to hold impounded dogs and can house up to 60 impounded cats.

This places considerable pressure on the Animal Management Centre. The ideal outcome is for the cat or dog to be identified through registration or microchipping details and reunited as quickly as possible with their owner.

*Number of animals that have been impounded over the last five years*

<u>Year</u>	<u>Cats</u>	<u>Dogs</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>2012</u>	<u>2758</u>	<u>4557</u>	<u>7315</u>
<u>2013</u>	<u>2476</u>	<u>4414</u>	<u>6890</u>
<u>2014</u>	<u>2386</u>	<u>4140</u>	<u>6526</u>
<u>2015</u>	<u>2433</u>	<u>3545</u>	<u>5978</u>
<u>2016</u>	<u>2142</u>	<u>2901</u>	<u>5043</u>



Every effort is made to reunite pets with their owners however this cannot always be achieved. Information of impounded animals on Council's website assists the public in identifying their missing pet.

Animals who cannot be reunited with their owner are placed in a behaviour assessment program to help them find a suitable new home.

**Our Vision**

To provide a safe and healthy environment for impounded domestic animals prior to their release, maximise the promotion and benefits of de-sexing and microchipping entire cats and dogs as well as proactively rehome suitable unclaimed domestic animals to minimise euthanasia rates.

**Actions**

- 1.1 Explore innovative opportunities to expand the Animal Care Program's sales and rehoming services, with a strong focus on digital technology current and emerging to assist in reuniting or rehoming pets.
- 1.2 Continue to explore partnerships with suitably qualified and approved animal specific organisations which share the same values and vision as the Animal Care Team in rehoming or re-uniting animals with owners.
- 1.3 Utilise positive and proactive relationships with media outlets to promote community awareness around impounded animals and rehoming of unclaimed animals.
- 1.4 Expand the Foster Care Program to enable animals to overcome minor behaviour or health issues prior to being placed in the sale program.
- 1.5 Engage with community groups to explore partnerships which are of benefit to people and animals such as the existing "Seniors for Seniors" program and Animal Care Volunteer program.
- 1.6 Develop a master plan for future development and activities at the Animal Management Centre.
- 1.7 Undertake future planning for satellite animal related services that may be required as the City of Logan expands.

**Objective 2:**

***Reduce the number of unregistered, unidentified and unwanted cats and dogs in Logan***

Pets are a huge part of our lives contributing to an active and healthy way of life, reducing stress and improving mental health and wellbeing. Unfortunately, despite the benefits of pet ownership, thousands of cats and dogs pass through the Animal Management Centre every year.

A significant number of the animals that pass through the Animal Management Centre cannot be identified as they do not have a microchip or are not wearing a registration tag. This makes it difficult to reunite them with their owner.

Of great concern to the community and to Council is the number of unwanted puppies and kittens that are surrendered to the Animal Management Centre. Desexing animals is essential to stop accidental or unwanted litters.

**Our Vision**

For residents to comply with animal care legislation, registration and microchipping laws and understand the benefits to the community of desexing their pets.

**Actions**

- 1.1 Promote the effectiveness of proactive animal survey programs to assist with identifying unregistered and non-microchipped animals.
- 1.2 Continue to ensure animals are microchipped and currently registered prior to leaving the Animal Management Centre.
- 1.3 Proactively inspect registered breeders in our community to ensure compliance with state government and local government requirements.
- 1.4 Continue our strict local law provisions to prevent unnecessary breeding of cats and dogs resulting in unwanted animals in the City.
- 1.5 Promote opportunities to offer the community discounted microchipping and desexing.
- 1.6 Work collaboratively with the community to develop innovative action plans to reduce the numbers of roaming unwanted cats.
- 1.7 Develop and implement a specific purpose education campaign for the current requirement of cat registrations.
- 1.8 Review the current fee structure for annual cat and dog registrations to increase incentives for pet's owners to register their pets.



**Objective 3:**

***Reduce the threat to public safety and enhance community enjoyment through the management of animals not under effective control***

Animal Care responds to community animal related complaints and investigates the issues identified as well as undertaking routine and proactive patrols in the community.

*Complaints investigated by council over a 5 year period*

<b><u>Year</u></b>	<b><u>Dog Attacks</u></b>	<b><u>Noise Nuisance</u></b>	<b><u>Wanderings</u></b>
<b><u>2012</u></b>	<b><u>928</u></b>	<b><u>1886</u></b>	<b><u>4929</u></b>
<b><u>2013</u></b>	<b><u>922</u></b>	<b><u>1934</u></b>	<b><u>4779</u></b>
<b><u>2014</u></b>	<b><u>849</u></b>	<b><u>1893</u></b>	<b><u>4160</u></b>
<b><u>2015</u></b>	<b><u>1165</u></b>	<b><u>1851</u></b>	<b><u>4508</u></b>
<b><u>2016</u></b>	<b><u>1083</u></b>	<b><u>1795</u></b>	<b><u>4010</u></b>



Any animal not under effective control by way of escape from their property, or wander from their property, or escape off a lead is of great concern to the community and Council. Wandering livestock can cause serious traffic incidents as well as serious injury to bystanders trying to contain them. More commonly, dogs not on lead, dogs that wander from their property or escape from their property can become involved in attacks on people and other animals as well as create traffic incidents.

When animal attacks occur, Council investigates to determine the best course of action. This can result in the offending animal being declared a Regulated, Menacing Dog Regulated or a Dangerous Dog as per the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008*. This then sets strict keeping conditions for that animal.

Nuisance animal noise can be very frustrating for the community directly affected by the noise and equally as frustrating for the subject animal's owner trying to resolve the nuisance noise. Neighbours working together with Council can achieve better outcomes in a timely manner, however, in most cases a lengthy investigation is required for people to understand the nuisance created by their pet and how to resolve such.

**Our Vision**

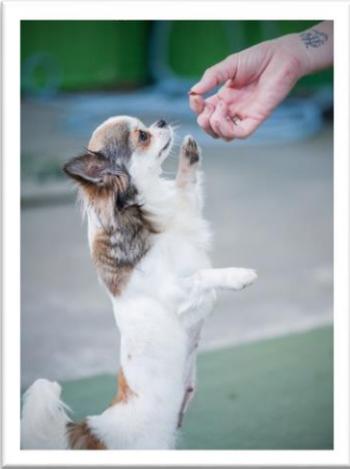
Community understanding of responsible pet ownership, minimal incidence of animal related nuisances such as barking dogs, wandering animals, dog attacks or dog bites.

**Actions**

- 3.1 Continue yearly inspections of known Regulated Dog properties to ensure ongoing compliance with strict regulations.
- 3.2 Review Regulated Dog signage and registration tags with a view to investigate if a more visible identifier needs to be implemented.
- 3.3 Increased patrols for wandering animals during business hours and after hours.
- 3.4 Increased education and media opportunities around the importance of keeping animals under effective control.
- 3.5 Prioritise the review of our response and procedures to barking dog nuisance and explore innovative methods of investigating reducing noise nuisance (barking).
- 3.6 Undertake a comprehensive review of current local laws adopt new ideas for domestic animal keeping across the City of Logan that are innovative and forge partnerships.

**Objective 4:**

***Promote “responsible pet ownership” to enhance the community’s attitude towards animal ownership***



The key to responsible pet ownership is empowering the community with the knowledge they need to keep their pets safe and without nuisance to the community around them. Understanding and catering for their pets’ needs directly relates to reducing animal related nuisances such as barking dogs, wandering animals and dog attacks.

Research has shown that targeting pet education from an early age helps in the prevention of animal related attacks and sets positive lifelong pet care patterns for future generations.

**Our Vision**

Purposeful education programs delivery to all ages which highlight the needs of our pets and responsible pet ownership.

**Actions**

- 4.1 Expand on the “Be Pet Smart” program currently delivered in schools across the City of Logan specifically designed to strategically link with the Australian Education Curriculum.
- 4.2 Increase delivery of the pet education workshops to the community on topics relevant to their needs.
- 4.3 Engage in local community events and ensure Animal Care staff are accessible and relatable for the community to engage with and form productive relationships.
- 4.4 Develop a strategy for new small lot size residential developments to ensure prospective buyers and owners of property understand animal keeping laws relevant to the area.
- 4.5 Explore advances in technology to connect with the community, potentially around the clock, for animal related support.
- 4.6 Design and implement meaningful rewards programs to encourage responsible pet ownership

***Photography by Jenelle Hunt Photography***