

# Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021-2025



COMMUNITY  
SAFETY



**Nillumbik**  
The Green Wedge Shire

We acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people as the Traditional Owners of the Country on which Nillumbik is located, we pay our respects to Elders past, present and future, and extend that respect to all First Nations People. We respect the enduring strength of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded.

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## Attachments

Attachment 1 - DAMP Consultation outcomes – July 2021

Attachment 2 - Off Lead Parks and Reserves Maps

## Acronyms

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| AMO   | Animal Management Officer                              |
| AVA   | Australian Veterinary Association                      |
| BCC   | Banyule City Council                                   |
| DAA   | <i>Domestic Animal Act 1994</i>                        |
| DAB   | Domestic Animal Business                               |
| DAMP  | Domestic Animal Management Plan                        |
| DIN's | Domestic Animal Infringement Notices                   |
| FV    | Family Violence  |
| LL's  | Local Laws   |
| MAV   | Municipal Association of Victoria                      |
| NSC   | Nillumbik Shire Council                                |
| NTC   | Notice to Comply                                       |
| RBD   | Restricted Breed Dog                                   |
| RSPCA | Royal Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Animals |
| WAL   | Wandering at Large                                     |
| VDDR  | Victorian Dangerous Dog Register                       |

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Under Section 68A of the **Domestic Animal Act 1994**, (the Act) each Council must, in consultation with the Secretary, prepare a Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) on 4 December 2021 and renew the plan every 4 years thereafter. .

The format and content of a DAMP is set by the State Government in order to ensure consistency across the state of Victoria. As set by the State Government, a DAMP must respond to the following key areas:

- Training of authorised officers
- Programs to promote and encourage responsible ownership
- Programs to address over-population rates and high euthanasia rates.
- Registration and identification
- Nuisance
- Dog attack
- Dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs
- Domestic animal business
- Other matters
- Annual review of plan and annual reporting

Specifically, the following provisions apply to the development of a DAMP:

S68A

*(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 to:*
  - (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 over population 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 the Act and local laws that relate to Council's municipal district with a view to determining whether further orders or local laws dealings 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,*

### **1.1. Statutory Compliance.**

Council is required to provide an animal management service with the aim of ensuring; community amenity and safety is not compromised by domestic animals, that customer requests and complaints are responded to, and that all relevant Acts, Regulations and Local Laws are enforced.

The relevant Acts and Regulations include:

- Domestic Animals Act and Regulations 1994;
- Impounding of Livestock Act 1994;
- Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986;
- Infringements Act 2005;
- Magistrates Court Act 1980;
- Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 1998;
- Local Government Act 1989; and

Council must also have regard for applicable guidelines and standards including:

- Code of Practice for the Management of Animals in Shelters and Pounds;
- Code of Practice for the Operation of Pet Shops;
- Code of Practice for the Operation of Breeding and Rearing Establishments;

- Code of Practice for the Operation of Dog Training Establishments; and
- Code of Practice for the Operation of Greyhound Establishments.

## 1.2. Council Orders, Local Laws, 'and planning scheme requirements.

Council can from time to time, make orders in respect to the management of domestic animals within the Shire under to following circumstances.

### Domestic Animals Act 1994 - Sect 10a

A Council may resolve that it will not register dogs and cats unless desexed

*(1) A Council may resolve that it will not, after a specified future date, register or renew the registration of a dog or cat unless the dog or cat—*

*(a) is desexed; or*

*(b) is exempted under this Act from any requirement to be desexed.*

Council currently has an order made under Section 10A of the Act which requires the mandatory desexing of cats. This order requires cats to be desexed before they can they can be registered.

### Domestic Animals Act 1994 - Sect 26

A Council may resolve that it will prohibit the presence of cats or dogs in certain public places; set conditions regarding the restraint of dogs or cats; set conditions on the times that cats or dogs are not permitted in public places; or any other matter the Council wishes to set conditions on the management of cats or dogs within the municipality.

*(1) If a dog or cat is found in a place in respect of which an order under this section has been made in contravention of that order or any terms and conditions of that order, the owner is guilty of an offence and liable to a penalty of not more than 2 penalty units for a first offence and 4 penalty units for a second or subsequent offence.*

*(2) A Council may by resolution make an order under this section which may do all or any of the following:*

*(a) prohibit the presence of dogs and cats in any public place of the municipal district of the Council;*

*(b) impose all or any of the following conditions on the presence of dogs or cats in any public place of the municipal district of the Council-*

*(i) conditions as to the means of restraint of dogs or cats*

*(ii) conditions as to the times at which the presence of dogs or cats is not permitted;*

*(iii) any other conditions that are specified in the order.*

Council currently has an order made under Section 26 of the Act which requires the following animal management practices:

- 'Cat confinement'. This order requires cats to be confined to their property between 7.30pm and 6:00am.
- 'Dogs in public places'. This order requires dogs to be on leash in all public places, other than in designated areas where dogs are allowed off leash. It also requires owners/carers to ensure they have their dogs:
  - Under effective control at all times.
  - On leash within five 5 metres of playgrounds in pre-schools and childcare centres.
- 'Exclusion of dogs on sporting ovals in Diamond Creek and Hurstbridge'. This order disallows dogs being on any sports field in Diamond Creek and Hurstbridge.

### **Amenity Local Law 2013.**

The Nillumbik Shire Amenity Local Law was adopted in October 2013, and includes the following provisions that relate to domestic animals:

**Clause 23. Collection and disposal of dog excrement**, requires people walking their dogs in public places;

- carry a receptacle to remove excrement.
- collect and dispose appropriately of the excrement.
- Produce receptacles on request by a Community Safety Officer

**Clause 24. Keeping of animals – secure confinement**, requires property owners or occupiers to;

- Ensure all livestock and dogs are adequately contained, and ensuring the site is maintained to prevent nuisances such as odour or attract vermin
- Obtain a permit for more than;
  - two dogs or cats
  - five reptiles or rodents
  - 10 large birds or 25 small birds
  - a rooster or 24 poultry
- Obtain a permit for livestock kept on a property less than 4,000 square meter.

## 26. Dogs prohibited in markets.

*A person not cause or permit any dog in their possession to be present in any land determined by Council by resolution, or by a delegate if this matter is the subject of a delegation, from time to time to be a market for the purpose of this Local Laws, except in accordance with the Guidelines.*

### Nillumbik Planning Scheme

The Nillumbik Planning Scheme (Schedule contains two Special Use Zones, the Heritage Golf and Country Club and Bend of Islands, which serve to conserve these significant areas within Nillumbik Shire Council and include the prohibition of certain animals.

- Heritage Gold and Country Club – it is prohibited to keep cats or dogs and horse ride
- Bend of Islands – it is prohibited to keep domestic pets or livestock

### 1.3. Purpose of Domestic Animal Management Plan.

Nillumbik Shire Council has developed this Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) in accordance with the requirements establish under Section 68A of the **Domestic Animal Act** (The Act) 1994.

The plan builds on Council's 2017 – 2021 Domestic Animals Plan which was adopted in October 2017. Council was successful in completing the outlined actions of the 2017-2021 plan as follows:

- A steady increase of pet registration
- Officer training provided throughout the four 4 years to maintain industry standard skills and knowledge.
- Pet Expos were held in 2017 to 2019. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the Pet Expo was cancelled in 2020.
- Implementation of a Lost and Found webpage
- Legislative agreements (84Y DAA 1994), have been put in place with Yarrambat Veterinary Hospital, Save-A-Dog-Scheme and Cat Protection Society.
- In conjunction with Animal Welfare Victoria Responsible Pet Ownership material has been provided to owners first registering their pets.
- Established a new 3 year contract with Banyule City Council to provide a pound service.
- Transport of un-microchipped pets to Yarrambat Veterinary Hospital for microchipping to enable registration before release as legislatively required.



- An increase of Patrols of reserves and parks have been well received by the community.
- Expected completion by the end of 2021 of a new dog park located at Eltham North

The 2021-2025 DAMP objectives will guide Council in its service to the community by implementing a number of strategies in response to issues raised by the community:

- Encourage statutory compliance and promote responsible pet ownership
- Reduce nuisance caused by cats and dogs.
- Minimise dog attacks.
- Enhance community safety by reducing the number of dogs not under effective control in Councils off lead parks and reserves.
- Review Councils animal management service which include Local Laws provisions and existing Orders made under the Act.
- Increase registration of cats and dogs.
- Ensure authorised officers are appropriately trained to conduct their animal management duties.
- Promote the benefits of desexing cats and dogs.
- Continue to reunite lost and found cats and dogs to their owners when possible.
- Continue to provide assistance to vulnerable community members by caring for their animals free of charge.
- To have a plan in place in case of an emergency.
- Address the overpopulation of unwanted cats and dogs while minimising euthanasia rates.

The care and welfare of pets (dogs/cats), is an important priority and Council works to ensure that no dog or cat is destroyed or harmed and whenever possible all unwanted animals are rehomed.

The plan relates only to the keeping of dogs and cats, as the Act does not address other animals such as livestock or wildlife.

#### **1.4. Process Applied in Developing the Plan.**

The DAMP has been developed in consultation with Nillumbik Shire Councillors and Executive Management Team, Council's Community Safety Officers, relevant internal departments, members of the community and key stakeholders, including local veterinary practices, the Australian Veterinary Association (AVA), Cat Protection Society (CPS), Save a Dog Scheme (SADS), RSPCA and Animal Welfare Victoria.

Community Consultation in the development of this DAMP was conducted in May and June 2021 which focused on broad issues associated with Animal Management. This was carried out via Councils website, signage placed at key locations and pop-ups

displayed at prominent locations. The ten (10) most common community issues identified through the survey were as followed.

- Dog owners not picking up excrement after their pets.
- Dogs off leash when in on-leash areas.
- Cats outside of property at night time after curfew.
- Dogs with owners far away/absent in parks and reserves.
- Dogs barking for long periods of time.
- Cats preying on wildlife.
- Cats causing a nuisance to resident's properties.
- Cats that appear unowned.
- Residents unaware of services the Community Safety Department provides to the community, such as where the pet registration funds are spent each year and the cat trapping program.
- Residents unaware of how to find on and off-leash areas in their community.

These issues along with other related matters will form part of the action plan in the 2021-2025 DAMP.

Attachment 1. Details outcomes of the DAMP community engagement process.

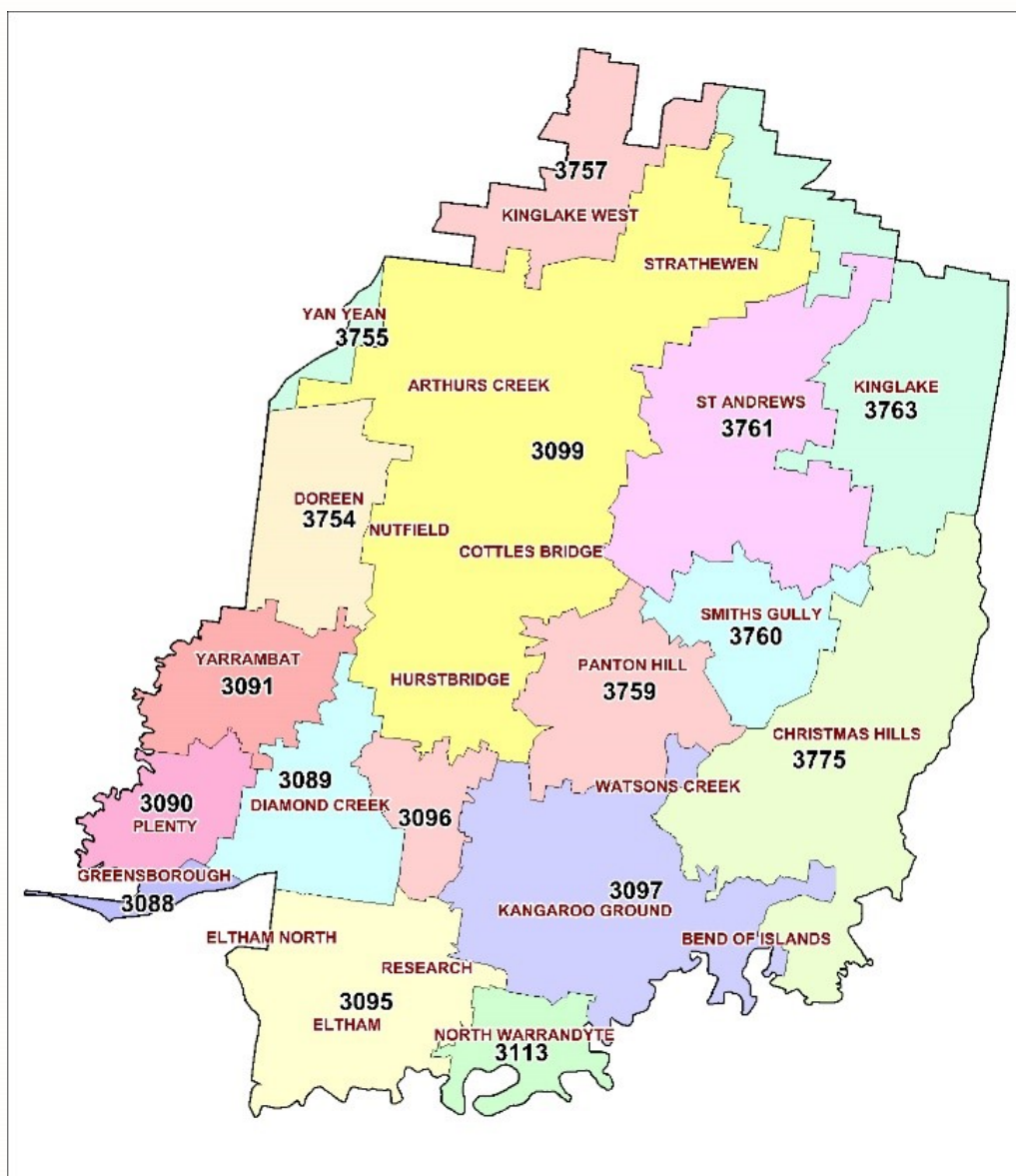
### **1.5. Demographic and Profile of Council.**

Nillumbik Shire is located in Melbourne's north-eastern suburbs, about 25 kilometres from the Melbourne CBD.

The Shire covers 431.94 square kilometres or 43,194 hectares and features both urban and rural areas. Located less than 25 kilometres from the center of Melbourne, the Shire of Nillumbik has the Yarra River as its southern boundary and extends 29 kilometres to Kinglake National Park in the north. The Shire stretches approximately 20 kilometres from the Plenty River and Yan Yean Road in the west, to Christmas Hills and the Yarra escarpment in the east.

Nillumbik Shire services an estimated 65,219 residents in approximately 22,400 properties throughout the suburbs and townships of Eltham, Eltham North, Greensborough, Kangaroo Ground, Hurstbridge, Diamond Creek, Doreen, North Warrandyte, Plenty, Research, Wattle Glen, Yarrambat, Arthurs Creek, Bend of Islands, Christmas Hills, Nutfield, Panton Hill, Smith Gully, St Andrews, Strathewen, Yan Yean and Watsons Creek.

The median age in Nillumbik is 41 years. Children age 0-14 make up 19.7% of the population and people aged 65 years and over make up 13.1% of the population.



### 1.6. Context and Current Situation.

Current services and programs provided by Nillumbik Shire Council align with the ***Domestic Animal Act 1994*** and Council takes an educative approach over enforcement where possible.

Nillumbik Shire Council animal management programs and services currently in place include:

| Program/Service                            | Service Level  |
|--|--|
| NSC Regional Pound (services NSC and BCC). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dogs found wondering at large are displayed on Council's web site.</li> <li>Veterinary care available for any injured/sick dog 7 days a week including public holidays.</li> <li>Welfare care for residents dealing with Family Violence or other hardship.</li> <li>Online payment facility for registration, housing and other associated cost.</li> <li>Dogs taken to owners residents during business hours when dog owner unable to collect.</li> <li>Mandatory registration of animals prior to release from pound.</li> <li>Other animals cared for at pound (rabbits, birds, Guinee pigs.</li> <li>Facility for livestock.</li> </ul> |
| Cat Protection Society.                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cat collection 7 days a week from Cat Protection Society (CPS).</li> <li>Photos of cats available on CPS web site.</li> <li>Mandatory microchipping and registration of cats prior to release from pound.</li> </ul>  |
| Cat Trapping Service.                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cat trapping service available business days.</li> <li>A cat trap deposit is required.</li> </ul>   |
| Annual Pet Registration.                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pet Registration reminders distributed in January</li> <li>Pet Renewals distributed in March.</li> <li>Various payment options including; Online payment, B-Pay, Post Office, Council office.</li> </ul>  |
| Promoting of Responsible Pet Ownership.    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular follow up with shelters and breeders to obtained information of cats and dogs sold.</li> <li>Welcome Packs provided to new pet owners including Responsible Pet Ownership information.</li> </ul>   |
| Pet Expo.                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual event promoting Animal Management. (Cancelled due to COVID 2020).</li> </ul>   |
| After Hours Emergency Service.             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>After hours collection service for dogs found and contained by community members. Hours of collection: <p>Business days 5pm - 10pm.</p> <p>Weekends &amp; Public Holiday 7am - 10pm</p> </li> <li>Found dogs reunited with their owners when applicable or taken to Council's regional pound.</li> </ul>  |

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
|                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pound available to house lost pets 7 days a week, including public holidays.</li> <li>• Officers can attend dog attacks within 45 minutes of call.</li> </ul> |
| Off Leash Parks and Reserves. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 fenced off lead dog parks.</li> <li>• 11 off lead parks/reserves.</li> </ul>  |
| Park Patrols.                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Officer park patrols during business hours and after hours, week-ends and public holidays.</li> </ul>   |
| DAB Inspections.              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual inspections</li> </ul>   |
| Declared Dogs Inspections.    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual inspections</li> </ul>   |

### 1.7. Domestic Animal Statistics.

The figures provided in the tables below are comparative to the commencement of the 2017-2021 DAMP.

#### Animal Management statistics 2017-2021

|                 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020  | 2021-June |
|-----------------|------|------|------|-------|-----------|
| Registered Cats | 2098 | 2328 | 2661 | 2959  | 3133      |
| Registered Dogs | 7369 | 7859 | 8960 | 10041 | 10659     |
| Registered DAB  | 12   | 15   | 14   | 16    | 13        |
| Dangerous Dog   | 2    | 5    | 5    | 5     | 7         |
| Menacing Dog    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 2     | 1         |
| Restricted Dog  | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0     | 0         |
| Impounded Dog   | 248  | 194  | 208  | 115   | 62        |
| Reclaimed Dog   | 218  | 171  | 176  | 100   | 51        |
| Rehoused Dog    | 18   | 12   | 20   | 10    | 9         |
| Seized Dog      | 15   | 6    | 12   | 5     | 1         |
| Surrender Dog   | 8    | 9    | 14   | 6     | 8         |
| Euthanised Dog  | 7    | 8    | 9    | 4     | 2         |
| Welfare Dog     | 7    | 8    | 9    | 4     | 0         |
| Impounded Cat   | 190  | 154  | 203  | 214   | 110       |
| Reclaimed Cat   | 23   | 34   | 32   | 30    | 24        |
| Rehoused Cat    | 127  | 85   | 150  | 143   | 63        |



|                 |    |    |    |    |    |
|-----------------|----|----|----|----|----|
| Seized Cat      | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  |
| Surrendered Cat | 64 | 31 | 63 | 34 | 25 |
| Euthanized Cat  | 38 | 34 | 19 | 41 | 23 |
| Welfare Cat     | 0  | 0  | 0  | 1  | 0  |

Key takeaways from the data above include:

- Council has had an increase of 49.33% of cat registrations and a 44.65% increase of dog registrations in the 4 years of the current DAMP.
- Nillumbik has consistently maintained a zero rate of registered restricted breed dogs.
- Prior to the COVID Pandemic, impoundments of dogs were consistent at about 200/annum.
- There is an upward trend in cat impoundments.
- Council has consistently achieved an average rate of 95% of returned or rehomed dogs.

#### Animal Management service requests 2017-2021

| Additional Data     | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021-June |
|---------------------|------|------|------|------|-----------|
| Cat Cage Request    | 59   | 68   | 73   | 95   | 58        |
| Cats at Large       | 15   | 14   | 156  | 13   | 9         |
| Dog Attacks         | 46   | 63   | 72   | 69   | 34        |
| Dog Rush            | 26   | 27   | 29   | 24   | 5         |
| Dog Wondering       | 12   | 6    | 7    | 16   | 3         |
| Dog Pick up         | 287  | 252  | 314  | 288  | 158       |
| Multiple Permit Cat | 24   | 24   | 17   | 12   | 9         |
| Multiple Permit Dog | 119  | 105  | 98   | 75   | 56        |
| Park Patrols        | N/A  | N/A  | N/A  | 349  | 283       |
| Prosecutions        | 0    | 0    | 4    | 5    | 1         |

The Community Safety team have implemented several proactive programs over the life of the 2017-2021 DAMP, these have included:

- Cat trapping program year on year.
- Improved reporting on park patrols,
- increased frequency of patrols across all of Councils parks and reserves

## 2. STRATEGIC AIMS

Key strategic aims addressed within the DAMP include;

1. To enhance the skills and knowledge of officers and provide the required tools Community Safety Officers to deliver best practice programs and services
2. Promote responsible pet ownership
3. To gain better understanding of dog and cat populations within NSC and redress circumstances of preventable euthanasia.
4. To increase animal registration and compliance.
5. To encourage responsible pet ownership in order to protect the health and welfare of other animals and wildlife and to minimise the potential of nuisance or harm to others
6. To minimise the risk of dog attacks to the community.
7. To ensure that declared dogs are identified and managed to minimise the risk to safety of residents and the broader community
8. To ensure compliance with the Act and the Code of Practice are met.

## 3. TRAINING OF AUTHORISED OFFICERS.

Section 68(A) (2) (b) of the Act, outlines training programs for authorised officers ensuring proper administration and enforcement of the Act within the municipal district.

*Aim: To enhance the knowledge and provide the required tools for all Community Safety Officers to deliver best practice programs and services.*

### 3.1. Context and Current Situation.

Nillumbik Shire Council is committed to ensuring all Community Safety Officers and Administration Support are trained and competent in their duties and provide an effective and professional service to the community.

Officers are required to hold Certificate IV Animal control and Regulation, Certificate IV in Local Government (Regulatory Services) or similar and to be competent in the use of Council systems.

### 3.2. Our Planned Training for Authorised Officers.

A detailed training program ensures officers maintain skills at an industry leading level.

*Industry Related Training.*

| Training   | Frequency  | Evaluation |
|--|------------|------------|
| Animal Handling.   | Annually   |            |
| Animal Assessment.   | Year 1 & 3 |            |
| Canine Anatomy & Identification.   | Year 2 & 4 |            |
| Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources-training & information days. | Annually   |            |

*Good Governance Training.*

| Training                       | Frequency | Evaluation |
|--------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Customer Service.              | Annually  |            |
| Freedom of Information.        | Annually  |            |
| Privacy & Data Protection Act. | Annually  |            |
| Domestic Violence Awareness.   | Annually  |            |

*Occupation Health & Safety related training.*

| Training                                   | Frequency   | Evaluation |
|--|-------------|------------|
| Working in remote area.                    | Annually    |            |
| Situation awareness.                       | Annually    |            |
| Managing difficult situations.             | Annually    |            |
| Dealing with aggressive/difficult persons. | Annually    |            |
| Manual handling.                           | Annually    |            |
| First Aid.                                 | As required |            |

*Technical Skills.*

| Training                          | Frequency               | Evaluation |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|
| Legislation awareness updates.    | Monthly                 |            |
| Statement & Interview Techniques. | Annually                |            |
| Microchipping of Cats & Dogs.     | Initial one of training |            |
| System Training.                  | Ongoing                 |            |

### 3.3. Our Plan.

Council is committed to developing officer skills by identifying training opportunities and enabling attendance to relevant forums, workshops and seminars which provide the necessary skills and qualifications to undertake the duties of animal management officers with confidence and professionalism.

The training will provide well developed technical skills and knowledge required for animal investigations, prosecution and animal handling and behavior. All training will include a strong customer service focus to assist with building and maintaining positive relationships with members of the community and visitors to Nillumbik Shire Council.

## **4. PROMOTION OF RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP.**

### **4.1. Context and Current Situation.**

Promoting responsible pet ownership has always been paramount in the administrative and on-field work by Community Safety Officers. Council's Community Safety and Amenity Support team receive daily updates of sales and adoptions from Breeders and Shelters including owner details and microchip numbers. Information on Responsible Pet Ownership and registration are sent to residents to encourage education and compliance with legislation.

Council has conducted an annual Pet Expo, with the exception of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The aim of the Pet Expo is to promote responsible pet ownership and services and activities available for pets within the Shire and beyond. Residents have the opportunity to engage directly with Community Safety Officers, Shelters, Veterinary specialists and breeders to promote, advocate and assist with Responsible Pet Ownership.

### **4.2. Our Orders, Local Laws, Council Policies and Procedures.**

Currently Nillumbik Shire Council does not have Orders or Local Laws specific to communicating or enforcing the Responsible Pet Ownership message.

However Council does have policies and procedures in place, aimed at improving community understanding of responsible pet ownership, including:

- Registration forms and Welcome Packs to be posted to new pet owners.
- Text message alerts to pet owners advising of up-coming events, registration and Pet Expo.
- Hosting an annual Pet Expo.
- Officers attending to weekly park patrols to provide education to pet owners by scanning dogs for microchip details, check registration, provision of poo bags and dog leashes.

### **4.3. Our Plan.**

Implementation of proactive programs to increase the responsible pet ownership message to the community, including;

- Implementing an educational program in local schools.
- Regularly reviewing the content of Council's website to ensure it is up to date and easy to use.
- Developing short promotional videos distributed on social media and Council's website promoting responsible pet ownership



- Developing content from an animal behaviourist to assist pet owners who's pets have become accustomed to owners spending more time at home during the COVID-19 pandemic and focus on pet anxieties.
- Develop a community toolkit for responding to pets causing a nuisance and
- Develop a community toolkit to educate compliance with legislation.

| Action   | Frequency       | Evaluation |
|--|-----------------|------------|
| Educational programs for responsible pet ownership run by AMOs at parks and reserves within the municipality during business hours, afterhours including weekdays and weekends.                                | Every 6 months  |            |
| Provide information sessions at local community centers, retirement villages, school, sporting grounds and other relevant groups on aspects of responsible pet ownership.                                      | Every 6 months. |            |
| Engage with animal behaviorist to create posts/videos relating to Responsible Pet Ownership and caring for your pet during the transition of family members returning to school/work during COVID-19 pandemic. | Year 1          |            |
| Create social media posts advertising Educational Programs run by AMO's.   | Ongoing         |            |
| Dedicated webpage on Responsible Pet Ownership.  | Year 1          |            |
| Develop a package of tools for the community in responding to pets causing a nuisance  | Year 2          |            |
| Develop a package of tools for the community to educate on compliance with legislation   | Year 2          |            |

## 5. PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS OVER-POPULATION RATES AND HIGH EUTHONIA RATES.

Section 68A (2) (c) (iv) of the Act, outlines programs, services and strategies to address over-population and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats.

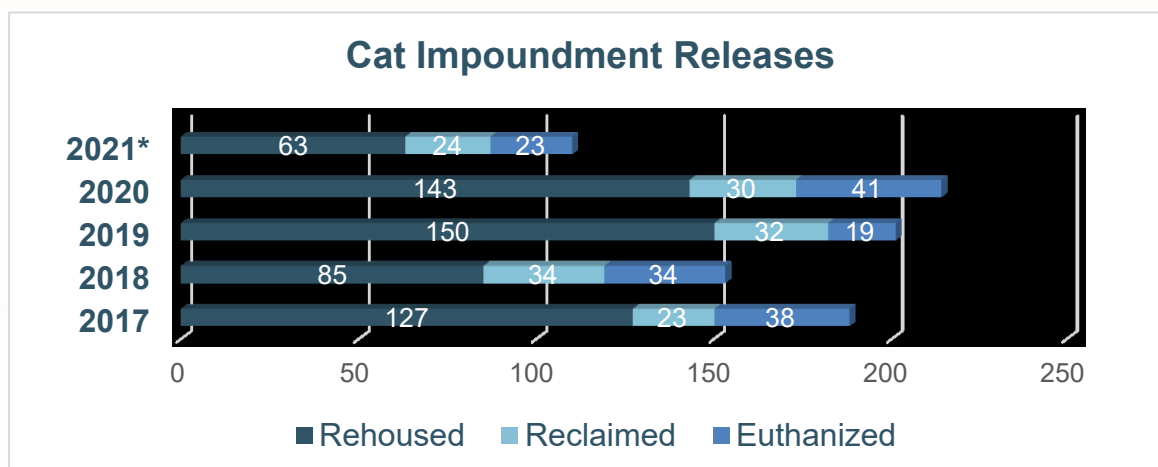
*Aim: To gain better understanding of dog and cat populations within NSC and redress circumstances of preventable euthanasia.*

### 5.1. Context and Current Situation.

Council provides a cat and dog impoundment service in conjunction with the Cat Protection Society (CPS) and the Save a Dog Scheme (SADS). Council's pound service is also provided on behalf of Banyule City Council. Data in relation to the impoundment of Cats and Dogs for the period 2017-2021 is contained below:

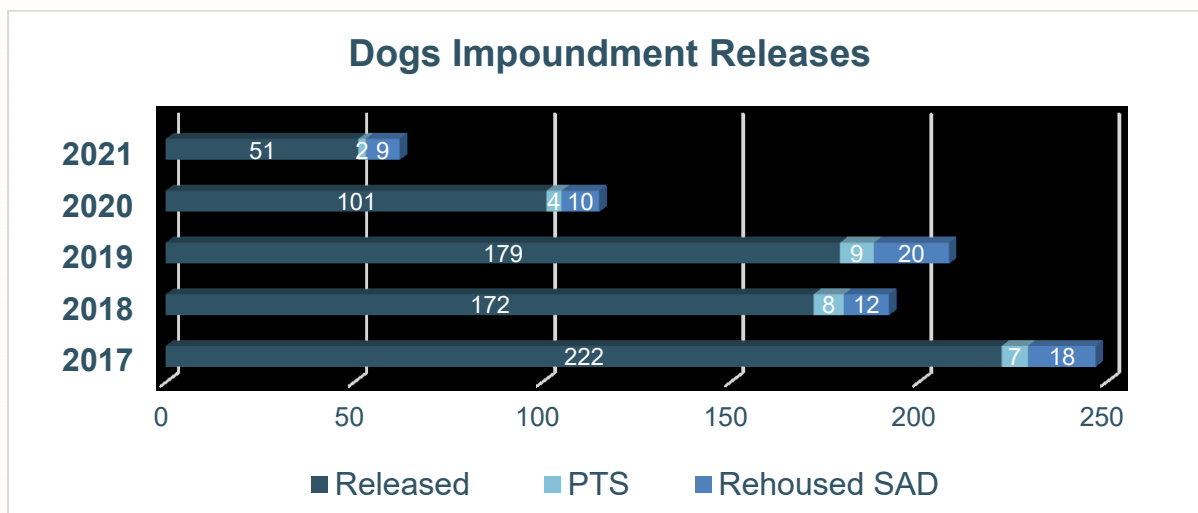
| Cats       | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021-June |
|------------|------|------|------|------|-----------|
| *Impounded | 190  | 154  | 203  | 214  | 110       |
| Reclaimed  | 23   | 34   | 32   | 30   | 24        |
| Rehoused   | 127  | 85   | 150  | 143  | 63        |
| Euthanized | 38   | 34   | 19   | 41   | 23        |

\*Impounded refers to the total number of animals brought in by Council, public (stray animals) and those surrendered by the public.



| Dogs           | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021-June |
|----------------|------|------|------|------|-----------|
| *Impounded Dog | 248  | 194  | 208  | 115  | 62        |
| Reclaimed Dog  | 218  | 171  | 176  | 100  | 51        |
| Rehoused Dog   | 18   | 12   | 20   | 10   | 9         |
| Euthanized Dog | 7    | 8    | 9    | 4    | 2         |

\*Impounded refers to the total number of animals brought in by Council, public (stray animals) and those surrendered by the public.



Whilst the number of dogs that are euthanised within Nillumbik Shire is low, there has been an increase in the number of cats euthanised.

In many cases, euthanasia of both dogs and cats is as a result of not being able to rehome the animal within the community due to temperament problems that pose a risk to the community. In the case of the impoundment of cats the difficulty for Council is the identification of colonies of wild cats which results in cats being trapped and not able to be rehomed due to infections, untreatable disease or deformities and most are deemed wild.

## 5.2. Our Orders, Local Laws, Council Policies and Procedures.

- Orders in place, relevant to over population and euthanasia are; Section 10A Order in Council - 'Mandatory Desexing of Cats'.
- Section 26 Order in Council 15 - 'Cat Confinement'.

Provision Part 5, Clause 24(c) of the Amenity Local Law 2013 addresses multiple animal ownership:

Policies and procedures in place, relevant to over population and euthanasia are;

- Documented process for seizure and impounding of dogs after a dog attack.
- Documented process for issuing of notice to comply, infringement notices and filling charges for prosecutions.
- Standard operating operation procedure for cat trapping.
- Statutory process for managing a Notice of Objection.

### 5.3. Our Plan.

A strong focus for Council is the collaboration with Cat Protection Society and Save a Dog Scheme to assist in the rehoming of unwanted domestic animals. Actions within the Plan focus on the reduction of euthanasia rates and promote rehousing of unwanted domestic animals.

*Reduce the number of impounded animals that are euthanised.*

| Action  | Frequency | Evaluation |
|---|-----------|------------|
| Update council Lost and Found webpage with photographs of found cats and dogs.  | Ongoing   |            |
| Raise awareness of the benefits of microchipping and desexing pets to reduce the number of stray animals and increase reunification rate. | Ongoing   |            |
| Promote dog and cat owners keeping microchip details up to date to ensure animals are reunited if lost.                                   | Yearly    |            |

*Promote rehousing and adoption of unwanted domestic pets.*

| Action   | Frequency | Evaluation |
|--|-----------|------------|
| Reducing the number of dumped and unwanted dogs and cats by encouraging the surrendering of domestic pets and arranging for adoption through SADS and CPS. | Ongoing   |            |
| Establish a service agreement with SADS  | Year 1    |            |

## 6. REGISTRATION AND IDENTIFICATION.

Section 68A (2) (c) (v) of the Act, outlines programs, services and strategies to encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats.

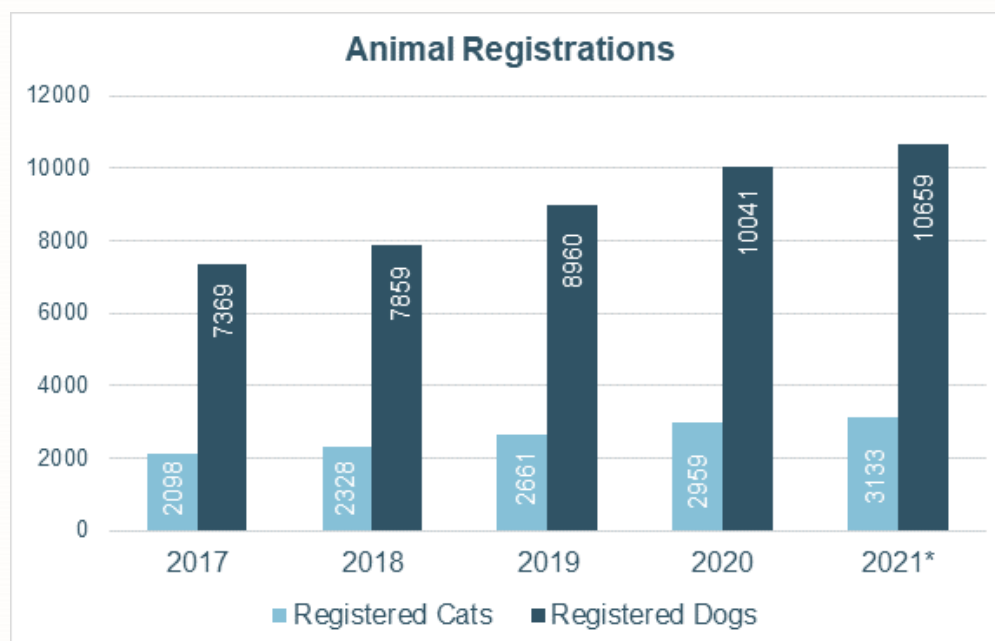
In accordance to section 68A (2) (a), (c) (i), (c) (ii), (d), (f) - All dogs and cats are required to be registered annually. Registered pets are also required to wear an identification marker outside their premises. All dogs and cats being registered in Victoria for the first time must be microchipped before they can be registered.

*Aim: To increase animal registration and compliance.*

### 6.1. Context and Current Situation.

Nillumbik Shire Council has recorded a continued trend toward improved rates of animal registration and increased levels of pet ownership within the Shire during the term of the current DAMP 2017-2021.

| Annual Registrations | 2017 | 2018  | 2019  | 2020  | 2021-June |
|----------------------|------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|
| Registered Cats      | 2098 | 2328  | 2661  | 2959  | 3133      |
| Registered Dogs      | 7369 | 7859  | 8960  | 10041 | 10659     |
| Total                | 9467 | 10187 | 11621 | 13000 | 13792     |





Specifically, we have seen the following key trends:

- Cat registrations have increased by 49.33%
- Dog registration have increased by 44.65%
- Overall domestic animal registrations have increased by 45.69%

The registration and identification of dogs and cats remains an ongoing priority issue for NSC. Animal registrations enable officers to reunite lost and found animals with their owners in a short period of time, it also assists in the provision of education programs, the pet expo, regular patrols of parks and reserves, and to attend local schools, sporting clubs and other groups to provide education on animal safety and responsible pet ownership.

## **6.2. Our Orders, Local Laws, Council Policies and Procedures.**

Orders relevant to registration and identification include:

- Section 10A Order in Council - 'Mandatory Desexing of Cats'.
- Section 26 Order in Council 15 - 'Cat Confinement'.

Provision Part 5 clause 24(c) of the Amenity Local Law 2013 addresses registration and identification of pets within NSC Policies and procedures relevant to registration and identification include;

- Annual review of registration/renewal information and amended accordingly.
- Animal Registration fees are prepared and adopted as per Councils annual budget process.
- Text message reminders to pet owners listed on Council's database sent in January and again a week before registration are due on the 10 April of each year.
- Registration renewals issued each February.
- Registration reminders issued each May.
- Registration renewal payment options include; on line payment, Post BillPay, Bpay, Mail or in Person.
- Follow up of unregistered dogs and cats.
- Enforcement via notices to comply, infringement notices and filing charges for prosecution where dogs/cats have not been registered or renewed.

## **6.3. Our Plan.**

Ensuring all cats and dogs within the municipality are registered is an ongoing challenge. It has been identified that a range of promotional, education and regulatory actions are needed to achieve and maintain high registration rates.

A strong emphasis will be placed on social media campaigns to increase pet registrations. Community Safety officers will be actively engaged in promoting registrations of cats and dogs by maintaining a visible presence in parks and reserves, providing education and enforcement to encourage registration and renewals of pets.

*Improve registrations for renewals.*

| Activity   | Frequency                  | Evaluation |
|--|----------------------------|------------|
| Registration reminder text sent out.   | Annually - January & April |            |
| Mail out registrations, due April 10.  | Annually - March           |            |
| Send out registration reminders to owners who have failed to apply for registration 2 months after final due date. | Annually - June            |            |
| Investigate registration cost for juvenile (under 12 months), not desexed dogs and cats                            | Year 1                     |            |

*Improve responsible pet ownership & education in relation to registration requirements.*

| Activity  | Frequency                 | Evaluation |
|---|---------------------------|------------|
| Implement 2 free microchipping days including free first time registration.   | Annually - January & July |            |
| Increase patrols in parks and reserves.   | Weekly over four years    |            |
| Support local veterinary practices to promote registration by referring clients to council web site as well as hard copies.                     | Ongoing                   |            |
| Attend education days at schools, sporting clubs and other community organizations.   | Yearly                    |            |
| Develop communication plan incorporating social strategies to engage with hard to reach community members to promote registration requirements. | Year 1 & 3                |            |

*Follow up enforcement actions.*

| Activity   | Frequency | Evaluation |
|--|-----------|------------|
| Ensure all seized, impounded animals are registered before leaving the pound.                  | Ongoing   |            |
| Infringement Notices to be issued within seven 7 days of a dog/cat found not to be registered. | Ongoing   |            |

## 7. NUISANCE.

Section 68A (2) (c) (IV) and 68A (2) (a), (c) (i), (d), (f) of the Act, outlines programs, services and strategies to minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance.

Section 32 of the Act outlines what is regarded as a nuisance in relation to the behavior of cats and dogs.

*(2) A dog or cat is to be regarded as a nuisance for the purposes of this section—*

*(a) if it injures or endangers the health of any person; or*

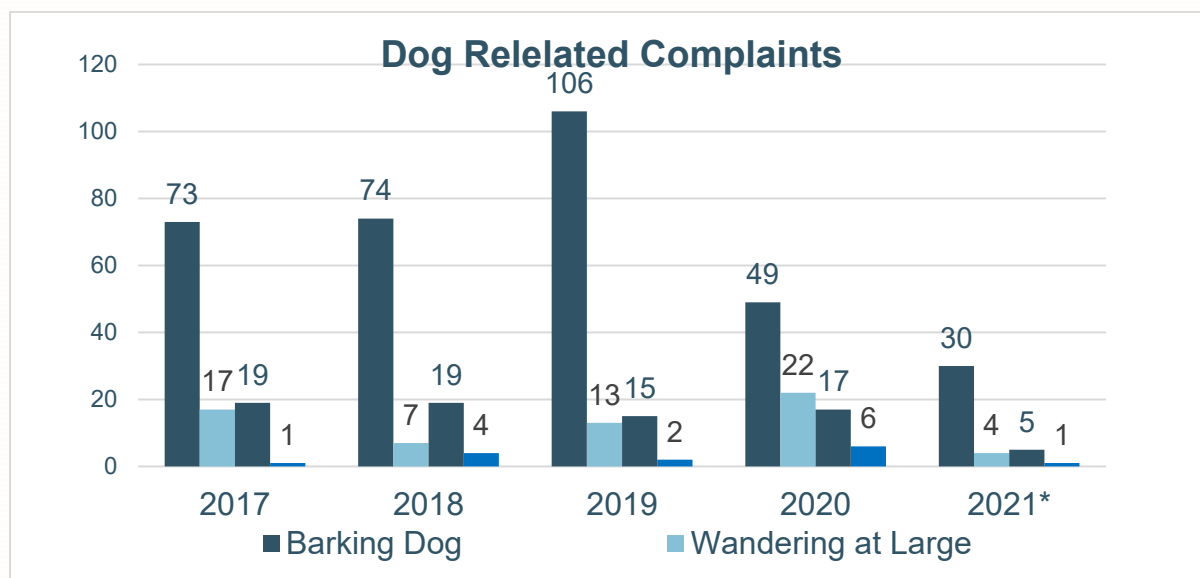
*(b) if it creates a noise, by barking or otherwise, which persistently occurs or continues to such a degree or extent that it unreasonably interferes with the peace, comfort or convenience of any person in any other premises.*

*Aim: To encourage responsible pet ownership in order to protect the health and welfare of other animals and wildlife and to minimise the potential of nuisance or harm to others.*

### 7.1. Context and Current Situation.

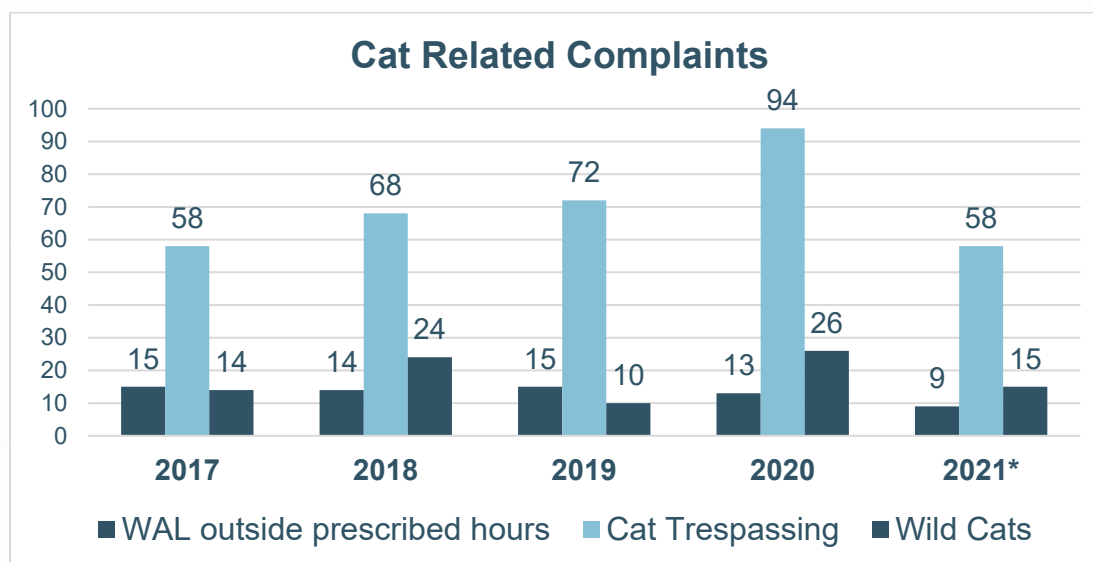
In Nillumbik Shire Council it is noted that the most common nuisances caused by dogs, vary from wandering at large, not under effective control in public, excrement not collected by their owners and barking dogs

| Complaint Received          | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021-June |
|-----------------------------|------|------|------|------|-----------|
| Barking Dog                 | 73   | 74   | 106  | 49   | 30        |
| Wandering at Large          | 17   | 7    | 13   | 22   | 4         |
| Not under effective control | 19   | 19   | 15   | 17   | 5         |
| Excrement on public places  | 1    | 4    | 2    | 6    | 1         |



In Nillumbik Shire Council it is noted the most common nuisances related to cats include, wandering at large outside prescribed hours, cat trespassing and wild cats

| Complaint Received           | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021-June |
|------------------------------|------|------|------|------|-----------|
| WAL outside prescribed hours | 15   | 14   | 15   | 13   | 9         |
| Cat trespassing              | 58   | 68   | 72   | 94   | 58        |
| Wild Cats                    | 14   | 24   | 10   | 26   | 15        |





The statistics show that Cat owners need further education and encouragement to contain their cats to their properties.

Roaming cats can attack and kill native wildlife, wander onto neighbour's property, cause damage to garden beds by defecating, create health concerns in children's sandpits, cause undue noise due to fighting with owned or stray cats, call and cry when seeking a mate, spray on front doors, mats and other areas.

It is an offence under the DAA for a cat to remain on private property without permission

To assist with addressing this need, Nillumbik Shire Council has a cat curfew established under s26 of the Act. The curfew requires cats to be confined to their owner's premises between 7:30am and 6:00am, however cats found roaming the streets during the day (non-curfew hours) can still be trapped if a resident objects to the cat being on their property.

The majority of survey and quick poll participants were supportive of the proposal for a 24-hour cat curfew in Nillumbik, although mixed views were evident: just over half of participants indicated strong support (260 or 50.8%) and a further 80 (or 15.6%) indicated somewhat support (but they had some concerns). 60.0% of Quick poll participants indicated Support for the proposal.

**The level of support for the proposal for a 24-hour cat curfew varied across areas (suburb, township and village):** stronger levels of support were evident for: Bend of Islands, Christmas Hills, Cottles Bridge, Hurstbridge, North Warrandyte, Research, Smiths Gully and St Andrews. These insights are based on low response levels for many areas and should be regarded indicative and not conclusive.

## 7.2. Our Orders, Local Laws, Council Policies and Procedures.

Orders relevant to nuisance animals include:

- Section 10A Order in Council - 'Mandatory Desexing of Cats'.
- Section 26 Order in Council 15 - 'Cat Confinement'.
- Section 26 Order in Council - 'Dogs in public places.'
- Section 26 Order in Council - 'Exclusion of dogs on sporting ovals in Diamond Creek and Hurstbridge.

Relevant provisions of the Amenity Local Law 2013 are:

- Section 23. (a), (b) and (c) - Collection and disposal of dog excrement.
- Section 24. (a), (c) and (d) – Keeping of animals secured-secured confinement.
- Section 26. Dogs Prohibited in markets.

Policies and procedures relevant to nuisance animals include:

- Animal Management processes and procedures are in place to ensure a consistent approach to animal management issues.
- Review of barking dog procedures to further enhance and provide officers the tools to provide a timely investigation.
- The availability of cat trapping cages to residents on a weekly basis to trap cats trespassing during the current curfew.

### 7.3. Our Plan.

Nuisance animals can have a serious negative effect on the amenity and peaceful enjoyment of property and enjoyment to residents. Noise issues in particular can cause sleep deprivation, stress, domestic issues and disputes between neighbours.

Other nuisances such as animals wandering at large and excrement not being collected, prevent members of the community and visitors to Nillumbik from enjoying our parks, reserves and leafy streets. A visible presence of officers conducting mobile patrols within suburban streets and foot patrols throughout Councils reserves and parks will be a key focus in the next four years with officers enforcing breaches of Council current Orders and Local Laws.

#### **Actions in relation to the management of dogs.**

*Minimise the number of barking dog's complaint.*

| Activity   | Frequency      | Evaluation |
|--|----------------|------------|
| Regular review of Council process and update accordingly.  | Half yearly    |            |
| Review and expand Sec 26 Order in Council - 'Exclusion of dogs on sporting ovals in Diamond Creek and Hurstbridge, to include all sporting ovals within NSC. | Year 1         |            |
| Review Council Local Laws to implement new provision relating to barking dogs.   | Year 1         |            |
| Engage with animal behaviorist to create posts/videos relating to Barking Dogs and tools a dog owner can utilise to stop the dog from barking.               | Year , 2,3 & 4 |            |
| Implement industry approved device to provide a more   | Ongoing        |            |

|  |         |  |
|--|---------|--|
| effective/partial investigation of barking dogs.   |         |  |
| Provide on-going training for authorised officers in management of barking dog complaints. | Ongoing |  |
| Engage with Dispute Settlement Centre.   | Ongoing |  |

*Minimise the number of complaints received in relation to dogs wondering at large.*

| Activity   | Frequency | Evaluation |
|--|-----------|------------|
| Continue to identify and patrol known hotspots.                                | Ongoing   |            |
| Attend to WAL reports within 40 minutes during business hours.                 | Ongoing   |            |
| Return dogs to owner if first offence with written warning notice.             | Ongoing   |            |
| Dogs found WAL with history to be impounded and an infringement notice issued. | ongoing   |            |

*Minimise the number of complaints of dogs not under effective control in public places.*

| Activity  | Frequency | Evaluation |
|---|-----------|------------|
| Continue to patrol parks and reserves during business hours, after hours as well as weekends and public holidays. | Ongoing   |            |
| Review signage at parks and reserves.   | Year 2    |            |
| Utilise Council social media with reminders of responsible pet ownership.   | Ongoing   |            |

*Minimise the excrement left on roads, footpaths and reserves.*

| Activity   | Frequency  | Evaluation |
|--|------------|------------|
| Investigate the installation of poo bags and devices.                | Year 1     |            |
| Collaborate with neighbouring Councils on alternative options (other | Year 1 & 3 |            |

|   |         |  |
|---|---------|--|
| than Council provided poo bags).  |         |  |
| Increased frequency of monitoring and patrol of known hotspots where dog excrement is commonly found. | Ongoing |  |
| Officers to issue infringement notices to known offending dog owners.                                 | Ongoing |  |

### **Actions in relation to the management of cats.**

*Wondering at large outside prescribed hours to minimise cat trespassing.*

| <b>Activity</b>   | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Evaluation</b> |
|---|------------------|-------------------|
| Investigate and develop a strategy and Policy for a 24 hour curfew for cats.  | Year 1           |                   |
| Provide education material relating to cat enclosures and nuisance issues to cat owners.  | Year 2           |                   |
| Undertake an extensive marketing and media campaign based on responsible pet ownership and importance of securing cats within their yards or registered property. | Year 1,2 & 4     |                   |

### *Minimise Wild Cat population*

| <b>Activity</b>   | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Evaluation</b> |
|---|------------------|-------------------|
| Provide cat trapping programs focusing on clusters of wild cats.            | Yearly           |                   |
| Educate well-meaning community members on the harms of feeding random cats. | Ongoing          |                   |

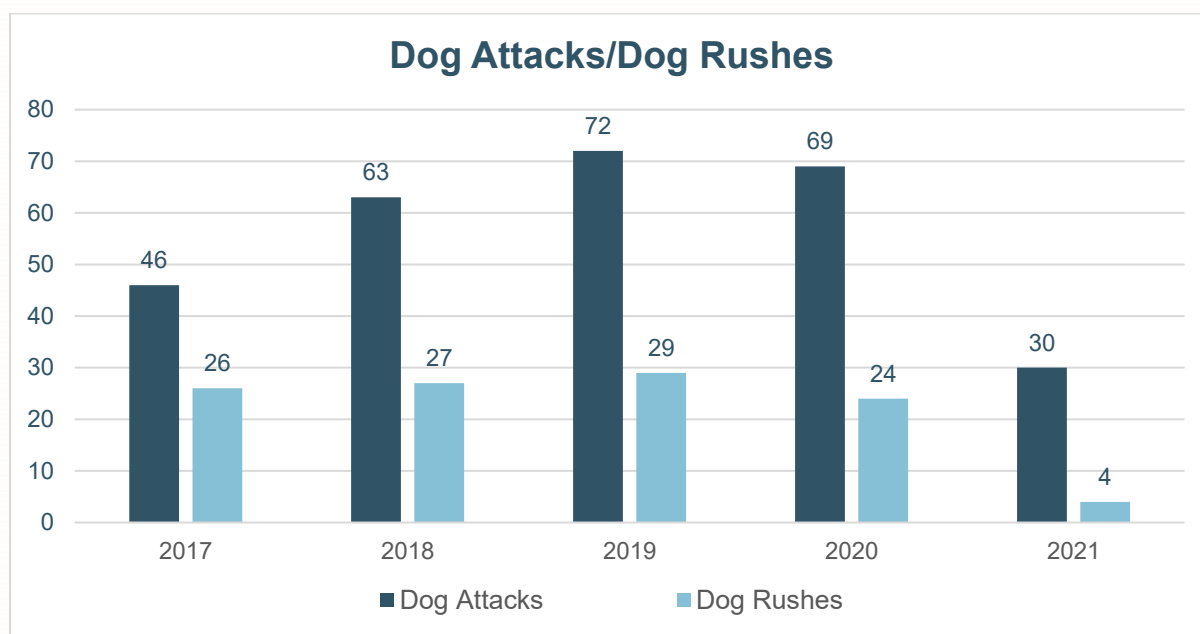
## 8. DOG ATTACK.

Section 68A (2) (c) (iii) of the Act, outlines programs, services and strategies to minimise the risk of attacks by dogs on animals and people.

*Aim: To minimise the risk of dog attacks to the community.*

### 8.1. Context and Current Situation.

Council receives a relatively low rate of reported dog attacks and dog rushes within the Shire.



The majority of dog attacks occur when the attacking dog is wandering at large or not securely confined to their property. Reducing risk and responding to attacks and rushes is one of core roles of an Animal Management officers.

### 8.2. Our Orders, Local Laws, Council Policies and Procedures.

Orders relevant to dog attacks and rushes include:

- Section 26 Order in Council - 'Dogs in public places.'
- Section 26 Order in Council - 'Exclusion of dogs on sporting ovals in Diamond Creek and Hurstbridge.'

Provisions of the Amenity Local Law 2013 relevant to dog attacks and rushes include:

- Section 24. (a), (c) and (d) – Keeping of animals secured-secured confinement.
- Section 26. Dogs Prohibited in markets.

Policies and procedures in place relevant to dog attacks and rushes include:

- Investigations of dogs serious and non-serious dog attacks.
- Investigations of dog rushes.
- Prosecutions of serious dog attacks.
- Capture of wandering dogs.
- Collection of abandoned or injures animals.
- Animal Handling.
- Regular patrols of parks, reserves and street.
- Recording all declared dogs on the Victorian Dog Registry.
- Process relating to seizure documents (s.75 DAA).
- Serving notices of seizure (s.84H DAA).
- Process for owners when recovering a dog that has been seized ( s.84M DAA)
- Process with the seizure of a dog and impounding after a dog attack.
- Warning and Infringement Notices.
- Declaration of dogs – Menacing or Dangerous
- Seeking an order for destruction of dog/s.

### 8.3. Our Plan.

A key tool to reducing the frequency of dog attacks and dog rushes within the Shire, is increasing awareness within the community. Including Councils role in managing events of this nature, making it easier for the community members to report events to Council and increasing the presence of Community Safety officers within Councils parks and reserves.

While also educating pet owners of the importance of keeping their dog under effective control.

*Increase the reporting of dog attacks in the community.*

| Activity   | Frequency          | Evaluation |
|--|--------------------|------------|
| Improve public awareness of what a dog attack is and how to report it. | Yearly and ongoing |            |

*Improved community awareness of dog attacks and dog rushes*



| Activity  | How Often    | Evaluation |
|---|--------------|------------|
| Set park patrol targets.  | Ongoing      |            |
| Publicise key dog attack prevention messages through media articles, mail outs, website information | Year 1 and 3 |            |

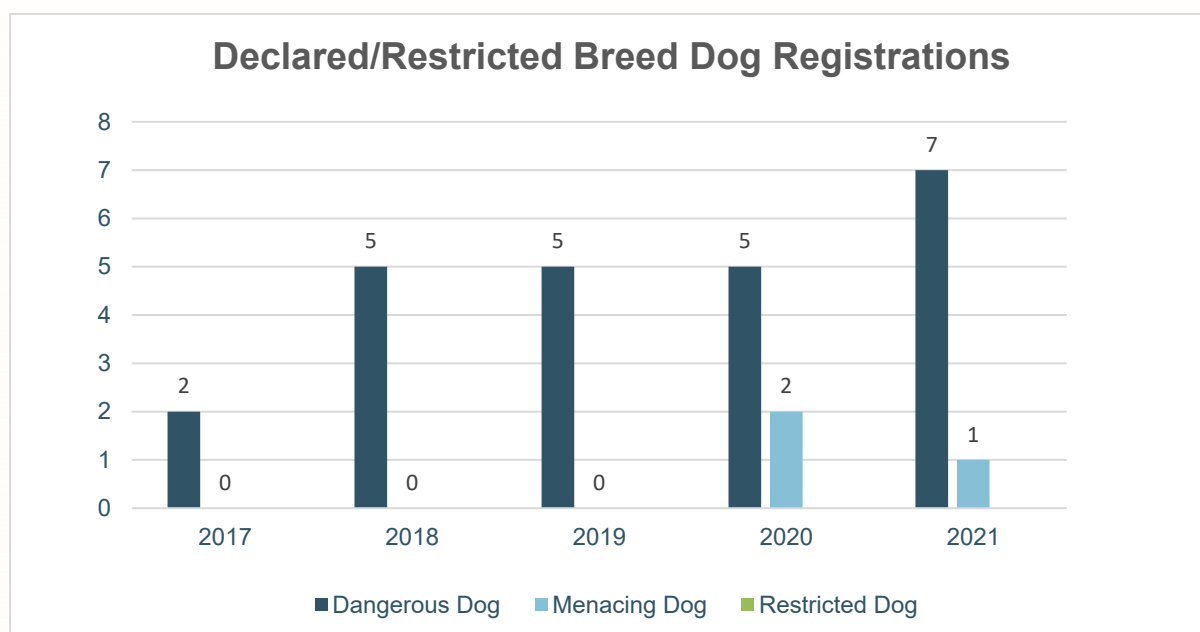
## 9. DANGEROUS, MENACING AND RESTRICTED BREED DOGS.

Section 68A(2)(c)(vii) of the Act, outlines programs, services and strategies to effectively identify all dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs.

*Aim: To ensure that declared dogs are identified and managed to minimise the risk to safety of residents and the broader community.*

### 9.1. Context and Current Situations.

There has been consistently low numbers of declared dangerous, menacing or restricted breed dogs registered within Nillumbik,



### 9.2. Our Orders, Local Laws, Council Policies and Procedures.

Council has made no Orders or Local Laws specific to Dangerous, Menacing and Restricted Breed dogs.

Policies and procedures relevant to dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs include:

- Statutory procedure for the declaration of dogs. (Statutory requirement to declare dogs)
- Statutory requirement to provide details of declared dogs to the VDDR (Section 44AE DAA 1994).
- Statutory requirement to provide details to VDDR of dogs destroyed in relation to DAA 1994.

- Procedure associated with the seizure and impounding of declared dogs.

### 9.3. Our Plan.

There are currently a low number of declared dogs within Nillumbik Shire Council. Council will continue focus on, maintaining communication with declared dog owners, unscheduled inspections of properties and keep abreast of legislation changes relating to restricted breeds, declared dangerous and menacing dogs.

*Ensure all dogs are kept in accordance with the Act and Regulations.*

| Activity  | Frequency         | Evaluation |
|---|-------------------|------------|
| Maintain regular contact with owners of declared dogs ensuring owners are aware of their responsibilities and penalties for non-compliance. | Every 6 months.   |            |
| All dogs which remain unregistered after 10 April each year are to be investigated for possible breaches of legislation                     | Yearly - June     |            |
| Undertake property inspections of all properties housing declared dogs to ensure compliance.  | Yearly - February |            |

*Accurate identification of restricted breed dogs.*

| Activity  | Frequency                | Evaluation |
|---|--------------------------|------------|
| Officers to ensure appropriate standards are applied in accordance with the DDA 1994. | Ongoing                  |            |
| Victorian Declared Dog Registry to be updated by Senior Officer.                      | Yearly - July & February |            |

## 10. DOMESTIC ANIMAL BUSINESS.

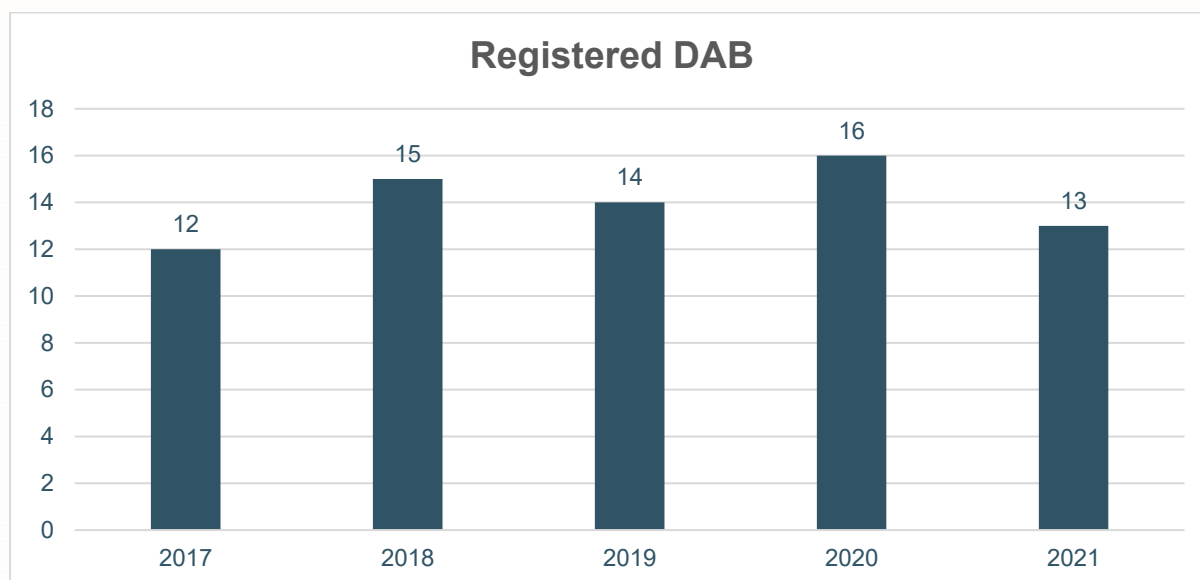
Section 68A (2)(c) (ii) of the Act, outlines the programs, services and strategies which Council intends to pursue to ensure the Domestic Animal Business (DAB) comply with the Act, regulations and relevant Codes of Practice.

*Aim: To ensure compliance with the Act and the Code of Practice are met.*

### 10.1. Context and Current Situation.

There are currently 13 Domestic Animal Business (DAB'S) consisting of:

- 8 Boarding establishments.
- 1 Training establishments.
- 2 Pet Shops
- 2 Shelter and Pounds



Over the last four years Council has undertaken unannounced annual audits of all registered Domestic Animal Businesses to ensure compliance with legislation and relevant Code of Practice. During this time the audits have highlighted some minor noncompliance issues which have been quickly rectified.

### 10.2. Our Orders, Local Laws, Council Policies and Procedures.

Council has made no Orders or Local Laws specific to Domestic Animal Business.

Policies and procedures relevant to Domestic Animal businesses include:

- Registration of Domestic Animal Businesses.
- Periodical auditing of all Domestic Animal Business
- Retention of standard sheets are to be maintained in Councils record management system.
- All new business are subject to planning approval and inspection before registration.
- Noncompliance and reports of cruelty are investigated accordingly.

### 10.3. Our Plan.

Council officers will continue to conduct audits and identify noncompliant or new DAB's within the Shire. While also engaging with business proprietors to provide education and relevant updates and changes to legislation.

*Identify and register all DAB's within the Shire.*

| Activity  | How Often   | Evaluation |
|---|---|------------|
| Officers to regularly check Social Media sites for unregistered DABs. | Annually<br>January/February                                    |            |
| Officers to conduct mobile patrols of known areas where DAB's set up. | Throughout the year   |            |
| Senior AMO to arrange annual inspections of DAB's                     | Annually – to be completed before registration is due April 10. |            |

## 11. COUNCIL REGIONAL POUND

Nillumbik Shire Council Regional Pound is Council owned and operated facility caring for lost, stray and, unowned domestic animals found within Nillumbik or Banyule City Council. The pound provides caring for dogs free of charge for up to ten-days or longer if required by community members facing family violence, or other hardship.

Historically Council has seen a relatively consistent level of impoundments, however 2020 and 2021 have seen decreased impoundments, generally as a reflection of reduced dogs at large during the COVID-19 pandemic.

| Impoundments   | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021-June |
|----------------|------|------|------|------|-----------|
| Impounded Dog  | 248  | 194  | 208  | 115  | 62        |
| Reclaimed Dog  | 218  | 171  | 176  | 100  | 51        |
| Rehoused Dog   | 18   | 12   | 20   | 10   | 9         |
| Seized Dog     | 15   | 6    | 12   | 5    | 2         |
| Surrender Dog  | 8    | 9    | 14   | 6    | 8         |
| Euthanized Dog | 7    | 8    | 9    | 4    | 2         |
| Welfare Dog    | 7    | 8    | 9    | 4    | 2         |

The pound is attended by staff, 7 days a week including weekends and public holidays. However, in order to maintain a safe and secure facility for impounded animals and staff, the pound is not open to the public.

Registration and other associated payments are able to be made on line with officers meeting dog owners at NSC civic centre offices or if required taken to the dog's home at an agreed time.

Unclaimed dogs after 8 days are assessed and rehomed by SADS. Council provides a monetary donation for every dog which is rehomed with SADS.

### 11.1. Our Policies and Procedures.

Council ensures it complies with all requirements of the Code of Practice for the Management of Dogs and Cats in Shelters and Pounds.

### 11.2. Our Plan

Nillumbik Shire Council Regional Pound will continue to provide a shelter for lost and found dogs, surrendered animals, seized dogs and dogs requiring immediate care due to family violence, illness and other emergency situations.

Community Safety officers and Pound staff will:



- Promote responsible pet ownership and maintain a continuous campaign to educate the general public.
- Staff will continue to be trained in matters relating to animal health and welfare.

Council's pound is compliant with the Code of Practice, however the building structure is old and security is a major concern for both staff and animals. As such a current review is underway to ensure the infrastructure can continue to protect the physical and emotional needs of animals and staff.

Items under review include;

- Ventilation and outdoor space.
- Outdoor exercise area.
- Medical treatment rooms.
- Isolation space for sick animals.
- Pen up-grade.
- Safe vehicle entrance.
- Secure reception area for the collection of animals.

Upgrades to the pound will ensure that both the facility and the operations meet community expectations in terms of animal management and welfare.

## **12. ANNUAL REVIEW OF PLAN AND ANNUAL REPORTING.**

Council is required to review this plan pursuant to Section 68A of the Act. The intent behind the review process is to ensure that the plan responds to current issues and opportunities over the four year period.

The annual review process evaluates whether the services provided are suitable.