



# **Animal Management Plan 2020 - 2025**



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

With some 220 kms of the River Murray flowing through the region, along with ancient cliffs and thriving farmland, Mid Murray Council is a diverse and picturesque landscape. The Council area comprises land within regions generally known as the Murraylands, Riverland and the eastern slopes of the Mount Lofty Ranges. The Mid Murray Council covers an area of 6,273 square kilometres. Mid Murray Council shares boundaries with eight other South Australian Councils plus the Outback Areas Community Development Trust. These are the Rural City of Murray Bridge, The Barossa Council, Regional Council of Goyder, Light Regional Council, Adelaide Hills Council, District Council of Mount Barker, District Council of Loxton Waikerie and District Council of Karoonda East Murray.

This Animal Management Plan has been prepared by Mid Murray Council with the support of community representatives through the Animal Management Plan Reference Group, to provide a planned approach to undertaking its responsibilities pursuant to the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 (the Act). Consultation has also been undertaken with the wider community to provide an opportunity for their input into the preparation of the Plan.

The Act provides the framework for the management of dogs and cats in the community. Its purpose is to:

- Encourage responsible dog and cat ownership;
- Reduce public and environmental nuisance caused by dogs and cats; and
- Promote the effective management of dogs and cats.

Mid Murray Council is responsible for implementation of the Act within the Council area, in accordance with Section 26A of the Act. Council is required to prepare a management plan relating to dogs and cats within their local area and review and update this plan every 5 years.

Section 26A – Plans of management relating to dogs and cats, states;

- Each Council must, in accordance with this section, prepare a plan relating to the management of dogs and cats within its area.
- A plan of management must include provisions for parks where dogs may be exercised. Off leash and for parks where dogs must be under effective control by means of physical restraint and may include provisions for parks where dogs are prohibited.
- A plan of management must cover 5-year periods and each plan must be prepared and presented to the Board at least 6 months before it is to take effect.
- A plan of management must be approved by the Board before it takes effect.
- A Council may, with the approval of the Board, amend a plan of management at any time during the course of the 5-year period covered by the plan.

This Plan will guide Council with animal management over the next 5 years (2020 – 2025) and aims to achieve the following five strategies in relation to dog and cat priorities. Council will work towards:

1. Promote the community benefits of pet ownership
2. Create a sustainable pet friendly environment
3. Provide a strong regulatory framework
4. Encourage good animal behaviour
5. Encourage lifetime identification.

This new Plan provides Council with the opportunity to address animal management at a strategic level and implement initiatives to address the legislative changes to the Act.

### 1.2 MISSION STATEMENT

Council commits to maintain a balance between competing interests in the community, and to address animal management while promoting responsible ownership of dogs and cats, and the benefits of animal companionship focusing on the legitimate needs of pets and their owners while respecting the rights of other members of the community and protecting the environment.

## 2. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT TO THE PLAN

This section provides context in relation to strategic direction, legislation and reforms, financial considerations and a summary of Council's dog and cat data and existing services.

### 2.1 STRATEGIC LINK

The Animal Management Plan will also contribute to achieving the vision in the Mid Murray Council Community Plan 2016-2020 and Council's Open Space, Recreation and Public Realm Plan. Council's Community Plan 2016-2020 places a strong focus on 'balancing environmental protection and management with growth and development' and Council's Open Space, Recreation and Public Realm Plan incorporates strategies for increasing options for connecting people to nature through activities.

### 2.2 LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

In 2017 and 2018, significant changes were made to the Dog and Cat Management Act, in an effort to reduce the number of unowned dogs and cats being euthanised. These changes included the provisions of mandatory microchipping and desexing of all dogs and cats.

In July 2018, a new Statewide registration system was introduced by the State Government of South Australia known as Dogs and Cats Online (DACO). This system replaced the previously inconsistent registration system each Council across the State maintained annually.

Facilitated by the Dog and Cat Management Board of South Australia, the DACO system holds the details of all dogs and cats registered or microchipped within South Australia. All registration renewals are issued via this system and are no longer undertaken by local Councils.

Owners of dogs and cats are required to access the system to:

- Renew current registrations
- Register a new dog
- Update their details should they move, including changing contact numbers
- Update the details of their dog or cat including microchip details
- Notifying if their dog or cat is lost or deceased.

### 2.3 REQUIREMENTS AND LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

| REQUIREMENT  | LEGISLATIVE INSTRUMENT  |
|--|---|
| Mandatory desexing of dogs and cats born after July 1st 2018               | Dog and Cat Management Act, 1995                                      |
| Mandatory microchipping of all cats and dogs                               | Dog and Cat Management Act, 1995                                      |
| Registration of all dogs   | Dog and Cat Management Act, 1995                                      |
| New rules for breeders who can sell cats and dogs                          | Dog and Cat Management Act, 1995                                      |
| Introduction of Statewide registration system, Dogs and Cats Online (DACO) | Dog and Cat Management Act, 1995                                      |
| Exercising dogs in public places including playgrounds and Council land    | Dog and Cat Management Act, 1995 and Council's Dog By-law No. 5, 2018 |
| Limit of dogs/cats to be kept per property without permission of Council   | Council's Dog By-law 5, 2018  |

Pursuant to the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995, all dogs in the Mid Murray Council must be registered.

Owners of dogs and cats in the Mid Murray district must have their pets microchip numbers registered on the DACO system.

## 2.4 DOG REGISTRATION

Whilst Council encourages dog and cat owners to participate with self-registration and the updating of their pets details on the DACO system, Council assists the process by making Customer Service Officers available for owners wishing to register or update their pets details directly with us.

## 2.5 MANDATORY MICROCHIPPING OF DOGS AND CATS

Pursuant to Section 42A of the Act, all dogs and cats must be microchipped by 12 weeks of age or at the point of sale. Council actively promotes microchipping and will continue to provide subsidised microchipping days to assist dog and cat owners to comply with the legislation. Council staff have equipment to scan for microchips, so we can re-unite owners with lost pets as quickly as possible. The microchip number is the link to the owner's contact details which are held on the Statewide database, DACO, and owners are reminded to review and update their contact details regularly.

## 2.6 DESEXING OF DOGS AND CATS

In 2018, the Act mandated the desexing of all dogs and cats born after 1 July 2018. Pursuant to Section 42E of the Act, dogs and cats must be desexed before the age of 6 months, or within 28 days of possession.

### Puppies and Kittens

To assist with the requirements, and encourage timely registration of puppies, Council includes in its processes, the option of registering the pet as a standard animal, with desexing pending at an appropriate age.

Records and notes are made on Council's system and DACO to enable follow up.

## 2.7 EXEMPTIONS

The Act and Regulations do provide some exemptions to mandatory desexing for the following:

- Registered working dogs
- Breeding Dogs registered with Dogs SA
- Breeding Cats belonging to a FASA or Cat Fancy of SA members
- Greyhounds currently registered to Greyhound Racing SA (retired not exempt).

Any exemption is to be recorded directly into Dogs and Cats Online on the animal's record. Veterinary Surgeons may also exempt a dog or cat from microchipping or desexing if satisfied the procedure would:

- Pose an undue risk to the health of the dog or cat
- Adversely affect the growth, development or wellbeing of the dog or cat.

In every case where an exemption is provided by a Veterinary Surgeon, a certificate of exemption must be provided to the pet owner, and proof provided to Council and recorded on DACO.

## 2.8 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION

As of 2020 Council have two Animal Management Officers employed to undertake various animal management responsibilities. Council's animal management services are funded through the following resources;

- Applicable registration fees received from DACO
- Budgeted funds due to mandatory Government responsibilities
- Project funds allocated by Council for annual improvements to local infrastructure
- Expenditure from Council's operational budgets.

Council sets fees and charges for the management of dogs and cats annually. Dog registration income received by Council is spent on dog and cat management and Council complies with annual reporting and auditing requirements of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995. The Minister, via the DACO system, retains 12% of the registration fees applicable to Council for administration purposes. The fees include rebates for de-sexing, microchipping and other discounts. The fee structure is available within Council's Fees and Charges Register and is available on Council's Website [https://www.mid-murray.sa.gov.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0014/170330/Fees-and-Charges-Register-2019-2020.pdf](https://www.mid-murray.sa.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0014/170330/Fees-and-Charges-Register-2019-2020.pdf)

### 3. COUNCIL'S MANAGEMENT OF DOGS AND CATS

The Act and Dog and Cat Management Regulations 2017 provide the legislative framework to be adhered to in relation to the management of dogs and cats within the community. The Council delegates powers, under the Act, to the Chief Executive Officer who with the approval of Council, sub-delegates these powers to relevant Officers within the organisation. The management of dogs and cats within Council resides with the Department of Development and Environmental Services.

#### OVERVIEW OF DOGS

##### 3.1 DOG REGISTRATIONS

The number of dogs registered in the Mid Murray Council District have remained reasonably static with a small increase in 2018/19.

|                                  | 2014/15 | 2015/16 | 2016/17 | 2017/18 | 2018/19 |
|----------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| <b>Number of Registered Dogs</b> | 2428    | 2468    | 2792    | 2782    | 2646    |

| Complaints  | 2014/15 | 2015/16 | 2016/17 | 2017/18 | 2018/19 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| <b>Wandering</b>                                  | 172     | 181     | 199     | 104     | 118     |
| <b>Barking (Nuisance)</b>                         | 51      | 49      | 48      | 13      | 19      |
| <b>Reports of attacks to other animals</b>        | 15      | 11      | 16      | 15      | 8       |
| <b>Reports of attack to humans</b>                | 6       | 1       | 2       | 0       | 2       |
| <b>Reports of dog harassment to other animals</b> | 0       | 7       | 11      | 5       | 3       |
| <b>Total</b>                                      | 244     | 249     | 276     | 137     | 150     |

| Dogs Impounded  | 2014/15 | 2015/16 | 2016/17 | 2017/18 | 2018/19 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| <b>Total number of dogs impounded by Council</b>                        | 66      | 60      | 26      | 63      | 77      |
| <b>Dogs impounded by Council and subsequently returned to owner</b>     | 44      | 41      | 21      | 47      | 68      |
| <b>Number of dogs collected and returned to owner before impounding</b> | 49      | 59      | 81      | 38      | 22      |

## 4. LOST ANIMALS

No pet owner wants their dog or cat to wander at large, and would prefer they remain within their property boundaries. Council makes every effort to reunite a dog as soon as possible with their owner.

A dog wandering at large can be at risk of injury, a threat to livestock and members of the public, particularly children and older people and Council is aware that serious attacks can arise in these circumstances. Council will therefore implement procedures to minimise its occurrence in its community.

In accordance with the Act, it is an offence to allow a dog to wander at large. A dog will be taken to be wandering at large if it is in a public place, other than a park, or a private place without the consent of the occupier and no person is exercising effective control by way of a physical restraint.

A dog will also be considered to be wandering at large if in a park and no person is either exercising physical restraint or by command, the dog being in close proximity to the person and the person being able to see the dog at all times.

The Mid Murray Council ensure that dog owners are made aware of their responsibilities to:

- Register their dog;
- Adequately fence their property to control their dog;
- Train their dog to not leave their premises unaccompanied;
- Keep their dog under effective control when in a public place;
- Utilise Council's off leash and enclosed dog parks.

The Mid Murray Council's Animal Management Officers conduct random patrols of all public areas and detain dogs wandering at large. Where a dog is identified (i.e. microchip, registration disc) Council's Animal Management Officers will make every effort to reunite the animal with their owner. Unidentified dogs will be impounded in accordance with the Dog and Cat Management Act and unclaimed dogs that are suitable as pets will be made eligible for re-homing to persons seeking a pet. Unclaimed dogs, which cannot be re-homed, will be transferred to the care and control of an approved shelter or rescue organisation, or as a last resort, humanely euthanised.

Animal Management Officers reinforce complying behaviour to offenders, and particular attention will be paid to educating children involved. Warnings are issued to first offenders of a minor nature, that is, where no harm to a person or property has occurred, however penalties prescribed by the Act will be applied for re-offenders.

The Council Administration Office is open from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday. An after-hours call system is provided by Council, in accordance with Council's Dog and Cat Management Procedure Manual.



## 5. PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE DOG MANAGEMENT

### 5.1 THE BY-LAW

Council complements the Act with its Dog By-law 2018, By-law No. 5. Under the Act, the By-law enables Council to enhance basic laws of dog management, to suit community and environmental issues at a more local level. Council committed to introduce dog free areas, dog on leash areas, and dog exercise areas under Council's care and control. The By-law further enables Council to limit numbers of dogs per premises in the district. Reference to the By-law No. 5 is available via Council's website: [https://www.mid-murray.sa.gov.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0023/170690/By-law-No.-5-of-2018-Dogs.pdf](https://www.mid-murray.sa.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0023/170690/By-law-No.-5-of-2018-Dogs.pdf)

| Control      | Description   |
|--------------|---|
| Dog on Leash | Where dogs must be exercised on-leash                             |
| Dog Free     | Where dogs are not permitted - on or off leash                    |
| Dog Exercise | Where dogs can be exercised off-leash and under effective control |

### 5.2 PICKING UP AFTER YOUR DOG

Council promotes responsible dog ownership and provides over 40 'poo-bag' dispensers throughout the Council area. Educational material and various signage in the area advises owners that they should pick up after their dog. This practice is emphasised in all Council approved dog exercise areas.

### 5.3 EXERCISE CONTROLS FOR OUR OPEN SPACES

The Council district has many reserves and portions of Crown land where dogs can be exercised both on and off leash. Clear and precise signage is displayed on all portions of land owned or controlled by Council. Council balances the requests of many stakeholders when setting dog exercising controls and areas where dogs can and can not be exercised off leash.

### 5.4 OTHER EXPECTATIONS

Council provides numerous off leash areas and enclosed dog parks throughout the district. Off leash areas are provided for the enjoyment of all dogs and their owners to interact with their pets and their owners, and for the owners of the dogs to take ownership of their favourite parks. With this in mind clear and precise dog park rules have been established and displayed throughout the parks to remind owners of their responsibilities. Refer to Appendix A for more information regarding off leash Areas.



## 6. PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE CAT MANAGEMENT

### 6.1 OVERVIEW OF CATS

With the legislative reform to the Act in 2018, came stronger laws for cat owners to ensure their cats are identified by way of a microchip. The legislation provided clarity in identifying if a cat was owned or unowned. Any cat found to be wandering on any land without an implanted microchip or collar, is defined by legislation as an unowned cat.

The number of cats residing in the Council area is unknown. The number of complaints received by Council upon the implementation of the new cat legislation, increased dramatically. This is identified within the following statistics recorded from 2014 to 2019.

|                       | 2014/15 | 2015/16 | 2016/17 | 2017/18 | 2018/19 |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| <b>Cat Complaints</b> | 9       | -       | 5       | 54      | 147     |

### 6.2 CAT TRAPS

Council has developed a procedure and hire agreement form in relation to the hiring of cat traps to assist in reducing the number of unidentified cat complaints and to address the impact they cause to the community and the environment by providing a cat trap hire service. Cat traps can be hired free of charge from Council Offices at Mannum, Cambrai and Morgan to residents within Council for a maximum hire period of 7 days. A bond is payable upon collection of the cage which is refunded in full if the cage is returned by the hire return due date in a clean and undamaged condition.

### 6.3 THE BY-LAW

Council's Cat By-law No. 6 provides clarity to cat owners in the numbers of cats that can be kept on any premises. The By-law states:

- A person must not, without permission of Council, keep any cat on any premises where the number of cats on the premises exceeds the prescribed limit.
- The prescribed limit on the number of cats to be kept on premises is two (2).

It is important to understand that in accordance with By-law No. 6 that the prescribed limit does not apply to: a cattery; a veterinary practice; a pet shop; or any premises that the Council has exempted from the requirements of this paragraph. Reference to the By-law No 6 is available via Council's website ([https://www.mid-murray.sa.gov.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0012/170202/By-law-No.-6-of-2018-Cats.pdf](https://www.mid-murray.sa.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0012/170202/By-law-No.-6-of-2018-Cats.pdf))

### 6.4 KEEPING CATS IN THE MID MURRAY COUNCIL

Legislation clearly identifies that all cats must be microchipped, the management of nuisance cats can be difficult when attempting to capture a cat or identify the owner of the cat that is not microchipped. Council's Cat By-law does not restrict the owners of cats to ensure their cats remain within the boundaries of their properties, but Council is proactive in advising residents that keeping their cat indoors, or confined to their property, reduces the chance of their pet becoming a nuisance, or worse still, being injured or killed by cars, dogs, or other cats.



## **7. OUR FACILITIES**

### **7.1 FOR IMPOUNDED DOGS**

Council maintains fit for purpose containment facilities for the impounding and safe keeping of dogs. These facilities consist of six individual sheltered pens behind a common secure entrance with easy access. Dogs have access to clean dry bedding, food and water, and are monitored twice daily whilst impounded. Dogs impounded overnight are exercised each morning by Council's Animal Management Officer or Council's Pound Contractor.

The provisions of the Act, enable dogs impounded by Councils to be safely and securely impounded for up to seventy-two hours (three days), while staff attempt to reunite the animal with its owner. After which time they will be transported to an appropriate approved facility for processing and possible re-homing.

### **7.2 FOR IMPOUNDED CATS**

Council does not have facilities for the containment of cats, and should a cat require containment by Council's Animal Management Staff, they are conveyed to an appropriate and approved cat holding facility.

### **7.3 EMERGENCY WELFARE**

Council will make every effort to safely accommodate lost or found dogs and cats. For emergency situations Council will:

- Contact the RSPCA for emergency assistance;
- Contact an accredited Veterinarian for emergency assistance;
- Allocate necessary staff resources for the duration of the emergency.

### **7.4 PARTNERSHIPS**

Council have established partnerships with various approved organisations who assist with the re-homing of dogs.



## **8. METHODS OF COMMUNICATIONS**

Council educates and advises the community through various social and traditional media outlets.

### **8.1 FACEBOOK**

Council maintains an active Facebook page to advise of a range of information relating to dog and cat management including:

- Live information regarding lost or found animals
- Updates for any changes to animal management
- Event dates and information, i.e. microchipping days, fun days
- Educational Fact sheets including law changes and alerts
- Lost or found pets
- Registration renewals.

### **8.2 BROCHURES**

Council along with the Dog and Cat Management Board produces and distributes brochures and other literature which is available through Council's three offices, information centres and selected post offices and general stores.

Council also distributes information when posting Rates Notices through its quarterly newsletters.

Community newsletters are also valuable tools for Council when seeking to provide advice and guidance for pet owners.

### **8.3 SIGNAGE**

Council displays various signage throughout the district to advise and educate our community on a number of varying topics. The infrastructure enables Council to advise the public on a range of issues regarding animal management, welfare and legal obligations. These signs are changed regularly to ensure complacency is not adopted by pet owners.

We aim to ensure that signage:

- Is clear and concise
- Remains informative
- Has minimal impact to the environment
- Is updated as required in a timely manner
- Where possible is a little quirky and becomes a talking point.

### **8.4 ROADSIDES**

We have permanent roadside sign infrastructure installed throughout our district on main roads which are used to advise the community on important district wide matters such as animal registration.

### **8.5 RESERVES**

Signage is installed at various public reserves and dog parks to advise users of dog leashing controls.

Typically, signage is also displayed where there are doggy poop bag dispensers.



## **8. METHODS OF COMMUNICATIONS Continued:-**

### **8.6 OTHER MEDIA**

In addition, Council uses local newspapers and or magazines to keep the community up to date with the latest news and or any changes with regards to animal management in the district.

### **8.7 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION AND FEEDBACK**

It is important that the broader community have the chance to comment on things that affect them. Good community consultation provides direction and focus to our Plan and entices greater acceptance of the Plan. Public consultation is provided via Council's media outlets and social media. We speak with people and promote the consultation through the Customer Service area of Council.

Previous and well received consultations include:

- Dog By-law review in 2016
- Controls for exercising dogs in 2016 and 2018.

In addition to public consultation we also connect with members of our community via emails, text messages and postal service to:

- Advise of microchipping days
- Remind owners of the requirements should their dog not be registered, microchipped or desexed
- Keep dog and cat owners up to date with fresh news
- Advise alerts should it be required i.e. fireworks displays
- Dog registration renewals.



## 9. ACTION PLAN FOR IMPROVED ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

### KEY RESULT 1: PROMOTE THE COMMUNITY BENEFITS OF PET OWNERSHIP

- Raise awareness of the benefits of pet ownership to the community
- Facilitate and encourage re-homing of unowned and impounded animal
- Increase awareness of the benefits of well-behaved and social dogs in the community
- Ensure promotional material is available and current

### KEY RESULT 2: CREATE A SUSTAINABLE “PET - FRIENDLY” ENVIRONMENT

- Identify and enforce dog ‘on-leash’ and ‘off-leash’ areas to provide appropriate opportunities for exercising dogs
- Reduce public and environmental nuisance caused by dog faeces
- Proactively manage feral cat colonies within the local Council area
- Cat By-law outlines a number of provisions for the control and management of cats

### KEY RESULT 3: PROVIDE A STRONG REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

- Sustain an appropriate mix of relevant laws, systems and procedures for animal management
- Promote the requirements for local dog and cat breeders
- Continuously improve the role, profile and capacity of authorised persons
- Provide safe and secure temporary containment facilities for lost and found dogs

### KEY RESULT 4: ENCOURAGE GOOD ANIMAL BEHAVIOURS

- Educate residents about mandatory desexing requirements
- Monitor compliance with the mandatory desexing requirements
- Reduce the impact of barking dogs in the community

### KEY RESULT 5: ENCOURAGE LIFETIME IDENTIFICATION

- Educate residents about mandatory microchipping requirements
- Increase number of dogs and cats microchipped within the Council area



## 10. STRATEGIES WITHIN THIS PLAN TO ACHIEVE

### KEY RESULT 1: PROMOTE THE COMMUNITY BENEFITS OF PET OWNERSHIP

Pets are an integral part of our lives as Australians. About 80% of Australians have an animal companion at some time. Pets are important in children's lives as they provide enjoyment and help children develop responsibilities transferable to adulthood. Sometimes pet relationships are ranked higher than certain kinds of human relationships for comfort, esteem, support and confidence. Some benefits of pet ownership have been identified in areas of child development, family harmony and even health.

| OBJECTIVE   | ACTION  | MEASURE  |
|---|---|--|
| Raise awareness of the benefits of pet ownership to the community                   | Promote and educate responsible pet ownership, pet selection and breed selection through appropriate media using a variety of communication mediums.                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number and types of promotional activities undertaken annually (minimum of 1) including method of distribution.</li> <li>Number of dogs and cats three months of age or older microchipped annually.</li> <li>Conduct a community survey to determine what percentage of residents understand their pet ownership responsibilities.</li> <li>Reduction in expiations issued.</li> </ul> |
|   | Implement various campaigns, such as wandering dog and cat campaigns and benefits of identification to highlight various issues relating to responsibility pet ownership. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number and type of campaigns (minimum of 1) undertaken annually.</li> <li>Annual reduction in dog and cats wandering at large.</li> <li>Annual reduction in dogs and cats found not microchipped or desexed.</li> </ul>   |
| Facilitate and encourage re-homing of unowned and impounded dogs                    | Liaison with appropriate agencies and businesses qualified to rehouse unidentified, impounded and surrendered animals to maximise occurrences of animals being re-homed.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of animals being rehomed compared to being euthanised annually.</li> <li>Number of agencies and businesses engaged annually.</li> </ul>  |
|   | Promote in the community potential rehoming candidates and successes.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number and types of promotional activities (minimum of 1) undertaken annually.</li> </ul>   |
| Increase awareness of the benefits of well-behaved and social dogs in the community | Facilitate community dog behaviour sessions in conjunction with accredited external organisations.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of sessions (minimum of 1) run annually.</li> <li>Number of participants annually.</li> <li>Participant feedback via surveys.</li> <li>Annual reduction in reports of aggressive dog behaviour.</li> </ul>   |
| Ensure promotional material is available and current                                | Review and update promotional material quarterly to make sure it is accurate.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of reviews undertaken annually.</li> <li>Number and type of promotional material provided (minimum of 1) including method of distribution.</li> </ul>  |

## 10. STRATEGIES WITHIN THIS PLAN TO ACHIEVE Continued:-

### KEY RESULT 2: CREATE A SUSTAINABLE “PET FRIENDLY” ENVIRONMENT

Pets are an important part of the family and require ongoing care and nurture. Owners have many considerations to ensure their pet is well cared for physically and mentally and that they don't develop nuisance behaviour. Both the home and public open spaces should provide opportunities for pets to play, socialise and interact safely and sustainably. This Plan adopts the principles that responsible pet owners can own pets in a variety of housing situations, including small spaces. With proper safeguards, public open space and community land provides a valuable opportunity for people and pets to come together on a larger scale to help build a sense of community.

| OBJECTIVE   | ACTION  | MEASURE   |
|---|---|---|
| Identify and enforce dog 'on-leash and 'off-leash' to provide appropriate opportunities for exercising dogs | Patrol dog on-leash, off-leash and prohibited areas and educate owners on responsibilities.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of patrols undertaken annually by Authorised Officers.</li> <li>Number and type of promotional material provided or campaigns undertaken (minimum of 1).</li> <li>Number of expiations issued.</li> </ul> |
|   | Make educational material available to the public at Council's offices and on Council's website in relation to what is effective control of dogs. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number and type of promotional material provided (minimum of 1) including method of distribution.</li> </ul>   |
|   | Community engagement on exercising controls.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number and type of promotional material provided (minimum of 1) including method of distribution.</li> </ul>   |
|   | Facilitate community engagement in relation to new or revised exercising opportunities.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number, type and location of campaigns undertaken (minimum of 1).</li> <li>Number of submissions received.</li> <li>Review completed and amendments implemented.</li> </ul>                                      |
|   | Strategic placement of signs that promote legislative requirements, dog etiquette and owner responsibilities.                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review strategic placement of signs annually.</li> <li>Number of signs and location of signs erected.</li> </ul>   |
| Reduce public and environmental nuisances caused by dog faeces  | Maintain dog bag dispensers in parks and areas where people frequently walk dogs.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of complaints in regards to dog faeces on public space areas.</li> <li>Review type and locations of facilities provided.</li> </ul>   |
|   | Promote the existence of dog bag dispensers, and the requirement for owners to pick up after their dog.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number and type of promotional material provided (minimum of 1) including distribution method.</li> </ul>  |

## 10. STRATEGIES WITHIN THIS PLAN TO ACHIEVE Continued:-

### KEY RESULT 2: CREATE A SUSTAINABLE “PET FRIENDLY” ENVIRONMENT Continued:-

| OBJECTIVE   | ACTION   | MEASURE  |
|---|--|--|
|   | Proactively enforce noncompliance where possible.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of expiations issued for noncompliance.</li> </ul>   |
| Proactively manage feral cat issues within the Council area                       | Facilitate a cat trap hire service to residents in the area.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of cat traps hired annually.</li> </ul>  |
|   | Promote and educate the community on cat management issues.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number and type of promotional material provided (minimum of 1) including method of distribution.</li> <li>Number of unidentified cat complaints received.</li> <li>Number of enforcement actions taken.</li> </ul> |
| Cat By-law outlines a number of provisions for the control and management of cats | Consider tighter cat controls in the Cat By-law review including community feedback, research and resourcing implications. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cat By-law reviewed and amended where appropriate.</li> </ul>   |

## 10. STRATEGIES WITHIN THIS PLAN TO ACHIEVE Continued:-

### KEY RESULT 3: PROVIDE A STRONG REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

For people and pets to live well together in a community there needs to be agreed expectations, clear structures, rules, and procedures for:

- Promoting responsible, community-minded behaviour
- Protecting our environment and public health
- Encouraging compliance with legislative and policy requirements
- Dealing with nuisance caused by dogs and cats.

The Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 sets out Council's responsibilities for regulating dog and cat management, including the maintenance of a dog register, development of By-laws, appointment of Animal Management Officers, enforcement of legislative responsibilities and the issuing of Dog Control Orders.

| OBJECTIVE  | ACTION  | MEASURE   |
|--|---|---|
| Sustain an appropriate mix of relevant laws, systems and procedures for animal management. | Conduct scheduled reviews of policies & standard operating guidelines to reflect legislative changes & best practice.                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of reviews undertaken annually (minimum of 1).</li> <li>• List/report of amendments made.</li> </ul>  |
|  | Contribute to consultation conducted by the Local Government Association, the Dog and Cat Management Board and South Australian Government. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• List of consultation submissions made to relevant authority.</li> </ul>  |
|  | Annually review the Animal Management Plan.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report to Council annually on the key results of the Animal Management Plan.</li> </ul>  |
|  | Conduct door knock programs as required to validate details of dogs residing in the area.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimal number of incidents reported.</li> <li>• Consistent and accurate dissemination of information to our community.</li> <li>• Use reporting and monitoring facilities to proactively address compliance.</li> </ul> |
| Promote the requirements for local dog and cat breeders.                                   | Educate the community regarding legislative requirements & responsibilities.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number and type of promotional activities undertaken (minimum of 1) including distribution method.</li> <li>• Number of breeders registered on DACO.</li> </ul>  |
| Continuously improve the role, profile and capacity of authorised officers                 | Ensure team members are trained, qualified & experienced in their responsibilities by providing ongoing training to authorised persons.     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number and type of training undertaken.</li> </ul>   |
| Provide safe and secure temporary containment facilities for lost and found dogs.          | Ensuring that facilities comply with the Dog and Cat Management Board's guidelines for containment.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Favourable audits conducted by the Dog and Cat Management Board.</li> <li>• Internal audits and regular maintenance of facilities.</li> </ul>  |

## 10. STRATEGIES WITHIN THIS PLAN TO ACHIEVE Continued:-

### KEY RESULT 4: ENCOURAGE GOOD ANIMAL BEHAVIOURS

Responsible pet ownership information is provided on Council's website, social media, and other various publications of Council.

| OBJECTIVE   | ACTION  | MEASURE  |
|---|---|--|
| Educate residents about mandatory desexing requirements     | Promote the new legislative requirements for dogs to be desexed through various communication channels.             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>90% of dogs registered after 1 July 2018 are desexed or have the applicable exemption.</li> <li>Number and type of promotional activities undertaken (minimum of 1) including method of distribution.</li> </ul>  |
|   | Work with local providers and vets and review schemes which assist in reducing costs to the community for desexing. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number and type of schemes implemented.</li> <li>Number of organisations assisting with schemes.</li> </ul>   |
| Monitor compliance with the mandatory desexing requirements | Obtain reports from DACO to identify non-desexed dogs and cats and contact owners of non-standard animals.          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduction in the number of non-desexed dogs and cats being impounded.</li> <li>Enforcement is activated for continued noncompliance.</li> </ul>   |
| Reduce the impact of barking dogs in the community          | Provide educational material to dog owners to assist them with changing a dog's barking behaviour.                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of barking dog complaints identifying and resolved.</li> <li>Number of successful outcomes between neighbours in dispute regarding barking dogs.</li> <li>Number and type of promotional material provided (minimum of 1) including method of distribution.</li> </ul> |
|   | Include educational information for the community about why dogs bark and how to address/avoid the issue.           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number and type of promotional material provided (minimum of 1) including the method of distribution.</li> <li>Streamline internal processes to ensure effective communication</li> </ul>   |
|   | Make available to public barking dog material from the Board.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number and type of promotional material provided (minimum of 1) including the method of distribution.</li> </ul>  |

## 10. STRATEGIES WITHIN THIS PLAN TO ACHIEVE Continued:-

### KEY RESULT 5: ENCOURAGE LIFETIME IDENTIFICATION

Owners of dogs and cats kept in the Mid Murray Council are required to maintain accurate contact details annually with DACO. Annual dog registration is a critical element to dog management in South Australia. It provides statistical information on the dog population and provides funding to assist with the management of dogs in the area. In conjunction with the requirement for all dogs to wear a registration disc, the registration data is also used to quickly reunite owners with found dogs and to assist in investigations relating to nuisance reports and dog attacks. From July 2018, all dogs and cats in South Australia are required to be microchipped. Microchipping also supports Council to return dogs and cats to their owners that become lost, escape or are found injured or should their registration disc or collar have come off. Owners are required to keep the contact details up to date on DACO.

| OBJECTIVE   | ACTION   | MEASURE  |
|---|--|--|
| Educate residents about mandatory microchipping requirements          | Information to be posted on the Council's website and social media.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of occurrences of those who claim to have not known the requirements.</li> <li>Number and types of promotional material provided (minimum of 1) including method of distribution.</li> </ul> |
|   | Support the Dog and Cat Management Board by local advertising of Board produced information and website links.           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number and types of promotional material provided (minimum of 1) including method and type of distribution.</li> </ul>  |
| Increase number of dogs and cats microchipped within the Council area | Partner with other organisations for discounted microchipping.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of organised microchipping days provided throughout the year.</li> <li>Number of animals microchipped at the organised events.</li> </ul>  |
|   | Work with local providers and vets and review schemes which assist in reducing costs to the community for microchipping. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review complete.</li> </ul>   |

## REFERENCE MATERIAL

| AUTHOR  | PULBICATION   |
|---|---|
| Mid Murray Council  | Council's Community Plan 2016- 2020   |
| Mid Murray Council  | Council's Regional Public Health Plan   |
| Mid Murray Council  | Council's Open Space, Recreation and Public Realm Plan                        |
| Government of South Australia, Dog and Cat Management Board | Dog and Cat Management Act, 1995  |
| Government of South Australia, Dog and Cat Management Board | Dog and Cat Management Regulations, 2017                                      |
| Government of South Australia, Dog and Cat Management Board | Dog and Cat Management Guideline Plan of Management relating to Dogs and Cats |
| Government of South Australia                               | Expiation of Offences Act, 1996   |
| Government of South Australia                               | Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act, 2017                                   |
| Mid Murray Council  | Dog By-law No.5 of 2018   |
| Mid Murray Council  | Cat By-law No. 6 of 2018  |

## APPENDIX A

### Off Leash Reserves & Enclosed Dog Parks within the Council District

A number of off leash reserves and enclosed dog parks are provided for the enjoyment of dogs and their owners within the Council District. Provided within this portion of the Plan are the locations of each area and a brief description of the parks.

#### MANNUM

- Gass Reserve, Mannum, Off Leash Area  
Gass Reserve off leash area is located on Purnong Road, Mannum immediately north of the Mannum Caravan Park, and is an ideal location for dogs to exercise and splash on the foreshore of the River Murray backwaters. This park is not enclosed and is not suitable for untrained dogs.
- The Mannum Enclosed Off Leash Park is a fully enclosed dog park established in partnership with the Dog and Cat Management Board, to provide residents and visitors to the township an exciting exercise area, where dogs and their owners can interact with each other, within a fully enclosed picturesque setting. The Park is located at the main oval precinct on North Terrace, between the football oval and netball/tennis courts.

#### PALMER

- Collier Park Off Leash area is located in Palmer within the oval precinct. The area is shared with other recreational users of the oval, and offers an excellent open space area for dogs. The oval entrance is located on the corner of Randell Road and Olive Grove Avenue, Palmer.

#### CAMBRAI

- Rhine Villa Reserve Dog Exercise Area is located on the outskirts of town on Ridley Road, approximately 800 metres south of the township. Located on the edge of the Marne River, this reserve is shared by free campers, day trippers and visitors to the region. The area is unfenced and only trained dogs are encouraged to be exercised off the lead here.

#### SWAN REACH

- The Swan Reach Off Leash Area is located on the river's edge immediately upstream of the Swan Reach ferry, on Victoria Street. The area is shared by other recreational users and is ideal for dogs to exercise and take a swim in the river. The area is bordered by the river and the cliff face on three sides and provides a safe exercise area for your dog.

#### CADELL

- The Cadell Oval Off Leash area is located on the outskirts of Cadell on Dalzell Road, and provides a fenced exercise area, shared by campers and other recreational users. The area provides a great open space area, and is extremely popular with visitors to the area.



## APPENDIX A Continued:-

### Off Leash Reserves & Enclosed Dog Parks within the Council District

#### GREENWAYS

- The Greenways Off Leash exercise area is located at the Greenways Oval on Bakara Road, Greenways. This area is a shared recreation area, surrounded by orchards on two sides, and an excellent open space area to exercise your dog. A safe distance from the road, however it is recommended that your dog is educated if to be exercised off its leash.

#### TRURO

- The Truro Enclosed Off Leash Park is located at Pioneer Park on Moorundie Street. The enclosed park forms part of the newly developed Pioneer Park which provides an excellent rest spot for travellers and their pets. The off leash park is fully enclosed which provides a safe location for dogs and their pets to exercise and interact with each other.

#### BLANCHETOWN

- The Blanchetown Off Leash area is known as the old football oval and located in close proximity to the River Murray. Although unfenced, it provides an excellent area for dogs and their owners to exercise and enjoy the surrounding area.

#### MORGAN

- The Morgan Off Leash area, is located on South West Terrace, Morgan, immediately downstream from the Morgan Caravan Park. This area provides an excellent open space area for dogs and their owners to exercise. The area is a short distance from the River Murray, and is unfenced.



## APPENDIX A Continued:- Dog Park Locations



### APPENDIX A Continued:- Dog Park Locations

