



Animal Management Plan

2022-2027

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION	
- Executive Summary	3
- Background	4
2. THE LAW, GUIDELINES AND LEGISLATION	4
- The Law and Guidelines	4
- Legislative Changes and Requirements	4
- Dog and Cat Registrations	5
- Mandatory Microchipping of Dogs and Cats	5
- Mandatory Desexing of Dogs and Cats	5
- Exemptions	5
- Financial Considerations	6
- Revenue	6
3. ANIMAL MANAGEMENT	7
- Management of Dogs	7
- Management of Cats	9
- Lost Animals	10
- Animal Emergency	11
4. OUR FACILITIES/AMENITIES	11
- Pound Facilities	11
- On-Leash and Off-Leash Reserves/Dog Park	12
5. METHODS OF COMMUNICATION	13
6. OBJECTIVES/STRATEGIES/MEASURES (KPI)	14
- Benefits of Pet Ownership	14
- Safe 'Pet-Friendly' Environment	15
- Regulatory Framework	16
- Good Animal Behaviours	17
- Identification of Animals	18
7. REFERENCES	19

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Executive Summary

The Municipal Council of Roxby Downs (Roxby Council) was built to service the Roxby Downs community as part of the provisions of the *Roxby Downs (Indenture Ratification) Act 1982* (Indenture). In South Australian Local Government terms, Roxby Council is unique. Created and operating under the Indenture, Council operates with all the powers, functions and duties of a South Australian Local Government Authority.

The facilities and infrastructure in Roxby Downs are of high quality and the envy of most other towns. The Council operates a wide range of municipal services including roads, streets, footpaths, parks and gardens and waste management. The Council also operates various sport and recreational facilities including Roxby Link (Cultural and Leisure Centre), swimming pools, community ovals and associated buildings. Situated approximately 560 km from Adelaide, Roxby Downs has a permanent population base of around 4000 people. The town is located in a fragile arid environment, which means the issue of environmental degradation from human activity, and that of pets, has been a significant issue, especially in relation to potential loss of wildlife.

Responsible cat management is integral to Roxby Downs becoming a model environmental town and protecting the native and reintroduced wildlife in the region. Over the years, Roxby Council has worked extensively with the community to improve local cat management. Key issues surrounding cat management in Roxby Downs include:

- The location of Roxby Downs amongst an arid ecosystem, with many local wildlife species vulnerable to cat predation.
- The transient nature of residents, which often results in cats being left behind temporarily, when their owners are on breaks from shift work or permanently when their owners leave town.

In 2009, Roxby Council introduced the Cat By-law, which was reviewed in 2016, and again in 2022. Requirements of the By-law include:

- All cats must be registered.
- Limit on cat numbers per property, without council approval.
- Cats not to be a nuisance.
- Cats not to wander at large.
- Cat faeces in a public place.

A functional Animal Management Plan 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.

An Animal Management Plan must be prepared and presented to the Dog and Cat Management Board (the Board) as follows:

- Plans cover 5-year periods, and each plan must be prepared and presented 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.

1.2 Background

In preparation of this Animal Management Plan, Council has incorporated extensive work undertaken by the community over many years. These efforts included a number of media articles and public meetings, which identified the need and extensive public support for the introduction of significant cat controls.

2. THE LAW, GUIDELINES AND LEGISLATION

2.1 The Law and Guidelines

The responsibilities for dog and cat management in South Australia are prescribed in the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*. Under the Act, Councils are required to administer and enforce the provisions relating to dogs within their area.

Prescribed responsibilities include the appointment of a Registrar and the appointment of a Dog and Cat Management Officer. Council is also required under the Act to encourage responsible dog and cat ownership and promote effective management of dogs and cats.

The Act also provides for the appointment of the Dog and Cat Management Board, which has responsibilities to plan, promote, and advise on effective management of dogs and cats throughout South Australia.

The Board also has a role to provide advice to the Minister to keep the Act under review, to undertake research into companion animal management and to provide education programs for Dog and Cat Management Officers and community awareness information.

These provisions provide the legal framework for the Council's responsibilities and the penalties that can be imposed on dog and cat owners for non-compliance.

This Animal Management Plan seeks to implement a balanced approach that caters to everyone's needs, and will benefit dogs and cats and their owners, the Roxby Downs community and those charged with the responsibility of animal management By-laws.

2.2 Legislative Changes and Requirements

Significant legislative changes were made to the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* in 2017 and 2018 and the provisions introduced include:

- **Microchipping** – mandatory for all dogs and cats.
- **Desexing** – mandatory for all dogs and cats born after 1 July 2018.
- **Breeders** – that a person must not sell or trade a dog or cat they have bred unless they are registered as a breeder with the Dog and Cat Board.
- **Statewide registration system** - Dogs and Cats Online (DACO).
- **Sellers** – requirement for certain information to be provided to the buyer.
- **Council powers** – greater powers to administer and enforce the new Act.

These changes were designed to improve dog and cat management and welfare and are the result of years of planning and public consultation by the Dog and Cat Management Board and the State Government.

The new state-wide registration system was introduced by the State Government of South Australia in July 2018, which is known as Dogs and Cats Online (DACO – dogsandcatsonline.com.au). The new system replaced all South Australian Councils' independent corporate registration systems.

DACO is facilitated by the Dog and Cat Management Board of South Australia. The system contains 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.

The system allows owners of dogs and cats to access their own profiles online and to:

- Renew and pay dog or cat registrations online.
- Register a new dog or cat.
- Transfer a dog or cat to a new owner.
- Update their personal details should they move, including contact numbers.
- Update the details of their dog or cat including microchip/desexing details.
- Notify if their dog or cat is lost or deceased.

2.3 Dog and Cat Registrations

Council encourages and promotes dog and cat owners to update their details and pay registration fees via the self-registration facility online through the Dogs and Cats Online website (DACO). Roxby Council also assists the process by ensuring Customer Service Officers are available to help owners who wish to register or update their pets' details at the Council office.

A person must not keep a cat in the Council's area for more than 14 days unless the cat is registered in accordance with Council's Cats By-law. This does not apply to a person operating a business involving the keeping of cats provided that the business is operating in accordance with all required approvals and consents. Registration of kittens is mandatory by 12 weeks of age or at the point of sale.

Registration under the By-law remains in force until 30 June each year. Cats are registered via the DACO system.

2.4 Mandatory Microchipping of Dogs and Cats

As of 1 July 2018, it became mandatory for all dogs and cats to be microchipped by 12 weeks of age or before it is sold. This applies to all existing dogs and cats. Council actively promotes microchipping and will continue to do so to assist dog and cat owners to comply with the legislation. Council staff have microchip scanners which are used to help reunite owners with lost pets as soon as possible. The microchip number is the link to the owner's contact details in DACO. When dogs or cats are not registered in DACO, it is very difficult to reunite pets with their owners promptly. It is important to register your pet and review and update the contact details as required.

2.5 Mandatory Desexing of Dogs and Cats

It is mandatory for all dogs and cats born after 1 July 2018 to be desexed before it is six months of age (unless exempted under the Act).

2.6 Exemptions

The Act and Regulations do provide some exemptions to mandatory desexing which include:

- Dogs and cats born before 1 July 2018.
- Dogs and cats owned by a Dogs and Cats Online registered breeder.
- Dogs defined as a "Working Livestock Dog" as per the definition in the Act.
- Dogs belonging to Dogs SA members.
- Racing greyhounds with Greyhound Racing SA (excluding retired greyhounds).
- Cats belonging to Feline Association of South Australia (FASA) or Cat Fancy of SA members.

Vets may grant an exemption for microchipping or desexing based on the procedure posing an undue risk to the health of the dog or cat, or adversely affecting the growth, development or wellbeing of the dog or cat. A veterinary surgeon must issue the owner a Certificate of Exemption, which can then be provided to Roxby Council and recorded on DACO.

The Dog and Cat Management Board may approve exemptions for unique circumstances that are not covered by the Act.

2.7 Financial Considerations

Council has 1 Animal Management Officer (Council Ranger) employed to undertake various animal management responsibilities with a total of 8 authorised and trained officers to be able to attend callouts after hours. Council's animal management services are funded via the following resources:

- Dog and cat registration fees received.
- 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, including annual registration fees, which are determined at a Council Meeting.

Animal registration income received by Council is spent on the management of dogs and cats and complies with annual reporting and auditing requirements of the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*.

Other dog and cat management fees can be found within the Fees and Charges Register and is available on Council's website roxbydowns.sa.gov.au/council/about-roxby-council/fees-and-charges

2.8 Revenue

Pursuant to Section 25 of the Act, the Dog and Cat Management Board administers a Dog and Cat Management Fund. Roxby Downs is required to contribute 12% of revenue raised through dog registration fees to the Dog and Cat Management Board.

This helps fund the Dog And Cat Online centralised database and other activities conducted throughout the State.

The Act requires a mandatory rebate for a "Standard Dog or Cat" which is one that is both microchipped and desexed.

3. ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

3.1 Management of Dogs

Roxby Council introduced a Dogs By-law in 2016. The By-law empowers Council to reduce the incidence of environmental nuisance caused by dogs, promotes responsible dog ownership, and protects the convenience, comfort and safety of members of the public and assists in the good rule and governance of the Council area. The By-law enables Roxby Council to place a limit on the number of dogs in a private premises, describe dog exercise areas, prohibited areas, dog on and off leash areas, dog faeces and enforcement orders.

Roxby Council also provides a service (including after hours) for the management of dogs within Roxby Downs, as prescribed in the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*.

Seized dogs are detained in the Council Pound, and if the dog is registered the owner is contacted regarding collection and is required to pay an impound and handling fee. A dog detention notice is produced and displayed if an unregistered dog is detained for 72hrs, and the owner is unknown or uncontactable, after which the Officer will, if the dog is assessed suitable to be rehomed, be transported to the RSPCA in Whyalla and placed in a rehoming program or as deemed appropriate by the Council Ranger.

Roxby Council will implement an education awareness plan to support the community with the management of Dogs and enforce penalties and expiations where necessary in compliance with the Act and the Roxby Downs Dogs By-law.

Limits on Dogs in Private Premises

A person must not, without the Council's permission, keep or cause, suffer or permit to be kept, more than 2 dogs that are 3 months of age or older, on any premises. This does not apply to approved kennel establishments operating in accordance with all required approvals and consents or any business involving the keeping of dogs provided the business is registered in accordance with *the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* and operating under all required approvals and consents.

Roxby Council may require that premises which are the subject of an application for permission to keep additional dogs to be inspected by an authorised person for the purpose of assessing the suitability of the premises for housing dogs. An application for permission to keep additional dogs can be submitted directly to the Council, and the Council Ranger is to assess the application, before issuing a permit.

No dog is to be kept on any premises where, in the opinion of an authorised person, there is no secure or appropriate area where a dog may be effectively confined.

Exercising Controls

Council provides 3 off leash areas within the township, including the small and large town ovals and an enclosed dog park on Pioneer Drive, constructed in July 2020. These off-leash areas are provided for the enjoyment of all dogs and their owners.

Dog park rules have been established and are displayed at the entry/exit gates of the dog park to remind owners of their responsibilities. There is signage displayed surrounding the small oval which state that No Dogs on Small Oval between 8.00am and 5.30pm on School Days Only.

A person may enter a park or use the oval reserves in the Council area for the purpose of exercising a dog under his or her effective control. If a person is exercising a dog in the park or on the oval reserve, and is not under effective control, this gives rise to a dog wandering at large offence under section 43(1) of the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*, for which the owner of, or person responsible for the dog, may be liable.

A person must not allow a dog under their control, charge or authority (except an assistance dog that is required to remain off-lead in order to fulfil its functions) to be on, or remain on, Local Government land or in a public place unless the dog is under effective control by means of a leash no greater than 2 metres.

A person must not allow a dog to enter or remain on any children's playground or any area of Local Government Land or public place that is within 15 metres of a public picnic or barbeque area (as delineated by the presence of a barbeque or tables and chairs on the land).

Picking up after your Dog

Signage is installed at the large oval reserve and the dog park locations to advise owners to pick up after their dog. 'Doggy poop bag' dispensers are located on most dog sign posts.

When people have their dog in a public space or on Local Government land, they must (for the purpose of complying with their obligation under section 45A(6) of the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*) have in their possession a bag or other suitable container for the collection and lawful disposal of any faeces that the dog may deposit.



3.2 Management of Cats

Roxby Council introduced a Cats By-law in 2009, which was updated in 2016 and again in 2022. The By-law provisions include:

- Limiting the number of cats kept on private premises.
- Establishing a registration scheme for the management and effective control of cats in the Council area.
- Requirements around the establishment of an approved cattery.
- Requirements around identification of cats.
- Cats not to be a nuisance.
- Cats not to wander at large.
- Cat faeces in a public place.

Roxby Council also provides a service (including after hours) for the management of cats within Roxby Downs.

Seized cats are detained in the Council Pound, and if the cat is microchipped and registered, the owner is contacted regarding collection and is required to pay an impound and handling fee. A cat detention notice is produced and displayed if an unregistered cat is detained for 72 hours and the owner is unknown or uncontactable. Once this time has expired, the cat will be taken to Council's local service provider to be assessed for rehoming suitability or otherwise disposed of.

Roxby Council will implement an education awareness plan to support the community with the management of Cats and enforce penalties and expiations where necessary in compliance with the Act and the Roxby Downs Cats By-law.

Limits on Cats in Private Premises

A person must not, without the Council's permission, keep, cause, suffer or permit to be kept, more than 2 cats on any premises without the consent or approval of Council. An application for permission to keep additional cats can be submitted directly to Council and the Council Ranger is to assess the application, before issuing a permit. Council must be satisfied the premises in which the cats will reside is not unsanitary, or likely to become so.

Cats not to Wander at Large

The owner or person responsible for the cat(s) must ensure that the cat(s) are effectively controlled when in a public place or private place without consent of the occupier. If no person is exercising effective control by means of physical restraint the cat(s) will be considered wandering at large.

Cat Traps

Council provides a cat trap agreement hire service. The community can hire a cat trap, for which a \$50.00 bond is payable. When a cat is caught within the trap, the resident can call the Council Office or the call will be automatically transferred to an On-Call Officer. The cat will then be picked up by the Council Ranger or an Authorised Officer and taken to the pound, where an attempt will be made to identify the cat and contact the owner.

The trap will be returned to the customer. The customer can then return the trap to the Council to receive their bond refund.

Cat traps can assist in reducing the number of unidentified cat complaints, and can help reduce the number of unowned cats.

Cats Not To Be A Nuisance

An owner or occupier of a premises is guilty of an offence if a cat or cats kept, or allowed to remain on the premises, causes a nuisance.

Council strongly encourages owners to keep their cat/s indoors or confined to their property to reduce the chance of becoming a nuisance or being injured or killed by cars, dogs or other cats.

Picking Up After Your Cat

The owner or person responsible for the cat must remove and dispose of the cat's faeces in a public place.



3.3 Lost Animals

It is important that dogs and cats are registered and microchipped to allow Council to reunite dogs and cats with their owners as quickly as possible.

Wandering dogs can cause a nuisance, are often distressed, and may attack or harass people or other animals. They can cause road accidents, resulting in possible injury to the dog and vehicle occupants and damage to the vehicle – all of which is the responsibility of the dog's owner.

Under the Act, it is an offence to allow a dog to wander at large. A dog will be considered to be wandering at large if it is in a public place, other than a designated off leash area/dog park, or a private place without the consent of the occupier, and no person is exercising effective control by way of a physical restraint.

In accordance with the Roxby Downs Cats By-law, it is an offence to allow a cat to wander at large. A cat will be considered to be wandering at large if it is in a public place, or a private place without the consent of the occupier, and no person is exercising effective control by way of a physical restraint.

Roxby Council provides the community with education to ensure that dog owners are aware of their responsibilities to register their dog, adequately fence their property to control their dog, keep their dog under effective control when in a public place and use Council's off leash areas and enclosed dog park. Upon request, the Council Ranger is able to attend a property and assess the boundaries, fencing and gates to ensure the yard is secure.

Council's Ranger supports and encourages dog and cat owners to comply with the Act and acknowledges and commends those who make every effort to contain their dogs or cats within their property boundaries. Warnings are issued to first offenders, when that offence is of a minor nature and no harm to a person or property has occurred. However penalties will be applied for repeat offenders.



3.4 Animal Emergency

Council will take every precaution to safely accommodate lost or found dogs and cats. In emergency situations when a dog or cat is injured, Council will contact a registered veterinary surgeon for assistance.

4. OUR FACILITIES/AMENITIES

4.1 Pound Facilities

In July 2020, Roxby Council constructed a new animal detention facility (pound) fit for the purpose of keeping dogs and cats in a safe environment in the event an animal is captured and temporarily detained.

This facility consists of 4 large individual pens, 2 small individual pens, and an extra-large pen inside a secure building. The facility also consists of a yard for exercising dogs. Animals have access to clean dry bedding, food and water, and are monitored twice a day while impounded. Animals impounded overnight are exercised each morning by Council's Ranger or an Authorised Officer who is on after hours, on-call duty.



4.2 On-Leash and Off-Leash Reserves/Dog Park

Council provides 3 off-leash areas within the township, including the small and large town ovals and the new enclosed Dog Park on Pioneer Drive, constructed in July 2020. These off-leash areas are provided for the enjoyment of all dogs and their owners.

Dog Park rules have been established and are displayed at the Dog Park, reminding owners of their responsibilities.

ON-LEASH	
Location / Address	Comments
All streets in Roxby Downs	-

OFF-LEASH	
Location / Address	Comments
Roxby Downs Large Oval, Olympic Way	Under supervision and voice command
Roxby Downs Small Oval, Olympic Way	Under supervision and voice command, between the hours of 5.30pm – 8.00am Monday to Friday
Dog Park, Pioneer Drive	Under supervision at all times Observe dog park rules

DOG PROHIBITED AREAS	
Location / Address	Comments
Small Oval	No animals between 8.00am – 5.30pm Monday to Friday
Any Children's Playground	-



5. METHODS OF COMMUNICATION

Council connects with the community regarding dog and cat management via various platforms and provides information and guidance on responsible dog and cat ownership, including educational material.

Facebook

Roxby Council's Facebook page (facebook.com/RoxbyCouncil) is actively used to advise the community on information relating to dog and cat management including:

- Updates for any changes to animal management, including law changes and alerts.
- Educational information on responsible dog or cat ownership.
- Seized and impounded pets, where an owner is unknown or uncontactable.
- Registration renewals and reminders.
- Alerts regarding fireworks display, or heavy blasting activities conducted on BHP's Olympic Dam operations, when notified.

Website

Council maintains up to date information on the management of dogs and cats on its website; roxbydowns.sa.gov.au/animal-management.

Brochures/Promotional Material

The Dog and Cat Management Board produces brochures and other promotional materials which are available from the Roxby Council office. The promotional material includes Dog and Cat Ownership handbooks, booklets on dogs barking and confining cats, information flyers on microchipping and desexing dogs and cats and information regarding registration.

Roadside Signage

Council erects multiple temporary roadside signs throughout the town during the dog and cat registration renewal period, reminding and encouraging the community to renew and/or register pets before the 31 August due date.

Reserves

Signage is installed at the large oval reserve and the dog park locations advising owners to pick up after their dog. The signage is typically displayed where there are 'doggy poop bag' dispensers. There is signage surrounding the small oval stating No Dogs on Small Oval between 8.00am and 5.30pm on School Days Only.

Community Consultation

Consultation allows the community members to have a say on the issues that affect them. Community consultation provides direction and focus and encourages a greater acceptance of the Animal Management Plan. Public consultation is delivered via Council's online platforms and by distributing hard-copy consultation packs at key locations in the town.

Previously consultations included:

- Dog and Cat By-laws.
- Enclosed Off-Leash Dog Park on Pioneer Drive.
- Animal Management Plan 2022-2027.

6. OBJECTIVES/STRATEGIES/MEASURES (KPI)

Benefits of Pet Ownership

Pets play an important part in many people’s lives. They provide enjoyment and help children develop responsibilities that can transfer to adulthood. Pet ownership encourages physical activity and provides psychological benefits.

Research shows that pets improve many aspects of everyday life including, general health, social development, family life, immunity, and companionship.

Benefits of Pet Ownership			
	Objectives	Actions	Measures
	Facilitate and encourage rehoming of unowned and impounded dogs.	Liaison with appropriate agencies or other to rehome unidentified, seized, and abandoned animals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in number of animals being rehomed by appropriate agencies.
	Increase awareness of the benefits of well-behaved and social dogs in the community.	<p>Make available publications in the customer service area of the Roxby Council office.</p> <p>Implement campaigns to highlight various issues relating to responsible pet ownership.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum of 2 campaigns undertaken annually online and throughout town. • Noticeable reduction in reports of aggressive dog behaviour. • Annual reduction in dog and cats wandering at large. • Annual reduction in dogs and cats found not to be microchipped or desexed. • Annual reduction in the number of seized animals.



Safe 'Pet-Friendly' Environment

As an important member of the family, pets require ongoing care and nurture. Owners have many responsibilities to ensure their pet is well cared for and doesn't develop nuisance behaviour.

Both the home and public open spaces should provide opportunities for pets to safely play, socialise and interact. With proper precautions in place, public open space on the town ovals and community land at the Dog Park provides a valuable opportunity for people and pets to come together.

Safe 'Pet-Friendly' Environments			
	Objectives	Actions	Measures
	Identify and enforce dog 'on-leash and 'off-leash' areas to provide appropriate opportunities for exercising dogs.	Patrol dog on-leash, off-leash and prohibited areas and educate owners on responsibilities. Strategic placement of signs that promote legislative requirements, dog etiquette and owner responsibilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly patrols undertaken by Authorised Officers. • Make available educational material to the public online and at the Roxby Council office regarding the effective control of dogs. • Number of expiations issued. • At least 2 signs per-site at off leash locations.
	Reduce public and environmental nuisances caused by dog faeces.	Maintain dog bag dispensers at the town oval and at the Dog Park. Promote the existence of dog bag dispensers, and the requirement for owners to pick up after their dog. Proactively address noncompliance where possible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimal number of complaints in regard to dog faeces on public areas. • Annual review of the type and locations of facilities provided. • Increase awareness of dispenser locations. • Ensure dispensers are checked and refilled regularly. • Increase number of expiations issued for noncompliance.
	Proactively manage cat issues within the Council area.	Facilitate a cat trap hire service to residents in the area. Ensure the public is aware Council can assist with unidentified cats.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase number of cat traps hired annually. • Promote and educate the community on cat management issues. • Facilitate relationships between Council and external contractors for conducting cat management programs.
	Compliance with Roxby Downs' Cats By-law and its provision for the control and management of cats.	Review Cats By-law including community feedback, research and resourcing implications.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cats By-law is reviewed every 8 years or as required.

Regulatory Framework

It is important that Council sustains an appropriate combination of relevant laws, policies and procedures for animal management within Roxby Downs.

For people and their pets to co-exist in a community, there must be agreed expectations, clear structures, rules, and procedures for:

- Promoting responsible ownership.
- Protecting the environment and public health.
- Encouraging compliance with legislative, policy and procedures.
- Dealing with nuisance caused by animals, particularly 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 (via Dogs and Cats Online – DACO), development of By-laws, the appointment of Animal Management Officer (Ranger) and other Authorised Officers, enforcement of legislative responsibilities and the issuing of Dog Control Orders.

Regulatory Framework			
	Objectives	Actions	Measures
	Sustain an appropriate combination of relevant laws, policies and procedures for animal management.	<p>Conduct scheduled reviews of policies and procedures to reflect legislative changes and best practise.</p> <p>Contribute to consultation conducted by the Local Government Association (LGA), the Dog and Cat Management Board and the South Australian Government.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to date policies. • Up to date standard operating guidelines. • Incorporation or consideration of Council's ideas and position in new legislation, regulation, procedures and systems.
	Promote the requirements for local dog and cat breeders and sellers.	Educate the community regarding legislative requirements and responsibilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure breeders and sellers are compliant with the Act.
	Continuously improve the role, profile and capacity of authorised officers.	Ensure team members are trained, qualified and experienced in their responsibilities by providing ongoing training to authorised persons.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular review of training undertaken by relevant staff members to proactively address compliance. • Training sessions documented and reviewed.
	Provide safe and secure temporary detainment facilities for lost and found dogs and cats.	Ensuring that facilities comply with the Dog and Cat Management Board's guidelines for detainment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal audits and regular maintenance of facilities. • Official DCMB approval received and in the Council Records Management System.

Good Animal Behaviours

Responsible pet ownership information is provided and available via various publications from the Council office, website and on social media. The community is educated on mandatory desexing and microchipping requirements and compliance is monitored. Educational information and material is also available to reduce the impact of barking dogs in the community.

Good Animal Behaviours			
	Objectives	Actions	Measures
	Educate residents about mandatory desexing requirements.	Promote the legislative requirements for dogs to be desexed through various methods of communication.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 90% of dogs registered after 1 July each year are desexed or have the applicable exemption. • At least 1 campaign undertaken annually to promote legislative requirements for desexing.
	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"> • Reduction in the number of non-desexed dogs and cats being impounded. • Enforcement is activated for continued non-compliance.
	Reduce the impact of barking dogs in the community.	<p>Provide educational material to dog owners to assist them with changing a dog's barking behaviour.</p> <p>Educational information for the community about why dogs bark and how to address or avoid the issue.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in the number of barking dog complaints. • Successful outcomes between neighbours in dispute regarding barking dogs. • Provide the community with the resources needed to resolve the complaint without the intervention of Council. • Streamline internal processes to ensure effective communication.

Identification of Animals

Owners of dogs and cats within Roxby Downs 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.

It is a requirement in South Australia for all dogs to have their registration numbers displayed on the dog's collar when outside the property. The registration data is 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 this State are required to be microchipped. Microchipping also supports Council to return dogs and cats to their owners. Council provides educational information to the community about mandatory microchipping requirements.

Identification of Animals			
	Objectives	Actions	Measures
	Educate residents about mandatory microchipping requirements.	Information to be posted via Council's methods of communication. Support the Dog and Cat Management Board by local advertising of Board produced information and website links.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual reduction of occurrences of residents claiming to not know the requirements. • High rate of registered dogs and cats that are also microchipped.
	Monitor compliance with the mandatory microchipping requirements.	Obtain reports from DACO to identify non-microchipped dogs and cats and contact owners of non-standard animals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in the number of non-microchipped dogs and cats being impounded. • Enforcement is activated for continued non-compliance.

7. REFERENCES

- Permits and Penalties By-law No. 1 of 2016
- Dogs By-law No.2 of 2016
- Cats By-law No.3 of 2022
- Dog and Cat Registrations Policy 2018
- Dog and Cat Management Policy 2019
- *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*
- *Dog and Cat Management Regulations 2017*
- *Expiation of Offences Act 1996*
- *Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2017*
- Dog and Cat Management Board - dogandcatboard.com.au
- Dogs And Cats Online (DACO) - dogsandcatsonline.com.au