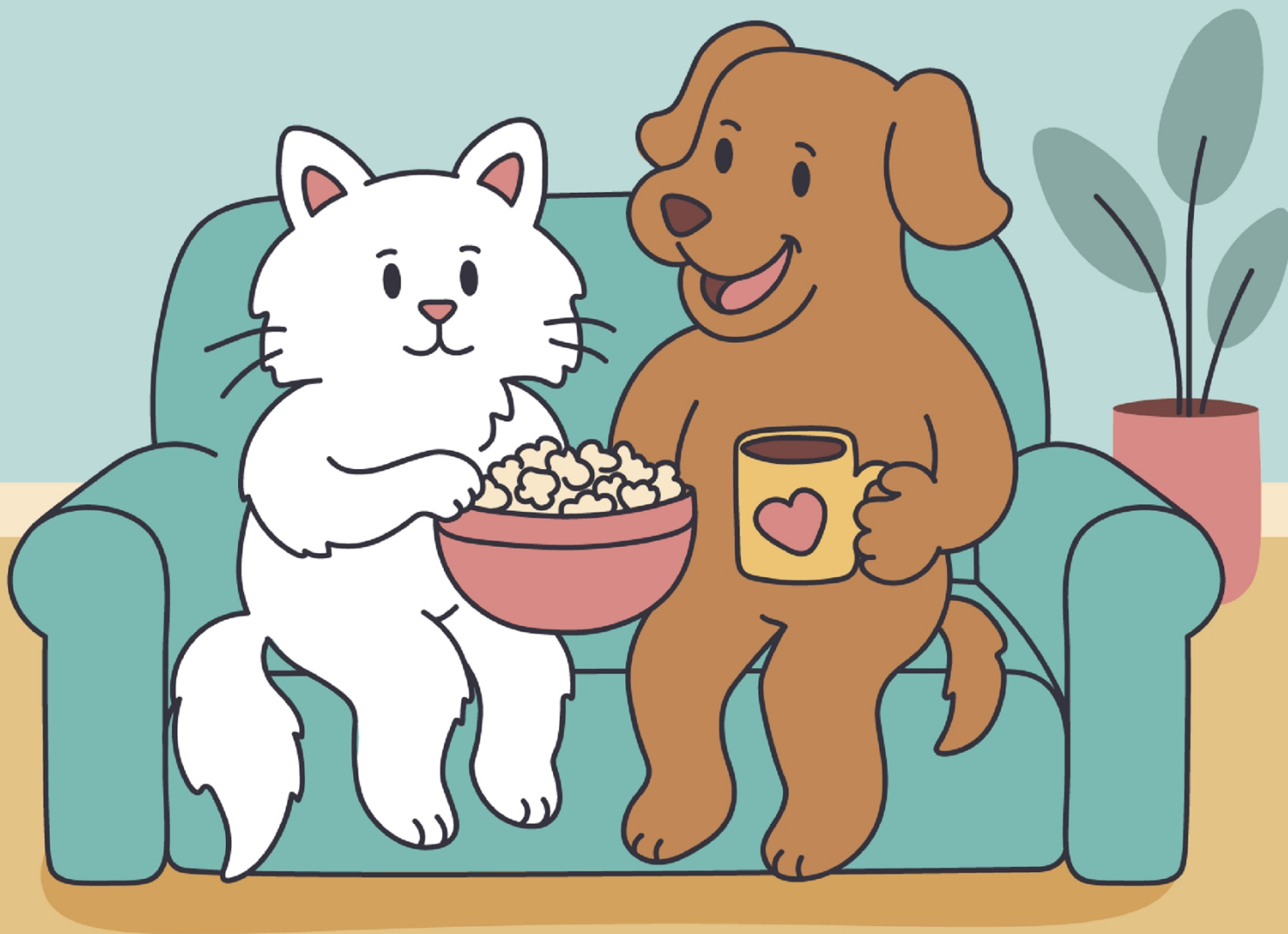


Take the lead



Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029

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Our Plan

Take the Lead outlines how people, dogs and cats in the Surf Coast Shire can live together in safety and harmony, creating a community where responsible pet ownership supports everyone's wellbeing.

Purpose statement

The purpose of the Surf Coast Shire Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) is to guide and regulate the responsible care and management of cats and dogs within the community, recognising the contribution companion animals have on the health and wellbeing of many people.

The focus is on community education, providing support services and ensuring compliance with the Domestic Animals Act 1994 (*The Act*) and the Surf Coast Shire local laws.

The aim is to foster responsible pet ownership to protect the wellbeing of pets, enhance community safety and support a harmonious relationship between animals, their owners and the wider community.

Taking the Lead is a shared responsibility in partnership with the community, Parks Victoria and the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority (GORCAPA).

Through this four-year action plan, the DAMP supports Council's broader goals of safety, wellbeing and environmental protection within the Community Wellbeing strategic direction of the new [Council Plan](#).



The four “Take the Lead” principles of our Plan

We’ve worked with our community to build a shared understanding of responsible pet ownership. Guided by the four “Take the Lead” Principles, which apply to residents, visitors and Council, we aim for friendly relationships between pet-owners, pets and the wider community through a balanced approach to education and enforcement.



Principle 1: Shared responsibility & awareness

- Dog attacks on people or other animals, including livestock and wildlife, are never acceptable. There are no exceptions.
- The Shire includes hinterland, rural and coastal environments. Pet owners should be mindful of these environments, often home to endangered or fragile wildlife, as well as livestock used for commercial purposes, when controlling their animals to ensure the safety of the animals and their habitats.

Principle 2: Education & training

- Don’t assume people or other animals know your pet is friendly. Some dogs or people may be recovering from past experiences, so please ask before letting your dog approach them and if you see a leashed dog, leash your own as you head past.
- Barking can affect people’s wellbeing so please contact Council for advice to reduce it, for you, your neighbours’ and your dog’s benefit.
- We have a 24-hour cat curfew in Surf Coast Shire, meaning all cats need to be confined to their owner’s premises, unless your cat is appropriately restrained. Find out more about how to keep your cat happy and safe at surfcoast.vic.gov.au/Cats
- Don’t feel ashamed to ask for help – there are people just like you being helped by the many experienced animal trainers and behaviourists in the region.

Principle 3: Know the rules

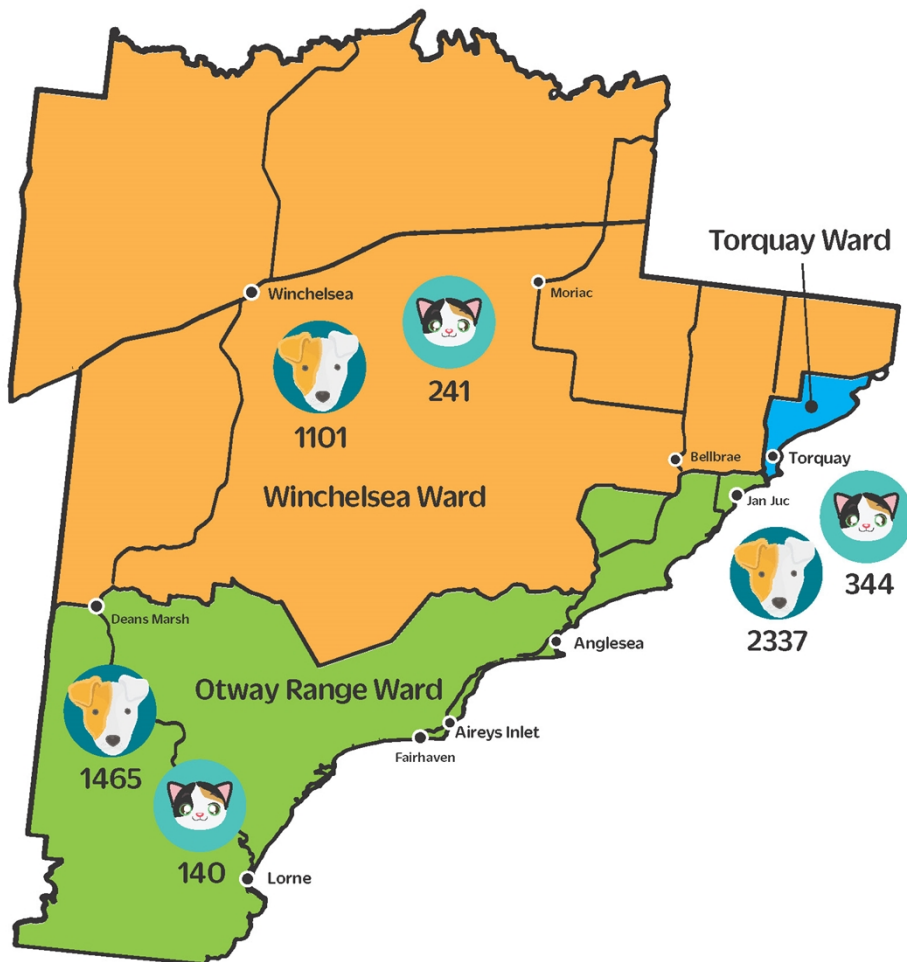
- Take the lead by knowing and following the rules for the protection of ourselves, our pets, wildlife and livestock, our community and our natural environment.
- It may sound simple but always pick up the poo! It's a health hazard that can be easily avoided.
- Off the leash, only in off-leash areas. Be mindful that people or dogs who are nervous around animals may visit on-leash areas for good reasons.
- Keep your cat inside or in a cat run so they don't roam and adhere to cat curfews.
- De-sex your own pets and trap strays and feral cat populations, who threaten our endangered and fragile wildlife.

Principle 4: Improving together

- Together, let's promote ways to be responsible pet owners.
- In partnership, we will educate our community with clear messaging and signage strategies, facilitate community programs, including for youth, and use communication channels to understand current issues.
- To support safe spaces, we will continue to ensure animals are registered and micro-chipped, patrol shared areas and monitor compliance statistics for planning and response strategies.
- When rules are broken, we will help people understand the reasons behind them.
- Not all areas are Council-managed, so we will work with GORCAPA to support their management arrangements for dogs on beaches and their other land.



Pet registration by ward



Our Shire is made up of the principal settlements of Torquay/Jan Juc, with coastal settlements including Anglesea, Aireys Inlet and Lorne. Inland Winchelsea provides a local service centre for the surrounding rural hinterland along with two smaller villages of Moriac and Deans Marsh. These environments include a mix of 70-km of coastline, natural forest, settled urban areas and rural agricultural environments within a large geographical footprint of 1,560 square kilometres. This forms a diverse background to where our domestic animals live, with registrations by town outlined here:

We have a fast-growing human population of 39,292, with nearly half of the Shire's residents living in Torquay, a 20-30-minute commute from central Geelong. Popular as a sea-change, tree-change and summer holiday destination, and with a higher proportion of children and young people, older working families, and people with high levels of education, employment and household income, it's no wonder pet registrations are growing as new residents come with companion animals, alongside visitors from nearby growth areas and from further afield. There are now approximately 5,500 dogs and 700 cats registered with our Council.

Fun Fact: Did you know that Daisy and Charlie are tied in the top animal names across the Surf Coast Shire, with Bella and Coco joint runners-up?

Fun Fact: Border Collies are the top choice for dog owners in our Shire, with kelpies, labradors and cavoodles next on the list.

Community engagement summary

Engagement objectives

A new plan for the management of our domestic pets is created every four years and we aim to make the engagement appealing to all ages. The engagement program opened in mid-July and closed mid-August, with a dedicated purpose to change behaviour and raise awareness of issues happening in public areas and on local beaches.

Our program, Take the Lead, is a message to all of us to take more responsibility with our pets and to be more aware of others, including non-pet owners and other pets.

Survey respondents have reported things there are contributing factors to the issues they are experiencing including pets have become used to their owners being at home, the cost of living has increased, and we have more visitors using our public spaces from nearby towns.



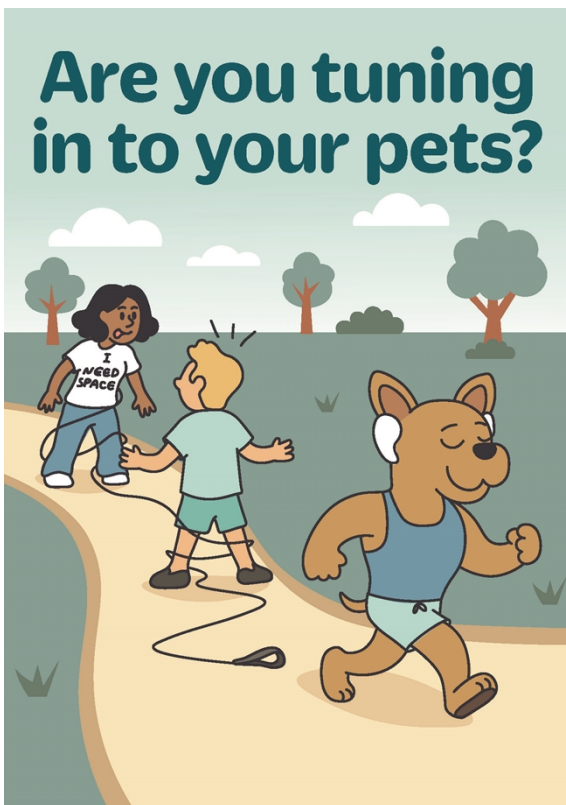
Engagement stats and facts

- **485** people participated in the survey.
- A range of ages contributed; however, the primary demographic was females between **40-70 years of age**.
- **60%** of responders were from the Torquay/Jan Juc area.
- A range of pet owners, sports clubs, vets, non-pet owners, trainers, bird /wildlife conservationists, and visitors had their say.
- We received over **2,500 comments**.

Overall, the sentiment is telling us we need to all do more, that things have worsened since we developed the last plan, mostly with dog related issues and shared spaces. The cat curfew is working well, however, more reminders are needed.

The engagement feedback is asking for:

- More enforcement,
- More community education,
- A dog space for off leash activities,
- Improved signage and waste facilities.



Key highlights

Many issues were highlighted in this community engagement phase. The top issues are listed below to help provide focus to the key actions Council might undertake in the DAMP. Other ideas were identified in the engagement phase and an engagement report will contain the engagement data and made available on Council's Your Say web page during the DRAFT DAMP exhibition period.

Top five issues in the Surf Coast Shire

The below list shows the most mentioned themes in order:

- 1 Dogs Off Leash / Uncontrolled Dogs
- 2 Dog Waste Not Picked Up (Dog Poop)
- 3 Lack of Council Enforcement
- 4 Irresponsible Pet Ownership
- 5 Cats Roaming and Killing Wildlife

Top Five Difficulties for pet owners

1. **Uncontrolled / Off-Lead Dogs & Poor Owner Behaviour**
Concerns about dog attacks, lack of recall, aggression, and irresponsible owners in shared spaces.
2. **Lack of Secure, Fenced, or Safe Off-Leash Areas**
Inadequate or removed fenced dog parks; limited options for dogs to run safely without disturbing others.
3. **Inadequate Dog Waste Facilities (Bins & Bags)**
Missing, empty, or poorly maintained dispensers; insufficient bins.
4. **Confusing, Overly Restrictive, or Poorly Communicated Regulations**
Rules around beach access, seasonal/time-share restrictions, signage clarity, and general pet-related laws.
5. **Cost & Financial Barriers to Pet Ownership**
High costs for vet care, registration fees, pet supplies, desexing, and training.

Top Five Things you want to see in the next plan

1. Strong Need for Enforcement / Ranger Presence

- Most consistent and widespread concern.
Requests for:
 - More rangers, especially outside standard hours and in key locations (Torquay, Point Roadknight, Jan Juc, Aireys Inlet).
 - Greater visibility and accessibility (rangers' contact info posted).
 - Better coverage during peak times and summer.
 - Volunteer or part-time officers suggested.

2. Dog Poo Management / Clean-Up & Enforcement

- Widespread frustration with dog waste in public spaces.
Calls for:
 - More bins and bag dispensers (especially Deep Creek, walking tracks).
 - Stricter enforcement on owners who fail to clean up.
 - Education and fines both requested.

3. Clearer and More Visible Signage / Communication Confusion

- Signage is missing, unclear, or vandalized.
- Recommendations include:
 - Printed signs instead of removable logos.
 - More visible boundary demarcations in parks and beaches.
 - Maps or flyers for residents and renters, who are often unaware of rules.

4. Off-Leash and On-Leash Balance / Control & Safety

- Strong disagreement on where dogs should be off-leash.
- Some people want:
 - More off-leash areas.
 - Others feel unsafe and want stricter control in shared zones (e.g., beaches).
- Multiple reports of injuries and frightening encounters.

5. Education and Responsible Pet Ownership

- Calls to educate pet owners on:
 - Cleaning up after pets.
 - Leashing rules.
 - Cat curfews.
- Many people also feel education is not enough without enforcement.

Take the Lead Action Plan

Here's a high-level overview of the action plan, based on partnership between Council, our community and key stakeholders.

What Council could focus on:

- Educate and engage community and visitors about effective control, nuisance dogs and regulated areas, with a long-term focus.
- Undertake appropriate evidenced based enforcement actions and activities.
- Communicate throughout the year to pet owners and visitors.
- Stronger compliance support to ensure everyone knows the rules.
- Track and monitor statistics, such as compliance and complaints, to assist with planning patrols.
- Direct compliance resources and activities to priority areas, such as areas of high non-compliance, including additional signage during peak summer season.

Our Commitment:

- We'll review the data every month.
- We'll look for trends—both good and not-so-good—to understand what's happening.
- We'll use what we learn to help our Rangers and community focus on the most important "Take the Lead" priorities.
- The data will also help us guide our education and enforcement efforts as part of our ongoing DAMP goals.
- Most importantly, we'll encourage pet owners to be responsible, take the lead, and help make our Shire a safe and enjoyable place for everyone.

Areas where our community could improve:

- Carrying poo bags and picking up dog litter.
- Learning and applying effective control.
- Following the rules of responsible pet ownership, including for off-leash and on-leash areas. To read about the animal laws in Surf Coast Shire go to surfcoast.vic.gov.au/AnimalLaws.
- Being mindful of others and not assuming other people and animals are comfortable around all dogs.
- Knowing your dog breed, and your dog, as well as behaviour training.

Our focus

Our plan is guided by community feedback and informed by our compliance services, all working together to support responsible and empowered pet ownership. The plan outlines clear objectives, assesses the current landscape, and defines performance measures across all key areas of responsibility. Action tables accompany each priority area, reflecting a continued commitment to core programs while identifying opportunities for growth and improvement throughout the life of the plan.



Our people

The Ranger Services team is a respected part of the Community Safety Team in the Community Life Division of Surf Coast Shire Council and responsible for domestic animal management alongside many other duties. Domestic animal demands on the team have risen alongside the increasing population of permanent domestic animals, holiday homeowners travelling with pets, and people from the Geelong and Armstrong Creek growth area frequenting the region with their pets. The current cost of delivering animal management services is approximately \$654,000 per year.

Council works closely with GORCAPA to help manage dogs on beaches and other land they look after. While GORCAPA covers costs, such as providing waste bags, signage and joining Council Rangers on beach patrols, they don't receive any income from pet registrations or fines issued by Rangers on their land. Both Council and GORCAPA fund their own education and compliance efforts.

Staffing





















Trained to deliver multiple services, there are twelve members of the Ranger Services team looking after services and administration including local law enforcement, managing the school crossing supervisor program, parking restrictions, responding to stock on roads and domestic animal management. As a smaller Shire, it's not practical to assign rangers to just one task, such as domestic animal management, especially due to the seasonal changes in demand. We're always reviewing resources to keep up with our growing community needs.

Training

Surf Coast Shire is committed to making sure all staff are well-equipped to carry out their duties under the Act. Most team members are already fully trained, and a clear training plan is in place to support ongoing development. Newer staff are prioritised to ensure they receive the right training at the right time.

Our objectives

- Provide sufficient resources to effectively deliver the domestic animal management service over the four-year period and respond to the seasonal demands and unique challenges of our coastal areas.
- Ensure employees are fully trained to deliver the service, supported by best practice in procedures and occupational health and safety.
- Establish collaborative working relationships between the ranger team and the community, with roles and responsibilities between the community, Council and other open space managers made clear.
- Partner with and promote Animal Welfare Victoria to deliver best practice animal management outcomes for the community

Actions	2026	2027	2028	2029
Work actively with GORCAPA regarding roles and responsibilities on GORCAPA managed land.				
Continue to develop and deliver individual training plans for the Rangers				
Rangers to engage with Animal Welfare Victoria delivered training courses.				
Participate in State Government programs and initiatives as they arise such as current review of animal welfare legislation.				
Better utilise Animal Welfare Victoria for operational advice to ensure best practice service is provided to community				

Our processes

Present situation

In 2025, there were 5,511 dogs and 717 cats registered in the Surf Coast Shire. Over the past four years, the number of registered pets has changed alongside the Shire's growing population. Dog and Cat registrations have decreased. This may not mean there are fewer pets, but may indicate that more might be unregistered. The chart below shows how pet numbers have shifted over time, and with continued growth in the area, we expect these numbers to keep changing.

52% of dogs and 52% of cats are in Torquay and Jan Juc. 72% of dogs and 75% of cats are in the top five locations.

No. of animals registered to April 2025

	2023	2024	2025
Dogs	5800	5789	5511
Cats	887	810	717
Total	6687	6599	6228

*** Please note at time of producing this plan the registration and pet no's varied due to loss of pet, new registrations etc.

Identification

All domestic animals are required to be microchipped and registered and its now accepted as a standard part of responsible pet ownership. Compulsory micro-chipping is required before registration, so only a small number of pets remain without a microchip.

Desexing













The percentage of dogs and cats desexed is also high. Desexed, micro-chipped or pensioner-owned animals are able to be registered for a third of the costs under the Act.

Our objectives

Ensure all cats and dogs over the age of three months residing in the municipality are registered annually with minimal delay and implanted with a microchip. Continue to monitor registration fees to ensure animal owners are making a fair contribution to the cost of running animal management services.

Performance measures

- Timely conduct of the registration process with a reduction in the percentage of late registrations
- Percentage of registered animals microchipped
- Net cost of the service to Council is not increased

Actions	2026	2027	2028	2029
Strong Communications and engagement to promote pet registration in the lead up to the registration period.				
Continue to provide 12-month free registration to adopted animals.				
Better publicise discounted desexing program available to concession card holders.				

Nuisance management

Nuisance behaviours include wandering dogs and cats, threats to wildlife and livestock, barking dogs and unsocial behaviour of dogs, including dog litter.

Present situation

Responsible pet ownership and fair compliance matter to both pet owners and the wider community. Most pet owners do the right thing, and we believe education works better than enforcement, but when a few ignore the rules, it affects everyone. That's why enforcement will focus on those who consistently disregard the rules. And we'll keep people in the loop to improve how we report back on actions taken.

In 2024/25 we received 823 customer requests including registration enquiries. The highest number of requests are for registration, then animal complaints (nuisance and animal control), and then lost animals.

Customer action requests by year

- Animal Enforcement Action has increased over the last four years. It's now standard for first-time offenders to receive a warning.
- We will monitor data for trends and patterns. This will include what is working well and where complaints and high levels of non compliance are occurring. We will prioritise where resources will be deployed, improving education and circumstances where direct enforcement action is necessary.

Did you know? Uncontrolled barking, roaming pets, and uncollected waste are among the top complaints reported to Council, and they're all preventable with responsible pet ownership.

Customer action requests by year

A review of recent penalty data indicates that a significant proportion of penalties issued relate to dogs found at large, cared for by officers at the pound until their owners are identified. Encouragingly, these incidents are decreasing as community members are increasingly using social media to reunite lost domestic animals with their owners, without the need for Council's involvement.

It is also important to note that infringement numbers have not increased in line with reports of animal attacks. This is largely due to many reported dog-related incidents—such as dogs rushing at people or animals or minor altercations, lack sufficient information to pursue enforcement. In most cases, key details, such as the identity of the offending owner, are not provided, limiting officers' ability to investigate or take further action.



















	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Animal related customer requests total.	565 (818 including registration enquires)	675 (874 including registration enquires)	676 (823 including registration enquires)
Animal Attacks.	55	63	72
Animal Complaints.	88	112	138
Animal Registration.	224	171	217
Barking Dogs.	62	97	73
Cat Cages.	73	102	100
Cat Curfew Enquiries	18	19	0
Cats.	45	103	85
Domestic Animals @ large.	154	97	63
Lost Domestic Animals.	99	110	75

Objectives

- Provide accessible information on animal nuisances and regulations, with clearly defined enforcement standards to promote responsible pet ownership.
- Monitor and enforce compliance with [regulations and laws](#) that will provide for safe and clean community spaces.
- Our Rangers team will continue to investigate reported dog related attacks and rushes to promote responsible pet ownership, owner accountability and community safety.

Performance measures

- Number of community requests for service
- Time taken to resolve service requests
- Community satisfaction with responsible animal ownership

Actions	2026	2027	2028	2029
Deliver consistent community education on key topics through a variety of channels (social media, print media, direct emails) – minimum of 8 campaigns per year. May include a quarterly info newsletter to registered owners.				
Partner with GORCAPA to deliver ‘pop-up’ education booths at known problem locations. Include local service providers including vets, trainers etc.				
Deliver a minimum of 30 hours of proactive patrols per week in peak period, 20 hours in off-peak period. Increase use of beach all-terrain vehicle. Primary aim to engage and educate dog owners regarding responsibilities.				
Partner with GORCAPA and the community to develop alternative, playful signage styles to try and cut through on key messages, particularly around dog poo.				
Review dog regulation signage on GORCAPA land particularly for time share zones				

Dog attacks and dangerous dogs

























Details of dangerous, menacing, and restricted breed dogs in the Shire are recorded on the Victorian Declared Dog Registry (VDDR). Restricted breeds in Victoria include the American Pitbull Terrier, Perro de Presa Canario, Japanese Tosa, Fila Brasileiro, and Dogo Argentino. Dogs declared dangerous by Council must be clearly identified, securely contained, and housed on premises displaying compliant warning signs. Dog attacks are not limited to aggressive breeds and include incidents where a dog rushes, lunges at, or harms people, other animals, or livestock.

Present situation

In Surf Coast Shire there is only one registered dangerous dog and four registered menacing dogs. We have a very low number of registered dangerous and menacing dogs, and this has been consistent over the last four years. Our team proactively responds to both dangerous and menacing dog reports.

Our objectives

- Gradually reduce the ratio of dog attacks relative to registered dog numbers in the Shire over the four-year plan period.
- Regularly review dog attack data to identify trends and inform targeted prevention strategies.
- Ensure prompt and thorough investigation of all reported dog attacks.
- Strengthen public education to promote effective control of dogs in public spaces.
- Increase community awareness of dog attack risks and ensure all dog owners understand the legal and social consequences of attacks.
- Achieve full compliance with regulations for declared dangerous dogs and restricted breeds.

Actions	2026	2027	2028	2029
Specific communications campaigns regarding animal-on-animal attacks – provide education and promotion for training options	 	 	 	 
Review dog attack data to identify trends and promote safety strategies	 	 	 	 
Complete random inspections of declared Dangerous Dog premises to make sure owners are meeting obligations	 	 	 	 

Domestic animal businesses

Domestic Animal Businesses (DABs) include:

- Breeding and rearing establishments
- Pet shops
- Shelters and pounds
- Boarding establishments
- Dog training operations

Obedience training organisations

- All dog training businesses that operate for profit must register as a domestic animal business with Council and undergo an annual audit.
- Dog training businesses can operate without being affiliated but they must comply with the Code of Practice for the Operation of Dog Training Establishments.

Present situation

There are eight registered DABs in the Shire. They include:





- Dog House Pet Resort
- Purr Central
- Pet Stock Torquay
- Pet Stock North Torquay
- All for Paws
- Torquay and Surf Coast Cattery
- Kiana Park Cattery
- Woodleigh Kennels

Council Officers conduct random and scheduled audits and follow up complaints. Pre-permit inspections are carried out prior to registration.

Our objectives

- Manage all Domestic Animal Businesses in accordance with legislated standards
- Protect the welfare of animals being traded through Domestic Animal Businesses
- Accurate register of Domestic Animal Businesses
- Number of registered Domestic Animal Businesses
- Compliance with regulations
- Protection of animal welfare

Domestic Animal Businesses

Actions	2026	2027	2028	2029
Develop and promote website guidance for dog owners regarding animal trainers and behaviourists operating in our region				

Domestic animal overpopulation and euthanasia

This section highlights the importance of registering and identifying cats to prevent impoundment and euthanasia. Trapping and sterilising wandering and stray cats helps limit feral populations and supports local flora and fauna.

Surf Coast Shire includes large areas of public land and National Parks, where managing feral cats is a priority. The 2015 Threat Abatement Plan highlights the role of local government in controlling feral populations.

Cats are grouped by how and where they live:

- Feral cats live and breed in the wild with no human support.
- Stray cats roam urban and rural areas, relying partly on human resources but are not owned.
- Domestic cats are owned and cared for by households or businesses.

As cat confinement becomes more common, domestic cats may be further classified as confined or unconfined due to their differing impacts on native wildlife.

















You can learn more about Surf Coast Shire’s cat curfew here: [surfcoast.vic.gov.au/ Cats](https://surfcoast.vic.gov.au/Cats)

Present situation

- The number of cats and dogs registered is trending down in the final year of the current Domestic Animal Management Plan.
- Cat and dog impoundments dropped significantly from 160 in 2024 to 79 in 2025 year to date.
- On average over the past four years 48 cats and 85 dogs are impounded.
- 24/7 cat curfews contributed to a sharp decrease in cat impoundments in 2024.
- Microchipping remains vital for reuniting pets with owners.
- Surf Coast Shire Council maintains low euthanasia rates and high rehoming/reuniting rates (72.2% vs. state average of 41.4%) and this data is provided to the Know Your Council website.

Our objective

- Promote the cat curfew for confining domestic cats.
- Maintain high reclaiming rates for domestic animals.
- Minimise animal hoarding by acting on all reports and assisting owners to remove excess animals.
- Promote free use of cat cages to reduce the number of feral cats.

Actions	2026	2027	2028	2029
Promote adoption and shelter services.				
Continue to utilise the services of Geelong Animal Welfare Society.				
Continue to provide 12 months free pet registrations for adopted animals.				
Continue to provide free hire cost cat cages.				

Animals impounded.

2022	2023	2024	2025 YTD.
116 total dogs and cats.	179 total dogs and cats.	160 total dogs and cats.	79 total dogs and cats.
Cats 43 (37%)	Cats 51 (28%)	Cats 63 (39%)	Cats 37 (46%)
Dogs 73 (63%)	Dogs 128 (72%)	Dogs 97 (61%)	Dogs 42 (54%)

Annual review, reporting and performance management

Present situation

The collection, monitoring and use of data throughout the life of the plan is measured against the performance objectives listed in the plan. Identified trends and emerging issues will be communicated with the community through website and education programs. This data is reported on annually in accordance with Section 68A(3) of the Domestic Animals Act 1994.

















Our objectives

- A current and well-maintained plan
- Assessment of actions taken and annual performance
- A data set that guides continual improvement of processes
- Inclusion of new projects and programs
- Published evaluation of plan implementation in Council's annual report

Performance measures

- Completion of the DAMP annual review
- Publication of the DAMP annual implementation report
- Provision of a copy of the DAMP to State Government

Annual Report and performance management

Actions	2026	2027	2028	2029
Undertake internal annual review of the DAMP in November each year.	 	 	 	 
Provide a copy of DAMP review to State Government annually	 	 	 	 

Appendix

Legislative requirement of the Domestic Animals Act

Domestic Animal Management Plans

Under Section 68A of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*, every Council must prepare a domestic animal management plan, as follows:

68A Councils to prepare domestic animal management plans

1. Every Council must, in consultation with the Secretary (of the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources), prepare at 4 year intervals a domestic animal management plan.
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 that the Council intends to pursue in its municipal district—
 - (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 this Act and local laws that relate to the Council's municipal district with a view to determining whether further orders or local laws dealing 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.
3. Every Council must—
 - (a) Review its domestic animal management plan annually and, if appropriate, amend the plan; and
 - (b) Provide the Secretary with a copy of the plan and any amendments to the plan; and
 - (c) Publish an evaluation of its implementation of the plan in its annual report.

Surf Coast Shire Community Amenity Local Law No.1

PART 5 - KEEPING OF ANIMALS

5.1 Keeping Animals

- (1) A person must not, without a permit, keep domestic animals in a dwelling in a residential zone, a rural living zone or a built up area that:
 - (a) is not listed in table one; or
 - (b) amounts to more than 5 different types of animals or more than the number prescribed for each type of animal in table one.
- (2) A person must not, without a permit, keep animals in flats and units in a residential area that:
 - (a) is not listed in table two; or
 - (b) is more than the number prescribed for each type of animal in table two.
- (3) A person must not, without a permit, keep more than 5 dogs or 5 cats on any other land in the municipal district.
- (4) Bees must be kept in accordance with the terms of the *Livestock Disease Control Act 1994* and the *Apiary Code of Practice 1997* and be registered with Agriculture Victoria.
- (5) A person keeping an animal in a residential area, rural living zone or a built up area must ensure that the condition of the land resulting from the way in which an animal is kept does not affect or interfere with the amenity of other people living in reasonable proximity.
- (6) This Part does not apply to any land:
 - (a) on which a pet shop is located ; or
 - (b) on which an animal hospital or veterinary practice is located
- (7) The following animals and the maximum number permitted are allowed to be kept in residential zones, a rural living zone or a built up area:

Table One:

TYPE OF ANIMAL	MAXIMUM PERMITTED
Dog	2
Cat	2
Poultry*	10
Domestic bird	100
Guinea pig	10
Domestic mice	10
Domestic rabbit	10
Domestic fish	No maximum limit
Turtles & tortoise	4
Frogs	No maximum limit
Pigeons	20
Geese	4
Ducks	4
Ferrets	4

** The definition of “poultry” in the Community Amenity Local Law excludes ducks and geese.
Roosters are prohibited in residential areas or built up areas.*

- (8) The following animals and the maximum number permitted are allowed to be kept in flats and units in residential areas:

Table Two:

TYPE OF ANIMAL	MAXIMUM PERMITTED (without permit)
Dog	1
Cat	1
Domestic bird	4
Guinea pig	2
Domestic mice	4
Domestic rabbit	2
Domestic fish	No maximum limit
Turtle & tortoise	2
Frogs	No maximum limit
Ferrets	2

5.2 Trespassing Animals

The owner or occupier of any land where any animal is kept, other than a dog or a cat, must ensure the animal being kept on the land does not trespass on any Council land or a road.

5.3 Animal Excrement

The owner or person in charge of an animal must:

- (a) Whilst on Council land or a road or in a public place, have in their possession a bag or container which can be used for the collection of that animal's excrement; and
- (b) Immediately collect and remove all of the excrement left by the animal on Council land or a road or a public place.

5.4 Animal Control

The owner or person in charge of an animal must, whilst on Council land or a road or in a public place, have effective control of that animal.

5.5 Horses on Council Land or Public Places

- (1) A person in charge of a horse must not without a permit:
 - (a) ride or lead a horse on any Council land, or footpath in a residential area;
 - (b) allow the horse to cause any damage to Council land or a road or a public place; or
 - (c) allow the horse to create a risk or danger to other users of the Council land or road or public place.
- (2) A person in charge of a horse must immediately collect and remove all of the excrement left by the animal on Council land or a road or a public place.

Dog Regulation maps

What do the symbols mean?

D1

OFF LEASH AREAS 1

Dogs allowed off leash

Within these areas, dogs are allowed off leash at all times, provided they are kept under effective control.

1. Dog to be immediately controllable by voice commands
2. Dog to always be within close proximity to owner
3. Prevent dogs from approaching people or other dogs unless invited. If in doubt place your dog back on lead out of respect and harmony for all.

D2

D2 OFF LEASH AREAS 2

Dogs allowed off leash

Dogs allowed on leash during events

Within these areas dogs are allowed off leash except when organised events are occurring or being prepared for. In this instance dogs must be on leash, provided they are under effective control.

D3

TIMESHARE ZONE

Active from 1 Dec – 28 Feb and over Easter

9am - 7pm No dogs allowed

7pm - 9am Dogs allowed off leash

Dogs are only allowed with the following times and conditions:

9am–7pm: No Dogs allowed (except on defined paths and on a leash).

7pm–9am: Dogs allowed in these areas off leash but under effective control.

Outside the active timeshare zone dates: Dogs are allowed off leash but under effective control.

D4

NO DOGS ALLOWED

In these areas dogs are not allowed, with the exception of defined pathways, where they must be on a leash.

Note: Includes all fenced dune or vegetation areas and playgrounds.

