



# Domestic Animal Management Plan

## SUMMARY OF THE PLAN

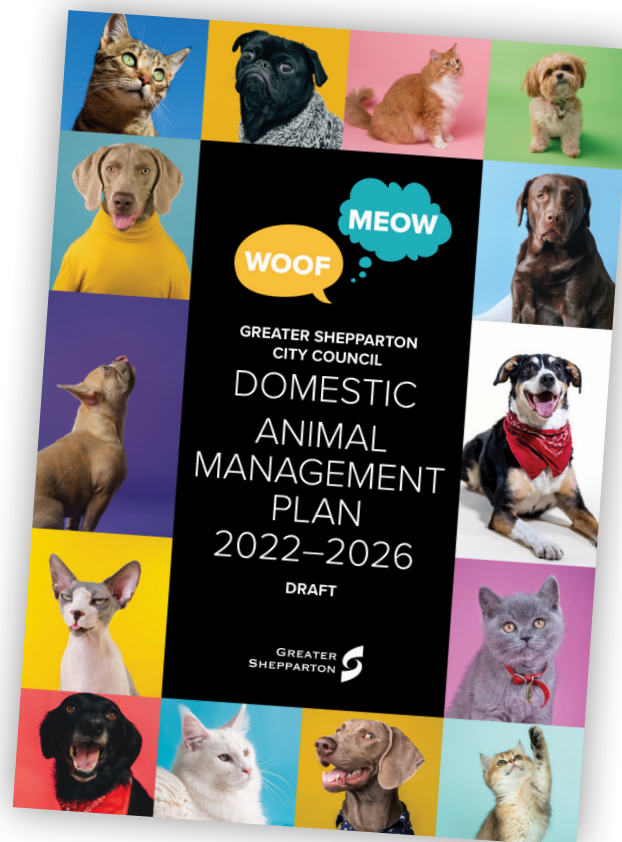
### What is a Domestic Animal Management Plan?

A Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) provides a formal approach to service delivery and animal management initiatives over four years in accordance with the Domestic Animals Act 1994. The Act outlines key issues that local government is responsible for and which it has to report on.

### What is Council's role in the DAMP?

Council plays an important leadership role in supporting and promoting responsible pet ownership, community safety and healthy living through a well-informed community. The Plan:

- Promotes responsible pet ownership and the welfare of dogs and cats in the community
- Protects the community and the environment from nuisance dogs and cats
- Outlines the training programs for their Authorised Officers to ensure these Officers are capable in administering and enforcing the provisions of the Act
- Identifies a method to evaluate whether the animal management services provided by them are adequate



### How does the DAMP affect me?

The DAMP has several aims all of which make Greater Shepparton a better place for pets, their owners and the community including:

- Greater Shepparton is regarded as a safe and harmonious place to live where quality of life is not negatively impacted by irresponsible pet owners
- Shepparton Animal Shelter provides effective housing and adoption programs with a high focus on animal welfare
- The negative impacts on the environment and wildlife by domestic animals are minimised
- There is a simple and clear process to register your pet with Council through multiple channels
- Provide a responsive, trusted, knowledgeable resource for pet owners, including relevant advice to residents and pet owners



## How is Council going to achieve this?

The DAMP provides an Action Plan which details the objectives and activities which Council will work towards over the four years. The DAMP has different topics arranged under sections covering Regulation, Shepparton Animal Shelter, Community Rangers, and Review and Reporting. Under each of these sections are a range of measurable actions which Council aims to complete.

## What topics do the actions relate to?

Council will be evaluated on how it deals with compliance and enforcement, occupational health and safety, community education, emergency management, registration and identification, nuisance dogs, off-leash dog parks, nuisance cats, dog attacks, declared dogs, domestic animal businesses, excess animals and overpopulation and euthanasia.

## What are the biggest issues identified from the community consultation?

The community told us in November 2021 that the issues they are most concerned about include:

- Education on responsible pet ownership
- Wandering cats and the damage to local wildlife
- People not picking up after their dogs
- Dogs in our local Parks and Botanic gardens
- Animal Registration numbers are reducing
- Animal Registration scheme should be changed
- A new animal shelter facility is required, including a community vet clinic and an area that can conduct responsible pet ownership seminars and events
- Increase Animal Adoptions
- Make the facility as user friendly as possible
- Open the Animal Shelter on weekends
- Should be able to drop off a stray cat any day during business hours with no booking.

## Who makes sure Council does what is in the Plan?

There are several key activities against which Council will be measured each year. The DAMP is covered by legislation and reviewed and evaluated annually. The results are provided to the Department of Primary Industries and included in Council's Annual Report.

## Where can I find more information?

You can find the Domestic Animal Management Plan on Council's website at

[shapinggreatershepp.com.au](https://shapinggreatershepp.com.au)

