

Help shape our Peninsula

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Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan community feedback

Background

Mornington Peninsula Shire has developed a four-year draft Domestic Animal Management Plan as required under the Domestic Animals Act 1994 (The Act).

The Plan will provide the Shire with a considered approach to promote responsible pet ownership, meet the needs of both pet owners and non-pet owners in our community, ensure the welfare of dogs and cats and protect our community and environment.

We've proposed a series of actions in the draft Domestic Animal Management Plan that will guide how we deliver animal management services over the next four years.

These actions have been grouped under the following themes:

- Promoting responsible pet ownership
- Overpopulation and euthanasia
- Registration and identification of dogs and cats
- Dog attacks and declared dogs (ie. dangerous, menacing and restricted breed)
- Nuisance
- Domestic animal businesses
- Training of authorised officers.

We would like your feedback on the new summary actions in the draft Plan. Your feedback will be used to help refine the actions outlined in the Plan. More details about the current programs and activities are available on page 6 to give you background information.

Provide your input

You can provide your feedback and input by making a submission.

Submissions close 22 September 2021.

Submissions can be made:

Online using the Shape platform

shape.mornpen.vic.gov.au/DAMP

Email DAMP@mornpen.vic.gov.au

Post: Re: Domestic Animal Management Plan
Mornington Peninsula Shire
Private Bag 1000, Rosebud, Victoria, 3939

Hard copy consultation forms are available to be posted upon request, by phoning Shire Customer Service

1300 850 600

Timeline

- **Open for community input** **3 May 2021**
Provide your input to help us draft the Domestic Animal Management Plan.
- **Community input closes** **23 May 2021**
We start to develop a draft Domestic Animal Management Plan based on your input and required legislation.
- **Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan** **Aug 2021**
Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan provided to community for further input.
- **Domestic Animal Management Plan presented to Council** **Late 2021**
The Domestic Animal Management Plan, incorporating your views, feedback and input will be presented to Council.

Further information

Registering your pet

mornpen.vic.gov.au/petregistration

Lost Pets mornpen.vic.gov.au/lostpets

Keeping animals on your property

mornpen.vic.gov.au/petcount

Nuisance dogs and cats

mornpen.vic.gov.au/nuisanceanimals

Leash free and dog prohibited areas

mornpen.vic.gov.au/leashfree

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Please provide your contact details below if you would like us to keep you informed.

Name

Contact phone number

Email address

Address

This survey should take around five minutes to complete and all responses are confidential. Hard copy survey forms are also available to be posted on request.

For more information on this survey or the draft Domestic Animal Management Plan, please visit the Shire website shape.mornpen.vic.gov.au/DAMP

Or contact the Community Safety and Compliance team:

☎ 5950 1000

✉ DAMP@mornpen.vic.gov.au

Gender

Male

Female

Non-binary

Please specify:

Age group

Under 18 years

18 to 24 years

25 to 34 years

35 to 44 years

45 to 54 years

55 to 64 years

65 to 74 years

Prefer not to say

About you

A few questions about you, to help us better understand the information you provide.

1. What type of pet do you own?

Dog

Cat

Both dog and cat

I do not own a dog or cat

2. Postcode

For publication on website

3. What is your connection to the Mornington Peninsula?

Live

Work

Study

Own a business

Involved in a community organisation

Visit

Own a property

Other, please specify:

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Promoting responsible pet ownership

Summary actions to promote and encourage responsible pet ownership and compliance with legislation.

Provide a planned and focused communication approach.

- Continue to implement annual communications plan.
- Targeted promotional activities to promote the ease of reporting a dog aggression / attack, the process and assured privacy.
- Targeted promotional activities to raise community awareness about feral and semi-owned cat populations, cat confinement, and the cat cage program.
- Provide responsible pet ownership information with annual registration renewals and new pet registrations.

Promote community compliance with dog controls in public places.

- Develop a signage strategy for dog controls at Shire beaches, parks and reserves including a costed implementation plan.
- Undertake additional proactive patrols of parks, reserves and foreshore areas to actively enforce against non-compliance of dog controls.

Provide a greater presence in the community to improve compliance and enhance education.

- Provide enhanced visible presence and engagement with the community by increasing patrols and registration checks at parks, reserves and foreshore areas.
- Investigate opportunities to participate in community outreach activities that are feasible in a COVID-19 environment including participation in festivals, events and pets' day out.
- Investigate opportunities to facilitate presentations to schools and community groups.

4. Is there anything else you would like to see in the Plan around promoting responsible pet ownership?

- No
- Yes (please specify)

Overpopulation and euthanasia

Summary actions to address over-population and high euthanasia rates in dogs and cats.

Provide a planned and focused communication approach.

- Community Animal Shelter and Pound site redevelopment.
- Partner with other animal management services and facilities to support domestic animal management across the municipality. Continue to develop relationships and partnerships with vets and rescue groups.
- Undertake activities to identify and enforce against breeders who illegally sell non-desexed animals.

Promote community compliance with dog controls in public places.

- Investigate feasibility of subscribing to a discounted desexing scheme, to provide a subsidised desexing program to members of the community who may not ordinarily be able to afford to desex their pets.

5. Is there anything else you would like to see in the Plan around overpopulation and euthanasia?

- No
- Yes (please specify)

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Registration and identification of dogs and cats

Summary actions to encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats.

Increase registration compliance and opportunities for lost pets to be more easily reunited with their owners.

- Continue doorknock compliance program to follow up on failure to renew registration.
- Focus on lapsed registrations due to inability to doorknock under COVID-19 restrictions.
- Continue to undertake activities to better identify registration non-compliance, including registration checks in the field, Central Animal Records microchip audit and dog and cat sale notification follow ups.
- Investigate the feasibility of introducing visitor / non-resident online dog and cat 'check in' functionality, so that lost pets may be more easily identified and reunited with their owners.
- Review internal registration processes and systems to ensure a streamlined and efficient approach to renewals and follow up of lapsed registrations.

6. Is there anything else you would like to see in the Plan around registration and identification of dogs and cats?

No

Yes (please specify)

Dog attacks and declared dogs

(ie. dangerous, menacing and restricted breed)

Summary actions:

- To minimise the risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals
- To effectively identify all dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs in the municipality and ensure those dogs are kept in accordance with the Act and regulations.

Reduce dog attacks.

- Investigate the feasibility of introducing mandatory desexing of newly registered dogs in the municipality. (Exemptions applicable for registered breeders, dogs registered with an applicable organisation and dogs deemed by a veterinarian not medically suitable to be desexed.)
- Undertake additional proactive patrols of parks, reserves and foreshore areas to actively enforce against and minimise dog attacks on people and animals in the community.
- Where a dog is involved in an attack or rush incident on people or animals, consider declaration of the dog where appropriate, so that restrictions may be enforced.
- Where a dog is repeatedly involved in non-compliance, consider elevating level of enforcement.

Identify and register declared dogs.

- Continue to identify and declare animals dangerous and menacing when required.
- Undertake proactive patrols of industrial and commercial areas to identify dogs on premises (e.g. guard dogs).
- Periodic review of Victorian Declared Dog Register / cross reference with Shire records to ensure accuracy.

Ensure compliance by owners of declared dogs.

- Continue annual declared dog property inspections (including but not limited to fencing, enclosures, signage and collars) for compliance as per the Act.

7. Is there anything else you would like to see in the Plan around dog attacks or declared dogs?

No

Yes (please specify)

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Nuisance

Summary actions to minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance.

Support a strategic and consistent approach to leash free and dog prohibited areas across the Shire.

- Develop a Dogs in Public Places Policy (leash free and dog prohibited areas) that provides a consistent approach to assess the suitability and design of designated leash free and dog prohibited areas on Shire managed land. This also includes development of a position for management of dogs on and near sporting fields.

Provide a consistent approach to enforcement of regulations.

- Partner with other regulatory bodies, to encourage a holistic approach to domestic animal management across the municipality. Continue MOU arrangements for enforcement of dog controls on beaches that are not on Shire-managed land.

Decrease dog waste in public places.

- Investigate the feasibility, benefits and indicative ongoing costs of providing dog waste bags at Shire beaches, parks and reserves.
- Review bin locations and frequency of emptying to determine if additional services are required in areas where uncollected dog waste is considered prevalent.

8. Is there anything else you would like to see in the Plan around nuisance?

- No
- Yes (please specify)

Domestic animal businesses

Summary actions to ensure all domestic animal businesses comply with the Act and regulations.

Identify operating domestic animal businesses.

- Identify businesses that should be registered domestic animal businesses by reviewing advertisements - including pets advertised for sale (e.g. social media, local papers, notice boards). Follow up for registration compliance / or need to shut down.

Ensure compliance by domestic animal businesses (DABs).

- Continue annual property inspections for compliance as per the Act.

9. Is there anything else you would like to see in the Plan around domestic animal businesses?

- No
- Yes (please specify)

Training of authorised officers

To ensure that animal management staff have the knowledge and skills required to properly administer and enforce the requirements of the Domestic Animals Act 1994.

Support Shire Officers to continue to develop their skills.

- Provide targeted training to officers in accordance with individual development plans.

Ensure compliance by domestic animal businesses (DABs).

- Continue annual property inspections for compliance as per the Act.

10. Is there anything else you would like to see in the Plan around training of authorised officers?

- No
- Yes (please specify)

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11. Would you like to make any further comments or suggestions?

- No
- Yes (please specify)

12. Would you like us to keep you informed about the new Domestic Animal Management Plan and Dogs in Public Places Policy? (select all that apply)

- Yes - Domestic Animal Management Plan
- Yes - Dogs in Public Places Policy
- No

If you answered Yes, please provide your contact details on Page 2.

Thank you for your time. Your feedback is appreciated.

The below table continues overleaf.

Program / Activity	Current service provided
Identification and registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$0 first time registration (incentive to register) \$0 registration for pets adopted from Shelter (1 year) \$0 registration for assistance dogs Annual registration renewal notices and follow up process via email and SMS for lapsed registrations Lifetime registration tags Online registration forms and system available for new registrations, renewals and amendments Promote animal registrations through door knocks and during animal complaint investigations Assess and issue excess animal permits Microchip all animals released from shelter.
Desexing initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desex all animals adopted or rehomed from shelter.
Dog attack (against people or animals) or dangerous dog	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incident occurring now – immediate response Otherwise, response within 24 hours.
Animal nuisance complaints (including barking dogs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Response within 1 – 3 days depending on circumstance. Online information: Barking dogs, leash free areas, Dog prohibited areas Online systems for lodging complaints including Shire website and Snap Send Solve app.
Wandering cat complaints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shire-loaned cat cages are available for the public to use to confine nuisance, unowned or feral cats. Shire officers will deliver (to at risk and vulnerable) and collect cat cages (all) Strict protocols are in place governing the use of these cages to ensure that the welfare of the confined cats is protected Online systems for lodging complaints including Shire website and Snap Send Solve app Wandering cat information booklet.
Patrols of foreshores and public reserves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proactive patrols of Shire-managed parks, reserves and foreshore areas to ensure dogs are under effective control by their owners An MOU in place for Shire Officers to undertake patrols and enforcement activity at DELWP beaches Early starts identified hotspots / emerging issues Extended patrols during peak / summer periods - with a particular focus on foreshore areas.

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Program / Activity	Current service provided
Community Animal Shelter and Pound, 130 Watt Road, Mornington ☎ 1300 850 600	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A community animal shelter service to hold lost pets • We place a high priority on the welfare of lost pets and work to re-home all unclaimed animals • Advertise lost pets by photograph online at mornpen.vic.gov.au • Pets available for adoption and those going to rescue groups are vet checked, de-sexed, vaccinated, wormed, temperament tested, micro-chipped and advertised online at the Shire's Pets for Adoption page, and at petrescue.com.au • Rehome suitable, unwanted pets through collaboration with rescue groups • Hold dangerous animals while investigations and prosecution are conducted • Provide an Emergency Relief Centre in the event of an emergency for displaced people and animals • Open 7 days (closed Good Friday and Christmas Day).
Education and promotion of responsible pet ownership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal communications including a range of activities: Social media posts (e.g. New Year's Eve, Australia Day, shelter updates), website information, media releases, adverts, Shire publications, telephone on-hold messages • Educational materials and adoption advertisements in Service Centres and Libraries • Adoption packs with information for new owners • Shire Officers educate and raise community awareness regarding responsible pet ownership and animal behaviour through interactions whilst out in the community, including provision of advice and specialist technical knowledge • Community Animal Shelter visits / tours • Provision of pooch pouches (for dog waste removal).
After hours service ☎ 1300 850 600	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shire Officers provide a 24/7 response to dog attacks • After-hours dog collection service of contained animals from 5pm to 7pm non-daylight savings and 5pm to 8.30pm daylight savings period • After-hours collection of dogs considered to be a threat to community – aggressive dog at large.
Animal cruelty matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact RSPCA as Shire Officers are not authorised to investigate these matters.
Domestic animal business (DAB) inspections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspect and process new domestic animal business applications. • Annual inspections undertaken in accordance with the Act; and issue annual registration certificates • Respond to and investigate breaches / complaints • Actively seek and identify illegal domestic animal businesses and prosecute where appropriate.
Declared dogs (dangerous / menacing or restricted breed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess and declare relevant dogs as dangerous/menacing dogs or restricted breeds and enter these details into the Victorian Declared Dog Register • Provision of information to owners of declared dogs outlining responsibilities, and penalties for non-compliance • Annual inspections undertaken in accordance with the Act.
Prosecutions	Shire Officers prosecute breaches of the Act.

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