



**DOMESTIC ANIMAL
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

2017-2021

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INTRODUCTION

Councils in Victoria are required by the Domestic Animals Act 1994, to prepare and implement a Domestic Animal Management Plan every 4 years with the objective to outline Council's plans for animal management.

The purpose of this Plan is to:

- Document current processes and practices under the Indigo Shire animal management responsibilities
- Increase compliance with the Domestic Animals Act 1994
- Increase pet owners' knowledge of the principles of responsible pet ownership and enhancing community safety and awareness
- Assist the Bureau of Animal Welfare to achieve its stated objectives of reducing the numbers of dogs and cats being euthanased
- Encourage the registration of dogs and cats in the Indigo Shire
- Enforce and assist Domestic animal businesses comply with legislation and codes of practice
- Minimise the harmful effect of domestic pets on the population of native birds, mammals and reptiles
- Take into account community views on animal management matters and assist community to feel safe and enjoy animals within the community

DOMESTIC ANIMALS MANAGEMENT PLANS

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

- (1) *Every Council must, in consultation with the [Secretary](#), 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 which 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.*

INDIGO SHIRE COUNCIL – DEMOGRAPHIC AND COUNCIL PROFILE

Indigo Shire is located in north-eastern Victoria, between 220 and 270 kilometers north-east of Melbourne. Indigo Shire is bounded by the Murray River and the New South Wales border in the north, the City of Wodonga and Towong Shire in the east, Alpine Shire in the south, and the Rural City of Wangaratta and Moira Shire in the west.

At 20 June 2010, Indigo Shire has an estimated population of approximately 15,178 (Council Plan 2015), an increase of approximately 1% per annum.

As well as the major townships of Beechworth, Rutherglen, Chiltern, Wahgunyah, Barnawartha and Tangambalanga, Indigo Shire includes the predominately rural localities of Allans Flat, Brimin, Browns Plains, Bruarong, Carlyle, Charleroi, Chiltern Valley, Cornishtown, Gooramadda, Gundowring, Huon, Indigo Valley, Kergunyah, Kiewa, Lilliput, Mudgegonga, Norong, Osbornes Flat, Sandy Creek, Staghorn Flat, Stanley, Wooragee and Yackandandah.

The main industry is farming, particularly beef, sheep, dairy, fruit and viticulture and tourism is strong within the Shire.

Major features of the Shire include Chiltern-Mount Pilot National Park, Beechworth Historic Park, Beechworth Historic and Cultural Precinct, Yackandandah Conservation Area, Murray to Mountains Rail Trail, the Murray River, part of Lake Hume and numerous wineries and other attractions.

The Shire is served by the Hume Freeway, the Murray Valley Highway, Kiewa Valley Highway and the Sydney to Melbourne railway line.

ENFORCEMENT SERVICES UNIT OVERVIEW

The Enforcement Services department is responsible for the animal management function required by Council. Animal management duties includes:

- Impounding of domestic animals and livestock
- Liaise with DELWP wild dog trappers
- Managing of complaints relating to domestic animals and livestock
- Promoting responsible pet ownership in the community
- Investigating dog attacks on people and animals
- Ensuring compliance to legislation and code of practices relevant to domestic animals and livestock
- Domestic animal registration renewals and new registrations
- Investigating animal welfare issues and cruelty complaints under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act
- Management of domestic animal businesses and auditing
- Providing advice to owners and the general community in relation to domestic animals
- After hours animal emergencies (dog attacks and livestock on road issues only)

Indigo Shire Council's Enforcement team consists of 2 full-time Enforcement Officers (Team Leader and a Ranger) and 3 casual After Hours Officers. Duties of the full time officers include animal control, fire prevention, local law compliance and management of school crossing supervision.

The after-hours service engages the 3 casual staff and one of the enforcement officers to man a 24 hour a day, 365 days a year service roster. The after-hours service deals with emergencies such as dog attacks and livestock roaming on roads.

All enforcement staff are appointed Authorised Officers with relevant and delegated authority to perform required duties.

Permanent staff members have a range of qualifications and experience including Certificate 4 in Animal Control and Regulation. Other training includes workshops with DEWLP, other relevant Associations and internal training.

LOCAL LAWS

Council has 5 Local Laws to regulate various practices. Local Law Number 2 – ‘The Environmental’ regulates the keeping, management of waste and housing of animals.

Indigo Shire Domestic Dog and Cat Registration Figures

Pet ownership is a part of everyday Australian life, with 64% of Australia’s 6.6 million households having a pet. In terms of dog ownership, Australia leads developed nations with 40% of households owning one or more dogs. Indigo’s profile shows a lower trend with current statistics showing 21.2% dog ownership.

	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016
Dogs	3888	3269	3567	2852
Cats	820	667	718	552

REGISTRATION AND IDENTIFICATION

In accordance with State legislation, all dogs and cats over the age of 3 months must be registered with Council.

New animal registrations for cats and dogs can be made in person at one of Councils four offices located in Beechworth, Yackandandah, Rutherglen and Chiltern (in the WAW bank) between 8.30am and 5pm, Monday to Friday, or, by mail with the appropriate payment and copies of relevant proof of sterilisation and microchipping to: Indigo Shire Council PO Box 28 Beechworth 3747.

Registration forms can be downloaded online from Council’s website www.indigoshire.vic.gov.au or collected from Council Offices.

Under the Domestic Animals Act 1994 animal registration periods expire on 10 April each year. Animal renewal notices are sent out in late February or March each year, allowing pet owners ample time to renew their pets’ registration via BPay or in person. Council audits the registration renewal process every year to ensure animal registration is renewed.

The registration of animals provides Indigo Shire with an understanding of the level of pet ownership in the community and in turn this helps Council plan for services, information and programs associated with pets in particular areas of the community.

Registration fees help fund the services provided by Council in relation to animal management and the Bureau of Animal Welfare’s responsible pet ownership campaigns and programs provided within Indigo Shire.

Current Education Activities

- Publicising the requirement to register pets over the age of three months.
- Animal registration renewal notices are mailed out in late February or early March each year to owners of registered animals.
- Brochures included in animal renewal notices to provide information regarding the importance and requirements of registration.

Current Compliance Activities

- A door knock audit conducted each year for lapsed animal registrations, with further follow up door knocking as required.
- On the spot fines are issued when animal owners fail to register or re-register their animals.
- Requirement for impounded and unregistered animals to be micro-chipped and registered prior to release, as per the Act.
- Responding to notification from owners of Domestic Animal Businesses or animals sold or given away to residents in the Municipality.
- Proactive and reactive park and street patrols to follow up registration and ensure identification is being worn.
- After hours animal service and patrols.
- Issuing of penalty infringement notices for all non-compliance relating to unregistered animals over 3 months of age.

Summary

Indigo Shire officers actively patrol the municipality and impound animals found wandering or owners animals that are contravening the Act. These impounded animals, if registered and identifiable, are either returned to their owner with a verbal warning, or an on-the-spot fine is issued, or the animal is taken to the Albury Pound.

All unidentified dogs and cats are impounded with limited Council resources used to locate unidentified pet owners out in the field. Indigo Shire contracts an organisation called Canine Country Kennels which manage the Albury Pound and services other New South Wales and Victorian municipalities.

OUR PLANS

Objective 1: Take reasonable steps to ensure the registration of all domestic animals housed in Indigo Shire.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Ensure residents are aware of the animal registration renewal period by means of advertising/media releases and mailing of renewal notices.	Annually	Number of registrations recorded.
Audit domestic animal business properties during business hours in accordance with Codes of practice.	Ongoing	Record total number of properties audited and note non compliances and compare to previous results or the code of practice.
Ensure animal registrations have been renewed. Lodge unpaid infringements with Infringements Court or Magistrates Court (<i>this process is currently being reviewed by the State Government</i>)	Ongoing	Record total number of infringements issued, unpaid and animal registrations still unregistered and compare to previous results.
In accordance with the Act, ensure all seized and impounded animals are registered to their owner prior to release.	Prior to every release.	Review annual registration numbers. No evaluation required as all pets are to be registered prior to release from the pound.
Using impound statistics conduct proactive door knocking in areas believed to have high numbers of unregistered animals.	Annually Or As Required (if addressing a specific issue in an area).	Review annual increase in registration numbers. Review number of dogs and cats being seized and impounded who are not registered to their owner. Records of number of unregistered and unidentified animals picked up during door knocks.

NUISANCE

The Domestic Animals Act 1994 and Council's Local Law describe various nuisances that dogs and cats create often through poor pet management by owners, these are recorded as customer requests as listed below; a data base is used to collect statistics associated with customer nuisance complaints and these statistics are listed at the end of this section.

At large	Cat trap request	Not on leash	Rush menace
Attack	Cruelty	Pound enquiry	Surrender
Barking	Found cat	Found dog	Pound enquiry
Cruelty	Lost cat	Lost dog	
Dog waste	Nuisance	Trespass	

Dogs in public places

On the 14th of December 1999 Council made an 'Order in Council' declaring that owners of dogs must have effective control of dogs by way of leash chain or cord whilst a dog was in a public place, reserve or a residential area except for the 'of leash' areas listed below:

- Barnawartha, The Barnawartha Recreation Reserve
- Rutherglen, Rutherglen Park (Barkley Park)
- Yackandandah, Sports Park (Butson Park)
- Wahgunyah, The Willows Park

COUNCIL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Barking Dogs

Council has a standard operating procedure for barking dog complaints in a flow chart diagram to ensure all complaints received are dealt with in a consistent manner. The process involves investigating the complaint and liaising with the dog owner and surrounding neighbours to validate the complaint. Where nuisances are found to be proven pursuant to section 32 of the Domestic Animals Act 1994, Council can issue notices to the dog owner to abate the nuisance, issue infringements, and/or have the matter heard in the Magistrate's Court to seek an order from the Court for the owner to abate the nuisance.

Roaming Dogs, dogs at large or found dogs

Found or roaming dogs, where an owner is not located immediately, will be impounded and fees and charges will be paid prior to release of the animal. Fines will be issued after the release has occurred in accordance with the Domestic Animal Act and the Infringements Act.

Roaming Cats

In circumstance where repeat offenders (more than one offence and a notice has been issued under S23 DAA) for roaming/trespassing cats are found and the issuing of infringements and relevant impound release fees have not encouraged the pet owner to adequately secure the cat to the property, trapping programs are used to clear feral or un-owned populations of cats. If these cats are wild, uncontrollable or diseased they do not enter the pound.

Current Education/Promotion Activities relating to nuisance animals

- Providing verbal information
- Encourage the use of anti-barking collars in accordance with 'code of practice for training dogs and cats using electronic collars'
- Providing information relating to building cat enclosures to prevent trespass
- Promoting the State Government's 'Who's for Cat's Campaign?'
- Providing information brochures from the DPI to the public
- Articles in Local Papers Border mail, Chiltern Grapevine, Yackandandah community paper and the Ovens and Murray newspaper, Council Website
- Encouraging the de-sexing of cats and dogs to reduce straying
- Encouraging dog owners to seek advice from professional dog trainers and trial barking dog citronella collars or static collars

Current Compliance activities relating to nuisance animals

- Investigating nuisance complaints and ensuring minimal timeframes
- Request complainant to complete a barking dog logs diarising dates and times of barking
- Issuing notices to comply, notices of objection, infringements where necessary
- Providing Cat Trapping program to residents
- Patrolling parks and streets to ensure dog owners remove animal litter as per Councils Local Law Number 2

Customer Nuisance Complaints Summary (listed in financial year)

Dogs

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
At large	47	76	50	33
Attack	16	16	21	10
Barking	59	82	52	45
Cruelty	5	3	4	5
Dog waste	0	1	2	1
Found dog	43	51	39	16
Lost dog	84	78	81	48
Not on leash	0	1	1	0
Pound enquiry	0	1	0	3
Rush Menace	3	10	18	13
Surrender	5	1	2	2

Cats

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Cat trap request	26	36	4	69
Cruelty	1	0	1	0
Found Cat	15	12	11	24
Lost Cat	14	14	11	6
Nuisance	6	12	3	8
Pound enquiry	0	0	0	0
Trespass	0	2	0	1

Summary

In order to reduce animal nuisance problems in the community, Council will continue promoting and providing education and compliance activities while striving to improve the activities and identify/trial new initiatives.

Council will regularly reassess the cat trapping program to ensure it is promoted efficiently and provides assistance to residents when they have concerns regarding un-owned or feral cats.

DOG ATTACKS

Authorised Officers investigate dog attack reports thoroughly. Evidence pertaining to the incident is collated to formulate a brief. This includes taking statements from all parties involved, vet/medical reports, photographs and providing a summary with recommendations. The brief is then reviewed to ensure compliance with the Domestic Animals Act and legal advice is sought if required.

Possible courses of action Council may choose include:

- Infringements (where non-serious injuries sustained)
- Menacing/Dangerous Dog Declaration
- Prosecution in Magistrates' Court
- Seek destruction/compensation orders by Magistrate

Current Education/Promotion Activities

- Media releases relating to livestock attacks
- Providing new residents with animal registration information via brochure
- Promoting effective confinement and control of dogs
- Impounding of all roaming dogs
- Assist the Bureau of Animal Welfare Responsible Pet Ownership (RPO) Schools Programs

Current Compliance Activities

- Investigating dog attacks.
- Seizing and holding attacking dogs pending investigation/prosecution outcome
- Providing an afterhours service to respond to reports of aggressive or attacking dogs
- Issuing infringements for wandering dogs
- Issuing infringements for minor attacks where non serious injury sustained
- Proactive declarations for Menacing or Dangerous Dogs
- Seeking destruction Orders from Magistrates' Court where necessary
- Seeking confinement Orders from Magistrates' Court for dogs continually found wandering or not confined to property
- Proactive patrols of parks and streets for wandering dogs
- Proactive patrols for guard dogs on non-residential premises
- Recording data of reported dog attacks in the municipality
- Seizing dogs where owners properties are believed to be unsecure and ensure dog can be appropriately secured prior to release back to the owner

Dog Attack Statistics on Persons and Animals

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Person	2	3	5	1
Cattle	0	1	1	0
Goat	0	1	0	0
Poultry	1	1	2	1
Sheep	8	5	5	4
Alpaca	1	0	0	0
Native Animal	2	0	0	0
Cat	0	2	1	1
Dog	2	4	7	3
Total (included attach where 2 types were attacked in one incident)	16	17	21	10

Summary

Council actively enforces the requirements of the Act and the Local Law. Council regards dog attacks seriously and rigorously investigates all reported incidents.

OUR PLANS

Objective 1: Provide targeted education and compliance campaigns in areas where data reporting shows higher numbers of dog attack incidents.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Collate and record data for reported dog attacks including, date/time, suburb, animal type, dog attacked animal/person, dog unsecured/off lead, dog unregistered, sex, entire/de-sexed.	Ongoing	Evaluate data to determine areas requiring specific education/compliance activities.
Initiate education/compliance activities in the targeted areas to aim to reduce future incidents and to report roaming dogs etc. to prevent attacks occurring.	Annually	Evaluate this activity (and overall objective) by comparing number of dog attacks reported to council pre and post campaign.

Objective 2: Seek to minimise the incidence of dog attacks in the community

Activity	When	Evaluation
Providing proactive education/compliance activities in areas of higher dog attack incidents. Educate key dog attack prevention messages (eg confinement of dogs to property, leash laws) through media articles, mail outs, website information. Actively patrol areas for roaming, unsecure and/or unregistered dogs.	Ongoing	Compare number of reported dog attack incidents pre and post campaign. Record: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Type and number of education materials distributed. Numbers of campaign patrols conducted. Number of media articles published.
Inform the community of outcomes of any dog attacks prosecuted in Court.	Ongoing	As occurs.

DANGEROUS, MENACING AND RESTRICTED BREED DOGS

Current Situation

Indigo Shire has the following declared dogs currently registered within the municipality:

Registered restricted breed dogs	1
Registered declared dangerous guard dogs	2
Registered declared dangerous dogs	1
Registered declared menacing dogs	0

Attached to the descriptions of dogs there is a small extract of the Domestic Animal Act 1994 to describe offences relating to dog that have or are going to be declared by Council.

The Domestic Animals Act 1994 defines restricted breed dogs as any one of the following breeds:

- *Japanese Tosa*
- *Fila Brasileiro*
- *dogo Argentino*
- *Perro de Prasa Canario (or Presa Canario)*
- *American Pit Bull Terrier (or Pit Bull Terrier)*

Following a dog being deemed a Restricted Breed, or noting a dog that is being kept for guarding a non-residential property, or following an offence relating to an attack, or similar offence, a Victorian Council, or staff under delegation from the CEO of that Council can declare a dog.

Indigo Shire currently has one restricted breed registered; it is a Pit Bull Terrier. Owner of restricted breed dogs are required to abide by specific regulations, in particular; secure enclosures with self-locking gates, warning signs on entrances to premises, having the dog muzzled in public and on lead at all times, as defined by the Domestic Animals Act 1994 and the Domestic Animals Regulations 2015.

Indigo Shire Council currently has two declared guard dogs, declared dangerous under the Act.

Section 34A(a) of the Domestic Animals Act 1994 states:

A dog is a dangerous dog if—

The dog is kept as a guard dog for the purpose of guarding non-residential premises.

Owners of guard dogs must abide by specific regulations, in particular:

- Secure enclosures when not guarding, secure perimeter fencing when guarding, warning signs on premises.
- When in public the dog must be muzzled, on lead at all times and wear the prescribed dangerous dog collar.

Indigo Shire Council currently has one declared dangerous dog that was involved in an attack on an animal. Owners of declared dangerous dogs must abide by the same regulations as owners of guard dogs other than the perimeter fencing requirements.

Section 34 of the Domestic Animals Act 1994 states:

Council may declare a dog to be dangerous

(1) A Council may declare a dog to be a [dangerous dog](#)—

- (a) if the dog has caused the death of or [serious injury](#) to a person or animal by biting or attacking that person or animal; or*
- (b) if the dog is a [menacing dog](#) and its [owner](#) has received at least 2 infringement notices in respect of the offence in section 41E; or*
- (c) if the dog has been declared a [dangerous dog](#) under a law of another State or a Territory of the Commonwealth that corresponds with this Division.*

Indigo Shire currently has no declared menacing dogs within the municipality. Owners of menacing dogs must abide by conditions specified by Council, that is, when the dog is outside the premises of its owner it must be muzzled and leashed at all times.

Section 41A (1) of the Domestic Animals Act 1994 states:

(1) A Council may declare a dog to be a menacing dog if-

- (a) the dog has rushed at or chased a person; or*
- (ab) the dog bites any person or animal causing injury to that person or animal that is not in the nature of a serious injury*

Council must register all dangerous/menacing/restricted breed dogs with the Victorian Declared Dog Register (VDDR), this is a database that records all declared dogs for all relevant parties to see. Any dangerous and restricted breed dog entered into the VDDR is declared for the life of the animal and cannot be revoked by Council.

Current Education/Promotion Activities

- Promoting the 'Dangerous Dog Hotline' (1300-101-080)
- Media releases relating to legislation/changes/updates
- Media releases relating to differences between Restricted Breed Dogs and Dangerous Dogs
- Providing information relating to declared dogs

Current Compliance Activities

- Ensuring details of all declared dogs are registered on the VDDR
- Regularly conducting inspections on premises housing declared dogs to ensure compliance
- Seizing dogs suspected of being Restricted Breed Dogs

- Dog declarations made where applicable
- Prosecution/Infringements issued for any determined breach
- Assessing suspected restricted breed dogs via the gazetted standard
- Flagging certain breeds from registration database for assessment

OUR PLANS

Objective 1: Manage compliance with declared dog legislation and regulations

Activity	When	Evaluation
Random property inspections of declared dogs to ensure compliance.	Ongoing	Review checklists as occurs.
Educate the community about what constitutes a declared dog.	Ongoing	Review complaints received.

Objective 2: Flag certain breeds on registration database for restricted breed assessment

Activity	When	Evaluation
Assess certain breeds with the gazetted standard for potential restricted breed dogs.	Ongoing	Number of Restricted Breeds Declared from registration database.
Cross reference microchip database information for potential restricted breed dogs requiring assessment.	Ongoing	Number of declarations compared to number of assessments.

OVER POPULATION AND HIGH EUTHANASIA

Current Education/Promotion Activities

- Supporting adoption of animals by offering initial registration
- Mandatory de-sexing of animals adopted from Albury pound
- Promoting benefits of de-sexing
- Promoting 'Who's for cats?' campaign
- Promoting appropriate pet selection
- Promoting cat enclosures and build your own cat enclosures

Our current Compliance Activities

- Cat trapping program
- Investigating unregistered breeding establishments

- Micro-chipping all unregistered impounded animals prior release to owner
- Enforcing the Local Law relating to prescribed number of animals on a property
- Assessing excess animal applications, factoring in number of entire de-sexed animals

OUR PLANS

Objective 1: Encouraging de-sexing of animals

Activity	When	Evaluation
Discount registration fees for cats and dogs that are both micro-chipped and de-sexed.	Ongoing	Number of new animals registered in de-sexed and microchipped categories each year.

DOMESTIC ANIMAL BUSINESSES

Domestic Animal Businesses are defined by the Domestic Animals Act 1994 as:

Domestic animal business means-

- (a) an [animal shelter](#), Council [pound](#) or [pet shop](#); or
- (b) an enterprise which carries out the breeding of dogs or cats to [sell](#), other than [GRV greyhounds](#), where—
- (i) in the case of an enterprise whose [proprietor](#) is a member of an [applicable organisation](#)—
- (A) the enterprise has 10 or more fertile female dogs or 10 or more fertile female cats; or
- (B) the enterprise has between 3 and 9 fertile female dogs or between 3 and 9 fertile female cats in circumstances where no more than 2 of the fertile female dogs or fertile female cats (as the case may be) are not registered with the [applicable organisation](#); or
- (ii) in the case of an enterprise whose proprietor is not a member of an applicable organisation, the enterprise has 3 or more fertile female dogs or 3 or more fertile female cats; or
- (c) an enterprise that is run for profit which carries out the rearing, training or boarding of dogs or cats, other than [GRV greyhounds](#);

There are six (6) registered domestic animal businesses within Indigo Shire, six (6) are boarding establishments and two (2) are breeding and rearing establishments.

Registered Domestic Animal Businesses are audited every second year by appointment and on receipt of complaints, or application to register a Domestic Animal Business.

Current Education/Promotion Activities

- Providing information to registered domestic animal businesses
- Promoting DPI information and codes of practices and or changes to codes of practice
- Advertising new legislation amendments

Current Compliance Activities

- Audits every 2 years or more frequently if audit failings
- Random audits during peak seasons for particular businesses
- Investigating complaints
- Monitoring advertising sites to ensure Council has all businesses registered
- Renewal / Registration process
- Inspecting suspected unregistered domestic animal businesses

OUR PLANS

Objective 1: Ensure domestic animal businesses are compliant with relevant legislation and codes of practice

Activity	When	Evaluation
Monitor Council's registration database for owners with more than 3 fertile female animals.	Ongoing	Compliance with local laws and related legislation.
Encourage de-sexing of animals by reducing registration fee.	Ongoing	Increased number of registered animals that are de-sexed.
Conduct searches for unregistered domestic animal businesses via internet/media/newspapers.	Ongoing	Identification and management of unregistered businesses.

IMPOUNDING

The impounding of dogs and cats at large is an important strategy in the management of domestic animals. Indigo Council has entered into a new contract with Canine Country Kennels, which manages the Albury Pound, and services other local councils including Wodonga and Towong.

The contract provides a cost effective means for the impounding service and significantly reduces the need for council officers to be involved in the impounding and release process.

Dog and Cat impounds	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Cat impounds	35	24	25	35
Dog impounds	132	109	85	69
Total impounds	167	133	110	104

These impound figures do not include wild, uncontrollable or diseased cats, nor do the figures include dogs or cats that are immediately returned to owners without being taken to the pound.

MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Indigo Shire Council Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP) has been produced pursuant to Section 20(1) of the Emergency Management Act 1986. This plan addresses the prevention of, response to, and recovery from emergencies within the Indigo Shire Council. It is the result of the co-operative efforts of the emergency management planning committee and assistance from Victoria State Emergency Service North East Regional Headquarters and recognises the previous planning activities of the municipal area.

Council also has a Draft Emergency Animal Welfare Plan (EAWP), this document sets out in greater detail to the MEMP how Council and other agencies can provide residents assistance during times of emergencies, these events include:

- Bushfire
- Domestic and wildlife welfare
- Disease (endemic & exotic)
- Wind/Storm Damage
- Flood Events
- Drought
- Transport accidents

OUR PLANS

Objective 1: Revise specifications and conditions required for Council's animal pound/shelter for the contracted organisation, and reference animal management in the MEMP.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Review Council's contract with Canine Country Kennels.	As required	Review and monitor service
Review Council's Municipal Emergency Management Plan, refer to Albury pound.	As required	Review and monitor service

ANNUAL REVIEW OF PLAN AND ANNUAL REPORTING

As per 68A (3) of the Domestic Animals Act 1994, Council will review its Domestic Animal Management Plan annually to assess whether any amendments are necessary in order to ensure the plan is relevant and can be completed within the required timeframes.

In the final year of the plan, Council will undertake a major review and prepare the next domestic animal management plan for the 2021 – 2025 period.

ACRONYMS

ABS	Australian Bureau Statistics
BAW	Bureau of Animal Welfare
AA	Domestic Animals Act 1994
DAB	Domestic Animal Business
DAM	Domestic Animal Management Plan
EAWP	Emergency Animal Welfare Plan
ISC	Indigo Shire Council
LL2	ISC Local Law No 2 - Environment
MEMP	Municipal Emergency Management Plan
POCTA Act	Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals Act
RBD	Restricted Breed Dog
RSPCA	Royal Society for Protection and Care of Animals
VDDR	Victorian Dangerous Dog Register