

Survey Results Summary

There were 52 survey responses received. This summary provides an analysis of the survey results as well as the key themes represented in the comments received for each question.

Note: the number next to a comment represents the number of comments received with the same intent i.e. x2 means that 2 comments were received with the same intent.

Feedback	Response
Place of residence and time living in Darwin (Q1 & 2)	The survey results show there was a fairly even representation from suburbs across the Darwin municipality. A large portion of respondents (58%) have lived in Darwin for more than 10 years, 18% for five to ten years, and 22% one to five years.
Aims of Strategy (Q3)	96% of respondents support the aims of the Strategy. Comments received include:
	<i>The council is engaging in mission creep, animal welfare is an NT Government responsibility not a council responsibility x2</i>
	<i>Why is there a bias towards animal ownership, it is not consistent with councils policies on the environment, etc?</i>
	<i>Yes but it seems very dog focused i.e. page six council responsibilities only dog ownership? Why not cats as well???</i>
	<i>Would be good to refer to responsible pet ownership.</i>
	<i>Also want a strong aim of safety as there are so many big mixed breed scary type dogs here.</i>

I agree with and support the aims of this strategy. I think it is unfortunate that the focus is on the negatives, though, but I understand that is the reality of a Council.

Animal ownership (Q4)

The survey results show the following dog and cat ownership for respondents:

Number	0	1	2	3	4	5	more than 5	Total
Dog	19.61% 10	39.22% 20	37.25% 19	3.92% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	51
Cat	55.17% 16	31.03% 9	10.34% 3	3.45% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	29

Registration and microchipping (Q5, 6 & 7)

There was a good knowledge of registration and microchipping requirements with 94% of respondents being aware that this is required for all cats and dogs over 12 weeks of age. There were only a small number of respondents that don't have their pets registered, 6% of cats and 4% of dogs.

The most commonly stated reason for why people do not register their pets was due to the lack of understanding of the benefits and services provided from the fees paid for registration.

Comments regarding why people do or do not have their pets registered:

Reasons why pets are registered

If he goes missing, I want him to be returned quickly and easily, with as little stress to him (or me) as possible / for the safety of the pet (x11)

It is responsible and right thing to do / to comply with the rules (x9)

I don't want a fine or to pay release fee (x5)

All pets should be registered to ensure their safety. I think this doesn't need to be the case with foster animals as it creates unnecessary costs for not profit organisations.

My pets are registered, however, there needs to be an easier process for people who have a de-sexed pet but are not able to provide a certificate of sterilisation. I was able to obtain a letter from my vet but to do so required a consultation fee for each of my pets and a fee for the veterinarians time to write the letter. My pets were all from rehoming organisations and documentation was either not provided at adoption or was lost before moving to Darwin City (we previously living in Litchfield Shire which did not require registration).

Reasons why pets are not registered

I don't think people understand enough about animal registration/ why it's necessary. Some believe a microchip is enough. Some people don't understand difference between microchipping and registering (x2)

Both pets are elderly and live inside unless on a leash walking. I would pay a yearly registration if I knew exactly what the money was being used for i.e. are we investigating dog fighting, supplying poo bags and bins at our parks, as examples.

Some animals will die within the first year (sickness) and owners do not want to register an animal until older than 18 months.

Annual registration is an expensive and inconvenient imposition when no clear benefit is evident. The administrative burden on council, and the council workers doing the rounds of people's yards each year to check if pets are registered is a profligate waste of money and resources. Change over to lifetime registration like most other parts of Australia and I will believe council is interested in effectiveness and efficiency, rather than simply revenue raising.

My pet is registered but many of my friends refuse to register saying they get nothing for the money, no service, its money for council coffers and no management of stray or barking/dangerous dogs. I don't agree but it's a common view.

My cat isn't registered as she's an inside cat and is only ever given outside time when I'm at home and she's never left the yard. My dogs are registered because if they got out I would like it to be easy for them to be returned.

Didn't know the timeframes when I bought my dog.

Payment of registration (Q8)

There was a mixed response when people were asked their preference for paying registration with only a small difference separating the options. The most preferred option was to pay annually, followed by an optional term payment (i.e. a 2 or 3 year payment) and then a life time payment. The feedback shows a desire for more flexible options for payment terms for registration.

Animal Education Material (Q9)

Majority of respondents (54%) were not aware of Council's animal education material and resources, showing a need for greater awareness and promotion of the animal education material and resources.

Council information (Q10 & 11)

Majority of respondents currently find out about Council information regarding pets from the website (59%), with 24% from social media and 24% by mail. When asked how people would prefer to receive information about their pets the top preference was by email (54%), social media (47%) and the website (37%) and only 18% want to receive it by mail.

Of greatest disparity is that only 4% receive information by email but 54% would like to receive it by email. The feedback identifies an opportunity to review the methods used for distributing information about pets to the community.

Barking dogs and animal nuisance (Q12)

60% of respondents reported having been affected by barking dogs or animal nuisance from another person's dog, and 10% from their own dog.

The comments show different experiences and responses to barking dogs and animal nuisance by individuals. The results support the need for the Actions within the Dog and Cat Management Strategy which aim to reduce dog barking and nuisance complaints.

Comments received include:

Almost daily and the council does not care. Does not give adequate support to people affected by nuisance animals.

Dog constantly at large in my complex and threatening my pet on my own property.

Long, protracted, difficult system for dog attacking and months of fear even though evidence and reported it.

But I see it as part and parcel of living in the suburbs. Pets improve people's lives so much we can afford to be a bit tolerant of them.

I'm fairly tolerant of barking dogs though so don't formally complain

I reported a savage dog rushing at the fence which had clear evidence that it ran along the fence line - no action was taken by council as when the rangers attended the dog did not act. My evidence was dismissed.

My dog allegedly was a barking nuisance; it was not him. I didnt even get an apology from the council when I proved he was in a kennel at the time. Not happy.

Dog attack (Q13 & 14)

58% of respondents have been involved with a dog attack. 55% of the dog attacks occurred on the footpath/verge, 30% in a public park and 12% at the beach.

Strategy Actions - Part 2 Responsible Pet Ownership (Q15)

96% of respondents support the actions for Part 2 of the Strategy.

The comments received include:

Actions are too weak. Need more protection for residents adversely affected by other's pets.

The targets need to be higher, eg - reduce barking complaints by 50%.

Education focus rather than punishment focus is best.

East point beach area (only) should be accessible.

I didn't see much on how people surrender animals. Council should accept animal surrenders more openly.

On and off lead areas (Q16)

76% of respondents support the on-lead and off-lead areas with 24% not supportive.

The comments raised a number of suggestions including better enforcement and a desire for more off-lead areas.

The comments received include:

You need to enforce them better though especially in parks that have things like bbq facilities and at the beach x3

More off lead areas needed x2

Yes, but I would appreciate more areas to safely exercise my dog off-leash. I believe that providing a dog off-leash time is important for their physical and

emotional wellbeing. I have contacted NT Parks and Wildlife to provide feedback on this point and have been told they are looking to provide further areas to exercise dogs.

The on leash area right in the middle of Casuarina beach is confusing and impractical. It is also odd to not allow dogs on leash in The Mall. I can understand perhaps the markets due to the over-crowding, but The Mall during non-event times should welcome on leash dogs.

East Point Reserve, and The Mall should be on leash area

There should be a greater buffer between on lead and off lead areas. A dog can travel several kilometres in a short time and cause havoc among shore birds

I don't think dogs should be allowed within 10m of a playground, eg - my 2yo daughter is allergic, which is why we took our two dogs to the RSPCA last year when the diagnosis was confirmed.

The community needs to be educated more regarding off leads dogs, especially in on lead areas, and shared use areas like footpaths etc.

I didn't think the map was clear about where the off leash areas are, rather where you are not permitted or need dog on leash

Dog exercise (Q17 & 18)

There is strong support for a dedicated dog park in Darwin. 93% of respondents exercise their dog away from home and 90% of respondents support a dedicated dog park in Darwin. However, the comments indicate that the dog park needs to be well planned with consideration given to regulations, locations, size and design.

Comments received include:

But there can't just be one dog park, or you'll have more problems when every single dog in the city descends at the same time. There needs to be a couple, with separate areas for different sizes/types of dogs, and it needs to be properly designed with double gate areas, multiple exits etc. Recommend consulting animal welfare agencies when designing, rather than consulting 'designers' who may make it aesthetically pleasing, but likely not functional for reducing dog-dog issues

Providing there are regulations that require owners to keep their dogs under effective control and not bound up to other dogs and jump all over them x3

Yes, but it needs to be a large area. It should also have a small dog section as many dogs around Darwin are large and can be dangerous due to size. There should also be thorough education locally about how to use dog parks safely and how to know when your dog is not appropriate for a dog park.

One in every suburb so everyone can walk to one. They should be fenced and have grass, free poo bags and bins. Please put a dog park behind the car park at Dripstone cliffs - there is a large grassy area that isn't currently in use.

It would depend on the size, if there's too many dogs in a small area it can cause problems and dog fights can occur.

Would prefer a dog swimming pool and training centre so the council could rehab dogs as well as owners exercising them.

More play spaces for kids over dogs.

I think you could improve Vestey's Beach with a fenced off dog park. Bring more people down to the area might clean it up. It could also encourage a

coffee/food van to the space. Jingili would be a perfect space.

Feral cats (Q19)

43% of respondents indicated that feral cats are a problem in their local area with 57% indicating they are not a problem.

Comments received include:

There are quite a few roaming cats which I'd prefer to be contained in their yard so they stop killing the wildlife x2

Domestic cats are also a problem x2

Do you realise that neutering cats is a more efficient way to control them in the wild than killing them?

Stray cats are everywhere because people don't de-sex their animals.

Darwin has many 'unowned' cats, but not 'feral' ones. There is a difference.

We get fed but 'unowned' cats at least weekly in our clinic. Our Palmerston branch gets them daily.

Please assist with active trapping of feral cats at CDU (and in particular IHD) campus. Current strategies appear ineffective. New effective strategies - the kitten population seems to increase.....

Strategy Actions - Part 3 Pets in Public Spaces (Q20)

89% of respondents support the actions for Part 3 of the Strategy: Pets in Public Spaces.

The comments received include:

Some confusing / ambiguous wording throughout this section. E.g. dog within 1.5m of owner, but in other places it just says must be able to see it. Then again, it says "immediately return to its owner on command and/or remains in the clear and unobstructed view" - this is ambiguous about whether it is ok to be out of sight if will immediately return upon calling etc. These all need tightening to be clear and unambiguous.

Not strong enough.

Should be more emphasis on stray cat eradication, educating people about cats and their impact on wildlife and why stray cats shouldn't be fed.

Are you going to fine people for not picking up the dog poo if repeat offenders.

The Pound (Q21)

40% of respondents were not aware that majority of impounded pets are returned to their owner or rehomed.

Comments received include:

On page 25, the document contradicts itself. It mentions very specifically that animals are ONLY euthanased if it fails a health or behavioural assessment, but then two paragraphs later states that all welfare agencies will euthanase animals if unable to find an alternative home and facilities are full.

I thought most of them would be put down - good on the community for being so responsible.

Unfortunately the pound has a poor public reputation, I think the staff do the best they can, people need to become more aware of this.

The euthenasia statistics are still horrendous and very poor for an Australian capital city. Current fee and fine structure makes it too expensive for some families to get their pet back.

Rangers should catch more stray cats.

Strategy Actions – Impounded animals (Q22)

92% of respondents support the actions aimed at reducing the number of impounded animals and increasing the number of animals returned with their owners or rehomed.

Comments received include:

Take care to be aiming to reduce real numbers of animals impounded while also having targets to increase population of people, and increase ability to keep animals - you may find it more appropriate to express percentages as a reduction compared to animal population.

Too lenient.

The targets need to be higher - eg 50% instead of 20%

Not all, more needs to be done to support animal rescue organisations and additional assistance to financially support rehomed animals i.e. no rego fee?

I think having incentives to adopt not buy is a great initiative and I absolutely support that.

Support most in principle but the actions described seem vague.

More should be done to catch roaming cats.

Council Service (Q23)

There were mixed experiences when people have reported an animal management incident to the City of Darwin, with 18% rating it as unsatisfactory, 14% as satisfactory and 12% as excellent. 57% of respondents had not reported an animal management incident to the City of Darwin.

Comments received include:

<i>Inept. Staff do not understand their job and do not care. Biased in favour of the animal owner.</i>
<i>Need more staff on over the weekend to pick up animals at large.</i>
<i>I now do not ring DCC, but rather keep the animal found myself and seek help from rescue groups / vets.</i>
<i>Dogs running up and down street barking at dogs all night but the ranger were not available so nothing happened, was asked to go out and try to control the dogs myself.</i>
<i>Despite the Ranger's best efforts the problem is still ongoing.</i>
<i>Just because issue does not happen when visited by Rangers does not mean there is not an issue.</i>
<i>Too scared to upset neighbour.</i>
<i>Dog attack impacting a number of people that took months to resolve and gave us the impression there was nothing effective that could be done to protect us from the dog.</i>
Strategy Actions - Part 5 Improvements in Animal Management Operations (Q24)
98% of respondents support the actions for Part 5 Improvements in Animal Management Operations.
Comments received include:
<i>But I believe that there should be a 5.4, which refers to commitment to improving operations regarding animal welfare (e.g. commitment to welfare-friendly handling, reducing use of recommendations of punishment methods (e.g. bark collars), improving animal outcomes, reducing stress of animals in care by returning them directly home if possible etc. I agree that improving the other aspects is important, but the world of Animal Management is progressing to be clear that welfare is also a priority.</i>
<i>But needs more. Contradicts with the Responsible pet ownership guide "Council has a well-trained team". The team is inept. Needs proper representation by residents adversely affected by animal behaviour.</i>
<i>More staff needed.</i>
<i>Yes, these seem to be standard departmental reviews and mostly not a public concern.</i>
<i>Move to lifetime registration and get the staff back doing important work rather than peering into backyards and pushing rego papers around.</i>
<i>How do people surrender animals and this should be made clear on website. People need to surrender animals for so many reasons and council should help facilitate this in the objective of 'animal welfare'.</i>

Other feedback for the Strategy (Q25)

Enforcement and education:

Patrol and enforcement of Rules re dogs off-lead, non-compliance of dog faeces pickup. Need BIG BOLD clear additional signage at all entry points on Casuarina Beach. Currently, many visitors & no obvious signage. Heavy spot-fines for non-compliance will aid this.

The strategy is biased towards animal owners. Does not support the legislated purpose of the animal management by-laws.

I often see dogs at the various markets around Darwin so I think a council sweep of this and educating people so they know it's not allowed is a great idea.

Owners should be required to attend an education/training course prior to registration. Property inspection should also take place and be done on a periodic basis to ensure the correct number of pets are kept, to prevent 'puppy farming' and ensure pets are kept in a safe and hygienic environment.

Cats:

Cats need to be impounded when they roam instead of being seen as no threat. Dogs are heavily regulated but cats seem to be ignored.

I'd like to see a much bigger effort to educate cat owners, more cats kept inside and more cats desexed.

Something needs to be done to address the amount of cats breeding.

I think I have seen so many cats and kittens which need to be rehomed due to people not desexing or spaying as there are always so many. I would like to see it implemented a free service, where the council pays or has a grant program in place with supportive vets in Darwin. To help reduce the amount of cats, which even the rehoming groups have to turn away.

Please include more actions on catching/trapping destroying stray cats. Council should undertake a trapping program in key biodiversity areas to reduce the number of wandering cats. If you catch domestic cats it's an opportunity to educate the owners about keeping cats indoors. If they are true strays you can rehome or euthanize them.

Clause 3-3-1 Cats should be kept inside at night - I consider they MUST be kept inside at night, and also that cats caught outside their property at night incur a hefty fine. As well, the fine for not picking up dog faeces should be a significant amount to encourage compliance. It would also be useful if rangers were seen

to be enforcing this rule. Walking around the Nakara school/oval/shops precinct - dog faeces everywhere and not a ranger in sight (at least in the early morning of at dusk when most people walk their dogs.

I think the approach to cats is spot on in this strategy and I would even take it further and promote keeping cats indoors or confined to yards at all times, not just at night. Cats should only be allowed to roam in yards if they have no means of escaping the yard (e.g. cat enclosure).

I think it's too hard for owners to keep their cat within their backyard. Besides the neighbour's cat comes to visit me and I would really miss that.

Public places:

As already stated, I would appreciate more areas that I can take my dog in public. Darwin Council should promote and reward responsible dog ownership by providing areas to take dogs, providing dog garbage bags and educating about safety, management, dog enrichment and training. I do appreciate that Darwin does not focus on heavy restrictions that are not backed up by science, like BSL.

General:

It's long and winding and does not seem to be anything new. Will the mall be dog friendly? Can you also encourage cafes to be dog friendly? And add dog water fountains and pools and bins. There are so few bins around Darwin.

This is a long-coming step in the right direction.

It is excellent; dog and cat owners should be strongly encouraged to read it and adhere to it.

Responsible Pet Ownership Guide (Q26)

83% of respondents found information in the Responsible Pet Ownership Guide helpful.

Fair legislation designed to encourage people to co-operate - but is anyone reading??!

Appalling biased.

Lengthy and not clear on what I could or should do, mostly talks about what Council does.

Nothing new in there. I know that information.

It's basic. There are some other great examples of guide on the world wide web.

Other ideas for inclusion in the Responsible Pet Ownership Guide (Q27)

Education and training

Educate people regarding personal space for pets. I have encountered people that force dogs onto mine when asked not to they get very aggressive and verbally abusive.

Dogs are individuals and should be respected and treated as such. As a dog enthusiast and member of many dog-focused social media channels, I am considering starting an online project focused on responsible and positive dog ownership in Australia. I am hoping to reach out to dog connections in Darwin in the coming months to create some online content for this purpose.

It mentions that the NT Government and RSPCA carry out the Animal Welfare function - RSPCA technically isn't charged with this function, and struggles to help the public understand why (when they're normally from interstate and expect RSPCA to do something to assist). It would be helpful to clearly state the actual responsibilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the draft regulations into Dog and Cat management. I applaud the comprehensive regulations for the management and control of 'pet' domestic dog and cats by CoD. I am a member of Wildcare Inc who cares for and reduces the suffering of injured, sick and orphaned native animals and birds in the NT. There is presently little reference to the interaction of domestic animals and our native wild life in the management plan, which it is an opportunity missed. I believe there is a place in the regulations to educate the pet owning public about the suffering, damage and disruption their pets cause to our native animals. Many Wildcare rescue calls are to pick up animals and birds (Inc snakes, goannas and blue tongues) that have been savaged by pet dogs and cats. Death or euthanasia is the usual result, which is extremely distressing for the rescuer and involves untold suffering to the animals attacked.

The public needs to know that all native animals are protected. Do not feed or encourage native animals and birds into your garden if their pets are likely to kill them. Keep pet food and feeding stations out of sight. Ensure all pets carry warning bells. Ensure all council regulations and adhered to. Shore Birds are particularly vulnerable to disturbance by dogs. I would be happy to talk to anyone interested in including these ideas into the plan. (phone number provided) This ideas could be included in the key aims and strategies.

Yes - showing the contents of a cat's stomach (with birds/lizards etc inside) might make people who own cats even more "responsible" than they already are.

How to educate people to take better care of their dogs, too many get lost or hurt when it could easily be prevented! Also tell animal welfare to be a bit more friendly and rude when people are just trying to help.

Include more information and resources for people as well as animal clubs. i.e. fireworks, anxiety, exercise, caring for dogs in high rise living or close housing, need for routine, strategies to eliminate barking, aggression, care of pets in the hot weather and what to do if you come across a dog in a car or in the sun without an owner. It does not seem very modern or offering anything new. Also what to do if you are fearful of a dog that is aggressive in public.

Provide vouchers or similar to low income families to get their dogs through an obedience class that teaches them on ways to engage with their dogs. This will help to reduce nuisance barking etc.

Available Services

How to spray your animals. Best times to do this. Available services to do this.

Information on Cafes, parks, camping areas that are dog friendly.

Cats

Guidelines, or mount a discussion on how owners might confine their cats to their properties using cheaper methods. An example is a business which uses plastic netting(?) fencing/enclosures for cats x2

The benefits of keeping your cat indoors.

Let's make it really easy to get a trap and Council back up to remove feral cats. Other councils (Canberra and Kangaroo Island are taking a strong stand.)

Desexing and registration

Desexing should be compulsory. All breeders should be registered.

The benefits of desexing your pet. So much backyard breeding with poor results for animals/ genetics the community alike.

You have to focus harder on stopping all the breeding. Other communities have transitioned towards greater popularity of rescued animals, and greater negative perceptions round backyard breeding. This has greatly reduced the number of animals being destroyed in council pounds. Amongst other benefits.

Force people to desex animals (dogs and cats). Force people to keep cats inside, desex, microchip register their cats and clearly identify if they don't they maybe trapped and killed as strays. Allow anonymous nuisance animal complaints as neighbours still have to live next to each other but would like education for their

neighbours on how bad their animals behaviour is.

Regulations and infringements

Yes, in regard to pets at large, a system of 2 warnings if the pet remains at large, then confiscation of the pet permanently.

Pet owners should also be required to pick up dog faeces on their own properties. I live next door to a property with two golden retrievers whose owners never clear up their mess - can smell it from well within the boundary to my home. As well, there is a big difference in impact of five large dogs than five small ones.

Other comments

Remove bias. Use neutral language. Council staff need to take on ownership of their responsibilities, not try to get the victim to solve it.

No, I just think it would be great if a second dog park was opened closer to Darwin CBD. There's no need for it to be huge like the one in Palmerston. Just a cool space to take my fur baby.

Yes, there was talk about the Mall being opened to dogs, I can't see the Mall on the map??

Written submissions

Common themes

- Time consuming and ineffective processes, regulations and red tape. Need for greater efficiency.
- The document is pro animal and pet owner. The document should be “People First” the wellbeing of residents in the community is paramount.
- Frustration at suffering from barking and nuisance behaviour
- Greater training requirements for dog owners
- Implementation of By-laws and penalties
- Suggested changes to fee structure
- Investigate alternative tools and technology
- Focus on responsibility of pet owner
- Promotion and awareness campaigns for key animal management issues

RESPONDENT	FEEDBACK
Respondent #1	<p>Alternative options to the Dog Licence for multiple dog ownership. The Licence would be better replaced by a sliding scale for more than one dog - is this something we can please consider in the new Animal Management Plan? Something along the lines of:</p> <p>1 Dog \$25pa 2nd Dog \$35pa 3rd Dog \$55pa 4th Dog \$85pa 5th Dag \$100pa</p>
Respondent #2	<p>SUBMISSION TO RESOLVE DARWIN’S NOISY DOG PROBLEM.</p> <p>BACKGROUND</p> <p>On arriving in Darwin in early 1977 we were puzzled to see, on the approach from South, the yellow diamond-shaped road signs saying “Darwin City”, but with “DOG” having been spray-painted over the word “Darwin”. It only took a few days to realise why (and why the repeated addition of the amendment every time the signs were restored); and the 1974 cyclone Tracy cannot be held to blame as there has been no improvement since then.</p> <p>In all civilised jurisdictions in which we have lived for any length of time (Scotland, Papua New Guinea, Canada, New Zealand) we have never experience such a level of uncontrolled noisy dogs; in Scotland months could go by without ever hearing a dog bark, and in NZ for a fortnight we only ever heard a dog in a garden bark once at a passer-by. In those calm and liveable societies it is understood that dogs are</p>

expected (and accordingly trained if necessary) to not interfere with the residential amenity of the ratepayers, and also that dogs are social family animals who require company and attention for a happy life.

With complaints about barking dogs continuing endlessly, the City Council contrived to produce several policy statements and strategies, unfortunately evidently prepared by individuals with more desire to create formal-looking documents than any understanding of practical management of citizens, dogs or urban organisation. An excellent example of the absurd and ineffectual results of all the committee and drafting work involved is this official city definition published in the NT News on 30-10-2000:

“What is Nuisance Barking? Any barking of a 2-minute duration, for 3 periods in an hour, which occurs at least 3 times a day over a period of 3 days.”

Even the loneliest, most aggressive and ill-treated of Darwin dogs would have been hard pressed to comply with the consistency, frequency and mathematical precision required by this droll document. Unfortunately all the time spent on manipulating details of process and money spent on publishing sheets of advice for incompetent dog owners who are unlikely to read them has produced nothing better since then.

CURRENT SITUATION

There has been no improvement, and DCC still prefers to make neighbour confront neighbour (usually after which there can be little real hope of a return to peace). Current rules and regulations are impractical; in a very recent count of disturbing barking at all hours, day and night, only four of the dogs could be identified by sight, but 27 by sound, coming from the next street, over the back, across the parkway, and a couple of blocks away. The rules show an apparent and appalling lack of awareness that a dog barking at 2 am is giving an alarm which is automatically taken up by the rest of the neighbourhood dogs who hear it; and real citizens have no wish to complain about neighbours knowing that it was animals further afield who originally caused the offence.

Council employees with whom I have had recent discussions agree that under current legislation they cannot adequately deal with the problem, tied up as it is with time consuming and ineffective processes, regulations and red tape. To quote the new strategy document “On average a [single] barking/nuisance complaint takes 4-6 weeks to resolve with a large amount of time invested by animal management Rangers.” The ratepayers need much greater efficiency than this.

We are now invited to comment on the new Strategy document, which unfortunately has been based on its published Aims which are in entirely the wrong order, i.e.

1. To support and facilitate the benefits of animal ownership and companionship
2. Ensure standards of animal welfare are maintained
3. Minimise local nuisance and maximise residential amenity
4. Ensure the keeping of animals does not compromise acceptable standards of public health and introduced with the statement that “Council wants to ensure that animal welfare is paramount” with no mention of the long-suffering ratepayers and the need for noise abatement.

The first two of these aims only concern a portion of the community who are voluntarily involved; the last two concern the whole community, so for structurally logical aims on which to base any functional strategy the order would have to be:

1. Minimise local nuisance and maximise residential amenity.

2. Ensure the keeping of animals does not compromise acceptable standards of public health.

3. Ensure standards of animal welfare are maintained.

4. To support and facilitate the benefits of animal ownership and companionship.

From this start follows a multiplicity of examples of the problems encountered with cut-and-paste editing; for example, conditions for keeping cats include all of; “those who own them have responsibility to make sure they do not adversely impact on others”, “cats should be kept in at night”, “cats must be under effective control of their owners at all times”, etc.; the last one of these should be implemented properly and there is then no need for the superfluous others at all as they are already covered.

THE REMEDY

The Council has shown that it perfectly capable of making decisions and enforcing them when so inclined, like street parking, which illustrates that there is no need to go searching for a new way to establish an appropriate process for effective efficiency; the concept is already available here. It is only necessary to scrap the old compilation of rules and regulations and practices, and create a new and workable bye-law for the common good.

While it is well understood that animals can make good pets, and dogs in particular good helpmates and workmates, if people wish to keep them they must be fully responsible for ensuring that no nuisance is created; whether the animal is a tiger or a goldfish, cat or dog, elephant or tortoise (permitted animals to be decided by Council!) and the PRIVILEGE of keeping one is only granted on the undertaking to fully comply with the law.

1. Appropriate public information should be prepared 3 to 6 months in advance of implementation, clearly and concisely outlining the basic policy, explain that an urban settlement is developed for the benefit of its clientele, the rate-paying residents, while farms and zoos are examples of a different local ambience created for an entirely different use and clientele. Arrangements would also be made for suitable training facilities to be available, at owners cost, for those who will not or cannot train their animal themselves.

2. A very limited number of rangers would be employed in a similar manner to parking inspectors, i.e, they would patrol the suburbs on foot, walking where possible in the middle of the road, and a “ticket” be issued for any dog which barked at them for just passing quietly. Dogs can reasonably be expected to bark at someone entering their territory or actively interfering with the fence, but rushing the fence and/or barking gratuitously at passers (pedestrians, cyclists, postmen, dogs being walked quietly on a lead, etc.) are not acceptable.

It should be noted that already implementation will have completely eliminated the current “Wild West” requirement for citizens having to risk getting involved in vendettas by starting complaints procedures against their neighbours, as the witness is an independent official observer with no personal involvement other than carrying out his/her duties.

3. The cumulative process (to be recorded against the animal’s registration) would start with, for example, a warning and/ or a minimal fine of say \$50. On a recurrence this would rise to perhaps \$250, then, by no more than another one or two offences at the most, to cancellation of registration and removal of the animal.

It should be noted that while there will of course be loud objections at the beginning from the irresponsible and incompetent owners who get caught there will be long term gratitude from responsible pet owners and from the long suffering taxpayers who will no longer have to go through the long, arduous and (according to the council’s own statistics) unproductive current complaints process. (Similar to

	<p>the introduction of no-smoking rules on aircraft)</p> <p>It should also be noted that while staffing constraints might mean that a suburb would only get patrolled once every few months, as news spread throughout Darwin that effective action was at last being seriously implemented by Council, the problem owners and animals would start to thin quite soon, and the number of new cases diminish rapidly.</p> <p>4. The only involvement for law-abiding ratepayers will then be the option to phone Council and let them know about problem streets or properties, without necessarily having to incriminate individuals who may or may not be responsible, secure in the knowledge that Council's paid employees will then deal with the problems and leave the rate-paying citizens to get on with their lives in peace. Whenever Council gets a report it only needs to redirect a patrolling ranger for a day or two to the problem area to check.</p> <p>5. An additional side benefit will be that as Council establishes effective control, the increased awareness of owner responsibilities and liabilities will result in a steady reduction in the shameful number of puppies and kittens, bought without serious thought as casual "toy" presents, thereby reducing current pressures on the resources of the RSPCA to care for all the unwanted and friendless animals.</p>
Respondent #3	<p>I also recall speaking with you about it being made mandatory for cats to be contained on their property particularly at night, which I note is in the draft pet management plan. In regard to cats being contained within the relevant property the word 'should' be replaced by 'must'. I also suggested that frequent publicity should be given regarding this issue as well as responsibility for picking up dog faeces - and the fines for failing to comply. If the Council starts enforcing this I suggest Rangers (in mufti) patrolling the Nakara precinct in early morning and dust would be an effective starting point.</p>
Respondent #4	<p>Thanks for the opportunity to respond to the "New Animal Management Strategy".</p> <p>First of all, I'd like to reiterate my position. The animal management strategy document is one thing; however, animal management operations is where the real issues lie and the area that needs to be reformed. My concerns lie with the incompetent and deficient animal management operations processes and procedures which have resulted in ineffective action. These concerns are shared by many residents.</p> <p>Below are some of my thoughts on <i>some</i> aspects of the New Animal Management Strategy.</p> <p>1.2 Aims of the Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The premise for the development of this Animal Management Strategy document should be "People First" The wellbeing of residents in the community is paramount. People's physical and mental wellbeing, safety, quality of life and one's rights to live in peace is the priority. • Pet owner's responsibility must rise to meet this priority. • This present document is pro animal and pet owner. (page 2. "Council wants to ensure that animal welfare is paramount") Nowhere in the Bylaws does it state that Council is responsible for animal welfare. • One of the key aims of this document should also be to help and support residents who are suffering from nuisance barking dogs

and investigate from their point of view the impact on their wellbeing and quality of life.

2.3 Barking Dogs and Animal Nuisance

- It should be clearly stated in this document that dog barking is noise pollution. It is a noise pollution that in the majority of cases does not need to happen and can be eliminated by using many techniques.
- Violation of resident's wellbeing and rights to live in peace as a result of nuisance dog behaviour will not be tolerated.
- In addition to the reasons provided in the document "why dogs bark" should include:
 - o People walking down the street
 - o Fence charging
 - o Aggressive behaviour
 - o Untrained and undisciplined
 - o Encouraged by owners
- The obstruction of view of a dog to reduce its barking is an ineffective technique. Dogs can still hear and smell and their barking nuisance behaviour will likely continue.
- The Barking Diary is ineffective and the idea of a barking diary needs to be rethought and an alternative method devised.
- It should be stated clearly that animal nuisance is a Bylaw offence in the first instance and that nuisance behaviours will not be tolerated and will incur fines and deregistration.
- Dog training should be mandatory for all dog owners especially dog owners that have and many complaints made against their dog. Dog training is an effective, quick and easy solution with immediate positive outcomes for all parties.
- Prosecution and Legal action is not necessary if animal management applies clear, decisive and effective processes.

2.3.1 Current Status and Action

- Complaints need to be resolved within a 10-day period.
- Barking complaints need not take that long to resolve. Residents wellbeing must not be interfered with and is a priority for they have to live and work and rest.
- Establishing a nuisance problem can be immediate with immediate warnings, advice and information given to dog owners.
- Monitoring can commence immediately using developed techniques.
- Resolution by imposing mandatory dog training will have immediate results.
- Barking complaints can be quickly and easily resolved with a very high-resolution rate per year.

	<p><u>Part 5 Improvements in Animal Management Operations.</u></p> <p>5.1 Staff Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff need to be trained and armed with information, a set procedure and language to deal swiftly and decisively without favour to dog owners. Language by animal management officers should be direct and to the point with a clear message outlining accurate information about Bylaws, offences and obligations by dog owners. <p>5.2 Process and Procedures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The word “Complaint” or Complainant” needs to be removed. “Customer informing of an infringement of animal Bylaw” is more appropriate. • The Diary needs to be replaced with modern electronic devices which monitor and measure. • Closer relationship with the residents reporting infringement of animal bylaws in order to understand the nuisance barking/disturbance from their point of view. • An infringement of Bylaw as outlined by the bylaws is an offence and can be identified immediately therefore no investigation required. The process of resolution with the dog owner can therefore commence immediately. • I look forward to a different and effective approach by animal management that is fairer, just and equitable.
Respondent #5	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>RE: ANIMAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE</u></p> <p>Last week, the CANT (Inc.) forwarded a copy of the RSPCA’s discussion paper on” <i>Identifying Best Practice Cat Management in Australia</i>” for your information.</p> <p>We draw your attention to section 3.2.3 of the document Pages 38 – 46 and in the summary of recommendations #13 Controlling reproduction of unowned and semi-owned cats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A research study should be conducted to evaluate whether, and under what specific circumstances, a program of trap, desex, adopt or return (TDAR) is an appropriate tool for urban cat management under Australian conditions.</i> <p>The CANT (Inc.) are continually made aware of the problem of a colony of semi-owned/unowned? cats at Royal Darwin Hospital and it has been suggested that, as there is no data for Australia, the City of Darwin could carry out a TDAR study on the Hospital Cat Colony with Charles Darwin University involved in the research. (e.g. data collection and success rate etc.) The Northern Territory Government may fund such a project through its Animal Welfare Grant or the Federal Government via the Threatened Species Commission. The project would need to be sustained for some (5+?) years to be of any value as outlined in the discussion paper.</p>

It is suggested that the Royal Darwin Hospital enclave would be a good subject as the site is fairly isolated and self-contained.

With respect to the section on **Targeted low-cost desexing**

3.2.4 Educational strategies to manage semi-owned cats (Pages 47 – 48) and in the summary of recommendations #14

- *A research study should be conducted to evaluate whether a targeted low-cost desexing program, combined with education of cat semi-owners, is an effective tool for managing semi-owned cats.*

The City of Darwin Grant awarded to the CANT (Inc.) (2015) was closest to reaching this sector as the CANT (Inc.) provided transport, and the target area of the Housing Commission flats at Nightcliff enabled 7 cats/kittens (some pregnant with the next generation) to be desexed. As no further grant money has been received the follow up necessary as outlined by the discussion paper could not be achieved. The CANT (Inc.) Desexing Project which applied for an Animal Welfare Grant in 2016 was advised that the grant was awarded to Animal Arc to continue the project. The CANT (Inc.) involvement has been minimal since.

We look forward to your kind attention in this matter.

RE: DRAFT ANIMAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2017-2021

Re the above strategy, the Cat Association of the NT offers the following comments:

2.1 Number of Dogs and Cats Kept Residents of the City of Darwin can own up to two cats and/or two dogs

1. *It is suggested an initial amnesty for those that now have too many cats but do not want to come forward to the council for fear of fines or having the cats removed. A case manager would need to work with these individuals to reduce numbers over time through rehoming or removal and desexing with no or low costs.*

2.2 Pet Registration, Identification, Vaccination and De-sexing Darwin City Council By-Laws

1. *The CANT (Inc.) encourages members to microchip and desex kittens prior to sale. With respect to collars these need to be quick release collars as specified in the literature. Also microchipping has drawbacks (data not always current, readers not available)*

2.2.1 Vaccination and De-sexing

1. *Any low cost or free desexing program needs to be very well targeted and advertised and transport provided.*

Table 1: Target and actions to increase dog and cat registration within the municipality

1. *The CANT (Inc.) suggest a significant issue in the top end is the transient population. (this includes “grey nomads” “young travellers” fly in – fly out workers, military and military secondments, miners.) It is suggested a targeted education program for*

the military, transients (at caravan parks, hostels etc) and in the work-place fly in – fly out workers, miners etc. emphasising the effect on unique wildlife and the quality of life prospects for abandoned pets when their owners/carers leave the Territory.

3.3 Managing Cats

1. *A significant consideration for a lot of cat owners (as opposed to breeders) are toileting arrangements. Cats are “put out” as are dogs to facilitate this and keep undesirable smell/mess out of the house. In doing this, the cats are most probably not contained and quite often this occurs more often at night when cats tend to wander further. This is an ingrained social more that would require a lot of education to combat.*

3.3.4 Feral/Stray cats

1. *We also refer you to our letter of 7 June 2017 (attached)*

Proposed fees:

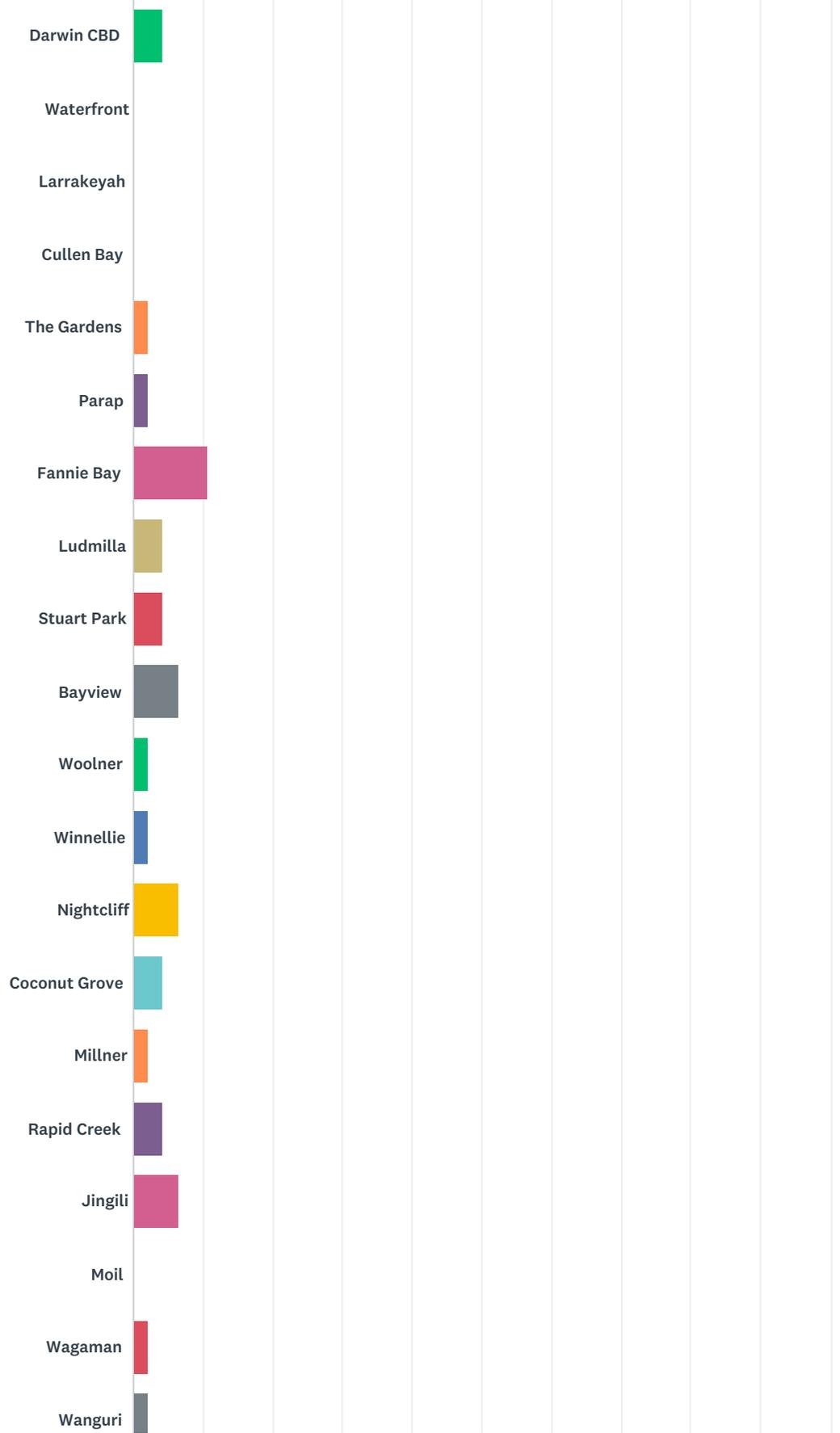
Cat Registration	Description	Description	2015/2016	2017/2018
Cat Registration		- Entire Cat	\$95.00	\$120.00
Cat Registration		- Desexed Cat	\$10.00	\$10.00
Cat Registration	- Pensioner	-Desexed Cat	NEW	\$5.00
Cat Registration	- CANT Members	- Entire Cat	NEW	\$70.00
Cat Licence Fee	- Keep More Than 2 Cats	+registration for each cat	\$30.00	\$30.00
Micro-chipping for cats	- per animal		\$30.00	\$30.00

Cat Trap Refundable Deposit	\$70.00	\$70.00
Registered Cat Release Fee	\$103.00	\$103.00
Unregistered Cat Release Fee	\$249.00	\$249.00
Animal Surrender fee	NEW	\$50.00
Maintenance Fee for each impounded cat - applied after expiration of 4 impounding days	\$18.00	\$18.00
Seizure Fee Unregistered Cat	\$249.00	\$

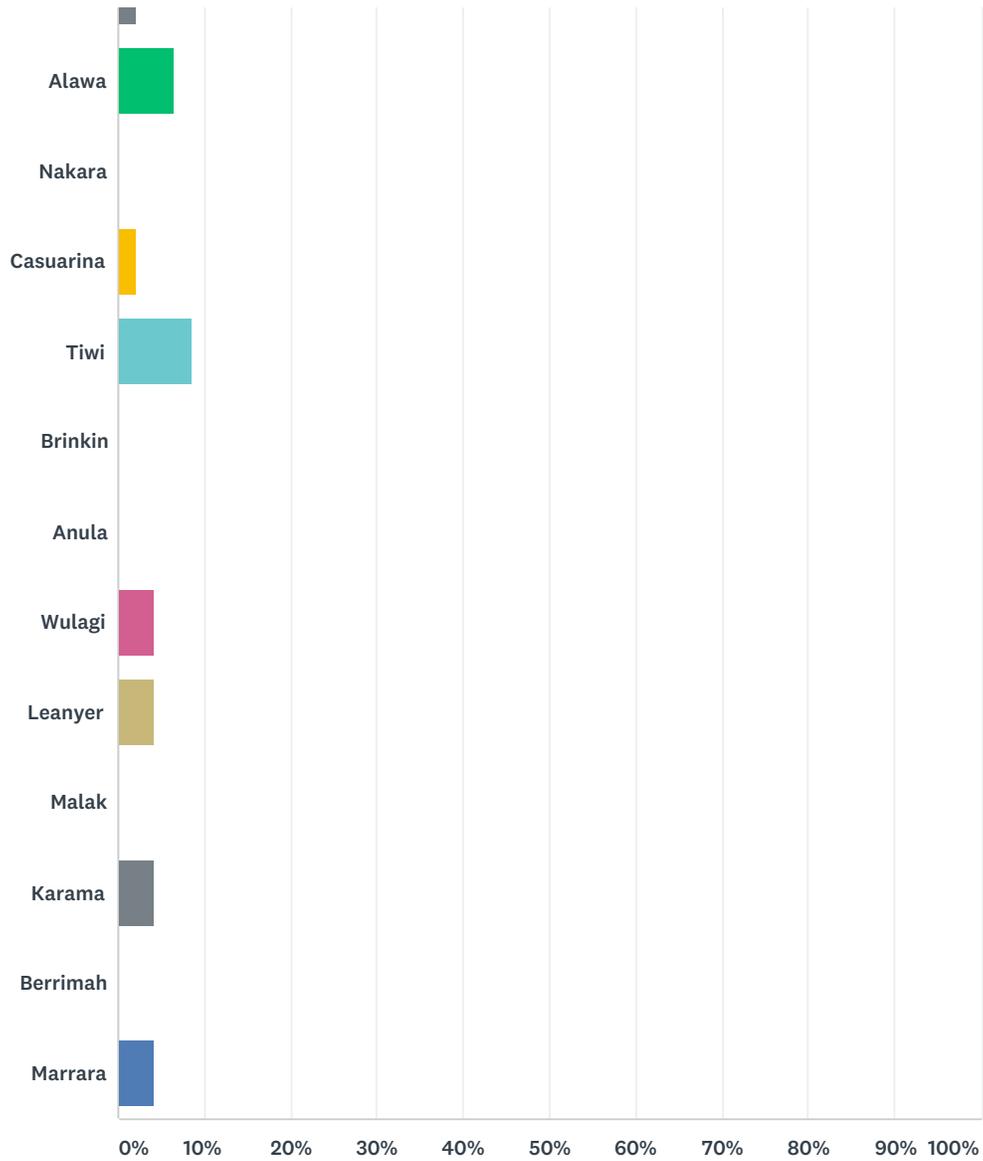
1. *The CANT (Inc.) is pleased to see that it is now proposed to have a reduced fee for The CANT (Inc.) registered breeders as per the dogs.*

Q1 Where do you live?

Answered: 47 Skipped: 5



Draft Dog and Cat Management Strategy



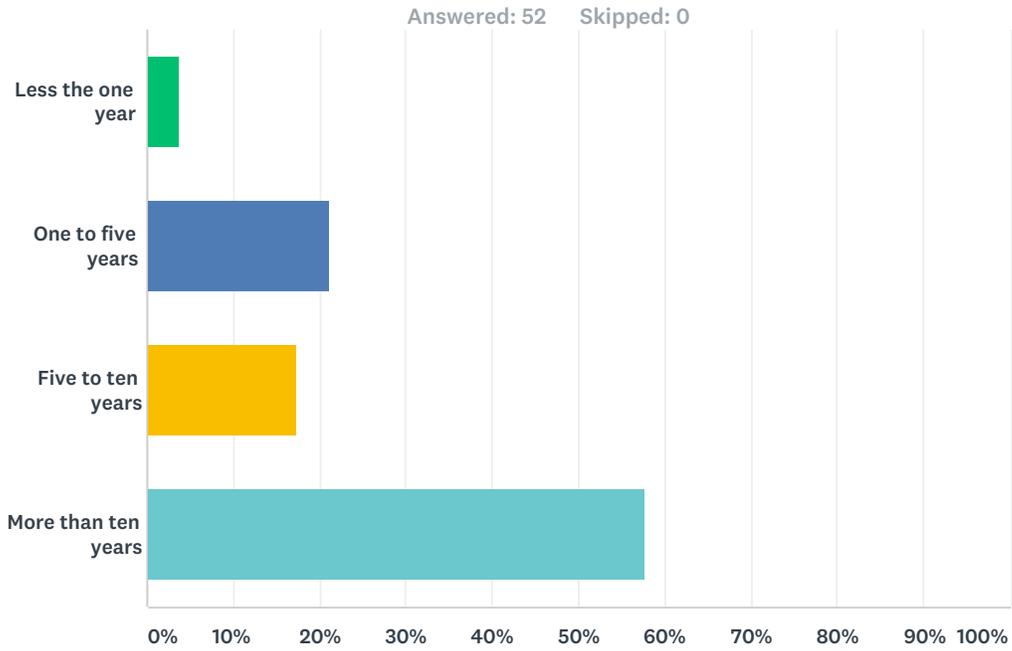
Answer Choices	Responses
Darwin CBD	4.26% 2
Waterfront	0.00% 0
Larrakeyah	0.00% 0
Cullen Bay	0.00% 0
The Gardens	2.13% 1
Parap	2.13% 1
Fannie Bay	10.64% 5
Ludmilla	4.26% 2
Stuart Park	4.26% 2
Bayview	6.38% 3
Woolner	2.13% 1

Draft Dog and Cat Management Strategy

Winnellie	2.13%	1
Nightcliff	6.38%	3
Coconut Grove	4.26%	2
Millner	2.13%	1
Rapid Creek	4.26%	2
Jingili	6.38%	3
Moil	0.00%	0
Wagaman	2.13%	1
Wanguri	2.13%	1
Alawa	6.38%	3
Nakara	0.00%	0
Casuarina	2.13%	1
Tiwi	8.51%	4
Brinkin	0.00%	0
Anula	0.00%	0
Wulagi	4.26%	2
Leanyer	4.26%	2
Malak	0.00%	0
Karama	4.26%	2
Berrimah	0.00%	0
Marrara	4.26%	2
Total		47

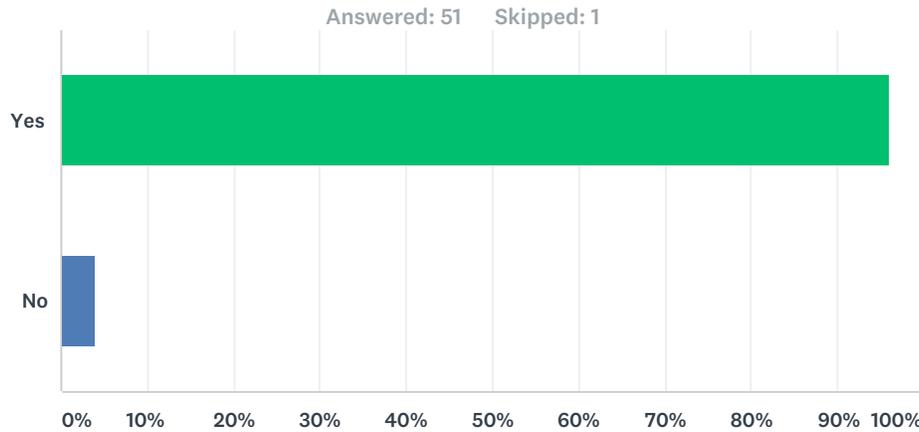
#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	Muirhead	7/11/2017 8:15 PM
2	Nakara	7/6/2017 6:08 AM
3	Lyons	6/23/2017 4:10 PM
4	Lyons	6/23/2017 3:40 PM
5	Tipperary Waters	6/15/2017 2:16 PM

Q2 How long have you lived in Darwin?



Answer Choices	Responses
Less the one year	3.85% 2
One to five years	21.15% 11
Five to ten years	17.31% 9
More than ten years	57.69% 30
Total	52

Q3 The key aims of the Strategy are; To support and facilitate the benefits of animal ownership and companionship. Minimise local nuisance and maximise residential amenity. Ensure the keeping of animals does not compromise acceptable standards of public health. Ensure standards of animal welfare are maintained. Do you support the aims of the Strategy?

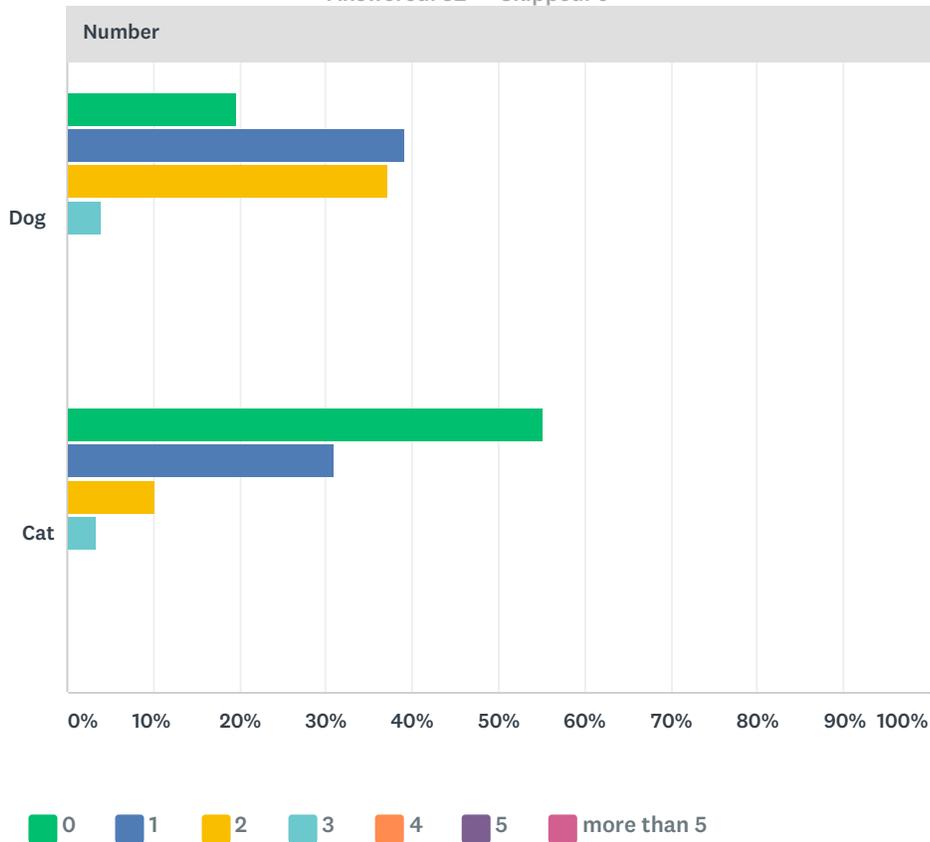


Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	96.08% 49
No	3.92% 2
Total	51

#	Comment	Date
1	The council is engaging in mission creep, i.e. animal welfare is not a responsibility of the council. Also, why is there a bias towards animal ownership, it is not consistent with councils policies on the environment, etc?	7/13/2017 11:00 AM
2	Some yes, some no	7/8/2017 12:21 PM
3	To the extent that they are not there to punish more and more	7/5/2017 4:31 PM
4	I agree with and support the aims of this strategy. I think it is unfortunate that the focus is on the negatives, though, but I understand that is the reality of a Council.	7/5/2017 2:54 PM
5	Would be good to refer to responsible pet ownership	6/19/2017 5:31 PM
6	Animal welfare is an NTG responsibility	6/19/2017 5:19 PM
7	yes but it seems very dog focused ie page six council responsibilities only dog ownership? why not cats as well???	6/19/2017 10:01 AM
8	also want a strong aim of safety as there are so many big mixed breed scary type dogs here	6/18/2017 8:33 PM

Q4 How many pets does your household own?

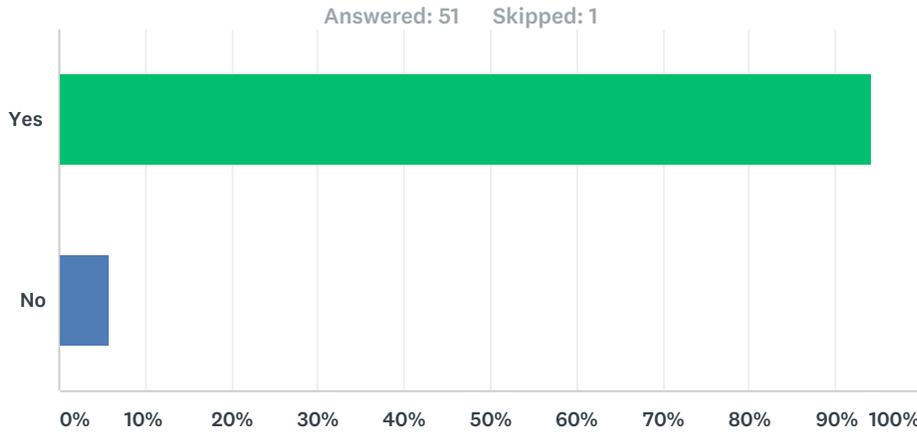
Answered: 52 Skipped: 0



Number								
	0	1	2	3	4	5	more than 5	Total
Dog	19.61% 10	39.22% 20	37.25% 19	3.92% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	51
Cat	55.17% 16	31.03% 9	10.34% 3	3.45% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	29

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	1 Rabbit, 1 Bird	7/20/2017 12:10 PM
2	1 bird	7/11/2017 8:15 PM
3	Bird	7/8/2017 8:14 PM
4	1 rabbit also	6/23/2017 9:07 PM
5	1 snake	6/23/2017 3:17 PM
6	four chickens	6/15/2017 11:10 PM
7	2 Turtles	6/15/2017 2:17 PM

Q5 Did you know that all dogs and cats over 12 weeks of age are required to be registered and microchipped?

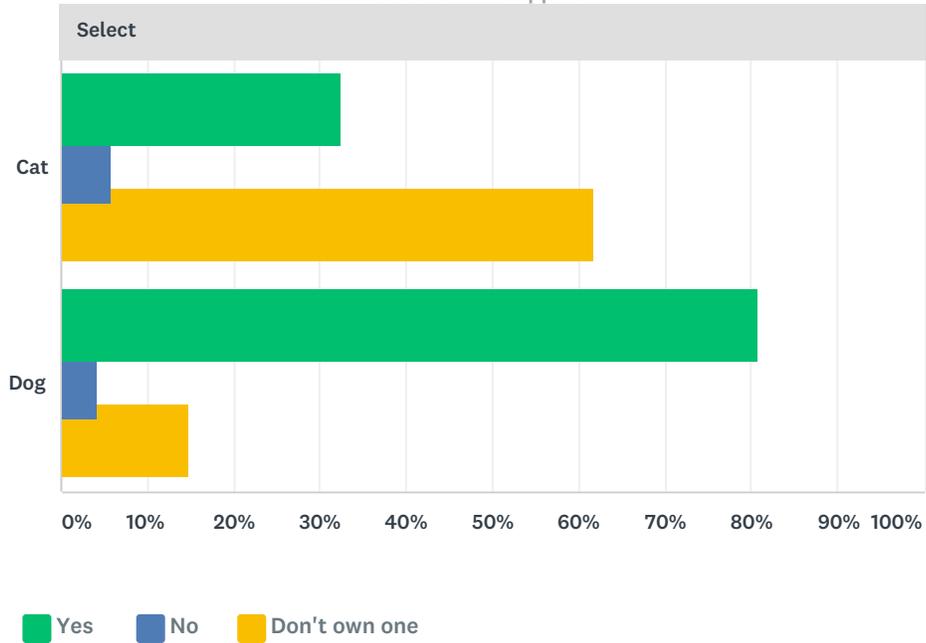


Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	94.12% 48
No	5.88% 3
Total	51

#	Comment	Date
1	I think that this is important but animals that are fostered through organisation like GRANT or RSPCA. Shouldn't have to worry about registering their animals.	7/5/2017 3:47 PM
2	this is not a legal requirement yet	6/23/2017 3:40 PM
3	I knew dogs were I didn't know cats were	6/20/2017 7:11 PM
4	how do you enforce this and can you do more to enforce please.	6/19/2017 10:01 AM
5	yes only dogs	6/15/2017 2:16 PM

Q6 Is your cat and/or dog registered?

Answered: 49 Skipped: 3



Select	Yes	No	Don't own one	Total
Cat	32.35% 11	5.88% 2	61.76% 21	34
Dog	80.85% 38	4.26% 2	14.89% 7	47

Q7 To help us understand motivations and barriers to people registering their pets, please provide a comment about the reasons why your pet is or is not registered?

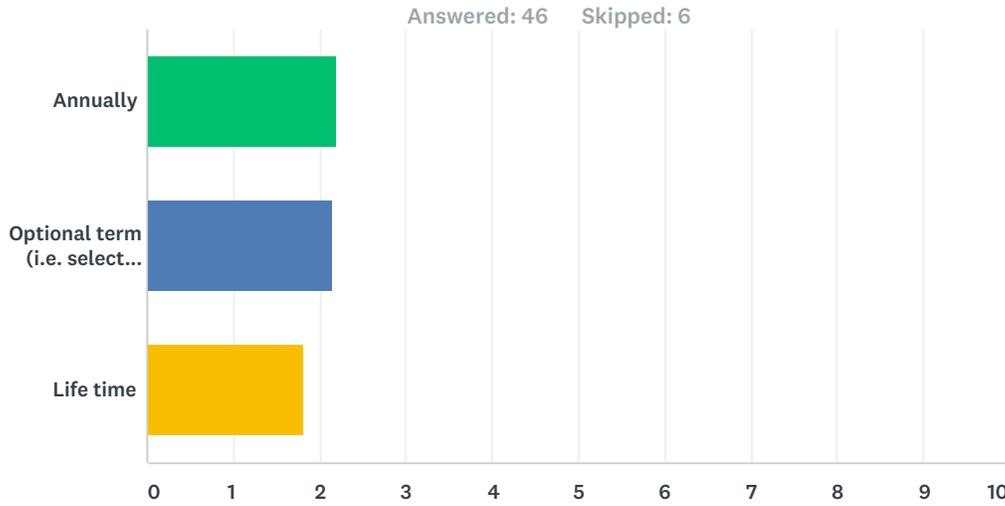
Answered: 37 Skipped: 15

#	Responses	Date
1	Responsible pet ownership and for my dog's safety and wellbeing	7/20/2017 12:10 PM
2	If he goes missing, I want him to be returned quickly and easily, with as little stress to him (or me) as possible	7/18/2017 12:18 PM
3	I don't want a fine	7/11/2017 8:15 PM
4	I've owned dogs and a cat and have always had them microchipped/registered. If strays are removed from the public setting the "owner" should have no complaints about the consequences.	7/10/2017 3:46 PM
5	Cost	7/8/2017 8:14 PM
6	It is responsible and the right thing to do.	7/8/2017 12:21 PM
7	I think it is an important responsibility in owning a pet.	7/6/2017 3:15 PM
8	I have been a volunteer foster carer and have seen the issues that non registered pets can cause. I value my pet so always ensure they are registered and microchipped	7/6/2017 10:04 AM
9	I live in an apartment but if I ever was to move into a house (they will always be indoor cats) incase a door is left open and one escapes. I know they are microchipped and can hopefully be returned safely back to me.	7/6/2017 7:26 AM
10	Our Cat is microchipped and tattooed so she can be returned if she bolts because of firecrackers. Our cat follows the City of Darwin pet rules and stays inside. Never allowed outside at night	7/5/2017 10:11 PM
11	Came from the RSPCA	7/5/2017 4:42 PM
12	To ensure he can be returned safely if he goes missing	7/5/2017 4:32 PM
13	To avoid fines	7/5/2017 4:31 PM
14	People are idiots, all pets should be registered to ensure their safety. I think this doesn't need to be the case with foster animals as it creates unnecessary costs for not profit organisations. I keep my dog registered to ensure his safety and I know his microchip details are up to date.	7/5/2017 3:47 PM
15	I want to ensure that I am an example of responsible dog ownership, so when I got my dog I made sure to research what local laws I needed to follow. I have also lost a dog in the past which was never recovered (despite microchipping and registering). Despite having not recovered the dog in the past, I still microchip and register to protect my dog as well.	7/5/2017 2:54 PM
16	Didn't know the timeframes when I bought my dog	6/23/2017 9:07 PM
17	Because it's required by the council, also in case they stray.	6/23/2017 4:10 PM
18	I don't think people understand enough about animal registration/ why it's nesasaary. Some believe a micro chip is enough.	6/23/2017 4:03 PM
19	to avoid fines	6/23/2017 3:40 PM
20	It's common sense to register pets where required.	6/23/2017 3:29 PM
21	1. Both pets are elderly and live inside unless on a leash walking. 2. Registration should be a lifetime fee not yearly - this is done in the eastern states and has shown that more owners will register their pet. 3. I would pay a yearly registration if I knew exactly what the money was being used for ie are we investigating dog fighting, supplying poo bags and bins at our parks, as examples.	6/23/2017 3:27 PM
22	To comply with the rules	6/23/2017 3:17 PM

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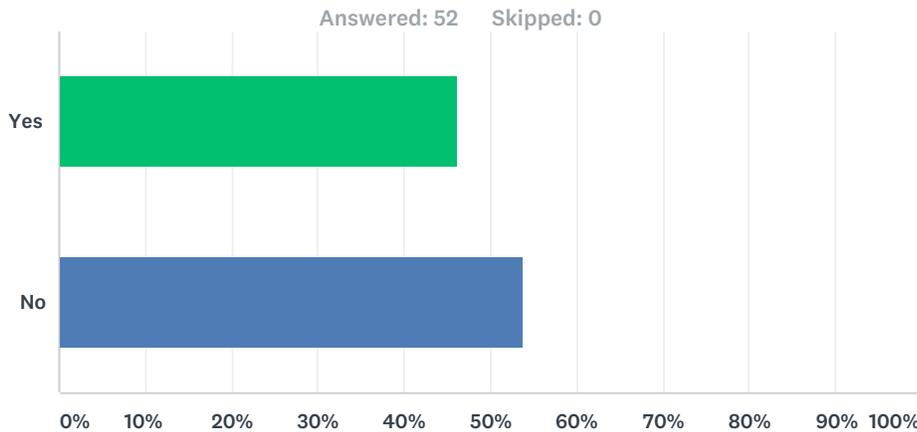
23	Some animals will die within the first year (sickness) and owners do not want to register an animal until older than 18 months.	6/23/2017 2:41 PM
24	My pet is registered because it is the correct and sensible thing to do and because it assists Council keep a track of animal ownership.	6/21/2017 6:35 PM
25	My pets are registered, however, there needs to be an easier process for people who have a de-sexed pet but are not able to provide a certificate of sterilisation. I was able to obtain a letter from my vet but to do so required a consultation fee for each of my pets and a fee for the veterinarians time to write the letter. My pets were all from rehoming organisations and documentation was either not provided at adoption or was lost before moving to Darwin City (we previously living in Litchfield Shire which did not require registration).	6/20/2017 7:22 PM
26	My cat isn't registered as she's an inside cat and is only ever given outside time when I'm at home and she's never left the yard. My dogs are registered because if they got out I would like it to be easy for them to be returned	6/20/2017 7:11 PM
27	I registered my dogs because it is the law to do so. It also helps to identify them if they are lost .	6/20/2017 2:46 PM
28	One is a foster dog (become long term so will likely register), the other is a puppy pre-desexing	6/19/2017 5:31 PM
29	easy to do over the phone	6/19/2017 5:19 PM
30	Annual registration is an expensive and inconvenient imposition when no clear benefit is evident. The administrative burden on council, and the council workers doing the rounds of peoples yards each year to check if pets are registered is a profligate waste of money and resources. Change over to lifetime registration like most other parts of Australia and I will believe council is interested in effectiveness and efficiency, rather than simply revenue raising.	6/19/2017 4:14 PM
31	i am proactive that i want my dog back if she ever gets lost. I think some people don't understand the difference between microchipping and registering they think its all part of the same thing.	6/19/2017 10:01 AM
32	my pet is registered but many of my friends refuse to register saying they get nothing for the money, no service, its money for council coffers and no management of stray or barking/dangerous dogs. I dont agree but its a common view.	6/18/2017 8:33 PM
33	To ensure safe return if lost. Because it is the right thing to do and is required as responsible pet ownership.	6/17/2017 1:30 PM
34	So that if they escape I don't get charged a huge fee. Can find them if they get lost	6/16/2017 8:58 PM
35	I registered our cat so she can be returned to us if she gets lost.	6/15/2017 11:10 PM
36	It is too costly	6/15/2017 2:16 PM
37	My pet is registered because it is a requirement and because the release fee for an unregistered pet are so high it's not worth the risk.	6/15/2017 1:30 PM

Q8 How would you like to pay registration? (please rank your preference with 1 being most preferred)



	1	2	3	Total	Score
Annually	43.90% 18	31.71% 13	24.39% 10	41	2.20
Optional term (i.e. select a 2 or 3 year registration)	30.77% 12	53.85% 21	15.38% 6	39	2.15
Life time	35.71% 15	9.52% 4	54.76% 23	42	1.81

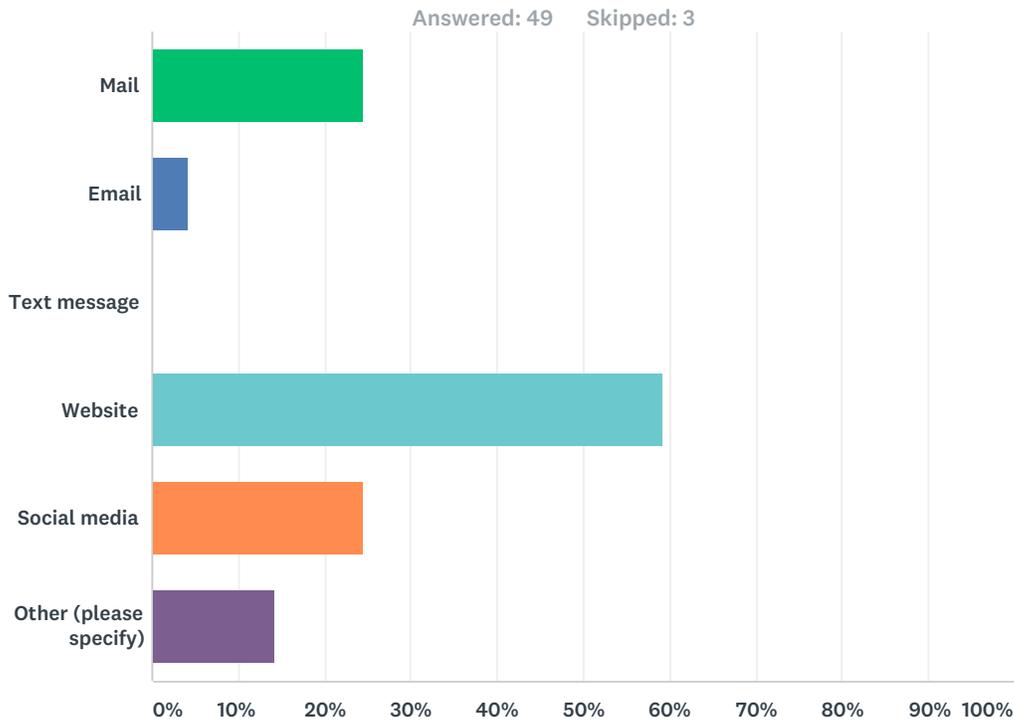
Q9 Are you aware of City of Darwin’s animal education material and resources?



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	46.15% 24
No	53.85% 28
Total	52

#	Comment	Date
1	It is very poor, often incorrect.	7/13/2017 11:00 AM
2	This is bad I don't know this as I work at a vet clinic! More more money and attention needs to be paid to animal control and welfare up here. At least you're trying.	7/6/2017 3:15 PM
3	It is not advertised; no idea who it is or what it does.	6/21/2017 2:09 PM
4	never seen them do anything except in schools	6/19/2017 10:01 AM
5	I was surprised how limited the materials were when i got a pet. No real welcome kit or anything unlike the vet who provides lots of materials. The yellow reg clip is big bulky and ugly. Could be much better and modern.	6/18/2017 8:33 PM
6	Very helpful	6/16/2017 8:58 PM
7	I've never had the need to use it but it's good to know it is there	6/15/2017 1:30 PM

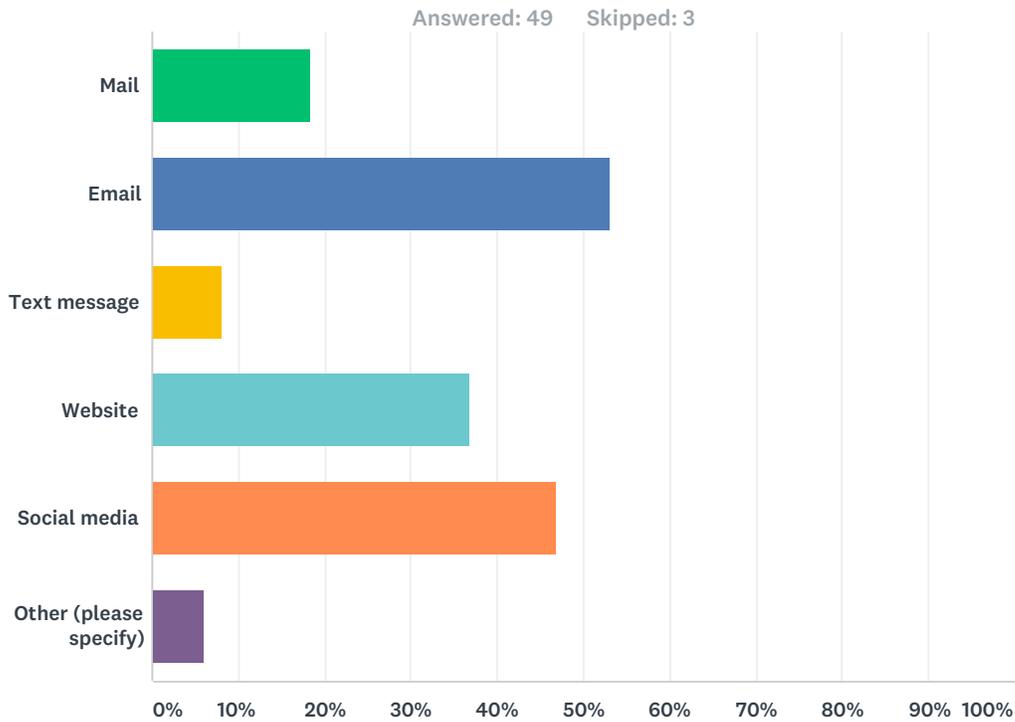
Q10 How do you currently find out about Council information about your pets?



Answer Choices	Responses
Mail	24.49% 12
Email	4.08% 2
Text message	0.00% 0
Website	59.18% 29
Social media	24.49% 12
Other (please specify)	14.29% 7
Total Respondents: 49	

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	Website is where I'd like to go, but the information was limited - I ended up emailing from your website for assistance	7/18/2017 12:18 PM
2	Ark animal hospital, Wildcare, Territory Wildlife Sanctuary	7/18/2017 10:47 AM
3	Uni	7/9/2017 6:38 AM
4	There is no information from the council about pets except if they write a letter about a barking complaint which I received and which was inaccurate as it wasn't my dog. The council offers no assistance for animals as far as I can see and it needs to, for example, have lead free park areas in Darwin city & close suburbs	6/21/2017 2:09 PM
5	more info on pet surrenders please, many people go to rspca and they say they cant accept them.	6/19/2017 10:01 AM
6	Call the council	6/16/2017 8:58 PM
7	visit the council	6/15/2017 2:16 PM

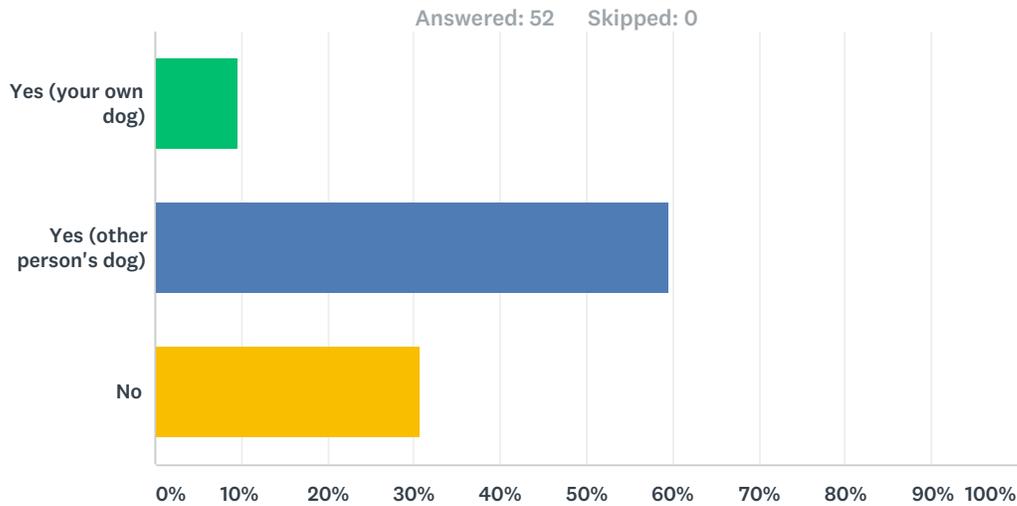
Q11 How would you prefer to be informed of Council information about your pets?



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Mail	18.37%	9
Email	53.06%	26
Text message	8.16%	4
Website	36.73%	18
Social media	46.94%	23
Other (please specify)	6.12%	3
Total Respondents: 49		

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	I	7/5/2017 10:51 PM
2	It would be good to have a log in where details of pets, address etc can be updated.	6/20/2017 7:22 PM
3	what sort of information? i dont want to hear from council	6/19/2017 10:01 AM

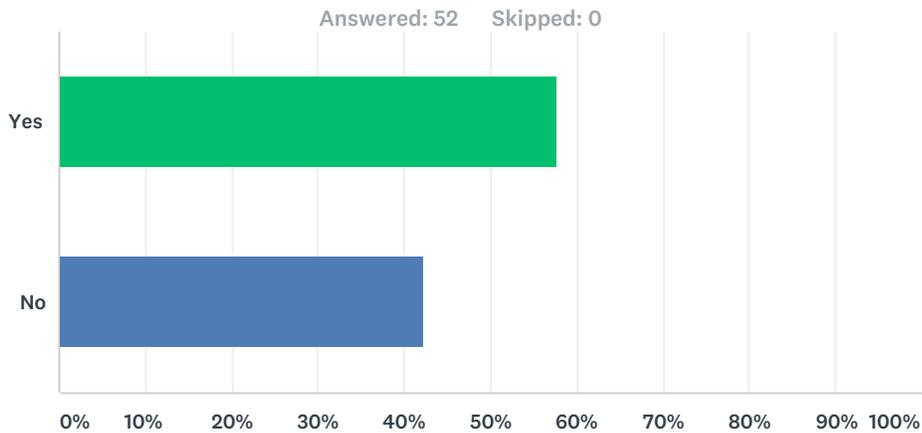
Q12 Have you personally been affected by barking dogs or animal nuisance?



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes (your own dog)	9.62% 5
Yes (other person's dog)	59.62% 31
No	30.77% 16
Total	52

#	Comment	Date
1	Almost daily and the council does not care. Does not give adequate support to people affected by nuisance animals.	7/13/2017 11:00 AM
2	Cats are more annoying	7/11/2017 8:15 PM
3	Not just the neighbour's dog that barks a lot but also the cat across the road that craps in my yard	7/10/2017 3:46 PM
4	It's not that bad though	7/8/2017 12:21 PM
5	Yes some people haven't learnt to lock their gates and so the dog escapees very regularly.	7/5/2017 3:47 PM
6	Dog constantly at large in my complex and threatening my pet on my own property.	6/21/2017 6:35 PM
7	My dog allegedly was a barking nuisance; it was not him. I didnt even get an apology from the council when I proved he was in a kennel at the time. Not happy.	6/21/2017 2:09 PM
8	Some minor instances with mine and others, nothing ongoing	6/19/2017 5:31 PM
9	I reported a savage dog rushing at the fence which had clear evidence that it ran along the fence line - no action was taken by council as when the rangers attended the dog did not act. My evidence was dismissed.	6/19/2017 5:19 PM
10	But I see it as part and parcel of living in the suburbs. Pets improve people's lives so much we can afford to be a bit tolerant of them.	6/19/2017 4:14 PM
11	i'm fairly tolerant of barking dogs though so dont formally complain	6/19/2017 10:01 AM
12	long, protracted, difficult system for dog attacking and months of fear even though evidence and reported it.	6/18/2017 8:33 PM
13	Early morning dog barking	6/15/2017 1:30 PM

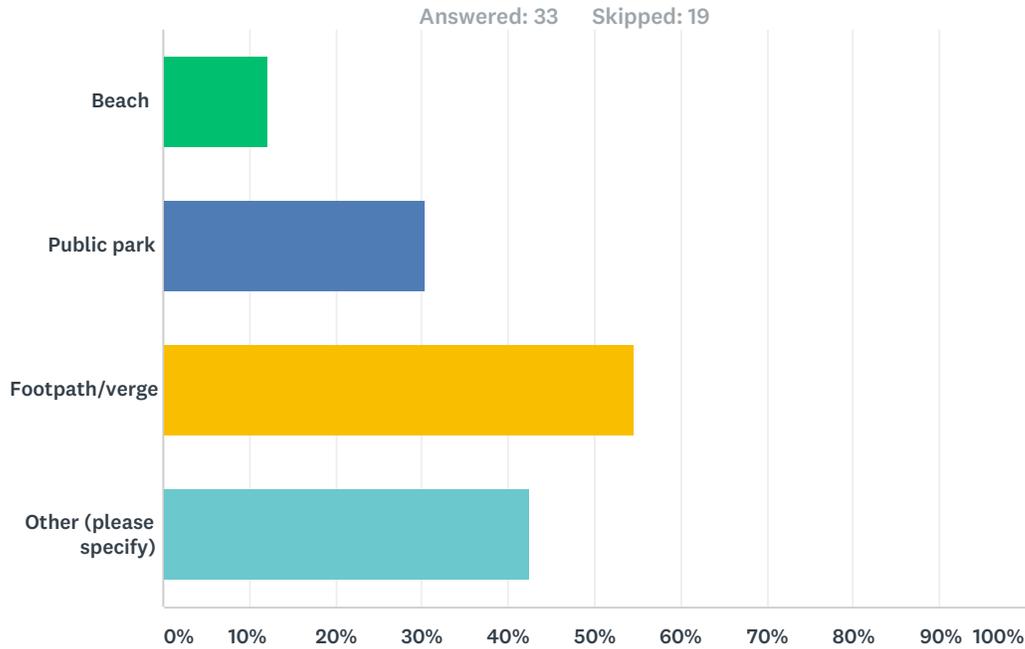
Q13 Have you witnessed or been involved with a dog attack?



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Yes	57.69%	30
No	42.31%	22
Total		52

#	Comment	Date
1	The attacks have been on native animals	7/18/2017 10:47 AM
2	When I was student at Jingili primary school in the 1980s - a school mate's dog attacked another dog (same owner) during a school excursion and many of the kids were horrified, there was blood everywhere. I think the smaller dog had to be put down. I've seen many attacks since then but this was the first one I can remember.	7/10/2017 3:46 PM
3	Don't know anyone who has, and I know many people.1	7/8/2017 12:21 PM
4	Working at vet clinic I see these at least every second day. And that's at one clinic. A lot worse then when I worked in the southern state previously.	7/6/2017 3:15 PM
5	Palmerston, roaming dog attacked my ??	7/5/2017 4:32 PM
6	I have had dogs attempt to attack myself and dogs when walking. I keep my dogs on leads and yet people's whose dogs aren't on leads come over and then their owners can't recall them. This results in dogs growling and lots of stress. Dogs should be kept on leads at all times unless you can 100% control them.	7/5/2017 3:47 PM
7	It was one dog attacking another dog, not a person.	7/5/2017 2:54 PM
8	Only dog vs dog. Usually with dogs poorly supervised (or not supervised at all) by their ownder	7/5/2017 2:42 PM
9	A dog at large at night killed my previous pet in my own carport.	6/21/2017 6:35 PM
10	Not my dog but another dog attacked a person near my place. the owners of the dog were not even worried. On another occasion another dog has been off lead (when it shouldnt have been) and attacked my dog.	6/21/2017 2:09 PM
11	neighbours on the corners dog is vicious	6/19/2017 10:01 AM
12	No because I carry treats as a distraction when I go walking	6/15/2017 2:16 PM

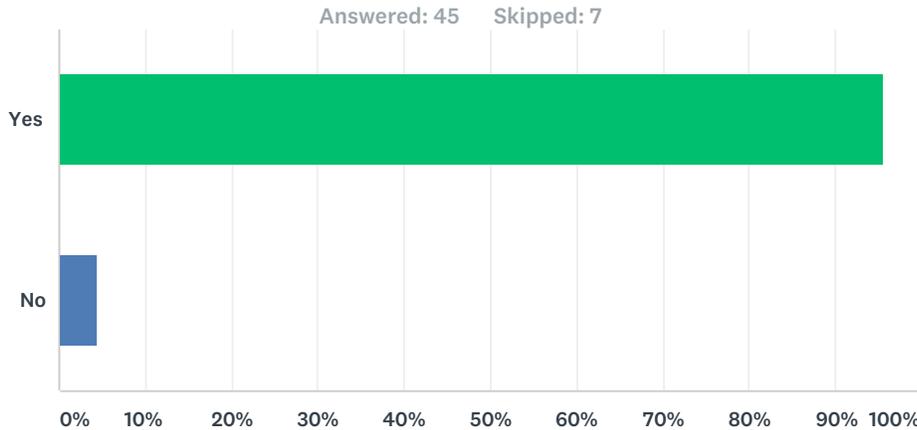
Q14 If yes, where did the dog attack occur?



Answer Choices	Responses
Beach	12.12% 4
Public park	30.30% 10
Footpath/verge	54.55% 18
Other (please specify)	42.42% 14
Total Respondents: 33	

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	Personal Property	7/20/2017 12:10 PM
2	In the person's home, where most dog attacks occur	7/18/2017 12:18 PM
3	Dog and cat owners garden	7/18/2017 10:47 AM
4	Footpath outside my school mate's house during a school excursion (MS Walk)	7/10/2017 3:46 PM
5	Nowhere	7/8/2017 12:21 PM
6	Anywhere public there are idiots with their dogs off lead.	7/6/2017 3:15 PM
7	Alice Springs suburban area	7/6/2017 10:04 AM
8	Nil attack	6/23/2017 4:03 PM
9	My dogs were on a leash, the other 2 (much bigger) dogs were not. Owner thought it was ok that "they are not vicious" without considering my 2 dogs on leash by mylself	6/23/2017 3:27 PM
10	Remote Communities	6/23/2017 2:41 PM
11	my carport	6/21/2017 6:35 PM
12	In our street	6/19/2017 6:03 PM
13	Dog was out of it yard and attacked my dog - owner said he only wanted to play - my dog will no longer walk along this street as the dog is often out of the fence.	6/19/2017 5:19 PM
14	I had a lot of problems when I lived in the rural area. Many dogs are loose and roam in packs	6/15/2017 2:16 PM

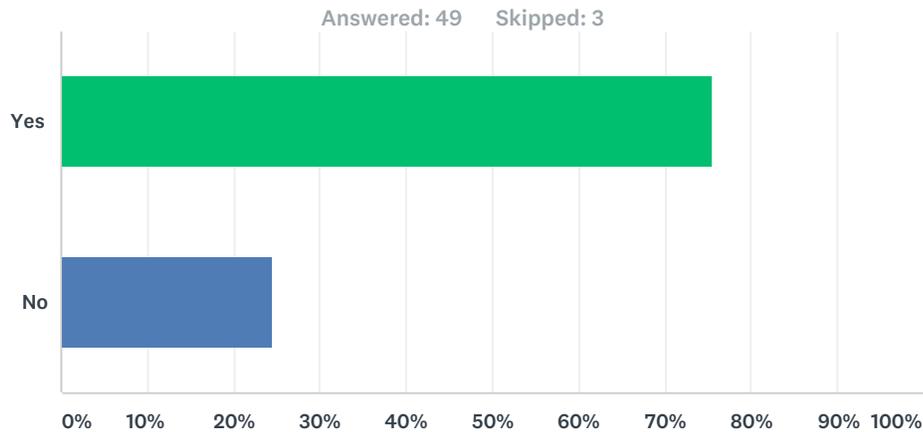
Q15 Do you support the actions for Part 2 Responsible Pet Ownership? (Actions are listed on page 6, 10 and 15 of Strategy)



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	95.56% 43
No	4.44% 2
Total	45

#	Comment	Date
1	Actions are too weak. Need more protection for residents adversely affected by other's pets.	7/13/2017 11:00 AM
2	The targets need to be higher, eg - reduce barking complaints by 50%	7/10/2017 3:46 PM
3	Some, not too much though	7/8/2017 12:21 PM
4	Education focus rather than punishment focus is best	7/5/2017 4:31 PM
5	East point beach area (only) should be accessible.	6/23/2017 3:27 PM
6	i didnt see much on how people surrender animals. Council should accept animal surrenders more openly.	6/19/2017 10:01 AM
7	Some parts yes others no	6/16/2017 8:58 PM
8	havent read it	6/15/2017 2:16 PM

Q16 Page 33 provides a map of on-lead and off-lead areas. Do you support the current on-lead and off-lead areas?



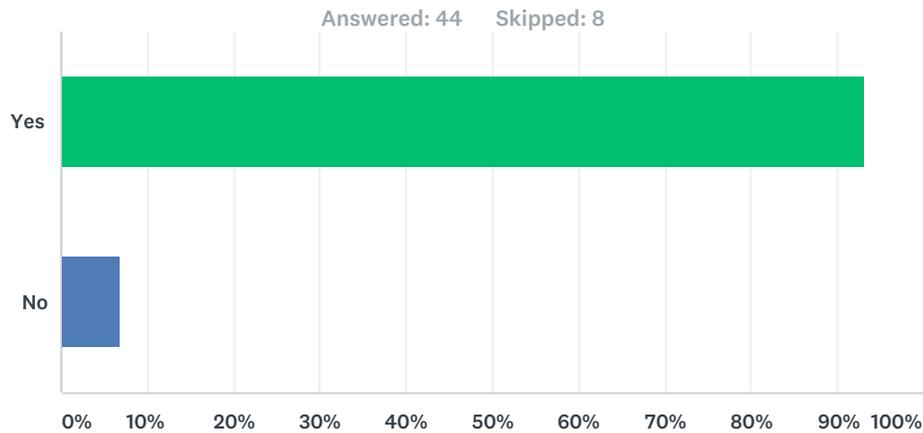
Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	75.51% 37
No	24.49% 12
Total	49

#	Comment	Date
1	The on leash area right in the middle of Casuarina beach is confusing and impractical. It is also odd to not allow dogs on leash in The Mall. I can understand perhaps the markets due to the over-crowding, but The Mall during non-event times should welcome on leash dogs.	7/18/2017 12:18 PM
2	There should be a greater buffer between on lead and off lead areas. A dog can travel several kilometres in a short time and cause havoc among shore birds	7/18/2017 10:47 AM
3	I don't think dogs should be allowed within 10m of a playground, eg - my 2yo daughter is allergic, which is why we took our two dogs to the RSPCA last year when the diagnosis was confirmed	7/10/2017 3:46 PM
4	Let's dogs be dogs	7/8/2017 12:21 PM
5	But I would appreciate more areas to safely exercise my dog off-leash. I believe that providing a dog off-leash time is important for their physical and emotional wellbeing. I have contacted NT Parks and Wildlife to provide feedback on this point and have been told they are looking to provide further areas to exercise dogs.	7/5/2017 2:54 PM
6	more off lead areas needed	6/23/2017 3:40 PM
7	Insufficient	6/21/2017 2:09 PM
8	The Community needs to be educated more regarding off leads dogs, especially in on lead areas, and shared use areas like footpaths etc.	6/20/2017 7:22 PM
9	East Point Reserve, and The Mall should be on leash area	6/19/2017 5:31 PM
10	map is too small to review	6/19/2017 5:19 PM
11	you need to enforce them better though especially in parks that have things like bbq facilities	6/19/2017 10:01 AM
12	I didn't think the map was clear about where the off leash areas are, rather where you are not permitted or need dog on leash	6/17/2017 1:30 PM
13	Still have people in these places with dogs they cannot control and they attack /are aggressive to other dogs	6/16/2017 8:58 PM
14	I'd like to see more enforcement, especially of dogs on the beach	6/15/2017 11:10 PM

Draft Dog and Cat Management Strategy

15	Darwin needs a fenced off dog park	6/15/2017 2:17 PM
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Q17 Do you exercise your dog away from home?



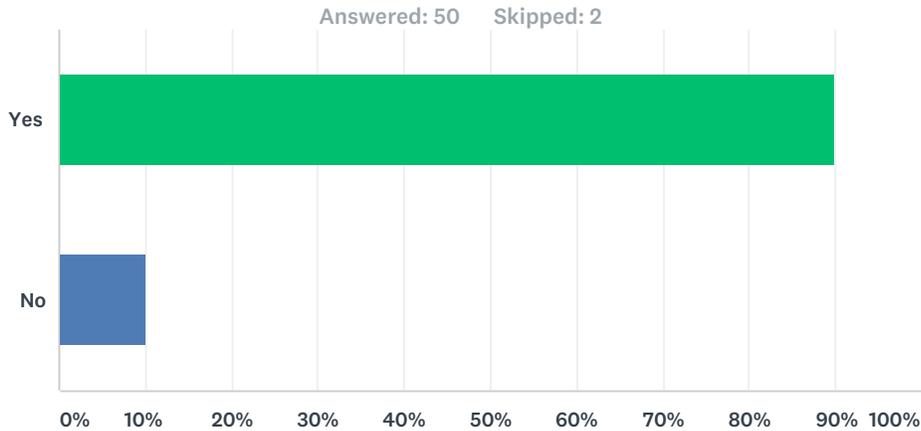
Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	93.18%	41
No	6.82%	3
Total		44

#	If yes, where?	Date
1	Vestys beach, botanical gardens	7/18/2017 12:18 PM
2	N/A	7/18/2017 10:47 AM
3	When I had dogs I used to run them along the beach and Nightcliff foreshore	7/10/2017 3:46 PM
4	Parks, beach, anywhere.	7/8/2017 12:21 PM
5	I Drive To Darwin University, no people on bikes and skateboards	7/5/2017 8:30 PM
6	Nightcliff foreshore	7/5/2017 6:24 PM
7	Walk around local area on the lead	7/5/2017 4:32 PM
8	Footpaths	7/5/2017 4:31 PM
9	Walking every day and taking it to the local park when no one else is there.	7/5/2017 3:47 PM
10	Beaches around Darwin, local parks, Holmes Jungle.	7/5/2017 2:54 PM
11	Casurina beach, nightcliff foreshore, Marlow lagoon	6/23/2017 10:31 PM
12	Casuarina beach, Warratah park fannie bay	6/23/2017 9:07 PM
13	Casuarina beach and Palmerston dog park	6/23/2017 4:10 PM
14	Palmerston dog park, walks in my area	6/23/2017 4:03 PM
15	beach, parks and bushland	6/23/2017 3:40 PM
16	East point	6/23/2017 3:17 PM
17	not applicable	6/21/2017 6:35 PM
18	Local park, esplanade, beach	6/21/2017 2:09 PM
19	Beaches	6/21/2017 11:49 AM
20	on lead in park, along footpath. I would never go to an off leash area as I believe most people don't understand their own dogs or basic dog behaviour, the risk is too high for dog attack.	6/20/2017 7:22 PM
21	Jingili, Nightcliff foreshore and beach, Lee Point Road	6/19/2017 5:31 PM
22	local footy oval	6/19/2017 10:01 AM

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23	Bike paths	6/16/2017 8:58 PM
24	alway on a lead	6/15/2017 2:17 PM
25	Beaches - i.e. Casuraina	6/15/2017 1:30 PM

Q18 Do you support having a dedicated dog park in Darwin?



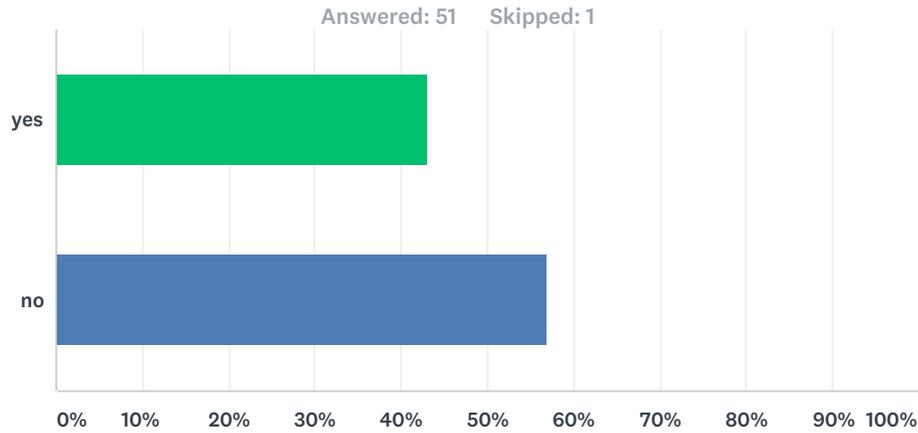
Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Yes	90.00%	45
No	10.00%	5
Total		50

#	Comment	Date
1	But there can't just be one, or you'll have more problems when every single dog in the city descends at the same time. There needs to be a couple, with separate areas for different sizes/types of dogs, and it needs to be properly designed with double gate areas, multiple exits etc. Recommend consulting animal welfare agencies when designing, rather than consulting 'designers' who may make it aesthetically pleasing, but likely not functional for reducing dog-dog issues	7/18/2017 12:18 PM
2	Whoever turns this vision into reality will be a genius!!!	7/10/2017 3:46 PM
3	Providing owners are required to keep their dogs under effective control and not bound up to other dogs and jump all over them.	7/6/2017 6:08 AM
4	Yes we need more fenced off lead dog parks in the northern suburbs	7/5/2017 10:51 PM
5	Desperately needed!!	7/5/2017 4:31 PM
6	If dogs are kept under control.	7/5/2017 3:47 PM
7	Yes, but it needs to be a large area. It should also have a small dog section as many dogs around Darwin are large and can be dangerous due to size. There should also be thorough education locally about how to use dog parks safely and how to know when your dog is not appropriate for a dog park.	7/5/2017 2:54 PM
8	One in every suburb so everyone can walk to one. They should be fenced and have grass, free poo bags and bins. Please put a dog park behind the car park at Dripstone cliffs - there is a large grassy area that isn't currently in use.	7/5/2017 2:42 PM
9	I wish there was a dog park closer to me	6/23/2017 4:03 PM
10	But not always safe for my dogs	6/23/2017 3:17 PM
11	There should be more than one - like Brisbane	6/21/2017 2:09 PM
12	But it requires regulation not just a free space for uneducated owners to let their dogs run amoke.	6/20/2017 7:22 PM
13	It would depend on the size, if there's too many in a small area it can cause problems and dog fights can occur	6/20/2017 7:11 PM
14	would prefer a dog swimming pool and training centre so the council could rehab dogs as well as owners exercising them	6/18/2017 8:33 PM

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15	More play spaces for kids over dogs	6/16/2017 8:58 PM
16	I think you could improve Vestey's Beach with a fenced off dog park. bring more poeple down to the area might clean it up. it could also encourage a coffee/food van to the space. jingili would be a perfect space.	6/15/2017 2:17 PM
17	Absolutley! 9000 registered dogs, give their owners somewhere fun to take them, include lots of shade and seating	6/15/2017 1:30 PM

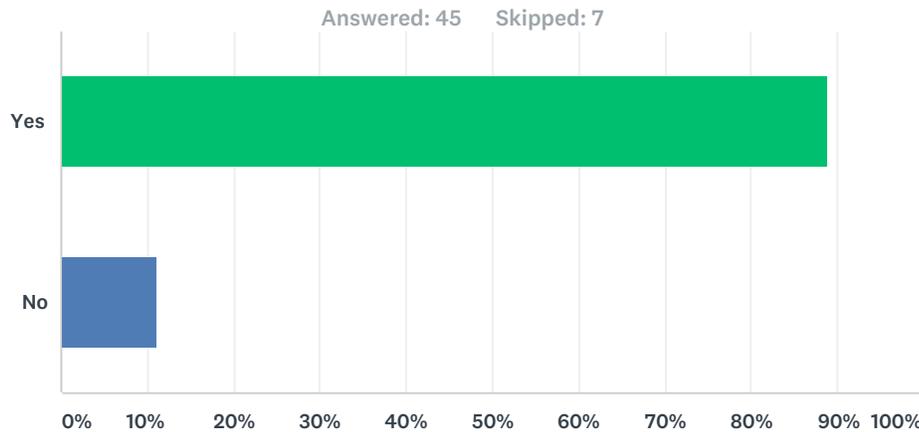
Q19 Are feral cats a problem in your local area?



Answer Choices	Responses	
yes	43.14%	22
no	56.86%	29
Total		51

#	Comment	Date
1	Please assist with active trapping of feral cats at CDU (and in particular IHD) campus. Current strategies appear ineffective. New effective strategies - the kitten population seems to increase.....	7/14/2017 10:37 AM
2	And domestic cats	7/13/2017 11:00 AM
3	The cat across the road craps in my yard	7/10/2017 3:46 PM
4	Not at all	7/8/2017 12:21 PM
5	We get fed but 'unowned' cats at least weekly in our clinic. Our Palmerston branch gets them daily.	7/6/2017 3:15 PM
6	Stray cats are everywhere because people don't sexed their animals.	7/5/2017 3:47 PM
7	Not in Leanyer, but in general I am aware of feral cats being a problem to Australian wildlife.	7/5/2017 2:54 PM
8	Do you realise that neutering cats is a more efficient way to control them in the wild than killing them?	6/23/2017 10:31 PM
9	Pet ones are though.	6/23/2017 3:29 PM
10	There are quite a few roaming cats which I'd prefer to be contained in their yard so they stop killing the wildlife	6/20/2017 7:11 PM
11	darwin has many 'unowned' cats, but not 'feral' ones. There is a difference.	6/19/2017 4:14 PM
12	please do more to catch them.	6/19/2017 10:01 AM
13	YES YES YES YES PLEASE :-)	6/17/2017 1:30 PM
14	They hunt and kill wildlife	6/15/2017 11:10 PM

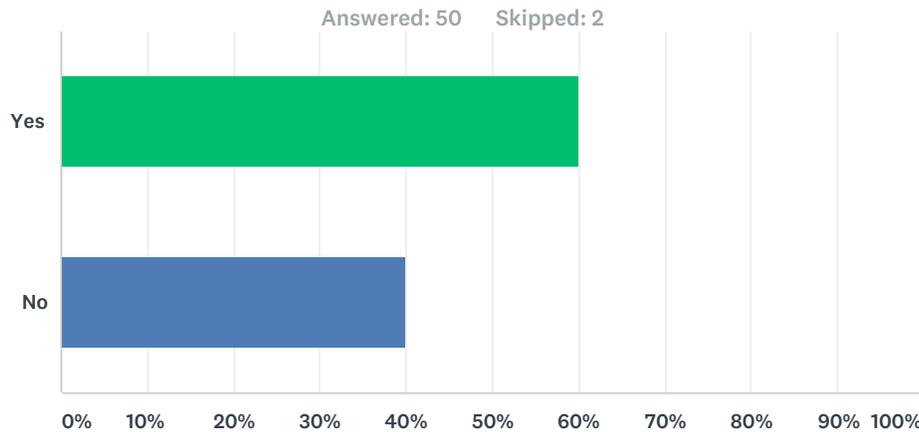
Q20 Do you support the actions for PART 3 Pets in Public Spaces? (Actions are on page 23 of Strategy)



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	88.89% 40
No	11.11% 5
Total	45

#	Comment	Date
1	Some confusing / ambiguous wording throughout this section. E.g. dog within 1.5m of owner, but in other places it just says must be able to see it. Then again, it says "immediately return to its owner on command and/or remains in the clear and unobstructed view" - this is ambiguous about whether it is ok to be out of sight if will immediately return upon calling etc. These all need tightening to be clear and unambiguous.	7/18/2017 12:18 PM
2	Not strong enough.	7/13/2017 11:00 AM
3	Why can't we have a ban like in the ACT?	7/10/2017 3:46 PM
4	Show us who didn't read the app thing!	7/8/2017 12:21 PM
5	Yes I would appreciate more areas to legally exercise my dog as well as support shown to local clubs. Being a member of Fred's Pass Positive Dog Training Club this is important to me (though I understand that it is technically in Litchfield Council and not Darwin).	7/5/2017 2:54 PM
6	If followed through.	6/23/2017 3:27 PM
7	are you going to fine people for not picking up the dog poo if repeat offenders	6/19/2017 5:19 PM
8	should be more emphasis on stray cat eradication, educating people about cats and their impact on wildlife and why stray cats shouldnt be fed.	6/19/2017 10:01 AM
9	What about the Mall????	6/17/2017 1:30 PM
10	Yes and no	6/16/2017 8:58 PM

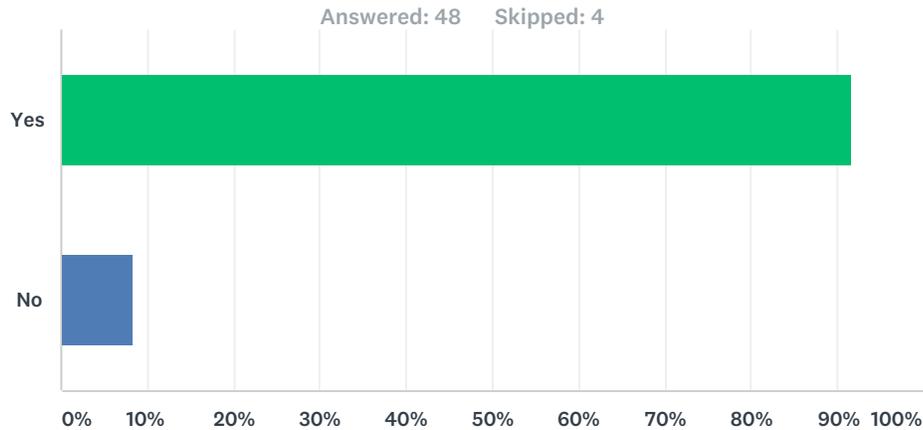
Q21 Were you aware that the majority of impounded pets are returned to their owner or rehomed?



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	60.00% 30
No	40.00% 20
Total	50

#	Comment	Date
1	On page 25, the document contradicts itself. It mentions very specifically that animals are ONLY euthanased if it fails a health or behavioural assessment, but then two paragraphs later states that all welfare agencies will euthanase animals if unable to find an alternative home and facilities are full.	7/18/2017 12:18 PM
2	I thought most of them would be put down - good on the community for being so responsible	7/10/2017 3:46 PM
3	Unfortunately the pound has a poor public reputation, I think the staff do the best they can, people need to become more aware of this.	7/6/2017 3:15 PM
4	That is good news.	7/5/2017 3:47 PM
5	the euthenasia statistics are still horrendous and very poor for an Australian capital city. Current fee and fine structure makes it too expensive for some families to get their pet back.	6/19/2017 4:14 PM
6	rangers should catch more stray cats	6/19/2017 10:01 AM

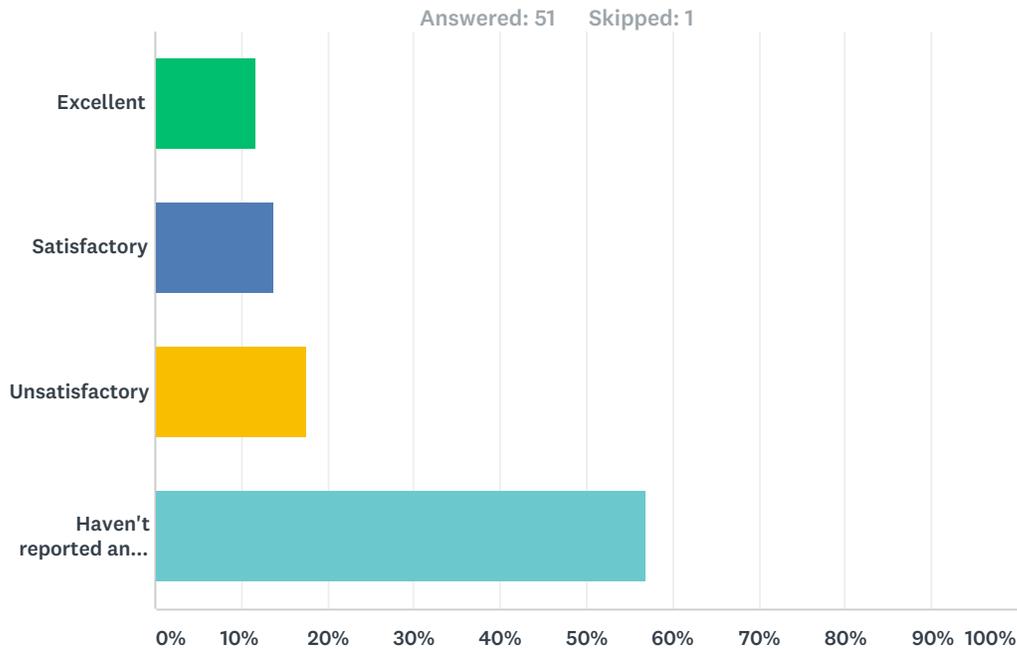
Q22 Page 27 provides actions to reduce the number of impounded animals and increase the number of animals returned with their owners or rehomed. Do you support these actions?



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Yes	91.67%	44
No	8.33%	4
Total		48

#	Comment	Date
1	Take care to be aiming to reduce real numbers of animals impounded while also having targets to increase population of people, and increase ability to keep animals - you may find it more appropriate to express percentages as a reduction compared to animal population.	7/18/2017 12:18 PM
2	Too lenient	7/13/2017 11:00 AM
3	The targets need to be higher - eg 50% instead of 20%	7/10/2017 3:46 PM
4	Not all, more needs to be done to support animal rescue organisations and additional assistance to financially support rehomed animals ie no rego fee?	6/23/2017 3:27 PM
5	I think having incentives to adopt not buy is a great initiative and I absolutely support that.	6/20/2017 7:11 PM
6	Support most in principle but the actions described seem vague.	6/19/2017 4:14 PM
7	more should be done to catch roaming cats	6/19/2017 10:01 AM

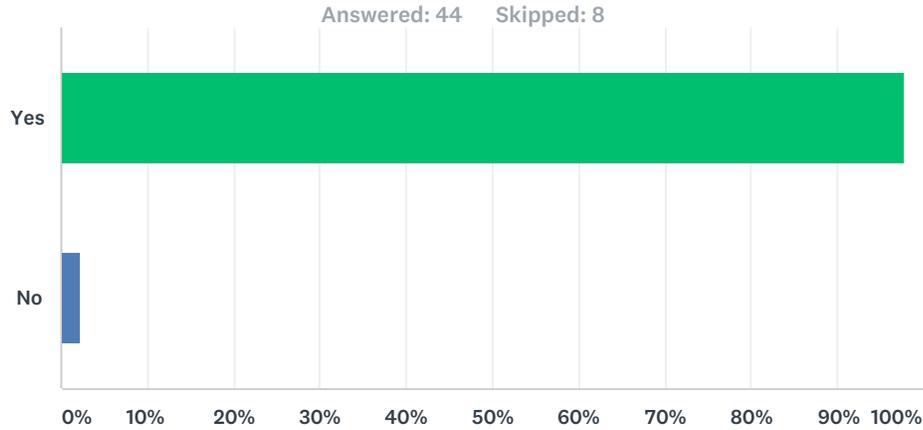
Q23 If you have reported an Animal Management incident to the City of Darwin how would you rate your response?



Answer Choices	Responses	
Excellent	11.76%	6
Satisfactory	13.73%	7
Unsatisfactory	17.65%	9
Haven't reported an incident	56.86%	29
Total		51

#	Comment	Date
1	Inept. Staff do not understand their job and do not care. Biased in favor of the animal owner.	7/13/2017 11:00 AM
2	I haven't reported an incident because the cat from across the road is too quick for me to get a hold of	7/10/2017 3:46 PM
3	Need more staff on over the weekend to pick up animals at large.	7/6/2017 3:15 PM
4	I now do not ring DCC, but rather keep the animal found myself and seek help from rescue groups / vets	6/23/2017 3:27 PM
5	Dogs running up and down street barking at dogs all night but the ranger were not available so nothing happened, was asked to go out and try to control the dogs myself	6/23/2017 2:41 PM
6	Despite the Ranger's best efforts the problem is still ongoing.	6/21/2017 6:35 PM
7	just because issue does not happen when visited by Rangers does not mean there is not an issue	6/19/2017 5:19 PM
8	too scared to upset neighbour	6/19/2017 10:01 AM
9	dog attack impacting a number of people that took months to resolve and gave us the impression there was nothing effective that could be done to protect us from the dog.	6/18/2017 8:33 PM

Q24 Do you support the actions for Part 5 Improvements in Animal Management Operations? (Actions are listed on page 31 of Strategy)



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Yes	97.73%	43
No	2.27%	1
Total		44

#	Comment	Date
1	But I believe that there should be a 5.4, which refers to commitment to improving operations regarding animal welfare (e.g. commitment to welfare-friendly handling, reducing use of recommendations of punishment methods (e.g. bark collars), improving animal outcomes, reducing stress of animals in care by returning them directly home if possible etc. I agree that improving the other aspects is important, but the world of Animal Management is progressing to be clear that welfare is also a priority.	7/18/2017 12:18 PM
2	But needs more. Contradicts with the Responsible pet ownership guide "Council has a well trained team". The team is inept. Needs proper representation by residents adversely affected by animal behavior.	7/13/2017 11:00 AM
3	Didn't read it	7/8/2017 12:21 PM
4	More staff needed.	7/6/2017 3:15 PM
5	Yes, these seem to be standard departmental reviews and mostly not a public concern.	7/5/2017 2:54 PM
6	Move to lifetime registration and get the staff back doing important work rather than peering into backyards and pushing rego papers around.	6/19/2017 4:14 PM
7	how do people surrender animals and this should be made clear on website. people need to surrender animals for so many reasons and council should help facilitate this in the objective of 'animal welfare'	6/19/2017 10:01 AM
8	see other comments	6/18/2017 8:33 PM
9	Some yes some no	6/16/2017 8:58 PM

Q25 Do you have any other feedback regarding the Draft Dog and Cat Management Strategy?

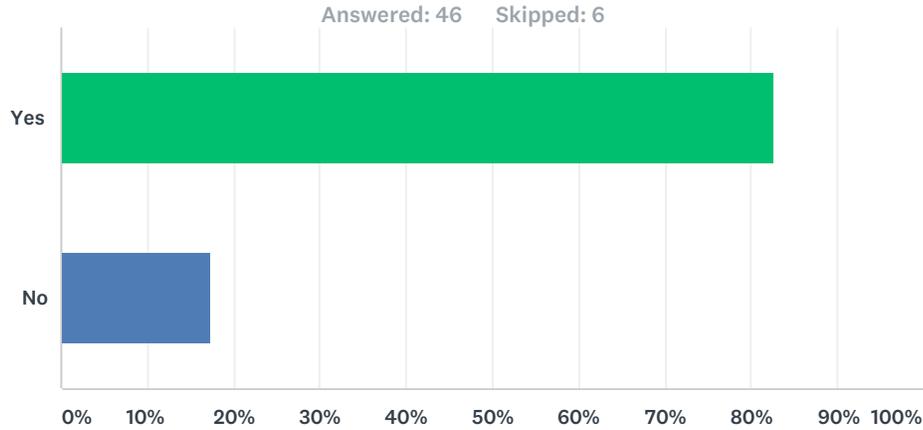
Answered: 24 Skipped: 28

#	Responses	Date
1	See 27	7/18/2017 10:47 AM
2	Patrol and enforcement of Rules re dogs offlead, non compliance of dog faeces pickup. Need BIG BOLD clear additional signage at all entry points on Casuarina Beach. Currently, many visitors & no obvious signage. Heavy spot-fines for non-compliance will aid this.	7/14/2017 10:37 AM
3	The strategy is biased towards animal owners. Does not support the legislated purpose of the animal management by-laws.	7/13/2017 11:00 AM
4	Cats need to be impounded when they roam instead of being seen as no threat. Dogs are heavily regulated but cats seem to be ignored	7/11/2017 8:15 PM
5	No	7/10/2017 3:46 PM
6	Life time fee paid when microchipped	7/8/2017 8:14 PM
7	You can't fine people for their animal escaping once or twice, even when they tried to stop it.	7/8/2017 12:21 PM
8	This is a long-coming step in the right direction.	7/6/2017 3:15 PM
9	Clause 3-3-1 Cats should be kept inside at night - I consider they MUST be kept inside at night, and also that cats caught outside their property at night incurr a hefty fine. As well, the fine for not picking up dog faeces should be a significant amount to encourage compliance. It would also be useful if rangers were seen to be enforcing this rule. Walking around the Nakara school/oval/shops precinct - dog faeces everywhere and not a ranger in sight (at least in the early morning of at dusk when most people walk their dogs	7/6/2017 6:08 AM
10	No	7/5/2017 8:30 PM
11	No	7/5/2017 4:42 PM
12	As already stated, I would appreciate more areas that I can take my dog in public. Darwin Council should promote and reward responsible dog ownership by providing areas to take dogs, providing dog garbage bags and educating about safety, management, dog enrichment and training. I do appreciate that Darwin does not focus on heavy restrictions that are not backed up by science, like BSL. I think the approach to cats is spot on in this strategy and I would even take it further and promote keeping cats indoors or confined to yards at all times, not just at night. Cats should only be allowed to roam in yards if they have no means of escaping the yard (e.g. cat enclosure).	7/5/2017 2:54 PM
13	More dog friendly parks (on and off lead). Work in conjunction with the NTG to open more reserves etc for dogs.	7/5/2017 2:42 PM
14	I think I have seen so many cats and kittens which need to be rehired due to people not desexing or spaying as there are always so many. I would like to see it implemented a free service, where the council pays or has a grant program in place with supportive vets in Darwin. To help reduce the amount of cats, which even the rehoming groups have to turn away.	6/23/2017 10:31 PM
15	something needs to be done to address the amount of cats breeding	6/23/2017 3:40 PM
16	It is excellent; dog and cat owners should be strongly encouraged to read it and adhere to it.	6/21/2017 6:35 PM
17	Needs to be better publicised so feedback is received. Councillors should be doing this as part of their job - I don't even know who my local counsellors' are!!	6/21/2017 2:09 PM
18	Owners should be required to attend an education/training course prior to registration. Property inspection should also take place and be done on a periodic basis to ensure the correct number of pets are kept, to prevent 'puppy farming' and ensure pets are kept in a safe and hygienic environment.	6/20/2017 7:22 PM
19	I often see dogs at the various markets around Darwin so I think a council sweep of this and educating people so they know it's not allowed is a great idea	6/20/2017 7:11 PM
20	yes, loads. But this form doesnt give me much space does it?	6/19/2017 4:14 PM

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21	please include more actions on catching/trapping destroying stray cats. Council should undertake a trapping program in key biodiversity areas to reduce the number of wandering cats. if you catch domestic cats its an opportunity to educate the owners about keeping cats indoors. if they are true strays you can rehome or euthanize them.	6/19/2017 10:01 AM
22	its long and winding and does not seem to be anything new. Will the mall be dog friendly? Can you also encourage cafes to be dog friendly? and add dog water fountains and pools and bins. there are so few bins around darwin.	6/18/2017 8:33 PM
23	I'd like to see a much bigger effort to educate cat owners, more cats kept inside and more cats desexed.	6/15/2017 11:10 PM
24	I think its too hard for owners to keep their cat within their backyard. Besides the neighbor's cat comes to visit me and I would really miss that.	6/15/2017 2:16 PM

Q26 The Responsible Pet Ownership Guide provides practical advice to help owners manage their pets. Is the information in the Responsible Pet Ownership Guide helpful to you?



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Yes	82.61%	38
No	17.39%	8
Total		46

#	Comment	Date
1	Fair legislation designed to encourage people to co-operate - but is anyone reading??!	7/14/2017 10:37 AM
2	Appaling biased.	7/13/2017 11:00 AM
3	Unfortunately some owners do not have common sense on being a responsible pet owner.	7/6/2017 7:26 AM
4	Never saw it	6/23/2017 3:17 PM
5	Lengthy and not clear on what I could or should do, mostly talks about what Council does	6/19/2017 5:31 PM
6	nothing new in there.	6/19/2017 10:01 AM
7	its basic. there are some other great examples of guide on the world wide web.	6/18/2017 8:33 PM
8	I know that information	6/15/2017 11:10 PM

Q27 Is there anything else that would be helpful to be included in the Pet Ownership Guide?

Answered: 22 Skipped: 30

#	Responses	Date
1	It mentions that the NT Government and RSPCA carry out the Animal Welfare function - RSPCA technically isn't charged with this function, and struggles to help the public understand why (when they're normally from interstate and expect RSPCA to do something to assist). It would be helpful to clearly state the actual responsibilities.	7/18/2017 12:18 PM
2	Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the draft regulations into Dog and Cat management. I applaud the comprehensive regulations for the management and control of 'pet' domestic dog and cats by CoD. I am a member of Wildcare Inc who cares for and reduces the suffering of injured, sick and orphaned native animals and birds in the NT. There is presently little reference to the interaction of domestic animals and our native wild life in the management plan, which it is an opportunity missed. I believe there is a place in the regulations to educate the pet owning public about the suffering, damage and disruption their pets cause to our native animals. Many Wildcare rescue calls are to pick up animals and birds (Inc snakes, goannas and blue tongues) that have been savaged by pet dogs and cats. Death or euthanasia is the usual result, which is extremely distressing for the rescuer and involves untold suffering to the animals attacked. The public needs to know that all native animals are protected. Do not feed or encourage native animals and birds into your garden if their pets are likely to kill them. Keep pet food and feeding stations out of sight. Ensure all pets carry warning bells. Ensure all council regulations and adhered to. Shore Birds are particularly vulnerably to disturbance by dogs. I would be happy to talk to anyone interested in including these ideas into the plan. This ideas could be included in the key aims and strategies.	7/18/2017 10:47 AM
3	Guidelines, or mount a discussion on how owners might confine their cats to their properties using cheaper methods. An example is a business which uses plastic netting(?) fencing/enclosures. for cats.	7/14/2017 10:37 AM
4	Remove bias. Use neutral language. Council staff need to take on ownership of their responsibilities, not try to get the victim to solve it.	7/13/2017 11:00 AM
5	Yes - showing the contents of a cat's stomach (with birds/lizards etc inside) might make people who own cats even more "responsible" than they already are	7/10/2017 3:46 PM
6	How to stop a naughty cat escaping	7/8/2017 12:21 PM
7	The benefits of desexing your pet. So much backyard breeding with poor results for animals/ genetics the community alike. The benefits of keeping your cat indoors.	7/6/2017 3:15 PM
8	Pet owners should also be required to pick up dog faeces on their own properties. I live next door to a property with two golden retrievers whose owners never clear up their mess - can smell it from well within the boundary to my home. As well, there is a big difference in impact of five large dogs than five small ones.	7/6/2017 6:08 AM
9	Desexing should be compulsory. All breeders should be registered.	7/5/2017 10:51 PM
10	Educate people regarding personal space for pets. I have encountered people that force dogs onto mine when asked not to they get very aggressive and verbally abusive.	7/5/2017 6:24 PM
11	Dogs are individuals and should be respected and treated as such. As a dog enthusiast and member of many dog-focused social media channels, I am considering starting an online project focused on responsible and positive dog ownership in Australia. I am hoping to reach out to dog connections in Darwin in the coming months to create some online content for this purpose.	7/5/2017 2:54 PM
12	Provide vouchers or similar to low income families to get their dogs through an obedience class that teaches them on ways to engage with their dogs. This will help to reduce nuisance barking etc.	7/5/2017 2:42 PM
13	How to spray your animals. Best times to do this. Available services to do this.	6/23/2017 10:31 PM
14	Cafes, parks, camping areas that are dog friendly	6/23/2017 9:07 PM
15	No, I just think it would be great if a second dog park was opened closer to Darwin CBD. There's no need for it to be huge like the one in Palmerston. Just a cool space to take my fur baby.	6/23/2017 4:03 PM

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16	How to educate people to take better care of their dogs , too many get lost or hurt when it could easily be prevented ! Also tell animal welfare to be a bit more friendly and rude when people are just trying to help	6/23/2017 3:17 PM
17	Yes, in regard to pets at large, a system of 2 warnings if the pet remains at large, then confiscation of the pet permanently.	6/21/2017 6:35 PM
18	You have to focus harder on stoping all the breeding. Other communities have transitioned towards greater popularity of rescued animals, and greater negative perceptions round backyard breeding. This has greatly reduced the number of animals being destroyed in council pounds. Amongst other benefits.	6/19/2017 4:14 PM
19	force people to desex animals (dogs and cats). Force people to keep cats inside, desex, microchip register their cats and clearly identify if they don't they maybe trapped and killed as strays. Allow anominous nuisance animal complaints as neighbours still have to live next to each other but would like education for their neighbours on how bad their animals behaviour is.	6/19/2017 10:01 AM
20	include more information and resources for people as well as animal clubs. IE fireworks, anxiety, exercise, caring for dogs in high rise living or close housing, need for routine, strategies to eliminate barking, aggression, care of pets in the hot weather and what to do if you come across a dog in a car or in the sun without an owner. It does not seem very modern or offering anything new. Also what to do if you are fearful of a dog that is aggressive in public.	6/18/2017 8:33 PM
21	Yes, there was talk about the Mall being opened to dogs, I can't see the Mall on the map??	6/17/2017 1:30 PM
22	Let's make it really easy to get a trap and Council back up to remove feral cats. Other councils (Canberra and Kangaroo Island are taking a strong stand.)	6/15/2017 11:10 PM