

Title: **Animal Management - General**  
Policy No: 001  
Adopted By: Council  
Next Review Date: 23/02/2014  
Responsibility: General Manager City Life  
Document Number: 2117829

| Version | Decision Number | Adoption Date | History |
|---------|-----------------|---------------|---------|
| 1       | 20\2501         | 23/02/10      | Adopted |
| 2       |                 |               |         |
| 3       |                 |               |         |
| 4       |                 |               |         |

## 1 Policy Summary

This Policy addresses:

- Animal Management Plan,
- Pets in Drains
- Cat Registration
- Number of Cats Allowed
- Dangerous Dogs
- Exercise Areas
- Impounded Dogs
- Licences to Keep Additional Dogs
- Registration Fees
- Electronic Tags
- Dog Restriction Areas

## 2 Policy Objectives

The policy provides direction in the application of the City of Darwin (Animal Management) By-laws.

## 3 Background

Animal management is an important function of the Council. Registration of dogs and a By-law dealing with dogs has been in force for many years. The By-law was last reviewed in 2007 and new provisions added dealing with Cats.

## 4 Policy Statement

### **Part A Animal Management Plan**

Council Policy is to adopt an Animal Management Plan from time to time. The current Animal Management Plan is appended to this policy.

### **Part B Pets in Drains**

It is not Council policy to extract pets from drains. The responsibility for pets entering and being removed from drains lies with the owner.

In special cases where Council assistance is required a minimum fee will be charged to the owner on an hourly basis.

### **Part C Cats**

#### Registration

Pursuant to By law 56 (4) Darwin City By-laws (Part 3 Animal Management) that it be a requirement of registration that dogs and cats over the age of three months be fitted with an approved permanent electronic subcutaneous implant from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2008.

#### Number of Cats Allowed

Pursuant to By law 58 (1) City of Darwin By Laws (Part 3 Animal Management) for the period 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009 the number of cats or class of cats per premises shall be unlimited.

From 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009 pursuant to By law 58 (1) City of Darwin By Laws (Part 3 Animal Management) the number of cats or class of cats per premises shall be two (2) excluding those cats registered in 2008/2009.

### **Part D Dogs**

#### Dangerous

Council will control dangerous dogs through the existing by-law provisions rather than making a new by-law to ban particular breeds of dog.

A Declared Dogs Register onto which dogs which breach by-laws in relation to at large, attack and menace are entered has been established pursuant to By law 55 of City of Darwin By Laws (Part 3 Animal Management).

#### Exercise Areas

THAT pursuant to By law 62 (1) City of Darwin By Laws (Part 3 Animal Management) all parks, reserves, gardens and beaches under Council's care and control with the exception of East Point Reserve be declared dog exercise areas and that no ovals are exercise areas. That the buffer zone adjoining Lee Point Road is a dog exercise area. That bitches in oestrus are not permitted in exercise areas.

Conditions for the use of these areas are:

- In exercise areas dogs shall be accompanied by the owner.
- In exercise areas dogs are not required to be restrained by a lead unless organised sporting activities are in progress or the dog is within 10 metres or as otherwise sign posted of playground equipment or barbecue facilities or the dog is being exercised on a cycle or pedestrian path within the area.
- In exercise areas dogs will not contravene any provisions of Part 3 - City of Darwin By Laws (Part 3 Animal Management) .
- Owners must act in accordance with any signs relevant to particular areas.

### Impounding Extension

For the purpose of By-law 80 of the City of Darwin By Laws (Part 3 Animal Management) dogs at large which are unregistered or unidentified or registered dogs which are unable to be returned to an owner are impounded.

All dogs impounded shall be held for four (4) working days after the expiration of which time the pound manager may arrange for the destruction or disposal of the dog.

### Licences To Keep More Than Two

THAT pursuant to By law 58 (1) City of Darwin By Laws (Part 3 Animal Management) that the number of dogs, declared dogs, class of dogs per premises shall be two (2).

Licences for exemption from these provisions are to be viewed as a concession rather than a right and will be granted only after thorough consideration. New applications for licences to keep more than five dogs in a residential area will not be granted.

### Registration Fees

In setting dog registration fees Council will provide concessions for aged and invalid pensioners and owners who are members of the NACA. Only one concession will apply per dog.

Where a registered dog dies or leaves the municipality in the first six months of registration for the financial year, registration fees may be refunded on a pro-rata basis.

Where a licence to keep more than two (2) dogs has been issued for the financial year and is no longer required within the first six months of issue, licence fee may be refunded on a pro-rate basis.

Where a dog is de-sexed in the first six months of registration the registration fee for an entire dog may be refunded on a pro-rata basis.

### Electronic Tags – Registration Requirement

Pursuant to By law 56 (4) City of Darwin By Laws (Part 3 Animal Management) that it be a requirement of registration that dogs and cats over the age of three months be fitted with an approved permanent electronic subcutaneous implant from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2008.

## Restriction Areas

### Dog exclusion areas:

- The Mall is a dog exclusion area at all times.
- The East Point Reserve from the area bounded by the entry gateway and Lake Alexander fence is a dog exclusion area at all times.
- THAT pursuant to By law 62 (2) (a) City of Darwin By Laws (Part 3 Animal Management) the markets whilst operating are dog restricted areas.
- THAT pursuant to By law 62 (2) (a) City of Darwin By Laws (Part 3 Animal Management) all playgrounds and the area within 10 metres of any playground is a dog restricted area.
- THAT pursuant to By law 62 (2) (a) City of Darwin By Laws (Part 3 Animal Management) all public BBQs and the area within 10 metres of any public BBQ is a dog restricted area.

## **5 Legislation, terminology and references**

Part 3 (Animal Management) City of Darwin By Laws.

## **6 Implementation and delegation**

The General Manager City Life is responsible for managing implementation of this policy

## **7 Evaluation and review**

This policy should be reviewed once in the term of each Council or more often as required.