

MEETING OF URBAN ANIMAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE APPENDIX 9
CONFERENCE ROOM 3, JOONDALUP CIVIC COMPLEX
27 NOVEMBER 2000, COMMENCING AT 5.05PM.

ATTENDANCES

Cr Tanya Barnett	Chairperson
Cr John Hollywood	
Cr Carol Mackintosh	
Cr Stephen Magyar	
Dennis Cluning	Manager Operation Services
Paul Hrovatin	Senior Ranger
Amber Perin	Environmental Health Officer
Mark Stanton	Manager Leisure and Ranger Services
Cr Judy Hurst	(from 5.15pm)
Dave Dpublic	Director Infrastructure Management
	(from 5.20pm)
Nicole Foxcroft	Project Officer

APOLOGIES

None

MINUTES OF THE MEETING, 12 OCTOBER 2000

Moved Cr Barnett **Seconded** Cr Mackintosh that the minutes of the meeting of the Urban Animal Management Committee held on the 12 October 2000 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Carried

RESIGNATION -CR NIXON

Moved Cr Barnett **Seconded** Cr Mackintosh that the Urban Animal Management Committee recommends to Council that it accepts Cr Nixon's resignation from the Committee.

Carried

DOGS IN PUBLIC PLACES

An invitation had been made to junior sporting clubs to attend this meeting to put forward their opinions and any problems associated with dogs on active parks. Mark Stanton tabled a letter from Sorrento Duncraig Junior Football Club that highlighted the issue of dog faeces on the active parks.

ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

Cr Barnett reported on the progress of this issue. A shortlist of 3 parks has been established for an initial trial - Grandilla, Gibson and Trappers, with Grandilla appearing the most suitable due to the resources and infrastructure already available at this location. Cr Barnett has spoken to dog owners who are using the park and they are positive about the adventure playground, however consultation with people living in the area is necessary.

Dennis Cluning indicated that there is old surplus equipment that could be used to create the adventure playground. It was suggested that the adventure playground should be trialled in January/February 2001 for a period of approximately 6 months.

URBAN ANIMAL MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

Cr Magyar asked if supermarket chains that sell pet food were included in the mailing list. Nicole Foxcroft indicated that they will be at a later stage as there were only enough resources at present to provide booklets etc to the local Vets, Pet Stores etc.

Dennis Cluning provided committee members with maps that indicated bins, signs and bag locations. The placement of these has taken into account usage and access to service the bins.

Moved Cr Mackintosh **Seconded** Cr Hollywood that the Urban Animal Management Committee recommend to Council that the Urban Animal Management Action Plan be endorsed.

Carried

DRAFT CAT ACT

A draft response to a letter from Giz Watson MLC was tabled regarding proposed Cat Legislation. The issue of cat control is to be carried over to next year.

HILLARYS ANIMAL EXERCISE AREA

Complaints have been received about horses being ridden on dogs only paths at the Hillarys Animal Exercise Area and the mess created by their droppings. Paul Hrovatin reported that over the last 6 months, Ranger Services had received two service requests, indicating that the problem was not a frequent occurrence.

The Committee discussed the issue of the horse beach, indicating that there were only two stables in the City and questioning the patronage of the horse exercise area. However, there may be people living in the City with horses stabled elsewhere that still use the horse beach. It was concluded that a survey of the usage of the area is required.

OUTSTANDING ACTION MATTERS

Cr Magyar questioned the use of dual carriageways as dog exercise areas - this is to be discussed after the trial period of the foreshore dual use path.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The sunset clause in the Terms of Reference for the Urban Animal Management Committee requires that the Committee will cease to function from 3 December 2000. The committee considered that a further 6 months to complete all necessary work was required.

Moved Cr Mackintosh **Seconded** Cr Hollywood that the Urban Animal Management Committee recommend to Council that the Urban Animal

Management Committee be extended for a further 6 month period ending 30 June 2001

Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Barnett suggested that a standard response for dealing with queries over the 3 month trial of the dual use path be drafted for Councillor and staff use. Nicole Foxcroft to complete.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

TBA

CLOSE

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.00pm.

City of Joondalup

Urban Animal Management Action Plan Dogs

Background

Dog control is an issue that all local authorities encounter. The specific problems that arise with dog ownership include dog faeces, unregistered dogs, roaming dogs, barking dogs, dogs exercised without leads and dogs in restricted or non permitted areas such as reserves and foreshores.

The Dog Act and by-laws (now local laws) have been in place with regard to dog control and they revolve around cautions and fines for non-compliance. However, statistics for this financial year to date show that dog complaints still make up 1 896 service requests and 350 infringement notices through Ranger Services.

The City of Joondalup, through the Urban Animal Management Committee, has formulated an action plan, specifically for dogs, to tackle issues pertaining to the City as well as general dog ownership.

The action plan focuses on six areas of action with a number of strategies including the rationale. These include:

1. Partnerships
2. Management Strategies
3. Early Intervention Strategies
4. Education Strategies (Alternatives to Infringement)
5. Reward and Recognition for Good Dog Ownership
6. Training

The action plan also incorporates the recently approved Good Dog Ownership Education Campaign for continuity and ease of implementation.

Action Plan

1. Partnerships

- 1.1 The City of Joondalup Urban Animal Management Committee and Ranger Staff to develop external partnerships with:
- Dog Obedience and Training Associations such as the Canine Association of Western Australia and AMREX
 - Local Vets, Pet Stores, Pet Supplies and Pet Grooming Proprietors

Rationale: There are a number of external groups that are involved in issues of good dog management. These groups have common goals and there is potential for the sharing of knowledge and resources to achieve these.

- 1.2 Internally, the City of Joondalup Urban Animal Management Committee, Ranger Services and Operation Services to consult on:
- The use of dual use pathways in reserves, park land or bushland areas in regards to dog exercise
 - Problem areas such as parks, reserves and bushland in regard to incorrect use by dog owners

Rationale: City of Joondalup Urban Animal Management Committee, Ranger Services and Operation Services are involved in issues of good dog management. By consulting, the coordination of activities involving dogs can be implemented uniformly and there can be facilitation of discussion, sharing of information and resources on particular dog issues.

2. Management Strategies

2.1 Coastal Dual Use Path and Foreshore Areas

- 2.1.1 Initiate a 3 month trial period for use of the dual use pathway along the coast for exercising dogs on a leash.

Rationale: The issue of allowing the use the dual use paths along the coast in the reserve areas for dog exercise, has been a debated issue both within the Council and the community. By introducing a trial period which will be closely monitored and reported on, the viability of opening these pathways can be established.

Action	Time Schedule	Task Allocation
Discuss issues of patrolling and enforcing with Rangers at a briefing session.	November 2000	Project Officer Rangers

Organise promotion of the trial period with emphasis on the responsibilities of dog owners.	November and December 2000	Project Officer
Monitoring the use of the areas	December 2000, January and February 2001	Rangers
Report to the Urban Animal Management Committee on findings	March 2000	Team Leader Ranger Services to coordinate
Urban Animal Management Committee To make recommendations to Council on use of the dual use path for dog exercise.	March 2000	Urban Animal Management Committee

- 2.1.2 Locate additional bin receptacles at the foreshore area the animal exercise beach, Hillarys during the 3 month trial period.
- Rationale:** The increased use of the foreshore area will require additional bins for waste and dog excreta.

Action	Time Schedule	Task Allocation
Rangers and Operations Staff to liase to organise the placement and cleaning requirements.	November -December 2000	Rangers and Operation Staff
Operations Staff to monitor use and determine viability of the bins locations.	December-March 2000	Operations Staff

- 2.1.3 Improve signage on the foreshore reserve promoting good dog behaviour in conjunction with the three month trial period.
- Rationale:** This strategy aims to positively promote to dog owners their responsibilities and act as a reminder and deterrent.

Action	Time Schedule	Task Allocation
Rangers and Operations Staff to liase to organise the signage requirements and implementation.	November 2000	Ranger Services and Operation Staff

Operations Staff to monitor use of area and determine viability of the signs at the set locations.	December-March 2000	Operations Staff
Investigate the viability of "Dog on Lead" sign painted on the dual use path if trial is successful.	March 2000	Operations Staff

2.1.4 Complete a report to Council on the use of the animal exercise beach, Hillarys.

Rationale: The animal beach has an area for dogs and horses. As Joondalup is generally a residential municipality, the need for the horse exercise area needs to be reviewed. There has also been community discussion regarding the use of the Hillarys beach for dog exercise. There has been opposing opinions on its use ranging from closing it for dog exercise completely, extending the area and turning the horse beach into a beach just for small dogs.

Action	Time Schedule	Task Allocation
Rangers to provide information on the patrols and any problems with the area	December 2000	Rangers Project Officer
Report to be completed and submitted to the Urban Animal Management Committee for consideration.	December 2000	Project Officer Team Leader Ranger Services and Manager Leisure and Ranger Services
Make recommendations and submit report to council.	December/January 2000	Urban Animal Management Committee

2.2 Dog Exercise

2.2.1 Investigation of the viability of restricting use of active parks by dogs.

Rationale: Active parks are used by sporting groups. The use of these parks by dogs is causing problems for the sporting groups ie. dog faeces.

Action	Time Schedule	Task Allocation
Discussion of problems experienced by sporting clubs at the Urban Animal Management Advisory Committee.	November 2000	Urban Animal Management Committee Sporting Group Representatives

Decision and Council Report	December-January 2000	Operation Services Ranger Services Urban Animal Management Committee Project Officer
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- 2.2.2 Explore the possibility of the construction of "Adventure Playground(s)" for dogs at a City of Joondalup reserve(s).

Rationale: Dogs have exercise needs. The implementation of specific site(s) for stimulated exercise can improve dog owner responsibility in terms of training and provide an alternative, perhaps contained and controlled site for exercise. It also promotes extra leisure opportunities and Council supported programs such as Be Active Together.

Action	Time Schedule	Task Allocation
Discussion of viability, costs and location at the Urban Animal Management Advisory Committee.	November-December 2000	Urban Animal Management Committee
Decision on viability and plan of action	November-December 2000	Urban Animal Management Committee
Implement Consultation period	December 2000	Urban Animal Management Committee
Construct Playground and Initiate trial.	January 2001	Urban Animal Management Committee

3. Early Intervention Strategies

- 3.1 Implementation of an 8 week column in the community newspaper on dog related problems such as faeces, attacks and behaviour, exercise areas, prohibited areas, registration, wandering, dual use paths and barking.

Rationale: By positively promoting the issues of dog control and encourage responsible dog ownership, the City aims to reduce the number of incidents relating to dog control.

Action	Time Schedule	Task Allocation
Liaise with Rangers and Dog Obedience Training Providers to develop a series of 8 articles on dog related problems	Early November 2000	Project Officer Rangers Marketing
Organise with the Community Newspaper for a 8 week column space	Early November 2000	Project Officer
Organise with the City's Marketing Department for the design and production of the columns	Begin 14 November 2000	Marketing

- 3.2 Develop and conduct Good Dog Ownership Seminars in conjunction with external partners.

Rationale: By offering education seminars based on dog issues, dog owners can obtain help and advice before they have a problem (eg learning to deal with a dog behaviour such as barking or aggression).

Action	Time Schedule	Task Allocation
Develop mailing list to target groups, registered dog owners, pet stores, vets, dog obedience training providers and pet grooming businesses.	October 2000	Project Officer
Liaise with dog obedience training providers and Rangers to organise a date and time for an initial seminar.	October 2000	Project Officer
Organise a flyer or letter promoting the seminar and organise mail out and placement of flyers at the City's libraries and recreation centres.	November 2000	Project Officer
Liaise with the City's Marketing Department to organise general press release and attendance certificates.	November 2000	Project Officer Marketing
Organise mail out to the list developed.	November 2000	Project Officer Ranger Support Staff

- 3.3 Development and Implementation of "Be A Good Friend" Dog Workshops targeted for primary school aged students in the City's Education 2001 Program.

Rationale: This strategy focuses on future dog owners. It will provide basic information on how to look after dogs correctly, which includes being a responsible "friend" to your dog and knowing the dog laws.

Action	Time Schedule	Task Allocation
Liaise with the City's Community Education Coordinator to arrange for the workshops to be promoted in the Education 2001 program.	October 2000	Project Officer Community Education Coordinator
Arrange meeting with Rangers to develop a workshop and detail materials required.	November 2000	Project Officer Rangers
Develop materials and resources for workshops	December 2000	Project Officer Marketing

- 3.4 Distribution and promotion of the City's Good Dog Ownership booklets, Poo.ch Pouches and information on obedience and good dog ownership courses to the City's Libraries and Recreation Centres and local Vets, Pet Stores, Pet Supplies and Pet Grooming Businesses.

Rationale: This strategy ensures that information on dogs is readily available throughout the City of Joondalup and ensures that dog information is targeted strategically where potential and current dog owners access.

Action	Time Schedule	Task Allocation
Obtain information on courses available from recognised dog obedience training providers.	October 2000	Project Officer
Organise a covering letter and mail out information.	November 2000	Project Officer Ranger Support Staff

- 3.5 Development of a web page that provides information and education about dog law, registration, dog health and obedience training. Investigate the possibility of having links to the RSPCA web site, obedience training providers and local vets and pet stores. The web page can also refer to the Junior Ranger Program and associated programs such as the Healthy Hounds Workshop.

Rationale: This strategy ensures that information on dogs is readily available on-line at the City of Joondalup.

Action	Time Schedule	Task Allocation
Organise a meeting with the Rangers and discuss web page information.	November 2000	Project Officer Ranger Services
Approach organisations to be a part of the web page.	November 2000	Project Officer
Development of the page.	December-March 2000	Project Officer City's Web Page Developer

4. Education Strategies (Alternatives to Infringement)

- 4.1 Initiate a three month period of cautions for offenders and distribute the City's Good Dog Ownership booklets and "Poo.ch Pouch" bags, and dog fact sheets with the caution notice.

Rationale: This strategy aims to provide education over infringement over a set period and positively reinforce the Ranger's role in dog control.

Action	Time Schedule	Task Allocation
Organise information and printing of Poo.ch Pouches	November 2000	Project Officer
Distribute to Rangers at a briefing session on the 3 month period and caution details	November 2000	Project Officer

- 4.2 Investigate the merit of implementing the strategy of withdrawing infringement notices for first time offences in lieu of completing a recognised dog obedience course with focus groups.

Rationale: The issue of infringements does not necessarily deter dog owners from incorrect behaviours because they may not understand the reason or benefit of the requirement. By offering the option of self-education over infringement, the City can benefit from the offending dog owner gaining knowledge and understanding from a situation with the aim of deterring them from the offence in the future.

Action	Time Schedule	Task Allocation
At the scheduled Good Dog Ownership Seminar, the attending Ranger can facilitate a discussion on this option and pass on the groups ideas and opinions to the Urban Animal Management Advisory Committee for further action	November 2000	Rangers

5. Reward and Recognition for Good Dog Ownership

- 5.1 Discount on dog registrations if the owner is able to demonstrate recent participation in a recognised dog obedience course or attends one of the City's Responsible Dog Ownership Seminars.

Rationale: This will positively promote the attendance to a recognised course and seminars where information on the Dog Act and the City's Local Laws can be distributed and reinforced.

Action	Time Schedule	Task Allocation
Ranger Services to establish the discount and processes involved to implement this service available to owners that attend a recognised course or City of Joondalup seminar.	November 2000	Rangers and Ranger Support Staff
Liaise with Dog Obedience Training providers to ensure evidence of attendance can be provided to dog owners so that the City can provide the discount.	October 2000	Project Officer

- 5.2 Issue of "Poo.ch Pouch" bags to owners on completion of a recognised dog obedience course and registering of dog with the City of Joondalup by the registered dog trainer.

Rationale: This will positively reinforce to owners that they are required to clean up after their dogs and provides them with easy obtainable resource to do it.

Action	Time Schedule	Task Allocation
Liaise with the Dog Obedience Training providers to organise distribution of Poo.Ch Pouches	October/ November 2000	Project Officer

5.3 Implementation of a "Good Dog Owner of the Month" reward and recognition scheme.

Rationale: This strategy will allow the City's Rangers to reward, recognise and promote responsible dog owners. It also aims to encourage a more responsible attitude and self-awareness in the community. This will work in partnership with vets, pet stores and pet grooming businesses.

Action	Time Schedule	Task Allocation
Meet with the Community Newspaper to establish possibility of sponsoring a small section once a month for a period of three months to promote the good dog owner winner.	Early November 2000	Project Officer Marketing Department
Liaise with vets, pet stores and pet grooming businesses to organise prizes for "Good Dog Owner of the Month".	November 2000	Project Officer Rangers
Rangers to decide on monthly winner(s) and liaise with Marketing to organise presentation and forwarding of information on to the Community Newspaper	Each Month	Rangers

6. Training

Rationale: The training element of this action plan is necessary to ensure that all involved personnel are correctly informed and understand the strategies to implement the plan.

- 6.1 Internal training of Rangers and support staff that will be involved in the implementation of the action plan in November 2000.
- 6.2 Disseminate general information on the action plan to all staff through staff update in November/December 2000.

Urban Animal Management
Action Plan-Dogs
Budget

	Number	Cost @	Total Cost
Partnerships			
Management Strategies			
Coastal Dual Use Path-Foreshore Areas			
Standard Dog Sign Info	12	15.9	190.8
Dog Info for Foreshore	3	320	960
Purchase of Pooch Pouches	60000	0.0216	1296
Bag Dispensers	6	368	2208
Bins	16	60	960
Servicing Bin	3	316	948
Additional Pavement Marking	14	46	644
Dog Exercise			
Active Parks	0	0	0
Adventure Playground	0	0	0
Early Intervention Strategies			
8 week Newspaper Column	8	400	3200
Good Dog Ownership Seminars	4	250	1000
Junior Ranger Workshops-Dogs			2500
Distribution of Materials			200
Education Strategies			
Three Month Trial Caution Period			0
Investigation of Smeinars/Infringements			0
Reward and Recognition			
Good Dog Owner of the Month			0
Issue of Extra Pooch Pouches			50
Training			
Ranger and Administration Staff Distribution			0
Total Cost			\$14,156.80