

THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022-2025

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

JUNE 2021

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Executive Summary:

The Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) 2022-2025 is a state-legislated document that guides the work of the City's Animal Management Unit for a four-year period, to ensure that the domestic animal needs of our community are met.

In order to fairly represent the community's views and concerns, a community engagement on key domestic animal related topics ran for six weeks, and this feedback will shape the next DAMP.

Engagement overview

The community engagement period for the City's Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022 – 2025 ran from March 12 – April 23, 2021, with the aim of capturing the community's opinions on a broad range of animal management topics. Hearing the community's priority assists the City's Animal Management Unit to better understand what they do well, areas for further improvement, and what issues need to be addressed over the next four-year period.

How we engaged

Our community engagement was run primarily online through a survey connected to our "Have Your Say" page, which allowed participants to elect the animal-centric topics that mattered most to them, and they could then answer the appropriate questions.

A hardcopy of the survey was made available to those without internet access, at our three operational customer service centres.

Who we engaged

It was key that the City obtained feedback from pet owners and non-pet owners, to ensure the views and wishes of the wider community were identified through the engagement process.

- 717 people completed the online survey
- 2 people completed a hardcopy and returned it to the City
- Social media and radio promotion provided the greatest spikes in online survey completion levels
- Women were far more likely to complete the survey (83% of all respondents)
- Middle aged residents were the demographic who provided the highest number of responses (23% of all respondents)

- 82% of participants owned one or more domestic animals

WHAT WE HEARD

- The topics we received the most feedback on were:
 - Dogs in public places
 - Responsible pet ownership
 - Dog poo
- Community members want changes implemented based on their pet ownership status, as well as geographical location
- Many respondents want additional Animal Management staff available to conduct more frequent patrols, issue more infringements and provide a faster service with more frequent updates on how their investigation or issue is progressing
- Nuisance cats and dogs are a big issue for our municipality
- Dog owners would like more off-leash areas to exercise their dogs
- Pet owners are more invested in the management plan and therefore were more likely to respond to the survey,

WHAT WE DID/WHAT WE WILL DO

After conducting the community consultation for a 43-day period, the next steps for the DAMP 2022-2025 development project are to:

- Collate and review consultation findings and produce both a snapshot and in-depth engagement report (this report).
- Submit consultation findings to Council for review
- Produce a draft DAMP 2022 – 2025.
- Conduct a second community engagement for public review of the draft DAMP 2022 - 2025.
- Produce the final DAMP 2022 – 2025 document for publishing.
- Release the DAMP 2022 – 2025 to the community by 4 December, 2021.

Introduction

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Every Victorian local government must, under the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*, prepare a plan outlining how it will manage dogs and cats within its municipal boundaries.

The state-legislated document identifies how the City will:

- help pets, pet owners and the general community to live together
- protect the environment and local wildlife from the negative impacts of dogs and cats
- balance the needs of those who own pets with those who do not
- address animal management welfare and legal issues
- promote responsible pet ownership
- improve the experience of animal ownership

This report highlights the key themes and findings identified from the community consultation run between 12 March and 23 April 2021, regarding the upcoming DAMP 2022 – 2025. This feedback will be presented to Council, and will then act to shape the draft plan, ensuring our residents' feel heard and catered for.

ENGAGEMENT PURPOSE

As part of writing the new Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022 -2025, it was key that the City consult with the community to better understand the most pressing animal issues, what our residents feel is working well in the current plan and what areas need further improvement.

The City was solely responsible for designing and running the engagement, as the issues faced by the community are intrinsic to the work and experiences of the Animal Management team, and this pre-existing knowledge shaped the topics for consultation.

The City also recognised the opportunity to improve our understanding of the community's awareness of certain local laws regarding their pets, as well as knowledge of best practice when it comes to caring for their animal. This

insight will allow the City to strategically direct education and promotion of initiatives to areas or demographics with less knowledge of dog laws, cat curfews, the City's cat desexing program and other key initiatives.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

The purpose of this report is to:

- Collate the feedback from the community regarding domestic animal issues, and summarise the common themes in the feedback provided
- Present feedback to Councillors for consideration as part of the draft-writing process
- Inform the community of engagement findings and maintain transparency in the information that shapes the City's decisions and actions
- Provide 'community input' into the draft DAMP 2022 - 2025

How we engaged

Format

Providing the community with an opportunity to share feedback anonymously via an online survey allows for honest discussion of issues and eliminates several barriers that may be present in other engagement styles, including;

- The survey can be completed at any time of day, and on any day of the six-week consultation period, ensuring other commitments do not prevent a participant from providing their feedback in this format
- Allowing people to complete this survey in private means that they may feel freer to speak their truth without fear of judgement or ridicule from others
- The online format may be easier to access/utilise for those people with limited mobility or access to transport
- Those from the CALD community can use the translation tab on the City's webpage to convert the survey to their language of choice and allow them to communicate their thoughts on animal management

A hardcopy version was made available to those without internet access; however uptake of this option was very low.

A hardcopy of the full survey and a summary of responses received can be found in Appendix A.

Schedule

The consultation ran for a period of 43 days, starting at 9am on Friday 12 March, finishing at 4pm on Friday 23 April 2021.

A six-week consultation period, with 24-hour a day access to the survey, was considered to provide ample time for interested persons to be able to leave their feedback.

Promotion

The peaks and troughs in participation can be somewhat explained by the scheduled promotional activities, and the effectiveness they had on participation uptake.

Social media was the most effective promotion method utilised, clearly boosting survey participation levels, likely due to the ease of being directed to the survey source from a click, versus reading a print advertisement or listening to a radio advertisement, and then having to remember the details of where to find the survey.

Who we engaged

WHO WE PLANNED TO ENGAGE

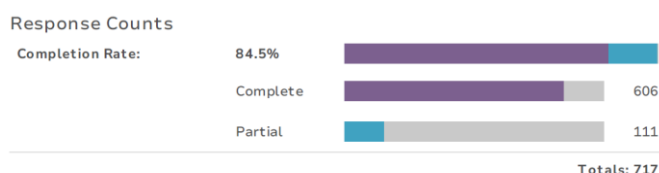
The City sought to engage with all members of the Greater Geelong community, whether they were pet owners or not, to ensure a fair representation of voices and views were shared through the community consultation.

From previous experience, we know that consultations regarding pets elicit an emotional and passionate responses, and sometimes those who own animals, can drown out the voices of those who don't. Regardless, all community members are impacted by the presence of dogs and cats, some find it to be a positive experience while others have a negative experience. Understanding these experiences allows the City to develop a DAMP focused on addressing key issues across the region.

PARTICIPATION

Over the six-week period that the consultation was open, 717 people completed the online survey through the City's 'Have Your Say' page.

Of these, 606 were "complete", whilst a further 111 were "partial", which means the participant skipped a question we asked them to complete.



Additionally, two hardcopies were completed and submitted by community members who do not have internet access and attended a Customer Service Centre to complete it in person. A summary of these responses can be found at Appendix A.

No face-to-face engagements took place due to a lack of staff availability and additionally due to the efforts of reducing covid-19 transmission risk

The online survey completion rate is broken down into the week by week uptake as displayed below.

Week no.	No. of online surveys completed	Promotional activity
1 (12/3 – 14/3)*	88	Geelong Independent article
2 (15/3 – 21/3)	196	Social media ads
3 (22/3 – 28/3)	156	Social media ads
4 (29/3 – 4/4)	51	-
5 (5/4 – 11/4)	23	City News article
6 (12/4 – 18/4)	170	Bay FM radio ad Social media ads
7 (19/4 – 23/4)*	30	-
Total	717	

* denotes incomplete week

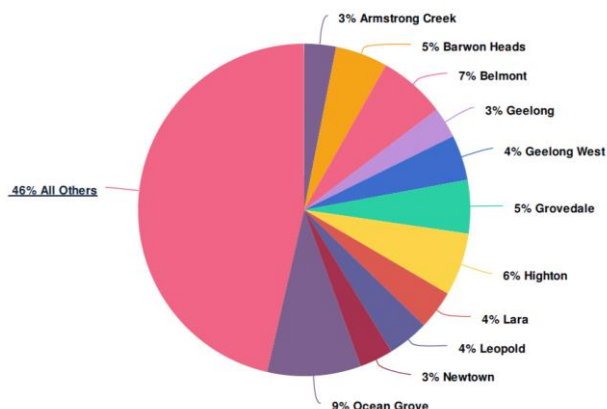
DEMOGRAPHICS

The demographic information captured included residential suburb, age, gender, and their pet ownership status.

Residential suburb

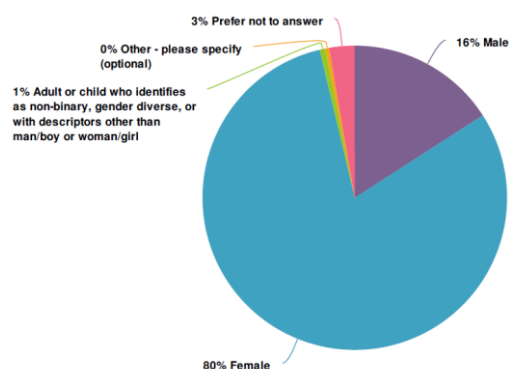
Residents living in Ocean Grove, Belmont, Highton and Barwon Heads had the highest participation levels by suburb at 9.1%, 6.6%, 6.1% and 5.1% respectively. This is not surprising considering the level of community interest around the recent dog order changes affecting the Barwon Coast, and that Highton and Belmont are two of the largest suburbs within the City of Greater Geelong.

Which suburb do you live in?



4% of respondents preferring to either not say, selecting “other” or identifying as non-binary.

To which gender identity do you most identify:

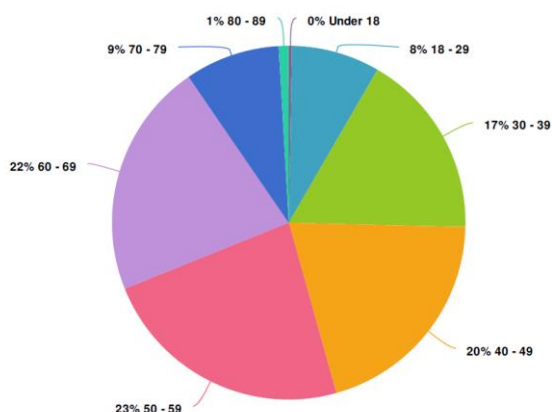


Age

Community members who were between the ages of 50 – 59, had the highest participation level in the online survey (162 respondents), followed by 60 – 69 year old’s (150), 40 – 49 year old’s (142), 30 – 39 year old’s (119), 70 – 79 year old’s (60), 18- 29 year old’s (57), 80 – 89 year old’s (6) and under 18’s (2).

This spread of age groups, indicates that domestic animal issues affect all age groups, but those of middle age may feel most affected and passionate about it or have more available time to participate.

Which age bracket do you belong to?



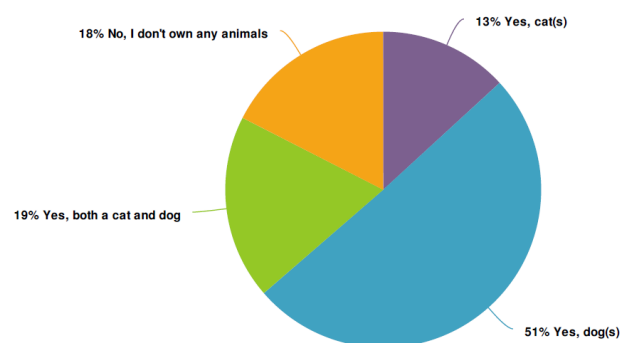
WHO ACTIVELY ENGAGED

Pet ownership status

82% of respondents were pet owners to 18% non-pet owners, an understandable result considering community members without animals may have felt that the management of domestic animals is not as applicable to them.

Of the 696 participants who answered this question, 92 identified as cat owners, 351 as dog owners, and 131 reported owning both a cat and dog.

Do you own a domestic pet?



Gender

Female respondents significantly outweighed their male counterparts when it came to leaving feedback on domestic animal issues, at a rate of 5:1, with an additional

What we asked

TOPICS FOR CONSULTATION

The Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022 – 2025, has 11 key items to be discussed and consulted on:

- Dogs in public places
- Dog poo
- Dogs in coastal areas
- Dog attacks
- Open space needs
- Cat desexing
- Nuisance cats and dogs
- Responsible pet ownership
- Dog parks
- Animal identification and lost animals
- Animal Management team

ideas on more complex matters, and provide answers that may fall outside the City's anticipated responses.

Under each key item, there were between three to six specific questions relating to the topic that would generate through a logic function, so that they appeared when prompted by the relevant previous answer.

A full list of the questions can be found in the hardcopy version of the survey, Appendix A.

WHY WE ASKED

The questions in the consultation survey were designed to gain an in-depth understanding of what the community feels works well from our current DAMP and its objectives, what needs further improvement, and if there are any other issues they would like addressed regarding domestic animals.

Additionally, the City's Animal Management team used this survey as an opportunity to better understand what the community's level of knowledge was on certain local laws. From this, we can identify gaps in public knowledge and identify ways to address this in future projects.

A combination of multiple choice and free-text questions were asked of our participants. The multiple-choice style allowed the data to be filtered more readily and trends and themes to be easily identified.

The free-text questions allowed participants to provide in-depth answers regarding their experiences, concerns and

What we heard

KEY FINDINGS OVERVIEW

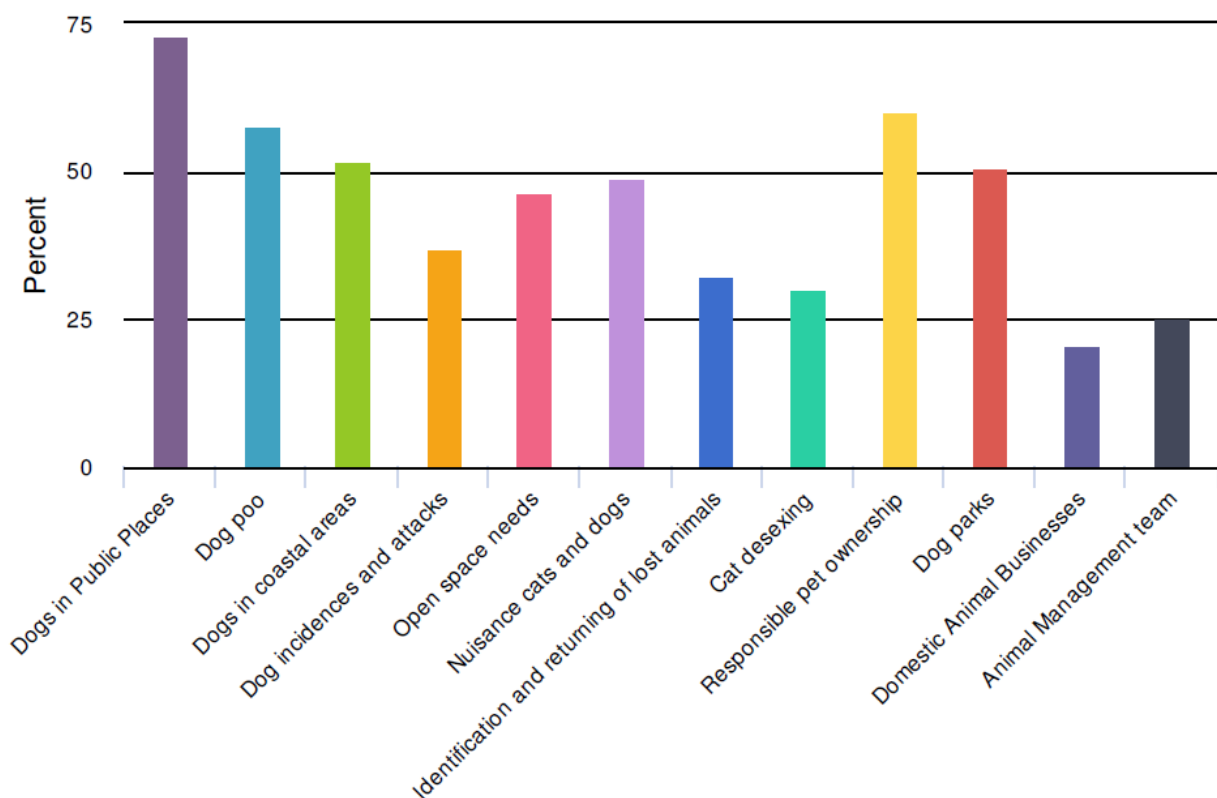
The topics with the highest number of responses, and therefore the topics the community were most passionate about, were:

1. Dogs in Public Places (72.8%)
2. Responsible pet ownership (60.2%)
3. Dog poo (57.9%)

The topics producing the lowest number of responses, and therefore the least amount of community interest, were:

1. Domestic Animal Businesses (20.5%)
2. Animal Management Team (25.3%)
3. Cat desexing (30.3%)

1. Please select sections of the Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) that you would like to provide feedback on (you can choose as many as you like):



ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY 1 – ONLINE SURVEY

The following quantitative data was collected for each of the topics throughout the online survey.

In addition to the online surveys, two hard copy survey responses were received, these can be found in Appendix A.

Dogs in public places

The topic of Dogs in Public Places explored the balance of dog-friendly and dog prohibited areas, on leash order adherence, and dog signage.

513 people left feedback on this topic – the highest number of responses received for a topic.

47% of respondents in this section believed that there are not enough “dog off-leash” areas; 15% believed there aren’t enough dog-free areas, and the remainder feel there is a good balance of on and off lead areas.

Most respondents believe that the community follows “dog on-leash” orders less than 50% of the time, whereas the majority of respondents believe that they themselves follow the ‘dog on leash’ orders 100% of the time.

Some verbatim responses from the community are:

“There are a small number of off-leash areas in my area that are not shared sporting ovals. When sport or training activities are on, these areas cannot be used by dog owners and I have to resort to using non-designated off-leash areas. This is particularly challenging in winter when there are shorter daylight hours.”

“I want my dogs to be safe from traffic and other dogs and don’t want them running up to people who don’t like dogs”

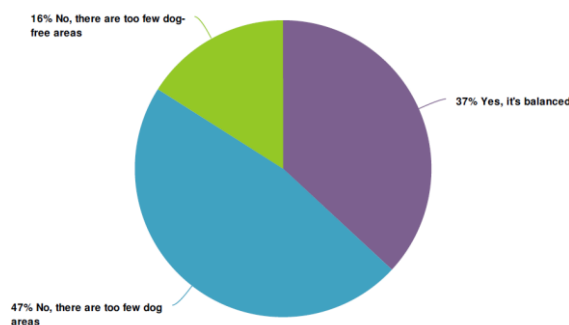
“I walk my dogs mostly in on lead areas only and occasionally take one dog to an off-lead area. People walking dogs off lead in an on lead only area is a big safety issue. Not all dogs want to be approached by other dogs and there are getting to be too many people letting their dogs off lead in on lead only areas. The council do not seem to police this

as the same people are always walking their dogs off lead. The retractable leads are also a problem as the owners have no control if their dog is on a retractable lead, even though technically they are complying. Retractable leads can also lead to other people or dogs being wound up by the lead and potentially injured.”

“People where I walk generally follow the rules”

The charts below depict the community’s feedback on Dogs in public places.

6. Do you believe the City provides a good balance of dog-friendly and dog-restricted public areas?

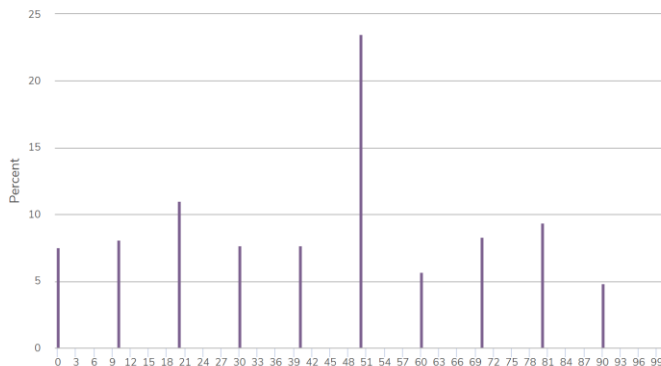


For the following two questions, participants were asked to rate adherence to orders on a scale of 0 = Never, to 10 = Always.

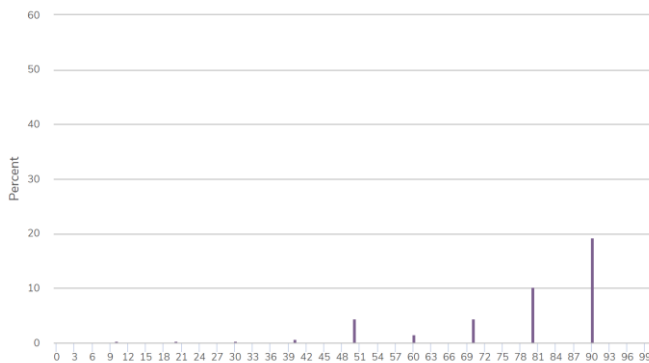
- “How well do you think your local community follows dog on-leash orders?”
- “What percentage of time do you follow your local dog on-leash orders?”,

24% of participants feel the community follow on-leash orders 50% of the time, while 58% of participants indicate they follow on-leash orders 100% of the time.

7. How well do you think your local community follows dog on-leash orders?



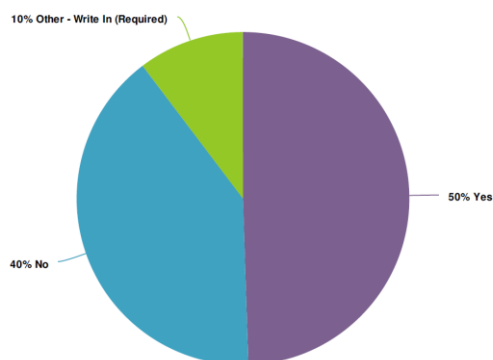
8. What percentage of the time do you follow your local dog on-leash orders?



Dog signage

50% of participants feel there is enough signage across the City regarding dog control orders, 40% reported there needs to be more, and 10% provided a free-text response.

10. Do you believe there is enough signage to guide you or other dog walkers on how dogs should be managed in the public spaces you use?



The top 5 areas identified by the community needing more signage are listed below:

Locations requiring additional signage	Count
Beaches	21
Everywhere	17
Parks	12
Footpaths	11
Barwon River	9

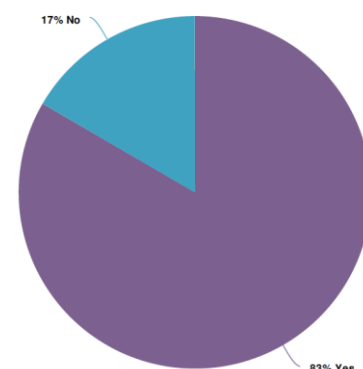
Dog poo

407 (57.7%) survey participants elected to leave feedback regarding the issue of dog poo. Respondents were asked:

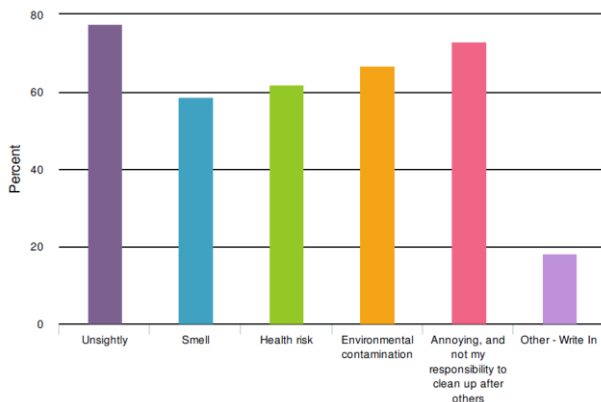
- If and why they felt dog poo is an issue across the City
- Whether there are particular areas of concern that they would like to alert us to

Of the participants who responded to this question, 83% believe that dog poo is an issue across the City.

14. Do you think uncollected dog poo is an issue in the City of Greater Geelong region?



15. Why do you feel dog poo is an issue?



"There needs to be a ban on dogs on sports grounds. It's everywhere. I'd like to see more fines, signs, owners being stopped and asked f or bags. I've never seen anywhere as bad."

The top 5 locations identified by respondents as having dog poo issues are:

Locations where dog poo is reportedly problematic	Count
Ocean Grove beaches, trails and footpaths	27
Barwon River	25
Barwon Heads beaches, trails and footpaths incl. the Bluff	23
Private nature strips	20
Mt Duneed/Armstrong creek reserves, trails and paths	20

A selection of verbatim responses received are below

"There is insufficient waste management arrangements along popular walking routes in Geelong, making it challenging for dog owners to appropriately dispose of dog poo. Some examples include the waters' edge between Griffin Gully Pier and Rippleside Park, tracks along the Barwon River and around Eastern Park. While there are some bins in these areas, these are concentrated in picnic areas rather than spaced strategically, and you can walk for several hundred meters (over a kilometre in some examples) without encountering a bin. I believe dog owners want to do the right thing, but no one wants to carry dog poo for 20 minutes."

"Fines if busted, but how does one even manage the streets?"

"The council is using plastic bags in its poop bag dispensers. There is a company that makes dog poop bags from corn starch which are environmentally friendly and available for councils. Their company was formed in Geelong too so would be good to support them. This will need to be a consideration with the future ban on single use plastics <https://www.ohcrap.com.au/pages/council-oh-crap-dog-poop-bags>"

Dogs in coastal areas

In this section we assessed whether the community was aware of Council's obligation to work with coastal management committees, which beaches the participants would like to leave feedback on, and what they would like us to consider going forward.

A total of 364 people or 51.6% of all respondents chose to comment on this issue.

Some of the verbatim comments received were

"More visits and fines by the ranger. If people were fined or spoken to by someone in authority, they may be more likely to obey the dog poo requirements and the dogs on leash or no dogs signage".

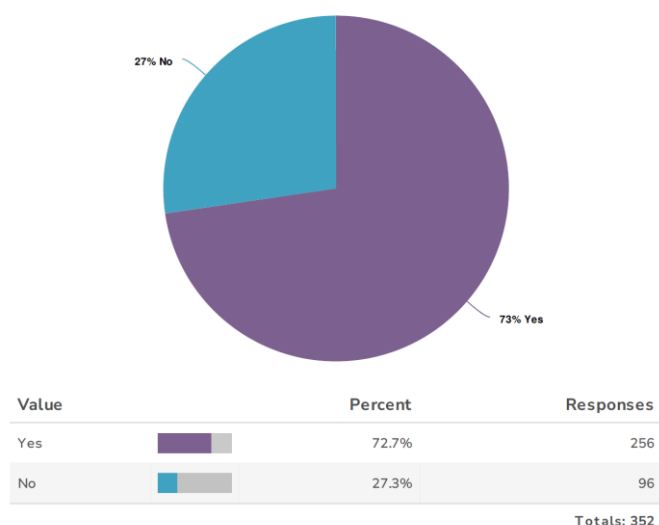
"Police it more. It's completely out of control. I feel threatened every time I walk my dogs"

“A fairer seasonal management of the river and coastal areas”

‘We are banned from certain beaches for a long time over summer till May. Consider opening some areas of the beach and river when the children have returned to school. Shut it again at Easter’

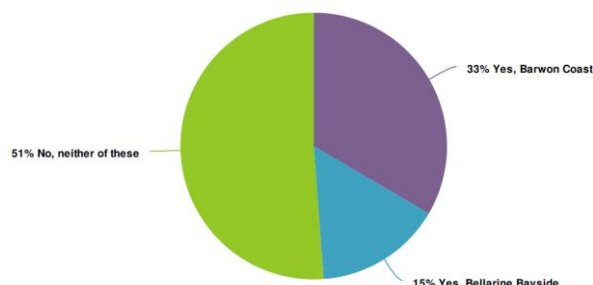
Of the 364 people who answered the questions regarding dogs in coastal areas, 27% were not aware that the City works collaboratively with coastal management committees, and therefore are also unlikely to understand the underpinning roles and responsibilities of each organisation within these partnerships.

18. Are you aware that the City works with Coastal Management committees regarding dogs on beaches and dog orders in their region?



Of those wanting to leave feedback on coastal areas, 51.1% provided feedback on City-managed beaches, whilst 33.4% were interested in engaging on the Barwon Coast, and a further 15.4% on the Bellarine Bayside. The feedback collected through this engagement will be passed on to the relevant Coastal Management Committee for consideration.

19. Would you like to leave feedback about a Coastal Management committee area?



However, many respondents stated they didn't want to leave feedback on a Coastal management committee area, or a City-managed beach, and elected to “write in” their response, listing

Ocean Grove (7)

Portarlinton (3)

Barwon Heads (3)

Collendina (2)

13th Beach (2)

Queenscliff and Torquay (4) (managed by the Borough of Queenscliffe and Surf Coast Shire respectively).

These responses indicate that many respondents do not know the beach areas that fall under coastal management committee control, despite answering that they did.

The top 5 grouped responses to the “What would you like the City to consider?” question, are as follows:

Themes: regarding coastal are management	Count
More patrolling and enforcement required	41
More dog off-leash beach areas needed	34
Barwon Coast “summer” restrictions and dog-free hours are too long. Should be Dec 1 – Jan 31	26
Birds need more protection	19
Better/more signage and upkeep (incl. from water and multilingual)	19

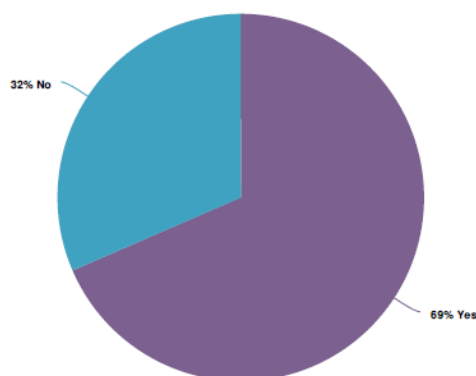
Dog attacks and incidents

259 survey respondents opted to leave feedback regarding “dog incidents and attacks”. They were asked:

- If they had personally experienced or witnessed a dog-centric incident
- What type of incident it was
- If it was reported to the City
- Were they happy with the City’s management of the incident
- If they could suggest how the incident may have been avoided.

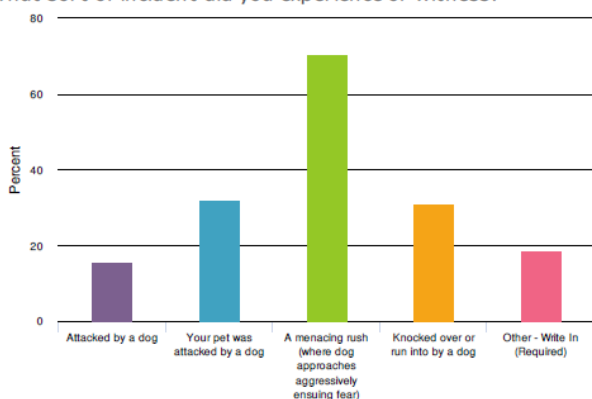
68% of respondents stated they had witnessed or been involved in a negative dog-centric incident.

22. Have you experienced or witnessed a negative incident with a dog/s when in a public space?



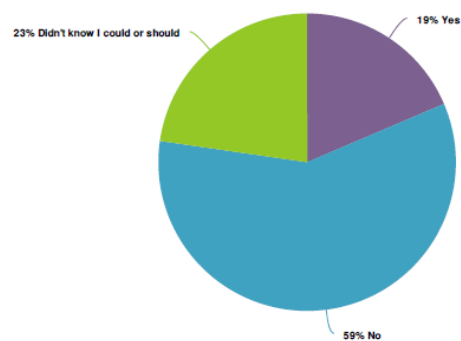
70.5% of those who reported being involved in a negative incident were involved in a menacing rush, over 30% were knocked over by a dog and had had their pet attacked by a dog, and 15.6% had been attacked by a dog themselves.

23. What sort of incident did you experience or witness?



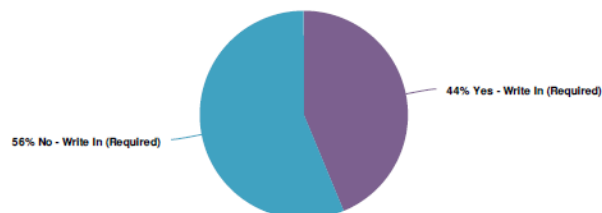
19% of the people who witnessed or were involved in the incident reported it to Council. 23% stated they didn’t know they could or should.

24. Did you report this incident to Council?



Of those who used the City’s services for this incident, 44% were satisfied with how it was managed.

25. Were you satisfied with how Council managed the incident?



When respondents were dissatisfied with the way in which the incident was handled, it was most commonly due to not receiving adequate feedback on the outcome of the incident (4), or because the City told them that they were not able to go further with the investigation due to limited details (6).

When asked “Can you identify how this incident could have been avoided”, 88.4% stated “Yes”, and their reasons were as follows:

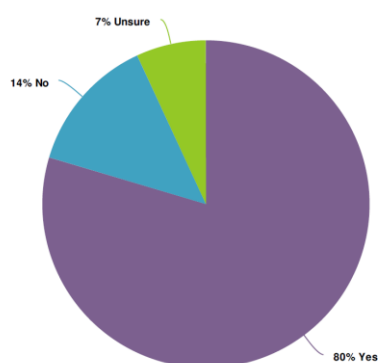
Themes: How to avoid dog-centric attacks and incidences	Count
Keep dogs on leash	11
Better dog training/socialisation	4
Ban specific breeds	2
Better containment	2

Open space needs

When considering open space needs for our community and their beloved pets, the City wanted to assess whether the community felt there are ample on leash and off leash space near where they live, as well as suitable amounts of dog-free space.

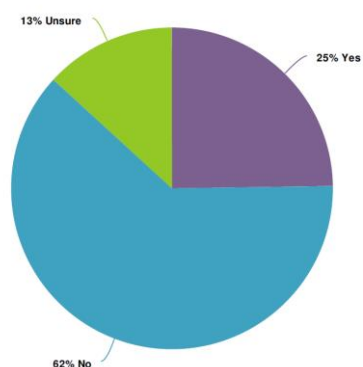
Of the 328 people who elected to leave feedback on “open space needs”, 80% felt they had ample access to on-leash open spaces, whilst 14% stated they did not, and 6% were unsure.

28. When considering where you live, do you feel you have ample access to public open space that allows dog on leash use?



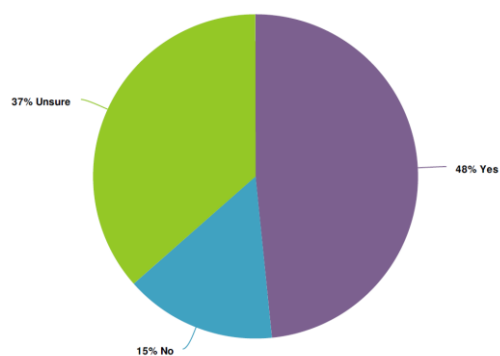
62% of respondents felt that they did not have ample access to dog off leash areas, whilst 25% said they did, and 13% weren't sure.

29. When considering where you live, do you feel you have ample access to public open space that allow dog off leash use?



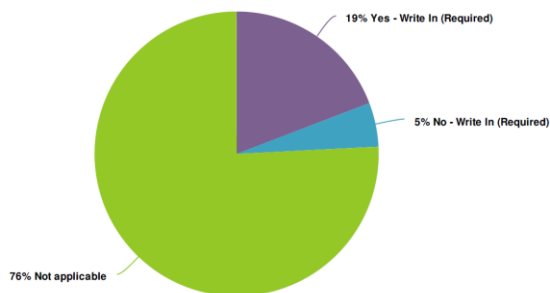
Finally, 46% felt they had ample access to public spaces that prohibited dogs, with 15% stating they did not, and 37% were unsure.

30. When considering where you live, do you feel you have ample access to public open space that prohibit dog use?



For the 77 participants who acknowledged living in a townhouse, unit or on a small block, 61 of them said they factored in the limited space when choosing a pet, whilst the other 16 did not.

31. If you are living in a unit, townhouse, or on a small block in one of the municipality's newer estates, did you, or will you, factor in the lack of outdoor space when choosing a pet?



Pet owners were also asked whether they considered the size of their land and local facilities before taking on a pet in the question above and were provided the opportunity to comment. The response trends are identified below:

Themes: regarding land allotments and pets	Count
Definitely considered pets space needs	19
Lot size/house chosen based on existing pet needs	11
Actively seek exercise in public spaces	11
Pet selection based on land size	8
Couldn't have a larger breed due to block size	4

A selection of the verbatim responses are listed below

“Refuse to live in newer estates as there is no room for your dogs to play or naturally run about. You are not able to be with them 24/7 and these new estate housing do not fit the animals need.”

“Many breeds can do well on small spaces if exercised appropriately and plenty of environmental enrichment”

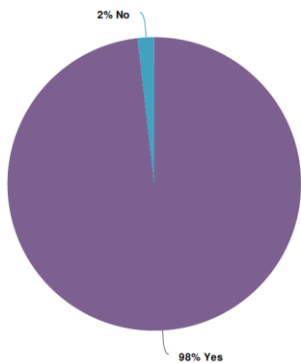
Cat desexing

The cat desexing questions attempted to establish:

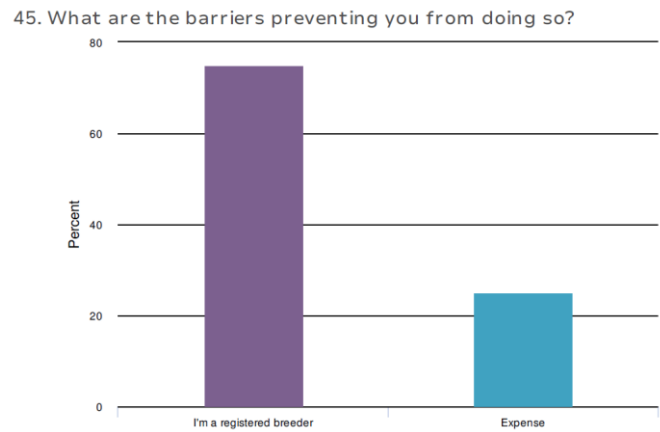
- What percentage of the community has their cat desexed
- What are the barriers preventing owners from desexing their cat
- Awareness of the discount cat desexing program, how we may better publicise it and support the community to desex their cats

217 of the 717 survey participants confirmed they owned a cat, and pleasingly, 98.2% or 213 of them stated their cat was desexed.

44. Is your cat desexed?



Only four out of 217 people responding to the cat desexing topic stated that they did not have their cats desexed, due to either “being a registered breeder” (3) or “expense” (1).



51% of 207 people asked about the City's discount cat desexing month, were aware it is conducted annually.



Respondents provided a number of ideas on ways in which the City can better promote the discount desexing program.

The top 5 response themes to “Do you have any suggestions on how you believe Council could further support and encourage the community to desex their animals?” are collated below:

Themes: Improving cat desexing rates	Count
Further reduce expense	18
Education on desexing benefits incl. at schools	16
Offer it more than once a year	14
Free	13
Fines	11

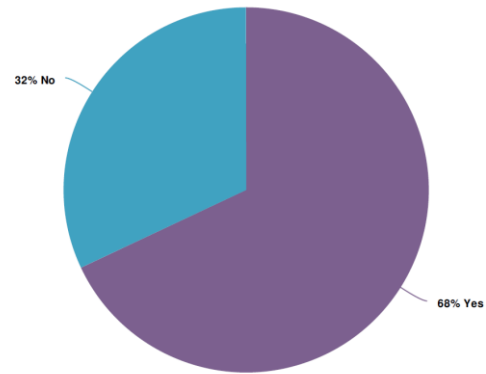
Nuisance cats and dogs

Survey respondents were asked whether they experienced issues with nuisance cats and dogs, what type of nuisance they experienced, and how these issues could be better managed by the City.

Cats

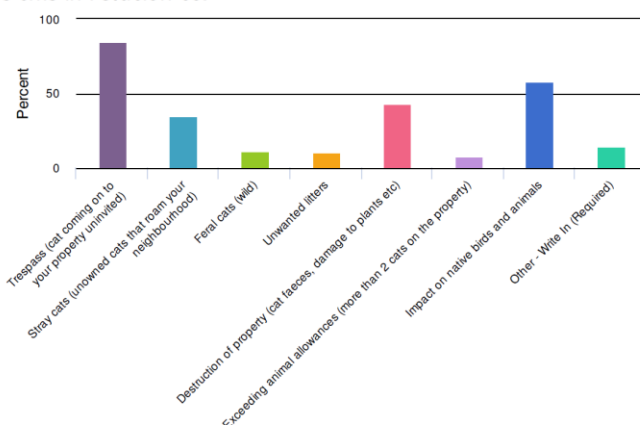
337 people elected to leave feedback on nuisance cats. Of these, 229 or 68% stated that they have experienced issues with nuisance cats in their neighbourhood.

32. Do you experience issues with nuisance cats in your neighbourhood?

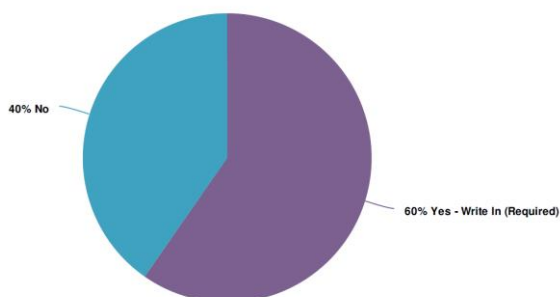


The most common issues reported re: nuisance cats were trespass onto private property (84.3%), impact on native birds and wildlife (57.6%), and destruction of property (42.8%).

33. Is this in relation to:



34. Do you have any suggestions on how the City could better manage cats or respond to nuisance cat issues?



“Roaming cats is a big issue. Educating cat owners on local laws regarding keeping their cat on their property 24/7, cat curfew and how to sustain a happy cat indoors with enrichment will hopefully decrease these complaints. Info sources of where to obtain cat enclosures or DIY ideas. Team up with Bunnings for a "Learn how to DIY your Cat enclosure". Supply those who attend a discount code to use when buying the materials to make their enclosure. On those days organise with a reputable animal rescue to have a sausage sizzle to raise money they need as they help with the cat issues of Geelong unfunded. Community engagement is essential if we are going to put a dent in this issue.”

“Allow people to trap cats. If those cats have a home, the owner should be fined for not following the curfew. If they are not desexed then they should be desexed before releasing to owners.”

The top 5 suggestions from community members on how to better manage nuisance cats included:

Themes: nuisance cat management	Count
24/7 cat curfew	40
Police cat curfew incl. night patrols	39
Enforcement and fines	31
More traps	29
Education	22

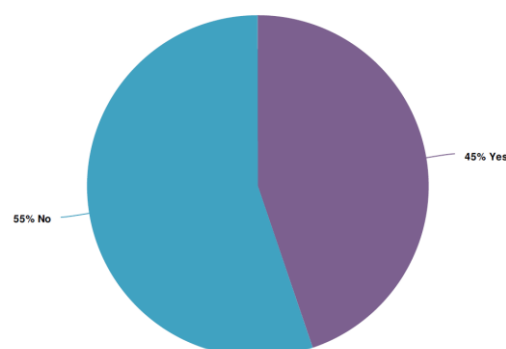
A selection of the verbatim comments received are:

“As a non-cat owner, I would be very supportive of requiring cats to be kept indoors unless in a secure cat run”

Dogs

Of the 335 people who wanted to respond to nuisance dogs, 45% confirmed they had experienced issues in their neighbourhood.

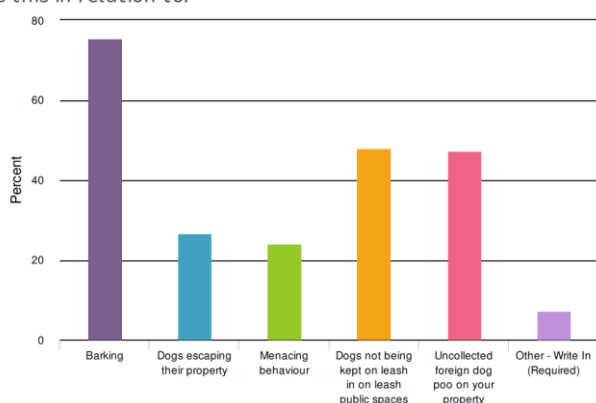
35. Do you experience issues with nuisance dogs in your neighbourhood?



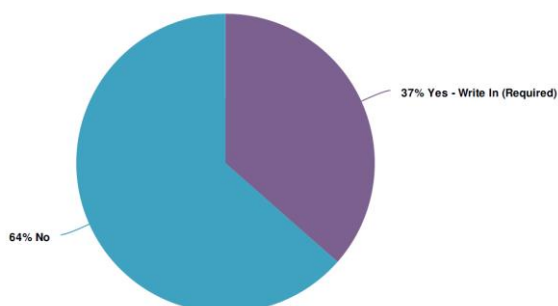
The most common issue was barking dogs, which was reported as a nuisance by 75.3% of the respondents commenting on this topic.

“Dogs not being kept on leash in on-leash public spaces” (48%) and “uncollected dog poo on your property” (47.3%), were the second and third most problematic issues raised.

36. Is this in relation to:



37. Do you have any suggestions on how the City could better manage nuisance dogs or respond to nuisance dog issues?



Top suggestions from community members on how to better manage nuisance dogs included:

Themes: nuisance dog management	Count
Fines	19
Take nuisance barking complaints seriously/scrap diary	16
Education on enriching environments for dogs	14
Animal Management unit to act promptly to complaints and provide follow up	12
More patrolling	11

Some of the verbatim comments received are:

“I understand how difficult it is but reminding dog owners who go off to work each day and leave their dogs outside that constant barking while dogs wait for their owners to return is a real concern. Too many dog owners (particularly of large dogs) seem totally unaware of the need to exercise their dogs.”

“If someone contacts council with a barking dog problem DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE PROBLEM ! If I have to keep a Barking Dairy DON'T tell the owner because they keep the dog quiet for the 2 weeks and then NOTHING is done!”

“Campaigns around responsibility of owners eg: walking, socialising, care giving etc. so many are locked in backyards and never walked.”

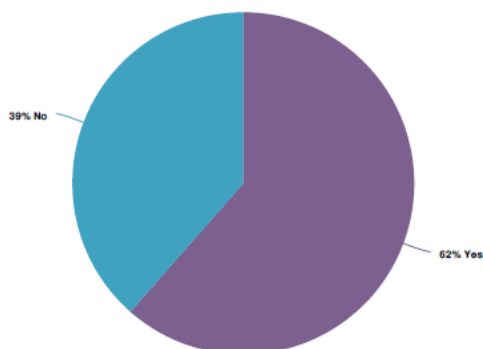
Responsible pet ownership

Regarding the issue of responsible pet ownership, we attempted to gauge the public's awareness of certain local laws and expectations of domestic animal owners, as well as gain suggestions about how the community thinks we can improve responsible pet ownership across the municipality.

An open-ended question of "What do you think it means to be a responsible pet owner?" was asked of respondents, and their answers have been directly exported and included in Appendix C.

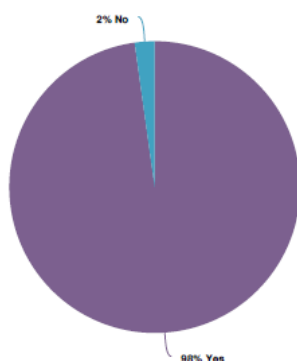
62% of the 429 survey respondents in this section knew the local law, that cats are required to be desexed by the time they are three months of age.

50. Are you aware there is a local law that all cats should be desexed by the time they are 3 months of age?

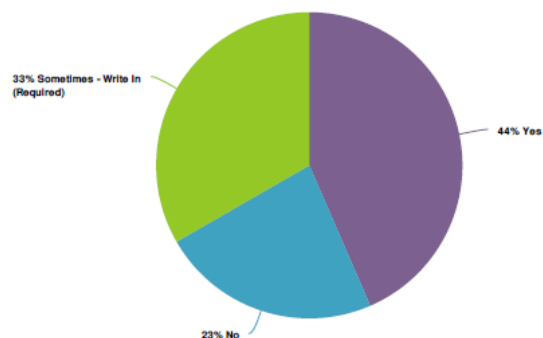


97.8% of respondents understood the need to vaccinate their pets.

51. Are you aware of the need to vaccinate your pet to protect their health and longevity?

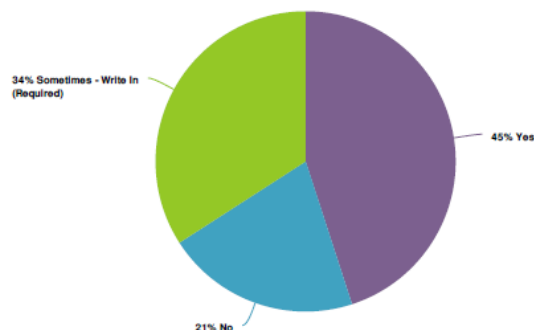


52. Do you generally observe pet owners obeying the laws regarding keeping dogs on leash where required?



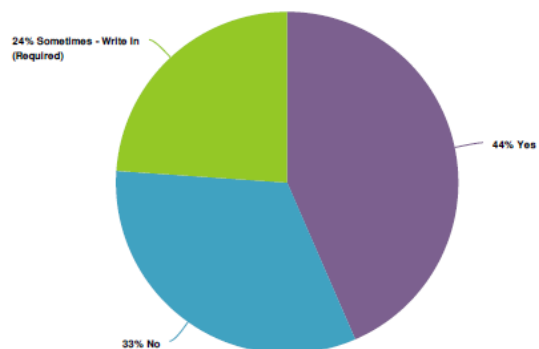
See Appendix D for further analysis of "sometimes" responses to above question.

53. Do you generally observe pet owners obeying the laws regarding picking up after their dog?



See Appendix D for further analysis of "sometimes" responses to above question.

54. Do you generally observe pet owners obeying the laws regarding having effective control of their dog when off lead?



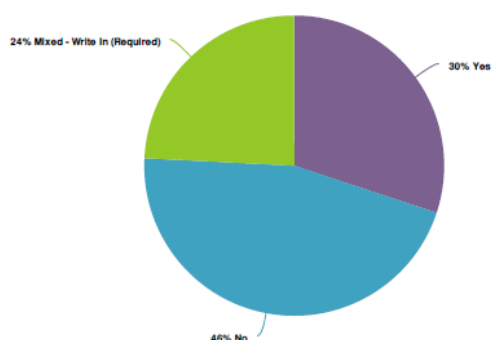
See Appendix D for further analysis of “sometimes” responses to above question

Anonymous verbatim comment from survey respondent:

“Honestly what really is effective control? Dogs wandering behind owner is common, owner not looking back. Dogs way in front of owner is not effective control. Dogs approaching myself or little ones is not effective control, and this happens a lot. People swimming whilst dog on beach off lead is not effective control. I see this heaps. Dogs barking incessantly whilst anywhere, on beach, at home, where-ever, is not effective control. Dogs running near me and around me whilst trying to walk is common. Am sick of people telling me their dog is just being friendly.”

“Most owners have well trained, responsive dogs. A minority have uncontrollable dogs that are a menace.”

55. Do you generally observe pet owners obeying the laws regarding complying with cat curfew?



See Appendix D for analysis of “mixed” responses to above question.

Finally, we asked respondents to this section, “How do you think the City can encourage more of our community members to be responsible pet owners?”

All responses can be found in Appendix D.

Dog parks

As the topic of “Dog Parks” has already been consulted on extensively by the Open Space Planning team who is responsible for their rollout, the DAMP consultation simply asked the open-ended question, “would you like to leave any comments regarding dog parks?”

The top 5 grouped answers are listed below:

Themes: dog park comments	Count
New parks sound great	50
Need more	49
Separate area for timid/small dogs is great idea	26
Bellarine dog park needed	26
Hotspot for problems – dogs MUST be supervised	23

Some of the verbatim comments received were

“People don't expect features. People just want a safe, fully fenced area where dogs can socialize. I am excited for the Belmont one, however, the amount of features included makes me worry how long it will take. The more we have, the better! People currently are using sporting ovals, but these aren't fully enclosed and can't be accessed at all times.”

“The stead park off leash dog area is extremely small and plain. There's more dog fights because you can't walk anywhere and there's nothing to do. There is much more room in that area and simply extending the fenced area would be a great start.”

“Still 10 years behind the necessary commitment. Endless playgrounds that are never utilised, endless space for children to play. Hard to access, small secured areas are available now. Whilst the two additional ones are great - it would have been proficient years ago. With increased demand it simply isn't enough.”

*“Allow local trainers to make use of the dog parks by holding training classes in separate agility/training area so that owners are better educated regarding handling their dogs.
Patrol the parks more of ten checking registration and microchips making sure details are up to date. Would be nice to have more tress and shade areas at Belmont Park and maybe a wet area. Pond/pool where dogs can cool off also Cap number of dogs able to use the parks at one time.”*

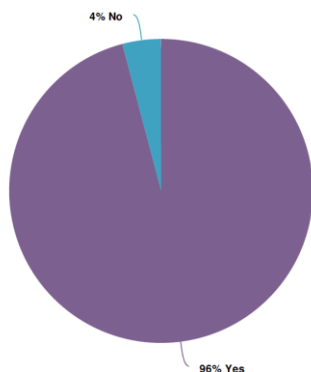
“More dog parks would be great”

Animal identification and lost animals

Questions relating to “Animal identification and lost animals” aimed to explore how the community thinks we can more efficiently reunite animals with their owner/s, as well as gain insight into the public’s understanding of pet-ownership requirements and barriers to meeting these.

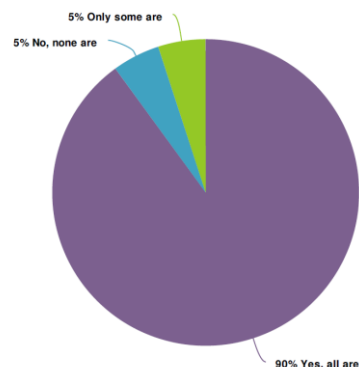
96% of the 220 respondents to this section knew it was a Council requirement to have their pet cats and dogs registered and microchipped by the time they were three months old.

38. Are you aware that you are required to have your pet cats and dogs microchipped and additionally registered with your local Council by the time they are 3 months of age?



89.9% of respondents confirmed all their animals were registered with Council, whilst 5% stated “some” were, and a further 5% stated “none” were.

39. Are your animals registered with Council?

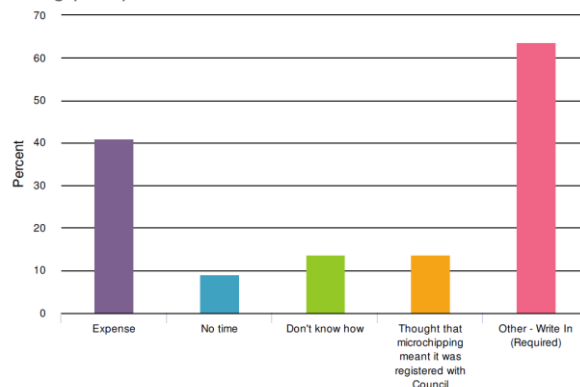


The main barriers preventing respondents from registering their pets with Council included, “Other” (63.6%), expense (40.9%).

“Other” reasons included:

- Want my pet to be older so they can be desexed prior and get cheaper rate
- Awaiting another council transfer
- Fee for “entire” animals is too high
- Don’t feel the money paid is reinvested well back into the animal
- Too difficult for first timers
- Should have lifetime registration option

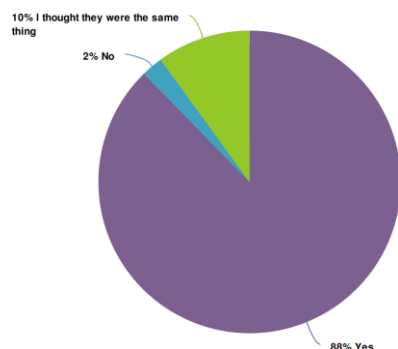
40. What would you say are the main barriers preventing you from registering your pet with Council?



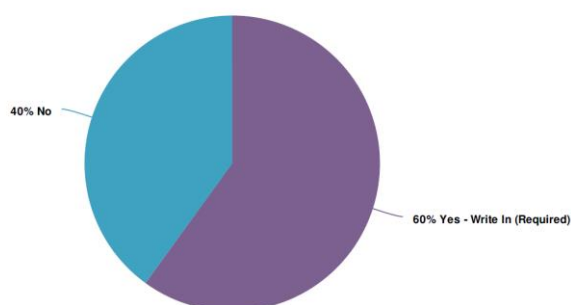
87.7% of respondents knew they need to update their personal details with both Council and Central Animal

Records (CAR) to allow the swift reunion of lost pets, whilst 10% thought Council and CAR were the same thing.

41. Are you aware that you need to update your personal details including address changes with Council and Central Animal Records (Microchipping registry), to allow a swift reunion should your pet get lost?



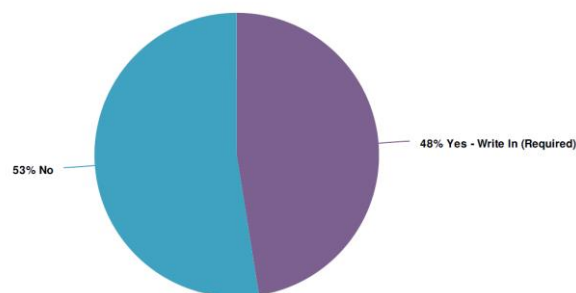
42. Do you have any suggestions about how we could encourage more people to register and microchip their pets?



The top 5 recommendations from respondents on how to improve registration and microchipping adherence rates are below:

Themes: Registration and microchipping adherence	Count
Make it free/subsidised (particularly first year)	42
Higher fines for non-compliance	15
Microchip/regio drives	13
Spot checks	9
Free gift/vet appointment/training incentive	9

43. Can you think of other ways pets could more efficiently be reunited with their owners?



Ways the respondents felt we could better manage the reunion of pets with their owners included allowing vets to reunite animals, utilise social media, create a lost and found database and lower release fees.

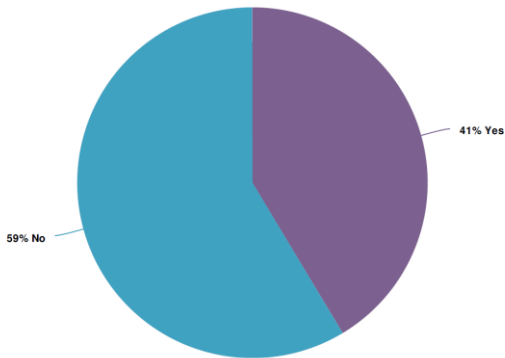
Themes: Reunion of Pets and Owners	Count
Allow vets with relevant legal authority to unite animals directly	18
Use social media	16
Create a council database "lost and found registry"	11
Immediate contact made with owner prior to impoundment	9
Lower pound release fees	9

Animal Management team

169 online survey participants elected to leave feedback on the Animal Management team. They were asked questions relating to visibility, interactions and how the team can improve their service to the community.

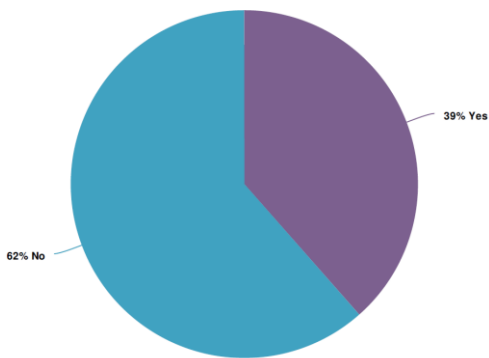
41% of respondents acknowledged they have seen the Animal Management team patrolling

61. Have you seen our Animal Management Officers patrolling?



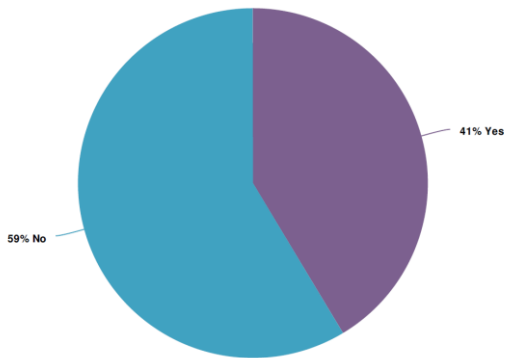
38.5% confirmed the branded vehicles have improved their visibility/public awareness.

62. Have the branded Animal Management vehicles increased your awareness of the officers out in the public?

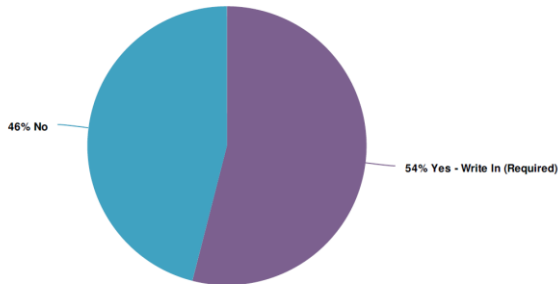


41.4% of survey participants have had an interaction with a member of the Animal Management team.

63. Have you had an interaction with a member of the Animal Management team?



65. Do you have any suggestions for our Animal Management team? (things you think we could do better, issues we may not be aware of etc)



The top 5 suggestions on how the Animal Management team could improve their service included:

Themes: suggestions for the Animal Management team	Count
Be more visible	16
Need more officers	16
Enforce the law	12
More patrols	9
Keep interactions pleasant	8

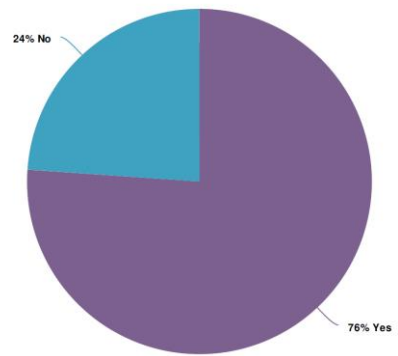
Collated responses to “Would you like to leave any further feedback or comments about any of the topics listed above, or another animal-centric issue that is not discussed above?”, are compiled into themes and can be found at Appendix D.

Domestic Animal Businesses

138 respondents chose to answer the questions regarding Domestic Animal Businesses. These questions were designed to gauge the understanding of whether respondents understood the licencing requirements for Domestic Animal Businesses, and whether people knew that they could report their concerns regarding these businesses to the City.

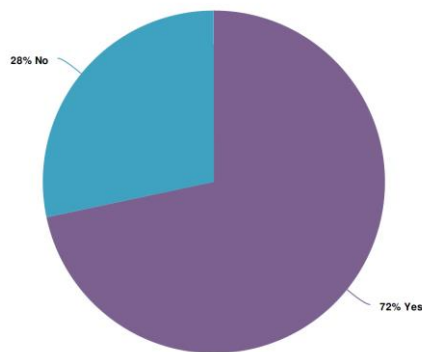
76% of respondents confirmed they knew animal businesses were required to be registered with council.

58. Are you aware that animal businesses such as dog trainers, pet boarding and day care facilities are required by law, to be registered with the Council?



72% of respondents were aware they could report concerns with animal management businesses to Council.

59. Are you aware you can report concerns regarding the operation of animal management businesses to Council for investigation?



The collated responses have been grouped into themes, which are listed below:

Themes: Domestic Animal Businesses	Count
Concerns regarding business operations, including non-reg and animal cruelty	15
Registration process is too difficult	1
Need further awareness of what constitutes a Domestic Animal Business	1
Other issue, not related to Domestic Animal Businesses	4

Discussion

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUCCESSES

Online format

The duration of the community consultation was ample to collect a significant amount of feedback from members of the community who wished to participate.

In the 43-day period, we collected 719 responses to the survey in either online or hardcopy form.

Overall, it looks much longer, and the format is awkward in comparison to its online counterpart, however, there is nothing that can be done about this when using a printed version.

In future it may be best to support participants at customer service centres to fill the survey in online using City property, whether that be a computer or tablet.

Promotion

It was highlighted through the increased activity on weeks where promotion occurred, that the various forms of promotion utilised were effective in generating further traffic to the online survey link, particularly the use of social media and radio ads.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Consultation timing

We did not anticipate that the timing of Easter, which fell in the middle of the engagement, would reduce participation to the degree it did.

Over the Easter long weekend, only nine surveys were completed. Additionally, the uptake for the survey completion afterwards remained lower than prior to the Easter period.

Hardcopy survey

The survey was constructed on an online survey software program called Alchemer™, which allows you to embed restrictions on answer styles (select one or several answers), compulsory questions, and logic on how a certain answer will then create a flow on of appropriate questions.

This works well in an online format, however as a hardcopy, the survey is not streamlined.

Instead every question constructed, whether applicable or not to the participants answers, is printed. The ability to restrict participants from moving forward in the survey if they have not answered a compulsory question is removed.

Next steps

A short “Snapshot” engagement report was uploaded onto the City’s “Have Your Say” page in April 2021. Community members who elected to “follow” the project page will receive updates regarding this project and access to any reports and additional information shared through this platform.

In addition, this detailed, extended community engagement report has been written and will be shared through the same medium.

NEXT STEPS

This engagement report will be used to inform the objectives of the next Domestic Animal Management Plan. Commentary collected from the community will be included in the “What we heard” sections of each topic, and will help the Animal Management team and Council decide what future steps should be taken to meet community needs and address issues raised.

The draft DAMP 2022 - 2025 report will be released to the public, for review later in the year, before being finalised and published in line with the 3 December 2021 expiry date of the current DAMP 2018-2021.

Appendix A – Survey hardcopy

Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022-2025

Page description:

Introduction

Every Victorian Local government must, under the Domestic Animals Act 1994, prepare a plan outlining how it will manage dogs and cats within its municipal boundaries.

The plan identifies how the council will:

- help pets, pet owners and the general community to live together
- protect the environment and local wildlife from the negative impacts of dogs and cats
- balance the needs of those who own pets with those who do not
- address animal management welfare and legal issues
- promote responsible pet ownership
- improve the experience of animal ownership

This survey forms part of the City's consultation with the community regarding domestic animal issues. It will help us better understand the community's views on what we do well, what we need to improve and make us aware of any other issues important to you.

By completing this survey, you are helping us shape the Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) for the next four years, and ensure we are focusing our efforts on what matters to our whole community.

Privacy statement

The personal information requested on this form is being collected by City of Greater Geelong for the purpose of the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022-2025 or any other directly related purpose. If the personal information is not collected, we may not be able to contact you for further questions or solutions.

Your personal information will not be disclosed, except as required to do so by law. Our [privacy policy](#) is available on our website. If you wish to alter any of the personal information you have supplied to City of Greater Geelong, please contact us by sending an email to privacy@geelongcity.vic.gov.au.

Disclaimer

Please note, each survey topic (see topic list below) has between three to six related questions. Each topic section may take a few minutes to complete.

Select all of the topics below that you are interested in, and the related questions will appear for you to complete.

Your feedback will be made anonymous and will form part of the consultation findings report, as well as shape themes in the Domestic Animal Management Plan.

By completing the survey, you are agreeing to the use of your survey entry.

1. Please select sections of the Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) that you would like to provide feedback on (you can choose as many as you like): *

- ☐ Dogs in Public Places
- ☐ Dog poo
- ☐ Dogs in coastal areas
- ☐ Dog incidences and attacks
- ☐ Open space needs
- ☐ Nuisance cats and dogs
- ☐ Identification and returning of lost animals
- ☐ Cat desexing
- ☐ Responsible pet ownership
- ☐ Dog parks
- ☐ Domestic Animal Businesses
- ☐ Animal Management team

2. Which suburb do you live in? *

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Anakie | <input type="radio"/> Fyansford | <input type="radio"/> Newtown |
| <input type="radio"/> Armstrong Creek | <input type="radio"/> Geelong | <input type="radio"/> Norlane |
| <input type="radio"/> Avalon | <input type="radio"/> Geelong West | <input type="radio"/> North Geelong |
| <input type="radio"/> Balliang | <input type="radio"/> Grovedale | <input type="radio"/> North Shore |
| <input type="radio"/> Barwon Heads | <input type="radio"/> Hamlyn Heights | <input type="radio"/> Ocean Grove |
| <input type="radio"/> Batesford | <input type="radio"/> Heme Hill | <input type="radio"/> Point Lonsdale |
| <input type="radio"/> Bell Park | <input type="radio"/> Highton | <input type="radio"/> Point Wilson |
| <input type="radio"/> Bell Post Hill | <input type="radio"/> Indented Head | <input type="radio"/> Portarlington |
| <input type="radio"/> Bellarine | <input type="radio"/> Lara | <input type="radio"/> Rippleside |
| <input type="radio"/> Belmont | <input type="radio"/> Leopold | <input type="radio"/> South Geelong |
| <input type="radio"/> Breakwater | <input type="radio"/> Little River | <input type="radio"/> St Albans Park |
| <input type="radio"/> Breamlea | <input type="radio"/> Lovely Banks | <input type="radio"/> St Leonards |
| <input type="radio"/> Ceres | <input type="radio"/> Manifold Heights | <input type="radio"/> Staughton Vale |
| <input type="radio"/> Clifton Springs | <input type="radio"/> Mannerim | <input type="radio"/> Swan Bay |
| <input type="radio"/> Connewarre | <input type="radio"/> Marcus Hill | <input type="radio"/> Thomson |
| <input type="radio"/> Corio | <input type="radio"/> Marshall | <input type="radio"/> Wallington |
| <input type="radio"/> Curlewis | <input type="radio"/> Moolap | <input type="radio"/> Wandana Heights |
| <input type="radio"/> Drumcondra | <input type="radio"/> Moorabool | <input type="radio"/> Waurn Ponds |
| <input type="radio"/> Drysdale | <input type="radio"/> Mt Duneed | <input type="radio"/> Whittington |
| <input type="radio"/> East Geelong | <input type="radio"/> Newcomb | <input type="radio"/> Other, please specify |

3. Which age bracket do you belong to? *

- ☐ Under 18
- ☐ 18 - 29
- ☐ 30 - 39
- ☐ 40 - 49
- ☐ 50 - 59
- ☐ 60 - 69
- ☐ 70 - 79
- ☐ 80 - 89
- ☐ 90 and over

4. To which gender identity do you most identify:

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Adult or child who identifies as non-binary, gender diverse, or with descriptors other than man/boy or woman/girl
- ☐ Other - please specify (optional)
- ☐ Prefer not to answer


5. Do you own a domestic pet? *

- ☐ Yes, cat(s)
- ☐ Yes, dog(s)
- ☐ Yes, both a cat and dog
- ☐ No, I don't own any animals

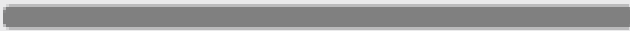
6. Do you believe the City provides a good balance of dog-friendly and dog-restricted public areas? *

- ☐ Yes, it's balanced
- ☐ No, there are too few dog areas
- ☐ No, there are too few dog-free areas

7. How well do you think your local community follows dog on-leash orders?

Not well at all  Very well
Okay

8. What percentage of the time do you follow your local dog on-leash orders? *

Never (0%)  Always (100%)
Sometimes (50%)

9. What are the reasons for providing this response? *

10. Do you believe there is enough signage to guide you or other dog walkers on how dogs should be managed in the public spaces you use? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Other - Write In (Required)

11. Is there a particular public space you would like to see more signage?

12. What do you think would encourage more people to abide by on-leash orders? *

13. Do you have any further feedback on how dogs in public places are managed?

14. Do you think uncollected dog poo is an issue in the City of Greater Geelong region? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

15. Why do you feel dog poo is an issue? *

- ☐ Unsightly
- ☐ Smell
- ☐ Health risk
- ☐ Environmental contamination
- ☐ Annoying, and not my responsibility to clean up after others
- ☐ Other - Write In

16. Are there any particular suburbs or public spaces where you regularly observe uncollected dog poo and would like the Local Laws team to be aware of?

17. What do you think could be done to improve dog poo collection and disposal by dog owners?

18. Are you aware that the City works with Coastal Management committees regarding dogs on beaches and dog orders in their region? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

19. Would you like to leave feedback about a Coastal Management committee area? *

- ☐ Yes, Barwon Coast
- ☐ Yes, Bellarine Bayside
- ☐ No, neither of these

20. Would you like to leave feedback about a City managed coastal area? *

- ☐ Yes, Point Lonsdale (4W - 7W)
- ☐ Yes, Black Rock (42W - 44W)
- ☐ Yes, Breamlea/Bancoora (47W - 50W)
- ☐ Yes, Point Henry
- ☐ Yes, Eastern Beach
- ☐ Yes, Other - Write In (Required)

- ☐ No, none of these

21. What would you like the City to consider? *

22. Have you experienced or witnessed a negative incident with a dog/s when in a public space? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

23. What sort of incident did you experience or witness? *

- ☐ Attacked by a dog
- ☐ Your pet was attacked by a dog
- ☐ A menacing rush (where dog approaches aggressively ensuing fear)
- ☐ Knocked over or run into by a dog
- ☐ Other - Write In (Required)

*

24. Did you report this incident to Council? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Didn't know I could or should

25. Were you satisfied with how Council managed the incident? *

- ☐ Yes - Write In (Required)

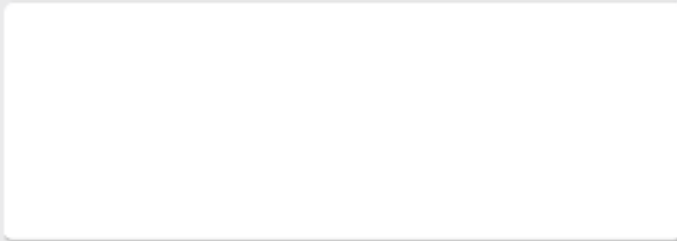
- ☐ No - Write In (Required)

26. Can you identify how this incident could have been avoided? *

- ☐ Yes - Write In (Required)

- ☐ No

27. Do you have any suggestions about how we may be able to reduce dog attacks in our community?



28. When considering where you live, do you feel you have ample access to public open space that allows **dog on leash** use? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

29. When considering where you live, do you feel you have ample access to public open space that allow **dog off leash** use? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

30. When considering where you live, do you feel you have ample access to public open space that **prohibit** dog use? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

31. If you are living in a unit, townhouse, or on a small block in one of the municipality's newer estates, did you, or will you, factor in the lack of outdoor space when choosing a pet?

*

☐ Yes - Write In (Required)

☐ No - Write In (Required)

☐ Not applicable

32. Do you experience issues with nuisance cats in your neighbourhood?

☐ Yes

☐ No

33. Is this in relation to: *

☐ Trespass (cat coming on to your property uninvited)

☐ Stray cats (unowned cats that roam your neighbourhood)

☐ Feral cats (wild)

☐ Unwanted litters

☐ Destruction of property (cat faeces, damage to plants etc)

☐ Exceeding animal allowances (more than 2 cats on the property)

☐ Impact on native birds and animals

☐ Other - Write In (Required)

*

34. Do you have any suggestions on how the City could better manage cats or respond to nuisance cat issues? *

☐ Yes - Write In (Required)

☐ No

35. Do you experience issues with nuisance dogs in your neighbourhood? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

36. Is this in relation to:

*

☐ Barking

☐ Dogs escaping their property

☐ Menacing behaviour

☐ Dogs not being kept on leash in on leash public spaces

☐ Uncollected foreign dog poo on your property

☐ Other - Write In (Required)

*

37. Do you have any suggestions on how the City could better manage nuisance dogs or respond to nuisance dog issues? *

☐ Yes - Write In (Required)

☐ No

38. Are you aware that you are required to have your pet cats and dogs microchipped and additionally registered with your local Council by the time they are 3 months of age? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

39. Are your animals registered with Council? *

☐ Yes, all are

☐ No, none are

☐ Only some are

40. What would you say are the main barriers preventing you from registering your pet with Council? *

- ☐ Expense
- ☐ No time
- ☐ Don't know how
- ☐ Thought that microchipping meant it was registered with Council
- ☐ Other - Write In (Required)

*

41. Are you aware that you need to update your personal details including address changes with Council and Central Animal Records (Microchipping registry), to allow a swift reunion should your pet get lost? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I thought they were the same thing

42. Do you have any suggestions about how we could encourage more people to register and microchip their pets?

*

- ☐ Yes - Write In (Required)

- ☐ No

43. Can you think of other ways pets could more efficiently be reunited with their owners?

*

☐ Yes - Write In (Required)

☐ No

44. Is your cat desexed? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

45. What are the barriers preventing you from doing so?

*

☐ I'm a registered breeder

☐ Expense

☐ Transport difficulties

☐ Lack of a cat carrier

☐ I thought my cat was too young

☐ My cat is always indoors, so it's unnecessary

☐ Too busy

☐ I think it's cruel

☐ No barriers

☐ Other - Write In (Required)

*

46. Were you aware of the City's discount desexing month that runs each July? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

47. How do you think the City can better publicise this program? *

48. Do you have any suggestions on how you believe Council could further support and encourage the community to desex their animals?

49. What do you think it means to be a responsible pet owner?

50. Are you aware there is a local law that all cats should be desexed by the time they are 3 months of age? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

51. Are you aware of the need to vaccinate your pet to protect their health and longevity? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

52. Do you generally observe pet owners obeying the laws regarding keeping dogs on leash where required? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Sometimes - Write In (Required)

53. Do you generally observe pet owners obeying the laws regarding picking up after their dog?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Sometimes - Write In (Required)

54. Do you generally observe pet owners obeying the laws regarding having effective control of their dog when off lead?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Sometimes - Write In (Required)

55. Do you generally observe pet owners obeying the laws regarding complying with cat curfew?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Mixed - Write In (Required)

56. How do you think the City can encourage more of our community members to be responsible pet owners?

57. Would you like to leave any comments regarding dog parks (use, locations, rules, features, etc)? *

58. Are you aware that animal businesses such as dog trainers, pet boarding and day care facilities are required by law, to be registered with the Council? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

59. Are you aware you can report concerns regarding the operation of animal management businesses to Council for investigation? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

60. Additional comments:

61. Have you seen our Animal Management Officers patrolling? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

62. Have the branded Animal Management vehicles increased your awareness of the officers out in the public? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

63. Have you had an interaction with a member of the Animal Management team? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

64. How would you describe the experience?

65. Do you have any suggestions for our Animal Management team? (things you think we could do better, issues we may not be aware of etc)

☐ Yes - Write In (Required)

☐ No

66. Would you like to leave any further feedback or comments about any of the topics listed above, or another animal-centric issue that is not discussed above? *

ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY 2 – HARDCOPY SURVEY

Only two hardcopy surveys were completed and submitted back to Council for consideration.

Unfortunately, one was not suitably filled in, and instead included a large block of text voicing issues they wanted to raise.

These comments have been included under all appropriate topics.

Participants lived in:

- Rippleside (1)
- Belmont (1)

Were in the age bracket of:

- 60 – 69 (2)

Identified as:

- Female (1)
- Male (1)

Stated they:

- Owned dog/s (2)

Wanted to leave feedback regarding

- Dogs in Public Places (1)
- Dog Poo (2)
- Dogs incidences and attacks (2)
- Open Space needs (1)
- Nuisance cats and dogs (2)
- Responsible pet ownership (1)
- Dog Parks (2)
- Animal Management team (1)

The following quantitative data was collected for each of the topics throughout the hardcopy survey:

Dogs in public places

- Too few dog-free areas
- Community follows orders very well
- Participant always follows dog orders
- There is enough signage in the public spaces the participant uses.
- Education will encourage more people to abide by on-leash orders

Dog poo

- Uncollected dog poo is an issue (2)
- It is unsightly, smells, poses a health risk, leads to environmental contamination and is annoying and not my responsibility to clean up.
- Place more bins along the western beach lower path and at the end of Rippleside pier.

Dog incidences and attacks

- Yes, I have experienced or witnessed a negative dog incident in a public space
- My pet was attacked by a dog

- I did report this to council
- I was unsatisfied with the City's handling of the incident as they were unable to follow up

This could have been avoided by restricting sales of dangerous dogs and providing owners with more education around breeds, pet behaviour etc

There has been no follow up on a dangerous German Shepherd I have reported in Belmont.

Open space needs

- Ample access to on leash space
- Ample access to off leash space
- Ample access to dogs prohibited space

Nuisance cats and dogs

- Yes, there are nuisance cats in my neighbourhood
- This is in relation to:
 - Trespass
 - Strays
 - Destruction of property
 - Impact on native birds and animals
- Enforce cat curfew laws
- No nuisance dog issues

"My dogs have been accused of nuisance barking. When I explained what was going on, the girl realised it was a nuisance complaint, made without a basis. The rangers make up their mind before contact is made with the owner. I don't appreciate being told I am telling lies."

Responsible pet ownership

- I am aware of microchipping and registering my pets by 3 months of age
- My pets are all registered with Council
- I am aware I need to update microchipping details with CAR
- Being a responsible pet owner means providing them with love and discipline – the same as children
- I am aware vaccinating my pet protects their health and longevity
- I generally observe pet owners abiding by dog on leash orders
- I "sometimes" observe dog owners picking up their dogs' poo
- I generally observe pet owners executing "effective control" over their dogs when off leash

- I do not generally observe cat owners complying with cat curfew
- Rippleside beach water is not suitable for humans to swim in, but good for dog swimming

“Dog owners on beaches, quite often are 100 metres or more away from their dog”

Dog parks

“Dog parks are too small – This will only lead to incidences”

Animal Management team

- I have seen Animal Management officers patrolling
- The branded vehicles have increased my awareness that they are in public
- I have interacted with Animal Management officers
- The experience was “Quite gruff and rude. Last year during Covid”

“Animal management team don’t listen to both sides when investigating.”

Other comments:

“Dogs are being tied up at Supermarkets”

Appendix B – Promotional materials for consultation

CITY NEWS

PHONE: 5172 5172 www.geelongaustralia.com.au

MEETINGS

CENTRAL GEELONG MARKETING COMMITTEE

The next meeting of Central Geelong Marketing Committee will be held on Tuesday 30 April 2021 at 7.30pm.

For the safety of the community, committee members and staff, there will be no public attendance at this meeting. Meeting records will be available on www.geelongaustralia.com.au

HAVE YOUR SAY

DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022-25

The City is currently seeking community feedback on the draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022-25. This is your opportunity to tell us what you think the City does well regarding management of domestic animals, opportunities for improvement, as well as any other animal related issues you would like to see. We want to hear from pet owners and non-pet owners alike. Your feedback is invaluable and will help us shape the new plan to reflect community opinion and to ensure that shared spaces are safe and can be enjoyed by all. Submit your feedback by 4.00pm, Friday 23 April 2021 at yoursay.geelongaustralia.com.au

Alternatively, you can complete the survey in hardcopy at our Brougham Street, Drysdale and Civic Customer Service Centres.

TENDERS

TENDER T2100055

PROVISION OF ADVISORY SERVICES (ACT)

The City of Greater Geelong invites tenders from suitably qualified and experienced firms to provide ACT advisory services.

Tenders close at 2.00pm, Wednesday 5 May 2021. For tender assistance contact Matt Jordan on 02 9272 6121.

TENDERS

TENDER T2100055

NEW STATION ESTATE DESIGN

The City of Greater Geelong invites tenders from suitably qualified and experienced consultants to provide design services associated with the New Station Estate.

Tenders close at 2.00pm, Wednesday 5 May 2021. For tender assistance contact Matt Jordan on 02 9272 6121.

PUBLIC NOTICES

COMMUNITY MEALS GRANTS

Applications for Community Meals Grants are now open and will close at 4.00pm, Friday 30 April 2021. Grants of up to \$10,000 are available to assist eligible Community Groups / Organisations with providing nutritious meals to vulnerable community members within the City of Greater Geelong municipality. Conditions apply. Find out more at www.geelongaustralia.com.au/grants

POWER LINE CLEARANCE PROGRAM

Pruning of trees in streets and parks in Ocean Grove, Barwon Heads and Point Lonsdale has commenced and will be completed by Monday 31 May 2021. Pruning is required in order to maintain clearance between trees and power lines.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Have your say and help us make decisions that reflect the best interests of our diverse community.

www.geelongaustralia.com.au/yoursay

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Customer service centres at Brougham Street, Civic Village and Drysdale have now reopened for in-person general customer service. We are maintaining our other methods of customer support.

Phone: 5172 5172
8.00am-5.00pm, Monday to Friday
Email: customer.service@city-ngc.vic.gov.au
Fax: 5172 4177

Post address:
PO Box 136, Geelong, VIC 3220
Contact us online:
www.geelongaustralia.com.au/contact

www.geelongaustralia.com.au

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CALL FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK OUT

NATALEE KERR

THE owner of a dog that was killed by a car after being chased by two uncontrolled dogs at Thirteenth Beach has urged residents to help shape a new council animal management plan.

Geelong woman Breeanna Redden let her well-trained border collie Hunnie off-leash at the popular beach while on a Sunday walk in November when she saw a staffy and a rottweiler racing toward her.

It is understood the dogs chased Hunnie up onto the steps and across the nearby road, where she was hit and killed by a passing car. Ms Redden said she learned from her "horrible experience" that not all dog owners have spent time training their dogs.

"Every time I go the beach now I see more and more owners with zero control over their dogs and my heart goes in my throat," she said.

"I just close my eyes and pray someone else's dog isn't a victim of an irresponsible owner's carelessness."

The City of Greater Geelong is currently asking for community input to develop a new four-year domestic animal management plan.

With around 45,000 registered cats and dogs, Geelong has one of the

largest animal populations of any Victorian municipality.

The plan is set to outline how council will manage dogs and cats within the municipality, including how to promote responsible pet ownership.

Geelong Mayor Stephanie Asher said it was important council heard from all residents in the development of the plan, even those without pets.

"For many residents, dogs and cats play important roles in their lives, often serving as extended members of the family," Cr Asher said.

"It's important we hear from residents, those with and without pets, to ensure we are meeting community needs and expectations in the management of domestic animals." Community feedback submitted to previous plans has strengthened the city's focus on developing additional dog parks in the region, and informed the introduction of a cat curfew in 2009.

Ms Redden encouraged residents to have their say on the plan and "help tell the council they need to start to enforce the law".

"Now whenever I see people who don't leash their untrained dogs on the beach and let them run at people full speed without recalling them, it makes me so upset" she said.

"You are responsible for your pet and the life of someone else's."

A report following the feedback is set to be produced at the end of April before a draft plan is created in May.

Public feedback closes on April 23 at yoursay.geelongaustralia.com.au/DAMP-2022-2025

City of Greater Geelong
Sponsored by

From those with pets and without, we want to hear from the whole community on a range of topics in relation to domestic animals.

Tell us what you think about dogs in public spaces, cat desexing and more and help us to develop our Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022-25.

The plan assists us in the management of around 45,000 domestic animals registered with us. Have your say before 23 April here: yoursay.geelongaustralia.com.au/DAMP-2022-2025



YOURSAY.GEELONGAUSTRALIA....

Domestic Animal Management Plan

LEARN MORE

Appendix C – Responses to “What does it mean to be a responsible pet owner?”

ResponseID	Response
9	For cats - they should be desexed and indoors. Outside on lead only. They are too detrimental to wildlife.
12	not having your pet impacting the legal enjoyment of others in public places.
13	Exactly listed as above - but predominately caring for their animal, and making sure they have all their needs adequately met.
15	All of the above
16	Taking responsibility for your own animal, keeping them contained, registering them with council, meeting and exceeding their needs, following the rules
19	Ensuring my dogs don't bark to disturb neighbours, keeping them on my property or a lead, unless in an off-lead area, always picking up their poo and disposing of it in the bins provided or my bin.
22	Registration. Socialisation. Training. Off leash areas.
26	Pet part of family. Pedigree registered dog with breed that is suitable for your lifestyle. Commitment to the animal. Feed good quality food.
27	Training your pets housing pets appropriately so they can never escape abides by dog control orders dogs should not be desexed if they are registered with an approved organisation, it is preferable to breed from family pets than in puppy factories.

ResponseID Response

28	Look after and care for your Pet while also respecting your neighbours rights.
29	Yes
30	As said above. Dog owners must be able to control their animal and this means doing a basic course about dog obedience. My dogs know word commands and 'dog' manners.
31	Is considerate of other uses of public spaces. Picks up the dog poo. Exercises and socialises their pet. The animal is desexed and vaccinated to protect other animals
32	Respecting members of the public. Being aware of your dogs behaviour. Educating yourself. Not letting your dog annoy members of the public.
34	All of the above
37	Follow signs, not just dogs off leash but dogs under effective control. React immediately to my own dog's barking. Do not let the fact that I have a pet have any negative effect on any of my neighbours.
40	Make sure your pet is healthy, regular Vet checks and vaccinations are essential. Register and microchip all pets, Being aware of your surroundings at all times. Read your dogs body language. Train yourself as well as your dog. Offer training to anyone who has a fear of dogs. Make sure your pet is not annoying your neighbours
42	Care and welfare for your pet, they are part of your family.
45	All the above
49	All of the above. Plus, having the pet as part of the family, not penned, or kept outside 24/7. Good owner training, beyond "puppy school" token classes. Meeting other dog owners in the neighbourhood in a safe fenced space that we can be sure will keep our pets and the public safe. Belmont High school oval at 4:30-5:30 is such a place, and we wish the school would be aware of how hard we work to keep the area poo free. Can't speak for users at other times.
52	Your pet should be treated as a member of the family. Not as a Friend or best friend...
55	Owners need to accept total responsibility for the care of their pets, and any interactions those pets have on other people (or other animals). This includes secure, safe and suitable housing, nutrition, exercise, dealing with waste products, and abiding by existing by-laws. If we choose to have animals in our lives, we need to take total responsibility for them.

ResponseID Response

62	esexing, registering and keeping your pet contained on your property
63	If you choose to have a pet look after it , don't be confused that's it's human give it boundaries
65	Not only feed and walk your animal. But have proper training for dogs on particular. For recall and aggression problems. Also training for Fear and anxiousness.
67	Taking care of your pet Keeping pet away from wildlife
69	To have a pet as a member of your family that you can enjoy the company and friendship but safely so the community and wildlife is not negatively affected. Animals brings joy to people so it means looking after them with correct training, food, water and socialisation. Cats should be locked up at night or kept as inside only for the protection of our wildlife. Respect every living creature
71	some one who considers others around them.
74	All of the above.
75	All of the above but I would add that a responsible owner should also ensure that their dog (particularly large dogs) gets the chance to run freely and extensively on a regular basis (daily if possible).
83	All of above, but better education is needed regarding confinement of pets. Also that pets are for life, they do have expensive needs, and owners may not realise this as they grow or become older. Excerise education is very important in keeping dogs happy, and areas to help with this should be part of every municipality and in the planning of new estates.
87	It means keeping animals safe and happy. Ensuring companion animals have access to shelter, food, water, warmth. And the 5 freedoms. It means ensuring that if an animal gets out they will have the best chance of getting home.
88	Desexing animals. Understanding the type of breed you own and train to their strengths. Training both people and there pets gives the best outcome for everyone
95	Some empathy and genuine respect for the needs of the animal so that their needs are attended to promptly.

ResponseID	Response
97	Some of the above, but not all. "Minimises nuisance to others..." is a subjective term - if someone doesn't like dogs, am I supposed to abide by their wishes? Or should they abide by mine? Do they have more rights than others? It seems it's easier to get stuck into dog owners as they whinge less than those who just don't like dogs.
98	Looking after and ensuring your pet behaves obediently to access any public area unrestrained. Including picking up after your pet and ensuring it does not encroach any members of public without initiation.
99	To completely look after you own pet daily . Nutritious food , clean up their poo and dispose of it environmentally friendly. Always carry poo bags . Always have her on a lead when away from my property. Make sure she doesn't stay outside barking at night.
101	Keep your pet healthy and safe Abide by council regulations in regards to pets
103	Registration, microchipped, desexed once 6 months old. Vaccinations & VET check ups. Proper dog training!!!! Evidence of attendance or participation in dog training. Always heading out with dog bags, treats to reward obedience in your dog & ensure effective control. Proper early socialisation of young pups / dogs to learn to behave (bit like children).
106	desexing whilst animals is young, keeping cats on own premises. Controlling dogs when out. our backgarden is totally enclosed our cat cannot leave our premises.
107	All of the above. It means enjoying the benefits of having a pet and ensuring it is cared for, loved, and happy. A trained dog is a happy dog. It also means respecting the needs of people outside our immediate family who may not want to be near dogs
110	Desexed, microchipped, registered, curfewed animals. Housed in appropriate surroundings with access to food, water, shelter, veterinary care, exercise and activities. Loved and cared for always.
114	Controlling your pet's movements. Keeping it under control for public and the pet's safety.
117	Keeping your animal under control, well fed and well exercised
118	All of the above
119	Following everything written above
120	Considerate of other humans and animals when out in public, abide by any rules/laws.

ResponseID	Response
122	Ensuring the safety and well being of both your pet and respecting your environment and others around you
124	Feed and water them Exercise them Love them ... Even when they chew your favourite things Most important: Do for them what they can't do for themselves (clean up after them inside and outside of the home, take them to the vet and pay excruciatingly high bills for grass seed removal etc etc etc) Pat them Tell them and Show them you love them. Give them Christmas presents even though they don't know why there is a tree covered in shiny things in their house that they are not allowed to play with ♥️
125	One that controls their pet regarding barking, while walking and cleaning up after their animal.
127	Same as above. Your choice to have a pet should not negatively impact on others. I also believe all dogs and cats should be kept inside at night so out wildlife can go about their business safely
128	All of the above, but also someone who provides a loving, stable environment for their pets. Fed, shelter, exercised regularly. The above definition is so mechanical, it doesn't take into consideration the importance of investigating time, patients, routine for your pets.
129	All of the above
131	All of the above, and love
132	All of the above
133	All of the above
135	All of the above Especially the bit about being a nuisance to wildlife.
136	Treating ur pet as part of he family. Not letting it fend for itself.
137	All of the above and support to friends and neighbours as necessary.
141	Health and welfare of animals is a priority. Also ensure my pets are not causing a problem for others
142	Exactly what is mentioned above
144	All of the above. Doesn't let their dog off leash on beaches to chase birds and hassle other people, when it clearly says it is an on leash beach. Also each household should only be allowed 1 dog and/or 1 cat. The number of dogs and cats in this region is becoming out of control. Cats kill billions of our wildlife every year. The beaches are now over run with dogs.

ResponseID	Response
145	Apart from the obvious of looking after your pet's welfare, making sure they don't impact the health and welfare of other pets and people.
146	Take care of your pet, regularly exercise, take care of its health and feed it good food. Provide it with a safe environment and appropriate housing Minimum undertake puppy and adolescence dog training Pick up after your dog Abide leash rules when out and about Do not leave dog unattended outside your home
148	Taking responsibility of ownership of your dog, desexing, training, giving the dog what it needs re feeding, exercise, stimulation, and vet care, don't get a dog if all you do is put it in a back yard and walk it twice a week
150	All the above
152	Someone who researchers breeds before they buy an animal to try and make sure they get an animal to suit you
156	Providing safe housing, providing biological appropriate food, water, vet care, and enrichment, as well as microchipping & desexing at an appropriate age, generally after 12-18 months for dogs, 3-6 months for cats.
157	Looking after your dog, feed them on time, keep them on leash and restrained as needed. Make sure they have shelter, routine and regular vet care. If you choose to own a cat keep them inside, away from native animals.
161	Abide by the rules. Make sure your dogs have proper training. Cats should be in enclosure and not running free.
162	You are accountable for every impact your pet creates, and they are your family member for life.
171	Most of the above
172	To know where YOUR pet is at ALL times, not allowing them to roam
176	Following council rules. Knowing your pets abilities, triggers, behaviour, and temperament, social skills, and needs. Attending to the animals vet needs eg. Immunisation, desexing, registration, food, safety, control, and containment.
178	Reduces the impact of your pet on others.
179	Act in the best interest of your animal
180	Being considerate of others and simply obeying the regulations. In my experience some dog owners do not consider the laws appropriate so they ignore them.

ResponseID	Response
183	A person who understands all the aspects a pet needs throughout their life time and can provide all of these.
184	To keep in locked yard, keeping on leash when out walking, unless specified area
185	Someone who takes full responsibility of their pet. If you decide to get a pet, you need to be sure that it's behaviour and waste isn't a nuisance for all those who live and exercise around it.
186	all of the above
192	The welfare and social needs of animal (s)
196	In addition to your list I would add being considerate of the impact on neighbours and the neighbourhood.
197	Exercise shade water socialisation with people & other dogs
200	Safety to community. Not to bother neighbours. Pickup after pets. Provide good health care, nutrition and exercise.
201	Follow the local council rules Clean up after your pet Make sure it is socialised and trained well on leash Vaccinate to prevent the spread of disease Desex to prevent wandering and fighting
202	Ensure the animals are healthy, happy & well trained.
203	Abiding by the rules and taking good care of your pet(s)
206	Provide the dog with the appropriate shelter, food, discipline and care so that it is looked after and responds positively to you.
210	Look after your pets and observe the rules and be aware of impact on others
212	Ensure they are healthy happy, entertained, safe and secure
214	Ensuring your pet is safe, healthy, well cared for, desexed, vaccinated and appropriately entertained so as not to be a nuisance to other people / animals.
215	Tale responsibility for your animals and ensure they don't interfere with the well being if others
218	Care fir your animal keep them well socialised and healthy.

ResponseID	Response
221	Not allowing your pet to impact on others and taking full responsibility for its health and well-being including exercise and social interaction.
223	Look after your pets needs at all times.
224	Being aware off your surroundings and respecting other people, animals and environment by maintaining sufficient control of your pet to avoid any unnecessary distress, injury or frustration from other members of the public and their pets
225	-
228	Adequate feeding, bathing, veterinary care, stimulation, exercise and training.
230	All of the above. I think putting the needs and welfare of the animal before your own desire to own one is paramount. For example, when my dog passes away, I will think very carefully before getting another puppy as I am in my late 60's and may not live longer than my pet. It is also very important to consider other people and children to ensure everyone's safety around animals.
233	considers the needs of all users of public space prevents their animal from causing harm or intimidation to others sees to the welfare and social needs of their animal abides by the dog control orders in public places minimizes nuisance to others and the environment has an animal that is desexed, microchipped, and registered secures their property to contain their pet.
235	It means treating them as you would your own child , taking proper care of them , making sure they are walked regularly , desexed , kept on a lead , if a dog.
236	All of the above mentioned under responsible pet ownership. Spending time with your pet & not just leaving them alone all the time in the yard with no interaction or stimulation.
239	All of the above. Ultimately, there are many owners who think they know best for their animal/s which may not include good welfare for their pet, or, consideration for others in the public space.
242	All of the above, and: Not getting a pet unless you have the time to spend with it. No use getting a dog to stay outside all the time and have no interaction with you. Providing adequate training for your pet
244	Ridiculous question

ResponseID	Response
250	A responsible pet owner keeps their pets safe and cleans up after them and also takes the time with their animals so they don't drive your neighbors insane from barking every time a car door opened and train their dog not to bark and ignore it even when they are HOME !
253	Give your pet adequate exercise, clean up after your pet, flea and worm treatment as required, good food and nutrition, lots of love, grooming, address needs such as companionship and prevent boredom.
258	Ensure your dogs are kept safe inside the property and ensure they're not left on their own for too long. They should also be walked daily. Cat owners should ensure that their cats are not out roaming
261	I think your dot points have covered it. Ensuring your pet is healthy - diet, sleeping arrangements, vet check ups, vaccinations, worming and flea treatments. Adequate exercise and stimulation. Being included/considered as part of the family. Cats being indoors with sufficient stimulation. Dogs and owners undertaking training so that the dog is under control and knows how to walk on lead.
264	Looking after the animal. Cats shouldn't roam the owner should keep them on their property. Owners of cats need to understand how many birds are killed and how many plants are destroyed.
265	Pets need to be well cared for, fed, exercised. Cat owners need to be aware of the impact on wildlife of innate hunting behaviours and keep cats inside at prime hunting times (dusk and dawn). Dogs need to be trained not to bark at anyone walking past, or all day. Owners may not be aware their dog is barking if they aren't home. Dog owners need to pick up the poop. Dog owners may trust their dog when off leash but need to be aware other people may not. I've owned many different pets over the years - dog's, cats, fish, rabbits, guinea pigs, chickens and each has their own sets of care needs and actions that we as pet owners can take to keep our pets healthy and happy while protecting the environment and working with people that don't like that animal. Many people seem to hate cats but don't understand it is much harder to keep a cat on your property than a dog - unless the cat is solely indoor, or outdoors only in a cage or like my cat had a back leg amputated (we adopted him with 3 legs) and can't jump fences.
266	To financially and physically provide for your pets needs
267	Someone who puts the health and happiness of their pets foremost over any personal inconvenience, and ensures these pets are not a danger or nuisance to others. All animals should be secured to your property unless actively with you, and all their medical care must be attended to.
268	To care for the animal lovingly, consider neighbours and be aware that not everyone likes your animals like you do

ResponseID Response

270	Ensuring the health and wellbeing of the animal under the Five Freedoms of Animal Welfare adopted by the RSPCA, these are; 1. Freedom from hunger and thirst, 2. Freedom from discomfort, 3. Freedom from pain, injury or disease, 4. Freedom to express normal behaviour, 5. Freedom from fear and distress. Also understanding the animals natural instincts, behaviour and needs.
273	To abide by the rules. Just because your dog is ok with people and other dogs, d oiesnt mean that mine is
274	Cogg just want the revenue. Dog owners premises should be examined before dog registrations are accepted.
275	All of the above.
277	I think they need to take responsibility for all of their animals needs and behaviour. That would include training the animal, providing care and shelter and understanding that other animals may not be as well behaving as yours.
281	You are your dogs advocate. Taking on a puppy or dog means providing the correct training for your dog to behave socially and respectable in public. You must keep up to date with all health checks and vaccs not just for your pets safety but for the safety of other pets you may come across.
283	Be accountable.
284	Kindness to your pet. Socialisation and training of your pet. Pets are family and as such should live as family in and outdoors
285	To be responsible for your animal in all aspects of the wellbeing.
287	To be considerate of other people, both dog owners and non dog owners. When I take my dogs out I want them to do as on me. I do t want other dogs to come running up to me or my dogs when on leash amd I want people to ask to pay my dogs as I would theirs. Being a responsible pet owner means to educate yourself.
288	To love your pet cuddles and warmth and to be a member of your house I loved all my dogs and I miss them very much
290	Take good care of pets, consider other members of the public, clean up your dog's poo, keep dogs on leash.
291	Dog under control, no signs of aggression,putting others fears/comfort above mine and my dogs
292	All of what is stated above

ResponseID Response

297	Care for an animal for the entirety of it's life, not when its convenient. Provide all required veterinary care including vaccinations, worming and anything else as required. Keep the animals "contained" and safe. Provide access to food, water, shade and exercise.
300	proper training or pets and owners compulsory adherence to regulations consideration of community
301	Keeping pets under control
302	Someone who understands and complies with the requirements of the list above. Moreover, someone who understands that no matter how closely they meet/comply with the requirements outlined above, not everyone in a community sees someone else's pets in the same light they do. Being a responsible pet owner requires you to be in tune with your pet/s behavior and impact on other pets and members of the community at large.
303	That I look after my pet and ensure it does not bother my neighbours. It also means I obtain my pets from reputable breeders/refuges.
304	All the above. Checking with neighbors to find out if your dog barks continuously when they leave home.
305	100% agree with what has been outlined above.
306	That the owner is aware that they will not be allowed to own any other pet if they are not a responsible pet owner.
308	Caring for the safety and wellbeing of your pet as well as the environment. Eg. I have a cat who is an indoor cat and he doesn't go outside without supervision for his safety and for the local wildlife.
310	Consideration of others at all times. Being well informed how to basically train dogs.
312	As above
314	Not allowing your animal to impact others and to deserve, microchip and register your pet and to keep your animal well looked after
316	Have probably addressed this in 28. We moved from a 50 acre property to our small lot in Highton three years ago. During the day when one dog barks in a nearby back yard it sets off a cacophony of barking from bored dogs left in backyards while their owners are at work. Responsible pet ownership is about training, attending to health needs, exercising our fur babies and following local regulations to ensure that our pets and community members feel safe and happy.

ResponseID Response

319	To care love exercise and vaccinate your pet
321	In addition to the noted points responsible pet ownership is providing pets with stimulation and education. Although hard to monitor I strongly believe all dogs should go through at the very least foundation obedience classes. Not only do the classes help form a bond with your dog but it helps to aid in a respectful canine member of society. Too many times I hear of people buying pets and in particular dogs and just putting them in the backyard and feeding whatever low quality diet they can and lack of stimulation (walks, games etc.) without getting into nutrition at least even low quality food the dog is not starving BUT a lack of stimulation is detrimental to the dog, their behaviour and how they interact with humans. In addition people often ignore or do not factor in the costs of veterinary treatment! More education is required around the needs and treatments for animal wellbeing!
323	You love and care for your furry family member by providing medical care when needed, adequate food and water as protection for weather. And ensuring your pet isn't causing a nuisance and disturbing other residents
325	See above
328	Ensuring that your pet is always looked after both personally and as required by law. Doing what is right by the community such as keeping to curfews, keeping dogs on leads where required etc. Also, pets need to be treated like one of the family and need proper food, always fresh water, vet care, attention etc.
331	Cats should be desexed and kept inside or in an outdoor enclosure, especially at night time
334	Desexing, vaccinations up to date. All cats to be kept in side at all times. Cleaning up after your pets when in public place or at home plenty of clean fresh water and food.
342	Your animal doesn't interfere with other members of the public, their animals or the environment
344	Listens to the feedback provided by neighbours. Especially about barking. Modifies routines or lifestyle to manage nuisance barking.
347	being unbiased or over confident on their or pets ability of control and that others may be in fear of animal injuries or knowledge of attack.
348	All the above plus attending training sessions with their dog. Education of pet owners
352	Keep your animals safe, on/in your own property/house. Desex them, do not allow them to roam. Regular vet care.

ResponseID Response

355	Making sure your pet does not annoy other people or animals either with noise or intimidation
358	You are responsible for everything your pet does and for their needs. Much like a child you need to give them discipline and raise them as friendly or going pets, within reason.
359	considers the needs of all users of public space prevents their animal from causing harm or intimidation to others sees to the welfare and social needs of their animal abides by the dog control orders in public places minimises nuisance to others and the environment has an animal that is desexed, microchipped and registered secures their property to contain their pet.
360	Ensure cats are quarantined at night at least but promote use of cat enclosures to contain cats within the owners property at all times. We can demonstrate this. With dogs responsible ownership must include adequate obedience training.
362	Keeping them safe, healthy and well trained.
363	To know where you pet is at all times and not allow them to torment wild life.
365	It's not just about all the things you've listed above. It's about in home care. Veterinary care, nutrition, training and what it means to be responsible for another beings life
366	Having cats indoors-in a run to protect both them & wildlife. Cleaning up after animals & keeping them on leashes when in shared spaces. Many ppl walk their dogs off leash & if they get excited by people this can be scary for little kids
368	Health care and socialization of pets. Refraining from allowing pets to roam off your property. Bring cats indoors before dark and only let out after sunrise. If animals are prone to hunting wildlife they must be restrained by leads or for cats in outdoor enclosures during the day. No allowing cats to roam during the day. Being away of your own dogs behaviours and modifying your exercise routine to keep public and other animals safe.
369	all the above
371	To keep them safe and well cared for and make sure they do not cause problems for others
372	As above.
373	All of the above and also to encourage healthy pet ownship to those around them. To get Pets from pounds or rescue groups only.

ResponseID Response

374	Respecting everyone
376	Following all of the above with the essential addition of refraining from taking a known aggressive dog to a public area.
383	Maintain the health and welfare of all domestic animals, includes cars, dogs, horses, donkeys, sheep, goats, birds, rabbits, reptiles. Prevent property damage and nuisance towards other residents and native wildlife by domestic animals.
385	Making sure your animal is well socialised and trained, choosing appropriate care situations for your animal that suits your lifestyle (not leaving them to howl for 8-10 hours a day), getting healthcare for your pet, seeing an animal as a family member rather than just a 'lawn ornament' or something to make you 'look tough'.
387	Providing a safe shelter for your pets, attend to their basic needs, provide consistent care, train your dogs to a respectable standard including recall, appropriate on and off lead behaviour.
388	To be responsible for your animals actions and to lovingly care for your animals needs.
390	Look after your pet. Curfews should be for dogs and cats, and all should be kept inside overnight this will stop dogs sleeping out in the cold, and cats roaming. There should be higher fines for people that don't want to be bothered. If it's law, people will changes
391	Know your dog and it's personality so you can prevent it causing harm or being harmed. Pick up your dogs waste. Be aware that some people are scared of dogs so keep it under effective control at all times
394	All the above.
395	Taking good care of your pets - appropriate living space and exercise. Picking up after your pets and not letting them roam.
396	Pets come first, proper vet care, regular activity, safe and suitable housing and must be part of family. Food and water always available.
397	Follow the rules, cats in at night, dogs on leash and trained properly, pets desexed and registered and animal looked after properly. However even my vet advised my last kitten not ready for desexing at 3 months.
398	Keeping animals on your own property. Have enclosures to keep cats safe on fro. If you wandering. Obeying dogs on leads rules. Respect for neighbour's property.

ResponseID	Response
401	I know what it means as a dog owner, cat owners seem to think that it doesn't apply to them. The time has come to make them keep their pets in their properties as responsible dog owners do
403	As above but appears a lot of new pet owners and you local law officer do not always agree with the above
404	Pick up after your pet, feed, clean and care for them and ensure that when in public the pet is managed on and off lead
406	RESPECT FOR THE ANIMALS WELL BEING AND THE SAFETY OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC
407	Own dogs that they can control. When walking on share paths to give way to others. - make space. comply to the dog area restrictions. act and take action to protect the environment irrespective of the restriction. the bluff is a classic case - have dogs and people climbing on the rock face is not responsible behaviour for either people or dogs
409	Being 100% responsible for your pet under all circumstances.
410	To neuter/ desex your animal. Provide immunisation and vet checks yearly. Keep cats indoors or adhere to kerfew Provide a safe warm clean environment with love & care for your pet. Abide strictly to council by laws. Give pets vet treatment in an emergency situation. Be respectful to your pet and respectful to neighbours with regards to your pets whereabouts
413	Keep control of pets and their waste. Prevent cats roaming and harming wildlife.
417	Ensuring your pet is healthy and safe and does not cause harm or distress to others
419	Caring for your pet, training, vaccinations, vet visits for any concern. A warm, safe sleeping area. Desexing. Exercise is necessary for dogs, mental stimulation for all pets. Not neglecting your pets needs for affection and attention
420	In addition to the above, 'respectfully encourages other pet owners to act responsibly and abide my control orders'
423	For cat owners their animals should not wander away from their yards. For dogs the above do points cover this.
425	Considering how your pet affects other people, particularly in public spaces and particularly considering that not everyone has a good relationship with animals (ie past traumatic experiences)

ResponseID Response

429	To walk your dog daily. Do not let them bark in the garden and annoy neighbours, keep them on a lead in restricted areas where there are children etc. around, ensure their property is secure, Keep cats indoors from 5pm onwards, have them desexed, seek vet care when needed, food,shelter, love.
430	Animal looked after in the home. Dogs taken for regular walks. Animals de-sexed.
431	All of the above. But I would add that if they are pets then they must provide Indoor housing for them, day and night. If they want a pet then it is part of the family and should live as such. This makes a better managed and more temperate animal. Outside, especially at night, dogs howl.
432	Pet is managed so that it does not pose a nuisance or threat to people, animals or wildlife. The number of times owners allow their pets to breach all these aspects is staggering.
434	Have respect for the environment and other dog owners
438	Trained Leashed Recall Picking up after your animal Immunisations Acknowledging others when they say "their dog is not friendly to small dogs"
439	Looking after all of your companion animals needs and making sure they do not impinge on the lifestyle of other people. Being informed about nutrition, health, exercise requirements etc. Being able to afford veterinary care.
442	I make sure that my animals are kept in good condition, well-socialised, and in the case of the cats, kept inside 24/7 for their wellbeing and also to protect wildlife. I desex at an early age and prevent unwanted litters.
443	Cares for their pet to the best of their ability. Make sure they aren't a nuisance to others . Make sure to protect wildlife and to ensure that animal is desex
447	Care for your animal, and accept responsibility of what's required by owning one. Both inside and outside the home.
448	Look after your animal companions. Behave sensibly and with due regard for others.
450	All of the above.
453	All of the above plus keeping cats in at night
455	Keeping your pet and the public safe. Providing proper care for your animal
456	As above

ResponseID	Response
457	Keeping cats in at night. Desexing animals. Keep barking dogs inside at night.
459	Keeping an animal in an environment where it feels safe, loved, entertained and isn't causing neighbours or the wildlife any trouble. I think affordable resources to help encourage people to build cat runs, hire local dog walkers, desex their pets and provide stimulation for pets left at home during the day would make a huge difference to the quality of care pets are getting.
460	Ensure physical and emotional care for your animals, including proper socialisation where appropriate for the animal. Sufficient shelter, safe and secure yards for cats or dogs, adequate nutrition (food and fresh water) and healthcare (regular vet visits), exercise and enrichment (toys and other stimuli). Desex, microchip and register your pet.
463	To love and teach your animals like you do your children. Respect them and their welfare and respect others and their animals and property
465	Pet owners need to be accountable to the list shown above.
466	I know what it means .. I dont have pets at present but unfortunately many pet owners do not really understand some of the rules ... do not show empathy to non dog people , think their dog is just friendly and cute . Some dog owners have a sense of entitlement and believe all should enjoy their dog .
468	To deserve them To allow for expensive vet bills if necessary To keep them securely on your property ie. provide secure fencing To keep cats indoors so they don't torture and kill wildlife To provide good nutrition and a constant supply of water To love them.
469	To deserve them To allow for expensive vet bills if necessary To keep them securely on your property ie. provide secure fencing To keep cats indoors so they don't torture and kill wildlife To provide good nutrition and a constant supply of water To love them.
470	To deserve them To allow for expensive vet bills if necessary To keep them securely on your property ie. provide secure fencing To keep cats indoors so they don't torture and kill wildlife To provide good nutrition and a constant supply of water To love them.
474	Look after the animals, obey the common sense laws and be in control of you pet when you are out and about!

ResponseID	Response
475	Microchipping. On lead walks unless in areas otherwise signed. Owning a friendly/sociable dog. (Training for dogs with behavioural issues must be mandatory.) Treat my dog with care, love & kindness!! Feed my dog healthy homemade/prepared plant based meals. None of the disease ridden non-foods from supermarket shelves, or so called vet endorsed processed non-foods.
477	To be aware the some people don't like dogs and may be afraid of them and to act accordingly with my own dog; to pick up my dog's mess and other dogs' mess too where their owners have forgotten to do so; to keep noisy dogs quiet and occupied so they do not annoy neighbours
479	Understanding dogs body language, how to control a dog in many situations
480	A responsible pet owner : - Abides by the by-laws. - Educates themselves on dog breeds so they choose the dog breed that best fits their family and lifetsyle - New pet owners will take their puppy to puppy kindergarten along with their own kids to learn to look after a dog
481	All of the above
490	Have control over your dog. Train your dog to respond to your orders. Be able to silence your dog. Provide plenty of exercise.
491	Have the pet trained and pick up after it
492	all of the above
493	All of the above
494	Not allowing it to bark incessantly, walking it daily , cleaning up after it , giving it love and making sure it has a warm place to sleep. Feeding and always have fresh water. Making sure it has all necessary injections and vet checks.
496	As above
498	All of the above plus providing vet care i.e vaccinations etc too many people take on pets with little commitment to essential vet care.
499	Some more specific things are: Owning a well socialised and trained dog Keeping your dog safe Taking your dog for regular health checks Exercising your dog Picking up after your dog and disposing of the waste thoughtfully Being accountable for you dog's behaviour Being a well informed dog owner.
500	To care, love and treat your pet as a member of the family.

ResponseID	Response
503	Someone who understands the impact their dogs incessant barking has on their neighbours and actually cares about consequences of that - only punitive measures will fix this in some instances, most owners of problem dogs don't care about impact on others. My neighbours have dogs that jump fences and menace passers by, and in one instance have 2 large dogs in tiny courtyard that they never exercise so dogs bark out of boredom. In neither case are owners responsible and in neither case has council acted despite multiple complaints
504	I think all the points listed above and *learning and understanding about their pet's needs and behaviour *training with qualified trainers using methods that are scientifically shown to be effective and beneficial for the animal's wellbeing *don't use harmful or illegal training methods and equipment *provide enrichment for their pets so they have outlets to express natural behaviours in a safe way.
506	All of the above
508	Have control of your animal at all times, ensure that all signs regarding on-leash and off-leash are obeyed and clearing up after there animal.
509	Take full responsibility for your animal and the waste they produce. Abide by the laws governing your pet ownership.
511	A responsible pet owner is primarily responsible for the pet. This ensures that the pet is well looked after, has adequate requirements for basic needs, and importantly adequate stimulation and exercise. When these needs are primarily addressed and there is additional control and management of the pet, then the secondary effects of owning a pet (which are also important) within a public place or community are mitigated dramatically.
512	You are responsible for the animal 24/7
514	Look after pets properly and ensure they don't adversely affect persons or animals
520	Keeping dog under control when outside your home. Respecting that other people may not want your dog running up to them off leash. Using leash free parks if you want your dog to be able to do that. Walking and exercising your dog. Keeping barking noise under control
521	as mentioned above plus ensure any dogs/pups receive appropriate obedience training

ResponseID	Response
527	Training my cat to understand it is not allowed outside at all, ever. My balcony is the farthest she is allowed to go. But also understand when I lived in a house in East Geelong I had the same rule, except she was allowed onto the back patio rather than the balcony
528	Making sure your dog is on a lead at all times when not in your yard, and picking up its poo when u walk it
531	Keeping to guidelines .
533	All the above
534	Understand the space is shared. Be aware of your surroundings and know the law.
535	Keep only the type and number of pets for which you can provide appropriate food, water, shelter, health care and companionship. Commit to the relationship for the life of your pet(s). Provide appropriate exercise and mental stimulation. Properly socialize and train your pet.
537	Following the dog regulations, ensuring you pet is confined to your property, your dog is socialised, you pick up it's poo in public. Recognise not everyone loves your pet like you do.
538	Looking after your pet and the environment - picking up after your dog and keeping your cat enclosed
542	Treating your pet like their needs are as important as your own. DESEXING your animals! Vaccinating, flea, worming, best quality food you can afford. Picking up their dog poo, training them, socializing them, walking your dog daily, not letting them roam and have your cat inside well before sunset. The list goes on....
543	Keeping your pet healthy and happy, making sure they stick to local rules as much as possible, desexing, cleaning up any mess.
545	Kindness and awareness of others. Unfortunately, financially able to support animal eg puppy school, day care, varying environmental stimulation etc
546	Can't be Bothered answering question
547	Making sure my pets are not causing a fuss, is safe and doesn't escape from my house. Also education about desexing and so on is very important.
550	Healthy animals that have all needs met. Following local laws, ensuring dogs are well trained and well mannered.

ResponseID	Response
551	Maintaining a safe and happy environment for all to enjoy. I love my pet but not everyone else does, my dog should be obedient and respectful of other people and animals.
552	Be responsible for your pet. Keep out of other property. Be aware of the habits and behaviour of pet. Do not exceed number restrictions. Clean and healthy environment. Be aware of and mitigate impact on local flora and fauna. Safety of community
555	The pets are well cared for, are given proper shelter, vaccinated & health issues are dealt with promptly. Pets should not cause any upset to neighbours
562	Be aware of others. Cleaning up any faecal matter. Keeping dogs on Leads etc
563	I am responsible for their safety , I am do not out them in situations that may cause a reaction ,cause them harm ,cause others harm J am responsible for their training J am responsible for their safe environment .YES It is up to me to be responsible for my dog
565	Looking after all of an animals needs and having the ability to do so. Recognising when you don't. Training of animals to listen to commands namely dogs here, but all animals that are interacting with people.
568	Not letting your cat roam into my yard and attack my rabbit or budgies
570	Regular exercise, variety of different walking places, stimulation with toys, vaccinating and worming, bathing, picking up after the pet, provide a comfortable safe environment
571	Understand that not everyone likes pets. Pick up after your pets. Abide by signage and local rules RE. dog-friendly areas & off leash areas.
573	Ensure pets needs, health and welfare are looked after. Keeping pets safe. Following rules in regards to pet ownership.
574	Grooming, feeding, exercise daily, picking up feaces, and lots and lots of socialisation

ResponseID Response

579	All of these point are valid but the irresponsible pet owner will not be reading any of this..... considers the needs of all users of public space prevents their animal from causing harm or intimidation to others sees to the welfare and social needs of their animal abides by the dog control orders in public places minimises nuisance to others and the environment has an animal that is desexed, microchipped and registered secures their property to contain their pet.
580	Considering the mental, health and physical needs of your pets while ensuring the respectful consideration of your environment and picking up your dogs waste and training and socialising your dog through training to provide a safe and balanced dog in the outside world A responsible owner doesn't only cater to his own pets needs but considers the safety of humans and other dogs and animals around him by adhering to legal requirements
581	I agree with all of the above. However, with a growing population, and an enormous growth in dog ownership there are not enough accessible off-leash area's.... anywhere.
583	Avoid owning a pet if you can't afford to register your pet, chip identification, feed it, train it, contain it within your property. Then keep dogs exercised and entertained so they are not bored, lonely and barking.
587	Keep my pet safe healthy and clean
590	Being respectful of your neighbors. Keeping cats inside at night. Have dogs trained. Register your pets. Pick up your dog poo.
591	to not only take care of the needs of your animal, but be aware of other people and their pets when in public
592	Desexing, registering your pet, having pets vaccinated annually, having them on a leash while walking and picking up their poo, food & fresh water, training, micro chipping them.
593	Maintaining quality of life. Providing safety, shelter, exercise, enrichment, food and water. Keeping your pet safe from others and others safe from your pet. Keeping on your property or under your control. No outdoor cats (free range). Only desexed dogs allowed off leash.
595	Registration with local council and microchipping, comply with rules, regular vet care and good nutrition and attention
596	Someone who provides for the needs of their animal welfare, both mental and physiological as well as ensuring their animal is a good citizen.
598	Abide by local rules and regulations. Take care of the pet and ensure it's not a danger or nuisance to anyone else.

ResponseID Response

600	To register pet, provide vet care as needed inc regular worming, food and water, to ensure safety of animals eg secure yard for dogs or cats indoors sundown to sunup. Re dogs: to ensure that you understand your dogs behaviour so you can act accordingly by putting dog on lead in triggered spaces or by putting own dog on lead where encountering a dog with issues - remembering not every dog is friendly and not every person is dog-friendly. It's a shared world.
604	You have defined it above. It is a stupid question because it does not address the real issue which is that dog owners have an "entitled" mentality and think they can do what they please - evidence is the common disregard of the regulations and dog poo left behind. It is never difficult to find fresh dog poo on any path in OG.
608	You take care of the physical, mental and social needs of your pet whilst keeping them, other pets and the broader public safe.
609	This is not a sensible question when it is plainly obvious that owners who want to disregard the laws can do so without regard to enforcement if they decide to do so! If we have laws surrounding animals and behaviour issues then we need proactive work by 18 bylaws officers who work to prevent this not reactive to requests from the odd few!
613	Making sure you do al, the suggested dot points as above
614	Feed exercise register and vet when needed
616	Look after my animals and ensure they and I do the right thing
617	Who came up with this stupid question?
618	Put the needs of your pet first. Not the users of public.
619	Take care of pet hygiene & train pet to behave keep registered & vaccinated. Raise a well mannered pet. Make sure it's exercised daily & does not upset other people or dogs.
621	I pretty much agree with the above points. If a dog is properly socialised and is under proper control it should not be a problem. May be provide some additional education for those who could benefit.
622	Raise and train your pet to be sociable and happy. Respect the rules when walking your pet and pick up the poo.
623	Respect others, be reasonable, be empathetic and use commonsense, train them, follow the rules and and enjoy our pets!

ResponseID Response

624	Respect others, be reasonable, be empathetic and use commonsense, train them, follow the rules and and enjoy our pets!
628	To keep your pet on your property Clean up poop Always have control of your dog Don't allow cats to roam and disturb neighbours dogs!
630	Ensuring your pet is under control does not wander, is well feed and cared for and has access to water and love. And does not harass people. My dog is registered and microchipped, the property is secure and I walk him on lead every morning. He is desexed and has access to the vet when required. He mainly lives indoors with access to a secure backyard.
632	Keep cats in at night
633	all of the above.
638	Treating your pet like one of the family. Making sure they're happy and healthy.
641	All of the above
642	As above, but I would say abides by the intent of the orders. Sometimes the black and white as written is more than realistically needed.
644	Training/educating your pet Cleaning up after your pet Providing a safe space for pet to play Adequate food/water Access to veterinary care Following council rules
646	You take full responsibility for your pet.
649	COGG policy on nuisance noise allows holiday house owners to do whatever they want, as the noise is considered to be non ongoing when they are not at their holiday residence. This is a loophole and surely an incorrect interpretation of policy intent. Appalling that you have one rule for permanent residents and another for holiday residents
653	Abides by the council laws
656	To consider and understand your ability to care for an animal before getting one. More needs to be done to stop unethical breeding, raised puppy prices etc. Access to affordable vet care and education for owners or potential pet owners - education programs can start in schools. Vets could receive community funding to run programs to help set people up with the knowledge and support they need.
659	To provide exercise and maintain the health of my animals. Ensuring that they are well kept, not a nuisance to my neighbors and are well trained and socialised.

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662	Someone who looks after their animal well, including feeding, exercising, socialising training and ensuring it is secure in the home/yard along with ensuring they are registered/microchipped. They are aware of rules around pets and are responsible in ensuring others feel safe around them/the animal is not a threat/encroaches on another person's space.
663	Responsible for all aspects of an animal health and wellbeing, as well as being accountable for their pet.
664	Everything listed above is perfect! But I also must mention that "Basic understanding of your animals behavior and triggers" if an important point also.
666	Returns an overzealous / threatening do to on-lead immediately
672	Considering others right to enjoy their life in peace.
673	Be considerate of others and follow the rules
674	being prepared to look after all of the needs of the animal/s they own, and not just keep them as a status symbol
677	It is fine to say this, however, this is your view. How do you make your residence also follow this. I have lived in Geelong for many years and never seen or heard anything of your Expectations other than negative signage and messages about we are always in the wrong.
682	Providing safety, security, and a loving environment to promote happy, well adjusted socialized dogs. Ensuring they are safe and secure both inside and outside the property and respectful of people and dogs we meet in our adventures. Understanding that dogs are animals not people and ensuring they are trained and always under effective control, and helping them when they are not. And never, ever putting other people, ourselves and most importantly the dog in harm's way.
683	All of above.
685	Being concerned and taking a interest and respecting other people around them ,especially when you are walking and there bloody dogs are nipping at your ankles when they are off their leashes ,when they should be restrained
686	Being concerned and taking a interest and respecting other people around them ,especially when you are walking and there bloody dogs are nipping at your ankles when they are off their leashes ,when they should be restrained
687	Keeping cat inside at night. Keeping dog under control. Taking dogs for walks on lead and off lead in certain areas. Feeding and caring for your pets especially if you're away. Keep it registered.

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690	Being accountable for your pet, in terms of their behaviour and picking up after your dog. Cat owners should also be responsible for ensuring their cat is kept indoors away from wildlife. There should be penalties for not ensuring this.
692	As above
693	Ensure your pet is registered, vaccinated, socialised and that you follow the leash rules when out. Pick up after your pet and place poo bags in bin. Not like at Barwon River park where there is not enough bins and the poo bags were thrown all in the public toilets, horrible..
694	abiding by the bylaws,
695	Respect other peoples space by ensuring your pet does not invade this & jump all over people, adhere to the rules of keeping the dog on a leash where required and away from dog free areas, collecting the dogs excrement and disposing of this in a safe & hygienic manner, train your animal to respond to instructions
698	Animals that live with us are more than just pets. They are companions. Responsible management of animals by council should align with the growing understanding of companion animals. Council regulations regarding these animals should reflect public sentiment. Education, conversation, provision of options for keeping animals should be all part of the ongoing conversation with the council not taking a big stick approach. This includes encouragement for not allowing dogs to be roaming (unless lost of course). Having said this the responsible pet owner should understand their companion animal and manage their behaviour including endeavouring to spend time socialising the companion animal in the case of dogs.
702	as above
703	I view my small dog as a member of our family. He receives lots of love and affection, however it is also important he learns and understands boundaries, is obedient and we contribute in a positive way to our community.
704	All of the above. Knowing that harassing wildlife is illegal under the Wildlife Act, that numerous sorts of wildlife occur in dog walking areas, that breeding wildlife is especially vulnerable to disturbance (including loss of eggs and death of wildlife) .
706	Someone who understands the need to train, care for and integrate a pet into their life. That may mean restricting the owners access to some areas, requiring them to stay home more and not leave a pet alone for too long and to be familiar with all regulations relating to the pet

ResponseID	Response
709	Being aware of all the above in the first instance. I've had discussions with cat owner neighbours who clearly did not know their cat was supposed to be inside at night, and not hunting lizards in my property each day
710	Looks after their dog by giving them plenty of walks and other activity. Always walks the dog on a lead except where places are designated off-leash. Never allows the dog to bother other humans, other dogs, birds, other wildlife. Picks up poo immediately when in public places, and daily from home garden lawn. Has the dog registered, microchipped, wormed, de-flea-ed, annual vet check. Have my dog allowed access to our fenced garden through a doggie door, so she can come in or go out whenever she wants. Taking the dog to puppy school classes when young.
711	Cleaning up poo and respecting other people and other owners rights in regards to choosing to let your animal socially with them
713	Means looking at your companion animals needs as you would your own. Food, Shelter, essential vet work and medical needs met. Quality of life which means keeping your cat or dog safe from harm and enrichment. Preventing your companion animal from causing stress or harm to others. Abiding by local laws that are in place to help keep balance between animal and human cohabiting in our communities.
715	Honestly protect your pet from getting a bad rep simple as that don't just say ahhh he's friendly, or he's still learning, make sure you know where they are at all times not you're still at the top of the stairs while your dog is at the bottom harassing people, or he's 5m behind you making a poo. I also don't believe you can be responsible for a dog off lead if you have headphones on.
719	Ensuring my dog is trained Always being aware of approaching children and families Making sure my dog is never a risk to other people and other dogs Not letting my dog bother another dog. Carrying the means to physically control my dog (lead). Keeping my dog home if it has symptoms that could be contagious. Genuinely appreciating that not everyone likes dogs or wants them nearby. Abiding by local rules Keeping my dog registered and vaccinated.

Appendix D – Free-text comments

The following tables highlight the themes that came through for each of the open text questions.

Themes: “sometimes” observe dog on leash orders being followed	Count
50/50	17
Minority refuse to comply	17
Not always on leads when they should be	15
Current on lead orders too restricted when parks are quiet	11
Regularly see dogs illegally off-leash	10
Barwon River poor compliance	8
Beaches are problematic	8
If dogs are under effective control, they should be allowed off leash anywhere	7
Illegally off-leash at Playgrounds	4
Lack of rangers = perpetrators don't care	4
Rail Trail poor compliance	3
Eastern Beach problematic	3
Illegal off leash dogs create problems for on-leash dogs	3
Waurm Ponds trail poor compliance	2
Dogs should be on-leash everywhere	2
Those I witness off-leash are responsible	2
Dependent on location	2
Dog owners become aggressive when reminded of on-leash orders	1
Dogs often off lead when owner jogging	1
My dog needs off leash exercise	1
More off leash areas would improve compliance elsewhere	1

Themes: “sometimes” observe dog on leash orders being followed	Count
Visitors the issue, not locals	1
The Dell problematic	1
Rarely	1
Local parks with no signs used off-leash	1
Suburban streets	1
Blue Waters Lake poor compliance	1

Themes: “sometimes” observe owners picking up after their dog	Count
50/50	24
Owner behaviour dependant on others observing, time of day and location	20
More do than don't - just	19
Watch owners deliberately leave it	14
Some owners don't appropriately supervise their dog, and don't see it poo	10
I haven't seen people deliberately avoiding it, but some must by the amount uncollected	8
People don't carry receptacles	7
Dump the poo bag rather than bin it	5
Need more bins at recreational areas	4
Locals do, visitors don't	4
Men	4
I speak up if I see it	3
I see a lot of uncollected poo in my area	3

Themes: “sometimes” observe owners picking up after their dog	Count
Nature strips worse than public ovals etc	3
Lara	2
Eastern Beach	2
Barwon River	1
Blue Waters Lake	1
Binning it in plastic is counterintuitive	1
Beach access tracks	1
Estuary	1
Dog owners aggressive when approached	1
Rail Trail	1

Themes: “sometimes” observe effective control of dogs when off lead	Counts
Most dogs I see have no recall	35
Less than 50% of the time	12
Owners distracted on phones etc, not supervising dog	10
Poor community understanding of what “effective control” is	10
Need more training	8
Most have control	7
Off leash dogs unwantedly approaching on lead dogs	6
Beaches	5

Themes: “sometimes” observe effective control of dogs when off lead	Counts
Inconsiderate owners think their dog is “good” and “friendly” when not under effective control and don’t realise impact on others	5
Not when near birds	2
Only effective control is when a dog is on lead	2
I avoid off leash areas because dogs are not under control	1
Injury sustained by an uncontrolled dog	1
Dogs are too far away from owners	1

Theme: “mixed” observation of pet owners obeying cat curfew	Count
Cat curfew mostly ignored	48
Mixed experience	18
Don’t see many cats roaming my neighbourhood	9
I abide, neighbours don’t	8
Unsure	6
Not sure what cat curfew is	5
Strays	3
Noticing improvement in responsible cat ownership	3
Perhaps sometimes owners can’t get their cats back inside before curfew starts?	2

Themes: Additional comments	Count
More education on responsible pet ownership	28
Stop cats roaming/introduce 24/7 curfew	27

Themes: Additional comments	Count
More fines for those flouting the rules	23
Dog owners feel too entitled	15
More patrolling	15
Promote adoption over breeding/support rescues/foster care	13
Improve awareness and number of cat desexing programs	13
More poo bags and bins	11
More off leash areas	11
More bird specific signage and protection	10
Dog parks are a great community asset – need more	10
Improve barking dog process	10
More AMOs needed	9
Most dog owners are responsible	8
Entire animals found off property should be desexed automatically before release	8
Dog restricted summer season too long on beaches	7
More signage	7
More responsibility/restrictions on breeders	6
Too much aggression both ways between dog and non-dog owners	5
Commercial racehorses off beaches/make horse owners collect their horses' poo	5
Bigger fines for uncollected dog poo	5
Encourage more dog-friendly businesses in Geelong	5

Themes: Additional comments	Count
Report on real pound/animal/cost stats	4
Cats destroying birdlife	4
Domestic Animals should include birds, reptiles, rabbits, horses etc	4
Repeat behavioural assessments in pounds	3
Dogs off leash where they shouldn't be	3
Ensure owners get contacted promptly when pets are lost and found	3
Dog owners inconsiderate of others' space/needs	3
More swimming access for dogs	3
Dogs should be on lead everywhere	2
More attention paid to the social benefits of pets and off leash areas	2
More balance between human needs and animal needs	2
Cyclists are dangerous and should be held accountable	2
Grass moving at dog-friendly reserves	2
Dedicated dog park in Geelong West	2
Greyhound off leash space	2
Single use plastic bags should not be provided by council	2
Discount rego for proven responsible pet owners (desexed, microchipped, cat enclosure, training complete etc)	2
Council fees too high	2
"Blitz's" with public forewarning	2

Themes: Additional comments	Count
Why need a multi animal permit for 3 animals? Not consistent with other councils. Should be issued prior to obtaining animal also	2
Stray/feral cat management program and education	2
Every drink fountain to have dog bowl at base	2
Council too controlling on pet owners' rights to keep entire pets etc	2
More community input to dog off-leash/on-leash and prohibited areas	1
Sign cohesiveness between City and management authorities	1
Cooperative use of school ovals after hours	1
Abolish puppy farms	1
Upgrade Stead Park	
Have Council owned shelter	1
Black Rock to be dog off leash area	1
Dog park use education	1
Cats should not be left unattended in vet clinics over weekends	1
Water station required on west Waurin Ponds trail	1
Swifter action from Council	1
Work with the dog-owner community	1
Why is puppy desexing before rego not compulsory	1
Remove 1080 poison from use	1
Support for pets of the homeless	1
Too many coastal signs	1

Themes: Additional comments	Count
Cheaper fees for seniors	1