

**Domestic Animal Management Plan
Online Survey
June 2017**

A Market Research Report
prepared for

Whitehorse City Council

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p.9367, 27 October 2017*

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1. Introduction

Councils in Victoria are required by legislation to prepare and implement a Domestic Animal Management Plan every four years. Whitehorse City Council supports this strategic approach and has commenced working on the 2017-2021 Plan.

During June 2017 using the Survey Monkey software, Council sought community feedback and ideas on the topic of Domestic Animal Management, in particular with regards to cats and dogs.

The Domestic Animal Management Plan for 2017-2021 provides the framework for animal management services over the next four years and considers matters such as:

- How important pets are to people who live in Whitehorse
- Concerns people may have about animal related matters
- Ideas and resources to assist residents to manage and care for their pets
- Dogs in parks and reserves
- Suggestions that ensure animals and people live together harmoniously
- How well information provided by Council about pets and animal management addresses residents' needs

The survey took approximately 10 minutes to complete, providing areas for people to express their views verbatim. A copy of the questionnaire is appended at the end of this document, along with the detailed tables and verbatim comments which were used as the basis for this report.

A total of 97 respondents completed the survey, although not everyone answered all questions. The maximum margin of error for a sample of 97 is $\pm 10\%$ at the 95% confidence level, This means that if the answer in the sample is 50% the true answer in the population will almost certainly be between 40% and 60%.

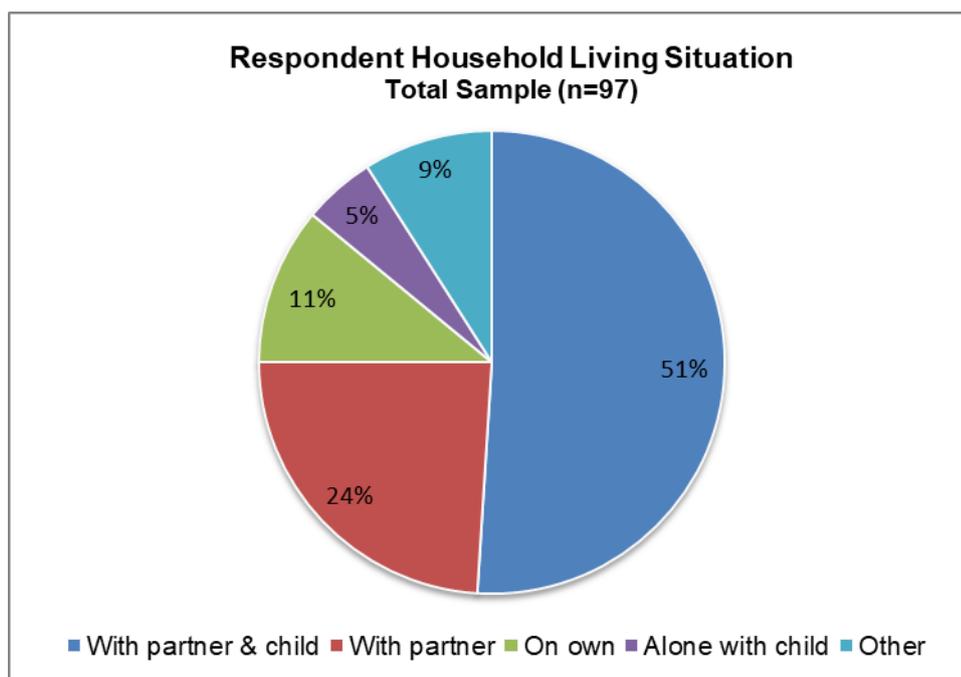
During October 2017, Nexus Research Pty Ltd. was invited to prepare a summary of the key findings from the Domestic Animal Management Plan survey; this is outlined in the following pages.

2. Detailed Findings

2.1 The Sample

Participation to the survey was advertised in the Whitehorse News and Leader newspapers; people were invited to go to the Whitehorse website and access the Survey Monkey link to complete the survey. A total of 97 online interviews were conducted during June 2017. It should be noted here that respondents may not have been residents of the City of Whitehorse.

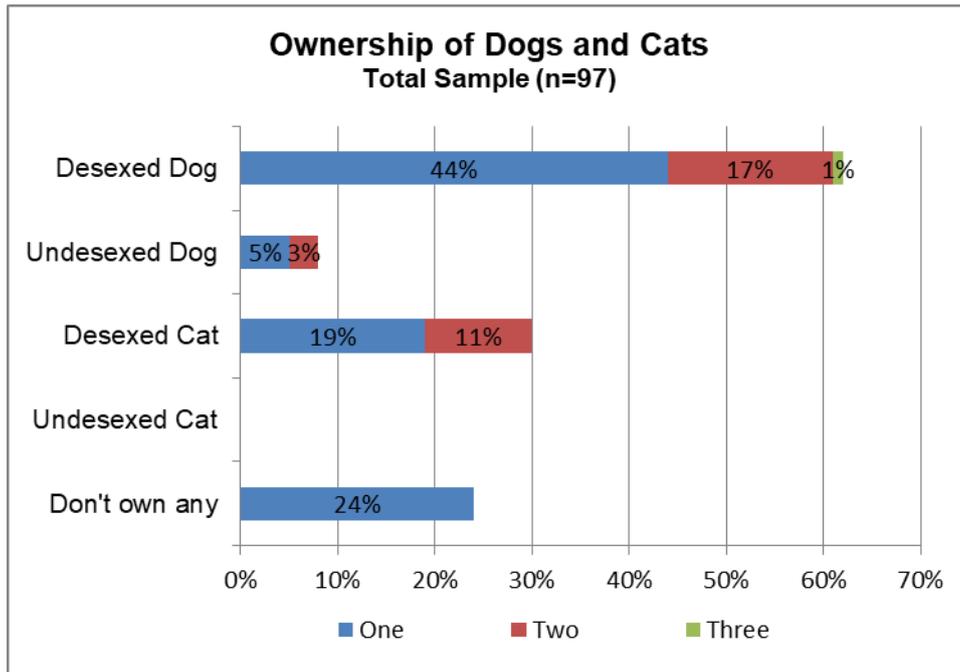
When asked to describe the type of household they lived in, more than half of the respondents indicated in households with their partner and children/child (51%). This was followed by living with their partner (24%), on their own (11%), alone with their children/child (5%) or some other living situation (9%).



2.2 Ownership of Cats and Dogs

Of the 97 people in the total sample, 23 people (24%) did not own a cat or a dog.

- 60 people (62%) owned at least one desexed dog, with 17% owning two and 1 person owning three desexed dogs.
- 8 people (8%) owned at least one undesexed dog, with 3 people owning two.
- 29 people (30%) owned at least one desexed cat, with 11% owning two.



This indicates that 76% of the sample owned at least one dog/cat with 24% (more than a third of the owners) having more than one dog and/or cat.

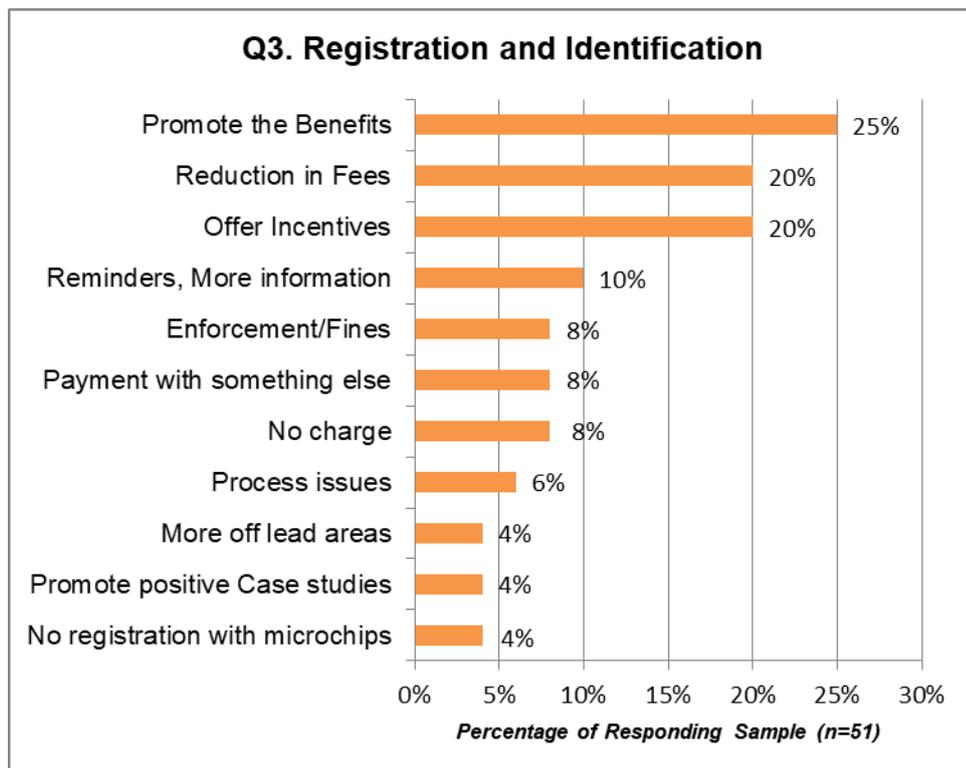
This incidence of pet ownership is higher than that estimated by the Council, possibly because people with a dog and/or cat were more interested in participating in the Domestic Animal Management Plan survey.

2.3 Registration and Identification

Respondents were informed that “Council aims to ensure that all domestic dogs and cats across Whitehorse are registered. This helps to make sure that pets can be returned quickly to their owners should they ever become lost”, and asked whether they had any ideas or suggestions to encourage pet owners to register and/or identify their dogs and cats with Council.

Responses were provided verbatim and coded for presentation in the following chart.

In total 51 people provided an answer/suggestion to encourage registration with responses concentrated around Promoting the benefits/services/facilities provided through registrations, Price reductions in the registration fee or no charge at all, Offering incentives for Vets or Pet shops when registering, Providing reminders or more information on registrations, Enforcing fines if not registered and Paying registrations when purchasing the dog, with rates or starting to rent.

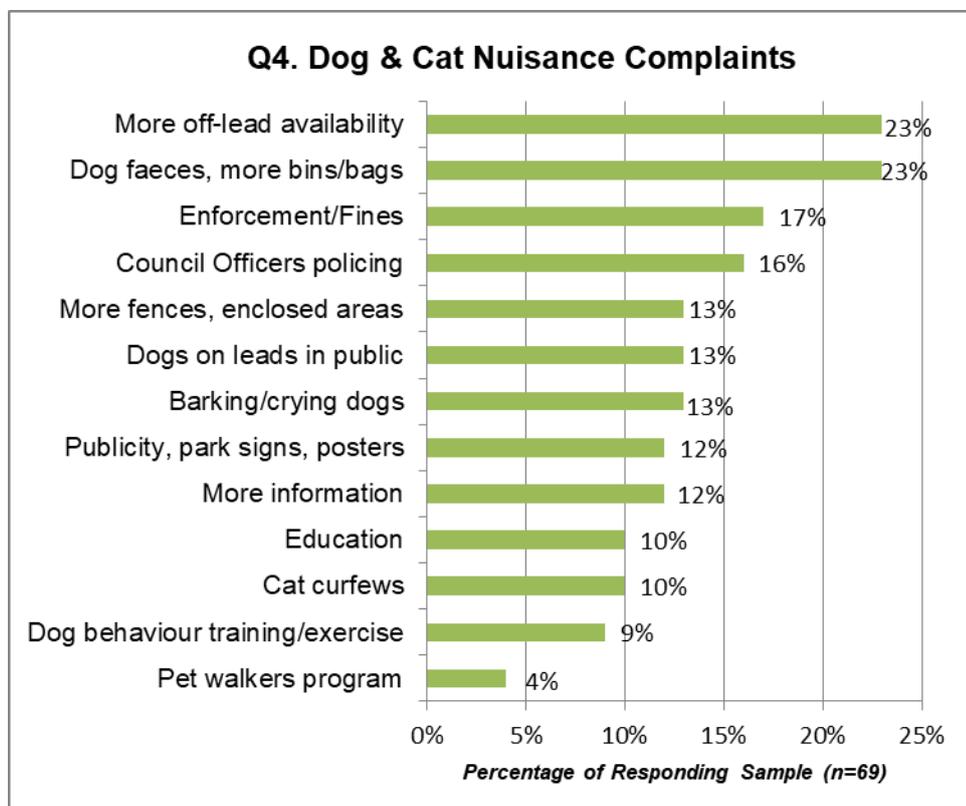


2.4 Dog and Cat Nuisance Complaints

Respondents were informed that “Council have a range of programs in place to minimise the potential for dogs and cats who create a nuisance. Nuisance complaints can relate to barking dogs, dogs being off lead in on lead areas, dogs not being under effective control in off lead reserves, dogs not being contained to a property, dog faeces not being collected, cats trespassing, unowned or feral cats and more”; and asked whether they had any ideas or suggestions about how Council could reduce dog and cat nuisance complaints.

Responses were provided verbatim and coded for presentation in the following chart.

In total 69 people provided an answer to reducing nuisance complaints with responses concentrated around More off-lead availability, dog friendly areas/events, More bins in parks or bags provided for dog faeces, Enforcement or fines for breaching rules, Visible presence of Council Officers, More fences or enclosed areas, Dogs being on lead in public, What to do about barking/crying dogs, Better park signage and publicity about rules, More information for and Education of pet owners, Policing cat curfews and Supporting dog behaviour/training.

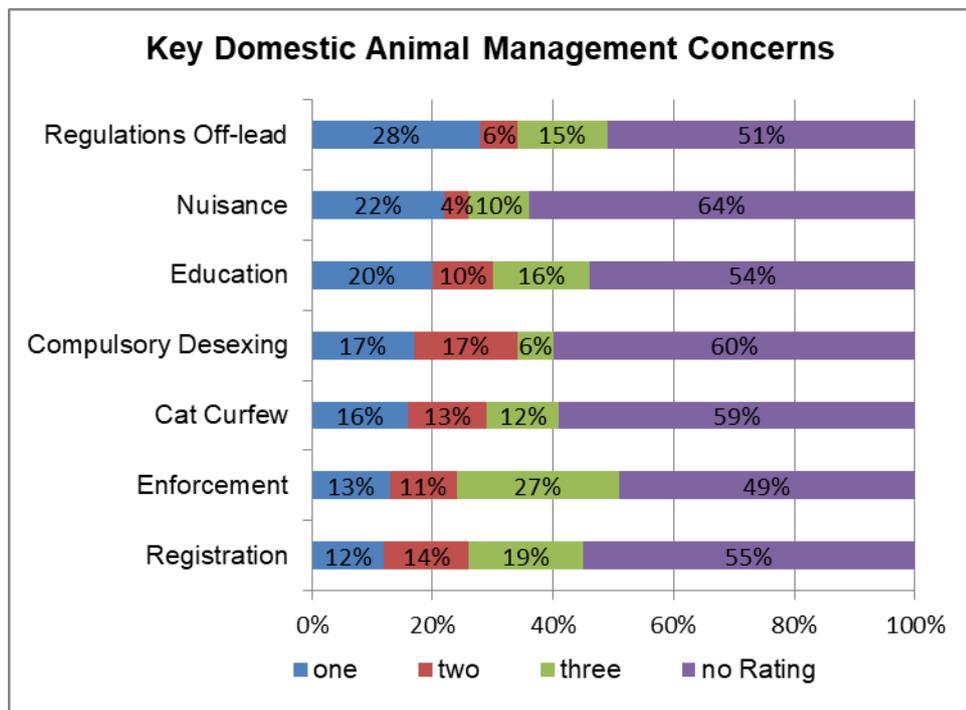


2.5 Domestic Animal Management Concerns

Respondents were provided with a list of 7 options and asked for their three key domestic animal management related concerns. The following chart shows the percentage of respondents ranking each option from 1 to 3 and the percentage not ranking each option. The chart has been ranked on the percentage of the sample ranking a particular option first.

Enforcement was rated by the most respondents (51%) as a key domestic animal management concern, followed by Regulations on off-lead areas (49%), Education (46%), Registration (45%), Cat curfew (41%), Compulsory desexing (40%) and Nuisance (36%).

In all instances except for the concern - Enforcement, the percentage of respondents ranking an option from 1 to 3 was lower than the percentage not ranking the option/concern, which potentially means that the domestic animal management options were not significant concerns to this sample.



Appendix A:

Questionnaire

City of Whitehorse

CONSULTING THE COMMUNITY – Have your say

Councils in Victoria are required by legislation to prepare and implement a Domestic Animal Management Plan every four years. Whitehorse City Council supports this strategic approach and is now commencing work on the 2017-2021 Plan.

We are now seeking community feedback and ideas on the very topic of Domestic Animal Management, in particular cats and dogs.

The Domestic Animal Management Plan for 2017-2021 will provide the framework for animal management services for the next four years and will consider matters such as:

- How important pets are to people who live in Whitehorse
- Concerns you may have about animal related matters
- Ideas and resources to assist residents to manage and care for their pets
- Dogs in parks and reserves
- Suggestions that ensure animals and people live together harmoniously
- How well information provided by council about pets and animal management addresses your needs

The survey will take you approx. 15 minutes to complete. We appreciate your time and input.

The survey will close on Friday 30 June, 2017.

If you require further information or you would like to receive a paper copy of the survey, please contact Danielle Pepyat, Compliance Department on 03 9262 6333 or email: Danielle.Pepyat@whitehorse.vic.gov.au.

1. What best describes the type of household you live in?

- I live on my own
- I live with my partner
- I live with my partner and children/child
- I live alone with my children/child
- Something else that better describes your family situation?

Please tell us here

2. Which best describes your ownership of cats and dogs?

	0	1	2	3	More than 3
Desexed Dogs	<input type="radio"/> Desexed Dogs 0	<input type="radio"/> Desexed Dogs 1	<input type="radio"/> Desexed Dogs 2	<input type="radio"/> Desexed Dogs 3	<input type="radio"/> Desexed Dogs More than 3
Undesexed Dogs	<input type="radio"/> Undesexed Dogs 0	<input type="radio"/> Undesexed Dogs 1	<input type="radio"/> Undesexed Dogs 2	<input type="radio"/> Undesexed Dogs 3	<input type="radio"/> Undesexed Dogs More than 3
Desexed Cats	<input type="radio"/> Desexed Cats 0	<input type="radio"/> Desexed Cats 1	<input type="radio"/> Desexed Cats 2	<input type="radio"/> Desexed Cats 3	<input type="radio"/> Desexed Cats More than 3
Undesexed Cats	<input type="radio"/> Undesexed Cats 0	<input type="radio"/> Undesexed Cats 1	<input type="radio"/> Undesexed Cats 2	<input type="radio"/> Undesexed Cats 3	<input type="radio"/> Undesexed Cats More than 3
Do not own a cat or dog	<input type="radio"/> Do not own a cat or dog 0	<input type="radio"/> Do not own a cat or dog 1	<input type="radio"/> Do not own a cat or dog 2	<input type="radio"/> Do not own a cat or dog 3	<input type="radio"/> Do not own a cat or dog More than 3

3. Registration and identification

Council aims to ensure that all domestic dogs and cats across Whitehorse are registered. This helps to make sure that pets can be returned quickly to their owners should they ever become lost.

Do you have any ideas or suggestions to encourage pet owner to register and/or identify their dogs and cats with Council? Please write in the box below. (200 words max)

4. Dog and cat nuisance complaints

Council have a range of programs in place to minimise the potential for dogs and cats that create a nuisance. Nuisance complaints can relate to barking dogs, dogs being off lead in on lead areas, dogs not being under effective control in off lead reserves, dogs not being contained to a property, dog faeces not being collected, cats trespassing, unowned or feral cats and more.

Do you have any ideas or suggestions about how Council could reduce dog and cat nuisance complaints? Please write in the box below. (100 words max)

5. What would your three key Domestic Animal Management related concerns be?

	1	2	3
Regulations on off lead areas	<input type="radio"/> Regulations on off lead areas 1	<input type="radio"/> Regulations on off lead areas 2	<input type="radio"/> Regulations on off lead areas 3
Nuisance	<input type="radio"/> Nuisance 1	<input type="radio"/> Nuisance 2	<input type="radio"/> Nuisance 3
Cat curfew	<input type="radio"/> Cat curfew 1	<input type="radio"/> Cat curfew 2	<input type="radio"/> Cat curfew 3
Compulsory desexing	<input type="radio"/> Compulsory desexing 1	<input type="radio"/> Compulsory desexing 2	<input type="radio"/> Compulsory desexing 3
Education	<input type="radio"/> Education 1	<input type="radio"/> Education 2	<input type="radio"/> Education 3
Registration	<input type="radio"/> Registration 1	<input type="radio"/> Registration 2	<input type="radio"/> Registration 3
Enforcement	<input type="radio"/> Enforcement 1	<input type="radio"/> Enforcement 2	<input type="radio"/> Enforcement 3

Appendix B:

Verbatim Comments and
Data for Q1, 2 & 5

Q3 Registration and identification. Council aims to ensure that all domestic dogs and cats across Whitehorse are registered. This helps to make sure that pets can be returned quickly to their owners, should they ever become lost. Do you have any ideas or suggestions to encourage pet owner to register and/or identify their dogs and cats with Council? Please write in the box below. (200 words max)

Answered: 51 Skipped: 46

- 1 reduction in registration fee if submitted by a certain time 6/30/2017 2:08 PM
- 2 Regular reminders. 6/27/2017 10:23 AM
- 3 Promote benefits 6/24/2017 2:58 PM
- 4 people coming into the Shire & renting with their animals, would it be possible for Real-estate agents to have a clause in their contract re registration - must be implemented before taking up residence. 6/24/2017 12:15 PM
- 5 discount for multiple pets, concession for the elderly etc. 6/23/2017 4:02 PM
- 6 Offer free desexing with every registration. (Many people would be too poor to pay for desexing.) Without desexing, we simply add to the animal management and welfare issues as animal fights and unwanted litters result. 6/21/2017 12:50 AM
- 7 keep registration fees low! Issue tags each year. Give an initial warning rather than a straight fine if not registered/not wearing tag (dogs) 6/20/2017 3:47 PM
- 8 Provide fenced off lead dog areas. You expect community support yet provide only one fully fenced dog off lead area. 6/19/2017 12:34 PM
- 9 AM and PM patrols and spot checks for dogs. No idea for cats 6/16/2017 4:32 PM
- 10 Demonstrate an understanding of the welfare needs of pets and their humans by providing good quality services for dogs. This would include: 24 hour accessible off-lead parks within 1 km of all residents, more off-lead parks, off-lead parks specifically designed to be interesting for dogs (not just boring ovals), and more interesting off-lead walking trails that are not also high speed bike paths. 6/15/2017 2:17 PM
- 11 Zero charge for registering pets. What are the registration fees used for? To my knowledge the Council has no dedicated off lead, enclosed dog park unlike Banyule & Manningham Dogs have to share most parks with sports clubs that heavily use the facilities leaving dog owners to the dawn and after dark time slots. Dogs can be unpredictable (like people) - there is no guarantee they are under owner command all the time, if at all! 6/10/2017 1:09 PM
- 12 Can't really think of anything except to maybe impose a hefty fine if an animal is found and is unregistered. 6/10/2017 10:24 AM
- 13 Removal of pet for failure to comply with regulations. 6/10/2017 12:30 AM
- 14 Justify the registration fees. Publicize the services (if any) that council provides to pet owners. 6/9/2017 10:07 AM
- 15 Impose large fines or horribly increase their property council rates each year based on the number of substantiated nonregistered animal. 6/8/2017 3:54 PM
- 16 Substantial fines for non-compliance. 6/7/2017 1:44 PM
- 17 If possible, offer a sample bag of dog/cat food for each animal registered? Animals found not registered incur a fine. 6/6/2017 12:42 PM
- 18 All good 6/5/2017 3:55 PM
- 19 We no longer own any dogs but have owned a number over the years and always found it logical/simple to register them with you just in case they escaped :(Maybe give all pet shops, vets and pet supermarket aisles in Whitehorse a poster and forms for registration, explaining the benefits of registration 6/5/2017 3:37 PM
- 20 My dog is registered. This question has nothing to do with having a say, it's your problem. Suggest you look at what other councils do. For question 5 my key concern is provision of facilities for dogs and their owners. 6/5/2017 1:28 PM
- 21 Council could share some good stories about pets being returned or publish how the funds collected from pet registration is being spent on pet related spaces or activities 6/3/2017 1:40 PM
- 22 Na 6/3/2017 9:30 AM
- 23 Offer incentives for registering - vouchers for pet stores, discounts for people who continually register on a yearly basis 6/2/2017 3:38 PM
- 24 Publish on social media the benefits of registering and micro chipping the dogs and cats 6/2/2017 11:26 AM
- 25 Free/cheap microchipping and vaccination days. 6/2/2017 12:21 AM
- 26 The current registration procedure seems to work 6/1/2017 4:12 PM
- 27 I think that the council does a good job of encouraging owners to register their animals. Discounted registration for desexed animals etc. Positive actions when animals are collected for any reason, and they are registered, perhaps advertising this? Information with rates notices? Online information, social media etc. 6/1/2017 3:17 PM
- 28 I think an information campaign to encourage registration so that they don't lose their beloved pets in case of wandering off in a fright. And Existing Microchipping technology likely helps or council to keep updated with latest methods. 6/1/2017 12:41 PM
- 29 Discount voucher at a local vet (as agreed with Council) for immunisation of pet/s. Voucher for purchase of pet food from local Vet or Supermarket. 5/31/2017 5:58 PM
- 30 Make a law that when purchasing an animal that the registration fee of any animals could be included in the purchase price & must be forwarded to the council. 5/31/2017 2:57 PM

31 I believe your current plan makes it impossible for owners to register their pets for the first time if they aren't desexed. Some owners don't want to put their pets through the stress and associated risks of anaesthetic and then the invasive desexing procedure if they don't see a need to e.g. they only have 2 female dogs, or 2 dogs of the opposite sex but one is already desexed or sterilised (a different, less invasive procedure) and never intend to breed them. Also it is not advisable to desex some animals e.g. giant breed dogs. There may be other reasons why owners don't wish to desex their pets, without breeding being one of these. This should be a personal choice and owners shouldn't be forced to choose between desexing or not registering and therefore breaking council law. I have lived in several councils in Victoria and this is the first time I've heard of this being a requirement. Usually there's just a higher fee to register an un-desexed pet which is much more reasonable. 5/30/2017 9:26 PM

32 In partnership with local vets you could offer discounted vet fees 5/30/2017 9:23 PM

33 make it sound more like it's a win for the owner (e.g. easy to identify if pet goes missing) instead of a revenue raising method. Don't make it so expensive for animals that are not desexed....kittens and puppies should be 6 months old before they are desexed. That means that they are likely to be unregistered for the first six months on their lives as it's too expensive to register them if they're not desexed. 5/30/2017 3:29 PM

34 Make it free if you pay rates and taxes...you get nothing for paying per registration costs. 5/30/2017 2:55 PM

35 Allow prorata registrations - we found it off putting to look at having to pay a year's registration for our puppy with one month of the year to go. Also have paperwork more readily available through vets or a quick process to be able to register through your Whitehorse vet. OST people go to a local vet so this should be an easy process as part of your initial vet visit for a new pet. 5/30/2017 12:47 PM

36 Get the SMS reminder number correct!! Don't blame the resident for something that Whitehorse can't do right! 5/29/2017 9:43 PM

37 I register our dog so if he gets lost he can be bought home to us so I don't understand why others wouldn't. Perhaps a lesser cost? 5/29/2017 8:45 PM

38 Perhaps, providing information to the general community about how this process actually protects the pets, themselves, in the event of becoming lost or stranded. 5/29/2017 2:02 PM

39 Perhaps introduce a partnership between council and the large pet supply shops like PetBarn and PetStock so that each time registration occurs, the owner can take the paid notification to the store to get a new tag made if needed. The tag would have registration number, name of dog and mobile phone number of the owner engraved on the disc. The plastic tags which council send out cannot be removed and placed on a new collar. The metal discs can. 5/28/2017 3:39 PM

40 To encourage cat regos, drop the yearly fee. Cats do not cost the council nearly as much revenue as dogs if they are registered, desexed and microchipped. What are registration fees actually used for with cats? 5/28/2017 3:26 PM

41 Initial free registration of all pets. Ensure that people understand what the registration money is being used for. 5/28/2017 12:16 PM

42 Collection fee from pound is increased for unregistered dog/cat. Further, sales of animals should have a regulation to include registration. 5/27/2017 1:19 PM

43 Education about why it's in the best interests for the animal. Better discounts for having dog properly obedience trained. \$1 is the discount for all that effort. Not worth it. 5/27/2017 12:42 AM

44 people in our area use Facebook to share pics of dogs found, often returned to owners before council comes to collect dog 5/26/2017 12:51 PM

45 Free micro chipping 5/26/2017 12:07 PM

46 Surely the microchip has sufficient details to return any lost dog thereby doing away with the need for registration 5/25/2017 9:46 PM

47 Owners feel that microchips provide a safer/quicker way to identify lost pets. Registration tags are frequently lost, so are not a reliable identifier. Need to feel we get something for our money. Whitehorse should provide dog poo bags/bins at dog parks like other councils do. Perhaps a "welcome pack" for new puppies/kittens when registered which contains e.g. pet treats, a Whitehorse dog lead, cat bell/collar. 5/25/2017 9:34 PM

48 Possibly a reduction in registration costs but I do believe the majority of pet owners are happy about pet registration 5/25/2017 8:39 PM

49 Reduce fees make process easier. The system crashed twice when I tried to register. 5/25/2017 4:47 PM

50 Get some sponsors to donate gifts, e.g. Pat Barn, and everyone that registers that month goes into a draw for a \$40 voucher, the sponsor get free advertising to a targets group, you get people eager to be a part of it 5/25/2017 4:37 PM

51 Keep the fees low. Stop increasing the fee annually for no reason. Cats need their rego linked to microchip as they are hard to keep collars on 5/25/2017 4:23 PM

Q4 Dog and cat nuisance complaints. Council have a range of programs in place to minimise the potential for dogs and cats that create a nuisance. Nuisance complaints can relate to barking dogs, dogs being off lead in on lead areas, dogs not being under effective control in off lead reserves, dogs not being contained to a property, dog faeces not being collected, cats trespassing, unowned or feral cats and more. Do you have any ideas or suggestions about how Council could reduce dog and cat nuisance complaints? Please write in the box below. (100 words max)

Answered: 69 Skipped: 28

RESPONSES DATE

- 1 Cat curfew, dog faeces bins emptied more regularly 6/30/2017 2:08 PM
- 2 Wandering cats in and around the Blackburn Creek lands and near our residence - I can only think of better publicity and more enforcement. Also dogs off leash in in the Creek lands would certainly be reduced if there was occasional policing and fines – the word would soon spread! 6/27/2017 1:18 PM
- 3 Provide more resources for the existing programs. Increase ease of access to information for pet owners. 6/27/2017 10:23 AM
- 4 The council needs to be given more power to take effective action steps in dealing with complaints. I have been complaining about a barking dog for years and while the council sometimes fines the owners, there doesn't seem to be anymore that can be actually done about this. It is incredibly frustrating when it seems the owners are getting away with having a nuisance dog. Council needs greater powers to make the owners comply. The council also needs to patrol Heatherdale Reserve for the numerous dog owners who walk their dog off lead. Just this morning my son and I were confronted by a barking off lead dog on the way to school through that park. The owner did nothing even though my son was scared. 6/26/2017 1:44 PM
- 5 Educate about responsible pet ownership, especially being mindful of those who have never owned pets 6/24/2017 2:58 PM
- 6 dog faeces- Cootamundra walk has a bin, why can't Elmhurst basin have one on Elmhurst Road, truck passes there to pick up household rubbish on Monday, tired of seeing plastic bags of dog droppings thrown anywhere around this area. As for on lead parks they are not policed to my satisfaction. 6/24/2017 12:15 PM
- 7 better education for residents and potential to offer more off lead availability / dog friendly areas / events 6/23/2017 4:02 PM
- 8 I would strongly recommend setting up a rule about NOT allowing raising a middle/big size dog in the apartment, especially for those non-trained dogs. 6/22/2017 1:23 PM
- 9 Free desexing would reduce problems and save money and time for Council and ratepayers (e.g. dealing with strays, and unwanted litters of kittens). 6/21/2017 12:50 AM
- 10 Better signage at Parks Some level of enforcement or presence of council officers at times when public are walking dogs or active in parks 6/20/2017 10:56 PM
- 11 Keep child play areas fenced in (not like at Beckett Pk) and dog owners will keep dogs out more easily Allow more lead free areas for dogs More bins - and more poo bag dispensers - in parks available for collecting dog poo 6/20/2017 3:47 PM
- 12 Nuisance behaviour stems from lack of socialisation. Fence some off lead areas so socialisation can occur. 6/19/2017 12:34 PM
- 13 posters in relevant areas (parks, shopping areas, community sites, vets). Information about services available and how to find information. 6/18/2017 2:08 PM
- 14 Stop dogs from barking no matter what time day or night or for how long. It's unbelievable that owners allow their dogs to bark and not think it annoys their neighbours. 6/16/2017 9:10 PM
- 15 Provide better off lead facilities. Council to be more positive to animal ownership like Manningham instead of grudgingly tolerant of pets and focussing on regulation and punishment. How about some positive programs. How about better support for dog behaviour training. 6/16/2017 4:32 PM
- 16 Provide accessible and high quality off-lead parks for dogs, so owners can exercise them sufficiently. As above, this includes: 24 hour accessible off-lead areas within 1 km of all residents, and interesting walking trails that are not dominated by bicycles. 6/15/2017 2:17 PM
- 17 Dogs on leads at all times in public Except off leash parks so designated Especially active sporting ovals Signage on oval fence access points. 6/14/2017 5:51 PM
- 18 Actually have officers patrolling parks and fining people who don't have effective control, which is at least 90% of them. 6/13/2017 8:47 PM
- 19 More completely enclosed areas for dogs. There are a number of parks that could be adjusted at low cost RHL Sparks Reserve, Mont Albert Reserve, Springfield Park, Elgar Park More bins in parks for dog waste. 6/10/2017 1:09 PM
- 20 Make more off lead areas in Whitehorse. We have to take our dogs over to Manningham for them to be able to run off lead. That way you wouldn't get so many complaints from people who very rarely use these areas when they do see a dog off lead because of a sign. Also you make it too hard to report a nuisance barking dog. To have to keep a 24 hour diary of the times a dog barks for a while week is impossible. 6/10/2017 10:24 AM
- 21 Impounding of a dog immediately on notice of an unprovoked attack or justified high-level nuisance complaint. Take the animal out of the scene as is done in Tasmania, as I understand it. 6/10/2017 12:30 AM
- 22 Provide more poo bins and even supply bags such as other councils do. 6/9/2017 10:07 AM
- 23 Make more off-lead areas for dog owners to avoid complaints. Make anonymous on-line reporting for nuisance, then investigate and impose large fines/rates increases for 'serial offenders' 6/8/2017 3:54 PM
- 24 I am sorry but I don't understand your questions and how to answer them below 6/7/2017 4:39 PM
- 25 Implement 24 hour cat curfew. No cats to be off lead in public places or other resident's private property. Substantial fines for non-compliance. Cat to be put down for second offence. 6/7/2017 1:44 PM

26 Owners keep pets confined and tagged. Had numerous birds killed by cat/cats and cat droppings in garden. If owners were identified by their pet/s tags matter could be followed with them. 6/7/2017 10:26 AM

27 Fines, fines and more fines. The fine money goes to organisations who look after strays, such as the Mark's Arc - Box Hill North. 6/6/2017 12:42 PM

28 encourage neighbours to talk to each other first in a kindly way. If no resolution talk with officers together. More control over dogs running onto cycle paths in uncontrolled way. 6/5/2017 9:14 PM

29 I'm a dog loving bike rider using Shared Paths regularly. IMHO The only effective/enforceable control is a dog on a 1.5m lead within 5ms of the major Shared Paths (Koonung, Gardiners, and Bushy). Bike Strategy is all about STRESS. LEASHED Dogs=No STRESS. Enforcement officers need to be out on weekends & other peak times - not 9 to 5. By Laws need tightening - 1.5m lead, Dogs 25m in sight & in front of owners. My human right to safe passage is greater than my dogs right to be unleashed on a Shared Path 6/5/2017 3:55 PM

30 I'm a bike rider using Shared Paths regularly. IMHO The only effective/enforceable control is a dog on a 1.5m lead within 5ms of the major Shared Paths (Koonung, Gardiners, and Bushy). Bike Strategy is all about STRESS. LEASHED Dogs=No STRESS. Enforcement officers need to be out on weekends & other peak times - not 9 to 5. By Laws need tightening - 1.5m lead, Dogs 25m in sight & in front of owners. 6/5/2017 3:37 PM

31 Why is this survey weighted towards attracting complaints? Why don't you ask what dog and cat owners NEED for paying their registration? As above look at what other councils do. 6/5/2017 1:28 PM

32 Publish guidelines and advice for owners and neighbours. Letterbox drop this. For example I don't know what do when the neighbours cats annoy our dog 6/3/2017 1:40 PM

33 More dogs off leash parks that are fenced, dogs on leash on and near shared paths - bikes and off leash dogs don't mix 6/3/2017 9:30 AM

34 There are dogs barking all day, presumably because their owners are absent during the working week. Unfortunately I don't have a solution. 6/2/2017 7:52 PM

35 Educate where possible, encourage dog obedience training. For dog waste provide bins with plastic bag dispensers in areas where owners frequent with their dogs. 6/2/2017 3:38 PM

36 More enforcement of the bylaws, dogs are often off lease in Bellbird dell and in the streets around Vermont, owners rarely pick up the faeces. Don't see any council officers enforcing the bylaws. 6/2/2017 11:26 AM

37 * Establish fenced lead-free parks for dogs using Melbourne Water reserves already fenced off. * Fence off NW side of Gardiners Creek Reserve near Deakin as a secure lead-free area with gates for the through paths.(would be cheap and easy to do) * Specify that dogs must be on a lead within 15 m. of ANY shared path in Whitehorse parkland. * Make all parks with major shared paths dog-on-lead e.g. Gardiners Creek, Koonung Creek, Bushy Creek * Enforce lead laws proactively rather than reactively 6/2/2017 11:22 AM

38 More bins for dog poop would be great. 6/2/2017 12:21 AM

39 Provide more bins along trails so we can dispose of dog poo properly. Provide bag dispensers along trails 6/1/2017 9:32 PM

40 Heavy fines to owners who do not clean up after their dogs when identified & reported. 6/1/2017 4:12 PM

41 I am not sure that they can be reduced as such. Surely these complaints only happen when the incidents occur? Perhaps council could make the public more aware of how many complaints and the type are actually made to the council? I have to admit to not hearing anything about these complaints. Papers? Social media? Website? 6/1/2017 3:17 PM

42 Bring in a policy of cats being enclosed at all times. This would eliminate the injury and death of native animals and birds. Cats hunt in the day as well as the night. I have watched a pregnant ringtail possum being attacked in her nest by the cat next door. Also the blue tongue lizards being attacked. If you really care about our local wildlife enclosing the cats at all times would eliminate these terrible things from happening as well as enable me to work in my garden without having to remove the cat faeces before I plant. Have bylaws officers at the entrance to Yarran Dheran to fine the people who don't believe the dogs on leads applies to them. 6/1/2017 1:11 PM

43 I would develop a register of volunteer walkers/collectors to take DNA testing swabs of any dog faeces which have been freshly left out by irresponsible dog owners. The testing part of this idea has worked in the UK and fines are reducing this harmful environmental problem which significantly impacts on the health of community and ecosystems. Lonely dogs are a problem in our area. They cry and cry every day and it's awful to know that humans aren't providing for their needs. What about starting a simple online registry type service that might link volunteer pet lovers who would be happy to walk and interact with lonely housebound dogs? I realise there would be risks but perhaps they could develop trust in pet minders. 6/1/2017 12:41 PM

44 Council should introduce laws so that cats are contained to their owner's property at all times (24 hour curfew, as in the Yarra Ranges), so that they are not a nuisance (e.g.: using the neighbours garden as a "litter" tray, not spraying on neighbours property) to neighbouring properties or a threat (during day light hours) to local wild life: e.g.: native birds. 5/31/2017 5:58 PM

45 In relation to barking dogs make a 1 dog only per property rule. In circumstances that someone is minding/looking after someone else's dog that they have to have a short term permit stating the length of stay of the dog. Should not have to approach a neighbour to complain about their dog barking as this creates a bad position for both parties. As for keeping a log book on what times & how many times the dog barks is extremely unreasonable & impossible - who has the time to write down every minute or second the problem dog/s barks? No one is available from the council to take a call about a barking dog late at night during times when people go & have a lovely evening out only to let others put up with THEIR BARKING DOG. Should be more patrols not only in the day but also late at night especially during summertime to check people have & carry more than 1 doggy bag for faeces & they actually are using them. Also should be patrols for dogs being walked off leads around streets which I see happening frequently. Random night checks to ensure cats are in by 8.00pm. 5/31/2017 2:57 PM

46 Re off-lead dogs, have council officers visit on and off-lead areas randomly at busy times and warn/advise people who may be doing the wrong thing. 5/31/2017 1:57 PM

47 Maybe clearer signage. We live around Bushy Creek Park between Dorking & Station Street; people rarely have dogs on lead. Patrols after hours around 6 - for those walking dogs after work 5/31/2017 9:02 AM

48 A lot of the time, dogs will bark creating a nuisance because they are bored. Some owners will lock them indoors e.g. in the garage while they're at work. I don't think a lot of residents, many from countries where animals aren't regarded very highly, realise that their dogs are more than just protection for their property and need stimulation e.g. walks, not to be locked up in the dark etc. Also cats need to be housed indoors at all times, not just because it's the law but also because they are safer that way (from each other - that's how cat AIDS are spread - and from cars and people looking to steal them), along with native wildlife. I would like to see the council educating residents about the right way to treat their pets, which would also lead to less pet related nuisance. 5/30/2017 9:26 PM

49 Supply bags at off lead parks such as Gardiners Creek like the city of Darebin, amongst others, do 5/30/2017 9:23 PM

50 work together with the owners creating a step by step plan to change their pet's behaviours and make a mend with the complaining neighbours. 5/30/2017 3:29 PM

51 No 5/30/2017 2:55 PM

52 Have more off lead areas available for dogs. More bins & have plastic bag dispensers in parks to encourage picking up dog faeces. 5/30/2017 12:47 PM

53 Perhaps you could work with the owners of dogs who incessantly bark. I live next door to dogs who continually bark but their owners insist that it does not happen. Without, once again, or continually reporting them, I am not sure how you can help us. 5/29/2017 10:04 PM

54 No 5/29/2017 9:43 PM

55 More off lead dog parks would reduce the dogs being off lead issue however the others not too sure 5/29/2017 8:45 PM

56 Perhaps, providing the general community with information reiterating the benefits of registered pets among society. Generally, most people are responsible pet owners, and our lives are enhanced by the existence of animals. People who dislike other people's pets engaging in NORMAL animal behaviour are generally unenlightened. Increased education surrounding normal animal behaviour would be beneficial. 5/29/2017 2:02 PM

57 Could council start a dog matching service? Match lonely people, with dogs who are alone all day to go and walk them or just keep the dog company. 5/28/2017 3:39 PM

58 Council needs to offer training services and lending out of equipment such as citronella spray collars. There isn't any practical advice on how to prevent / stop issues. Increased education and activities around walking and exercising pets. 5/28/2017 12:16 PM

59 Have better pet facilities which are fenced. It would encourage people to take their dogs there. Also, have automatic fining on complaints like EPA litter campaign. 5/27/2017 1:19 PM

60 More enclosed off lead areas. There aren't enough. Dogs need variety. Not just the same place every day. We also need them enclosed or well away from roads, bike paths etc. People need more awareness / notification that dogs should be on lead at all times, unless at home or in a designated off lead area. Dog owners think that if there is no sign stating that dogs should be on lead that they are free to take them off. The rules aren't clear. 5/27/2017 12:42 AM

61 have some seminars for people work with local groups to promote best practise ownership; training interesting speakers on dog...Boorandara have a dog training school. Encourage one to start up. Need to create more off lead areas, so dogs can exercise properly, they become better socialised less likely to be problems....have lights at sports grounds at night that can be turned by users on so women feel safer exercising dogs in winter...dog owners are the best regulators, look at Mont Alb Res, it's the dog walkers that share ideas and enforce people picking up after their dogs, sociability expectations...stop thinking about spaces as sports space, they are open spaces for everyone...encourage schools to keep educating people about dogs and respecting them 5/26/2017 12:51 PM

62 Provide effective fenced areas for off lead areas. Regular maintenance of dropped rubbish in neighbouring college property e.g. lunch wrappings that lures dogs away from off lead area. 5/26/2017 12:25 PM

63 Provide better off lead areas for dogs rather than the poor excuse for such as currently provided. Perhaps if some of our resources were spent on things other than sporting facilities we would all be better for it 5/25/2017 9:46 PM

64 Provide Dog poo bags & bins in parks to encourage poo pick-ups. All dog off-lead areas should be fenced - even highly trained dogs can run off if e.g. if frightened. I am yet to find the council's definition of "effective control", but even the best behaved animal can under "effective control" 100% of the time. More designated off-lead areas - there is obviously a demand for this given the number of dogs being off lead in on lead areas. 5/25/2017 9:34 PM

65 Dog poop bags available in off leash areas and bins emptied more often 5/25/2017 8:39 PM

66 3 strikes policy? 5/25/2017 5:55 PM

67 Send owners who register with council information about responsible pet ownership, some poop bags or a cat toy etc. 5/25/2017 4:47 PM

68 there are not many complaints around here. You should encourage people to exercise their dogs properly; this makes them better behaved, less likely to bark, more sociable and less likely to annoy others, so make more areas off lead. It is a shit survey because I can't write other things.... 5/25/2017 4:37 PM

69 I made a complaint about a non-stop barker and all it did was make things worse. Neighbour now hates us. Council did bugger all and I get left feeling like an animal hater when I really love dogs. Council needs to be proactive and get the owner to act. Encourage owner to exercise dog, offer training programs for dog and idiot owner. 5/25/2017 4:23 PM

Q1 What best describes the type of household you live in?

Answered: 97 Skipped: 0

11.34% 11
23.71% 23
50.52% 49
5.15% 5
9.28% 9
TOTAL 97

ANSWER CHOICES RESPONSES

I live on my own
I live with my partner
I live with my partner and children/child
I live alone with my children/child
Something else that better describes your family situation Please tell us here

Q2 Which best Describes your ownership of cats and dogs?

Answered: 97 Skipped: 0

13.04% 9 62.32% 43 23.19% 16 1.45% 1 0.00% 0 69 2.13
69.23% 18 19.23% 5 11.54% 3 0.00% 0 0.00% 0 26 1.42
34.09% 15 40.91% 18 25.00% 11 0.00% 0 0.00% 0 44 1.91
100.00% 20 0.00% 0 0.00% 0 0.00% 0 0.00% 0 20 1.00
73.91% 17 8.70% 2 8.70% 2 0.00% 0 8.70% 2 23 1.61
Desexed Dogs
Undesexed Dogs
Desexed Cats
Undesexed Cats
Do not own a cat or dog

Q5 What would your three key Domestic Animal Management related concerns be?

Answered: 94 Skipped: 3

56.52% 26 13.04% 6 30.43% 14 46 1.74
61.76% 21 11.76% 4 26.47% 9 34 1.65
39.47% 15 31.58% 12 28.95% 11 38 1.89
42.11% 16 42.11% 16 15.79% 6 38 1.74
44.19% 19 20.93% 9 34.88% 15 43 1.91
26.19% 11 30.95% 13 42.86% 18 42 2.17
25.53% 12 21.28% 10 53.19% 25 47 2.28

Regulations on off lead areas
Nuisance
Cat curfew
Compulsory desexing
Education
Registration
Enforcement