

Feral or Infant Companion Animals Management Policy

1 Document Information

Version Date <i>(Draft or Council Meeting date)</i>	22 May 2018
Author	Senior Environmental Services Officer
Owner <i>(Relevant director)</i>	Director of Environmental Services
Status – <i>Draft, Approved, Adopted by Council, Superseded or Withdrawn</i>	Adopted by Council
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Minute number <i>(once adopted by Council)</i>	18/05/20

2 Summary

Where companion animals which are seized or received under the Act are assessed as being “feral” or “infant” they may be humanely euthanised prior to the end of the required holding period as determined by the Companion Animals Act 1998.

3 Approvals

Title	Date Approved	Signature
Director of Environmental Services		

4 History

Minute No.	Summary of Changes	New Version Date
14/03/16	First adopted	18 March 2014
18/05/20	Readopted as per s165(4)	22 May 2018

5 Reason

To establish guidelines for dealing with feral or infant companion animals and, in particular, aim to safeguard staff from the possible risks posed by feral animals.

6 Scope

This policy applies to all feral or infant companion animals that are received into Council's custody.

7 Associated Legislation

Companion Animals Act 1998

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979

Version Date: [22 May 2018]

NSW Animal Welfare Code of Practice No. 5 – Dogs and Cats in Animal Boarding Establishments

Work Health and Safety Act 2011

8 Definitions

The Act – Companion Animals Act 1998

'Feral' Animal – means wild, or existing in a state of nature and showing no signs of domestication.

'Infant' Animal - the very young offspring of an animal, which is unable to feed or fend for itself.

9 Responsibilities

9.1 General Manager

The General Manager is responsible for the overall control and implementation of the policy

9.2 Director Environmental Services

To ensure that staff adhere to this policy.

9.3 Senior Environmental Services Officer

To ensure that the Ranger has the training and support required to carry out the requirements of this policy

9.4 Ranger

The Ranger is responsible for the enforcement of this policy.

9.5 General Public

The general public must act in accordance with this policy and any abide by any determination made as a result of this policy.

10 Related Documents

Document Name	Document Location
Companion Animals Management Plan	In draft

11 Policy Statement

Where companion animals which are seized or received under the Act are assessed as being “feral” or “infant” they may be humanely euthanised prior to the end of the required holding period as determined by the Companion Animals Act 1998.

Validation

- Feral animals have no prospect of re-homing
- Feral animals may pose a health and/ or safety risk to the officer required to care for it
- To confine a feral animal would cause stress and an unacceptable level of cruelty
- Infant animals are unable to be adequately cared for by the facility as outlined in the Code of Practice
- Infant animals are unlikely to be rehomed after the required holding period

- To keep an infant animal to a stage where it may be rehomed would consume vast resources over a period of six to ten weeks.

Legislative Requirement

Section 64 of the Companion Animals Act 1998 allows that a seized animal, including surrendered animals that have not been claimed, may be sold or destroyed by Council if a relevant notice has been given and the animal has been held by Council for the required time.

Section 64(2) of the Companion Animals Act 1998 does make provision for the management of these feral and infant companion animals in that, “the council may, in accordance with any policy that has been adopted by the council in relation to the management of feral or infant companion animals, destroy the seized or surrendered animal concerned before the end of any such period referred to in subsection (1)”.