

Companion Animals Advisory Committee Meeting Record 28 July 2020



Location:	Zoom Meeting	
Date:	28 July 2020	
Time	Started at: 2.18pm	Closed at: 3.12pm
Chair	Councillor Greg Best	
File Ref	F2019/00998	

Present:

Councillor Greg Best, Cllr Jilly Pilon (left 3.12pm), Allan Benson, Louise Harding, Velma Harris, Greg Kelman, Te're Melrose

External Representative present:

Marilyn Jurlina – SOCARES Animal Care Facility Charmhaven, Deanna Walton – Central Coast Animal Care Facility

Council Staff present:

Beth Burgess – Unit Manager Libraries Learning and Education, Brian Jones – Unit Manager Environment and Certification, Grant Foster – Section Manager Community Safety, Warren Murphy – Section Manager Contracts and Projects, Jen Desrosiers – Team Leader Community Education, Jen East – Community Education Officer, Kelly Drover – Advisory Group Support Officer

Item 1 Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country and Apologies

Apologies received: Councillor Jillian Hogan, Councillor Jeff Sundstrom, Terrie Lynn

The Chairperson, Councillor Greg Best declared the meeting open and completed an Acknowledgement of Country and Connection to Land Statement.

Item 2 Disclosures of Interest

The Chair called for any Disclosures of Interest.

No disclosures were received.

Item 3 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Record

The Advisory Group confirmed the Meeting Record from 28 May 2020 with an amendment that Allan Benson was listed as an apology however he was in attendance at the meeting.

Item 4 Educational Programs

This item was held off till last and the presentation was provided after quorum was lost, therefore staff provided an informal presentation to the Advisory Group and no minutes or actions were recorded.

Item 5 Update on Cat Control Methods

Brian Jones (Unit Manager Environment and Certification) discussed the response dated 3 July 2020 from NSW Office of Local Government regarding cat controls.

Recommendation: The Advisory Group recommends that Council acknowledge the letter received from NSW Office of Local Government regarding cat controls and request that they pursue further amendments to the Companion Animals Act to impose restrictions on cats to ensure they stay on the property in a similar manner to dogs.

Item 6 Draft Central Coast Council Policy for Keeping of Animals

Brian Jones (Unit Manager Environment and Certification) gave an update on the Draft Central Coast Council Policy for Keeping of Animals and the Community Consultation process to be undertaken.

Item 7 Animal Foster Care Programs

Warren Murphy (Section Manager Contracts and Projects) discussed the briefing note that had been circulated to the Advisory Group on Animal Foster Care Programs.

In regard to the following comment in the briefing note, Velma Harris would like it noted that this is incorrect, it was actually a scared little puppy.

On 28 May 2020, the Companion Animal Advisory Committee was provided a photograph of an animal enclosure at the Erina facility that had a visual barrier attached to the gate. The visual barriers are on all enclosures to reduce agitation and stress on animals due to the activities of managing the facility. The photograph was on a dangerous/aggressive dog enclosure and has the impact of calming an otherwise aggressive animal.

The Advisory Group discussed concerns regarding the Erina Facility and a dog which recently died following a C-Section. There was a Council Investigation and RSPCA investigation and the facility was cleared.

The Advisory Group discussed the need for an educated team of foster carers to be available for both the Erina and Charmhaven facilities

Warren provided the following statistics for the two facilities in 2019:

	Animals rehomed	Animals transferred from council to Contractors
Erina	772	22
Charmhaven	457	383

Action: Staff to provide a report at a future meeting on what Animal Fostering looks like on the Central Coast, what is been done now, what needs to happen in the future and options for resourcing that.

Item 8 General Business and Close

The Advisory Group discussed the Federal Government Inquiry into Domestic and Feral Cats. Allan Benson advised he has put a submission in. The closing date is 14 August 2020. Brian and Allan to discuss further.

Recommendation: The Advisory Group recommend that Council complete a submission into the Federal Inquiry into Domestic and Feral Cats.

The Advisory Group discussed concerns around stray cats and the pounds not accepting cats.

Action: Staff to bring a report back to the next meeting on impounding requirements and reasonable expectations under the Companion Animals Act and Council responsibilities of a Council run facility.

Action: Community Education Staff to arrange for a Communication Pack to be sent to all Advisory Group Members including animal care facilities.

Action: The following items to be included on the next agenda:

- What is the definition of a feral cat?
- Upper House Inquiry - Prevention of Cruelty to Animal Act 1979 (POCTA Act)
- Resourcing of current facilities and status of Regional Facility
- Clarification on Council's responsibilities and duties in regard to roaming and nuisance dogs.

With the departure of Councillor Pilon at 3.12pm, in accordance with Section Three of the Terms of Reference, there were insufficient voting members present and the meeting could not proceed due to a lack of quorum.

All items except Item 4 had been discussed. The Advisory Group decided to remain online and receive an informal presentation from staff on this item.

The meeting closed at 3.12pm

Next Meeting: Thursday 29 October 2020
4.30pm – 6.30pm
Location TBC