

Companion Animals Advisory Committee Meeting Record 27 February 2020



Location:	Central Coast Council Wyong Office Level 1 Committee Room 49 Mann Street, Gosford	
Date:	27 February 2020	
Time	Started at: 4.10pm	Closed at: 5.43pm
Chair	Councillor Jeff Sundstrom	
File Ref	F2019/00998	

Present:

Councillor Kyle MacGregor (arrived 4.21pm), Councillor Jeff Sundstrom, Allan Benson, Velma Harris, Greg Kelman, Terrie Lynn, Te're Melrose

External Representative present:

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

Council Staff present:

Brian Jones – Unit Manager Environment and Certification, Grant Foster – Section Manager Community Safety, Warren Murphy – Section Manager Contracts and Projects, Donna Payne Advisory Group Support Officer

Item 1 Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country and Apologies

Apologies received: Councillor Greg Best, Councillor Jillian Hogan, Scott Cox, Jamie Loader, Boris Bolgoff, Nicole Cooper

Councillor Jeff Sundstrom, as chair, welcomed the Advisory Group and completed an Acknowledgement of Country.

Item 2 Disclosures of Interest

The Chairperson called for any disclosures of interest.

No disclosures were received.

Item 3 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Record

The Advisory Group confirmed the Meeting Record of 10 October 2019.

The Action Log was reviewed.

Item 4 Fostering of Companion Animals (Action 4)

Velma Harris discussed the poor condition of the holding facilities for impounded pets on the Central Coast and provided information that she had gathered from successful fostering programs in other areas. This information was distributed to the committee for review.

Environment and Certification staff advised the committee members that responsibility over the holding facilities is not within Council's scope as they are private organisations. The Council is responsible for the impounding of animals, then they are handed over to contractor.

It was noted that cats are handled in a different manner depending on whether they are a stray or being surrendered, this is left up to the individual facility to decide.

Action: The information that Velma Harris regarding the successful fostering of animal's campaign to be forwarded to Brian Jones for review.

Action: Staff to report back to the committee on the requirements for impounding cats and provide a description of the relationship between council and contractors regarding responsibilities.

Item 5 Update on Cat Curfew (Actions 5 and 6)

Councillor Best requested the committee review wording that he has proposed in support of a National approach to a managing feral cats in the form of a National Cat Curfew. Councillor Best is asking Council to request staff "to craft a suitable motion acceptable to the national general assembly that reflect these sentiments" and is seeking the committee's support in this matter.

The Companion Animal Advisory Committee supports the notion of a National Cat Curfew, although during discussion the follow points were raised:

- The importance of education for community cat owners
- The effectiveness of a cat curfew was questioned at the state level
- How would a cat curfew be policed?

Allan Benson gave a presentation on the impact and threat that feral and wandering cats impose to wildlife on the central coast. A copy of the presentation is attached.

Action: Staff to prepare an update on 'cat information' that is available to be reviewed at the next meeting. This update should include what potential there may be to utilise the database for notification to the community using social media and text messaging.

Item 6 Office of Local Government Discussion Paper – Review of Impounding Act 1993

Attachment: 19-30 Review of Impounding Act 1993 and Release of Discussion Paper

It was noted that a review of the Impounding Act 1993 is underway, and this can be reviewed online. There is no impact on dogs and cats, this review relates to larger stock.

Item 7 Consideration of Priorities for 2020/21 Budget (Action 10)

The following topics were noted for discussion:

- Safety of pets and their handlers in public (reports & statistics, aggression, off-lead, escaping, faeces)
- Council Registration (education, de-sexing and change of ownership)
- Community Education
- Dog Parks / Off leash areas (maintenance, enforcement of laws, signage and utilisation of the areas)
- Ranger stray services
- Accommodation for impounded pets (environmental stimulation & wellbeing)
- Pets to be fostered

Action: Staff to report back to the committee on the current status of designated dog parks for review at the next committee meeting.

Item 8 General Business and Close

Brian Jones reported that Council adopted a report to the 24 February 2020 meeting that will further review of the need for a new animal care facility. An external consultant will be engaged to work on the concept. The location of the new facility was discussed, i.e.: one centralised facility and/or separate facilities in north and south locations.

Action: Committee members to contact Grant Foster to conduct a review of the reporting procedure of complaints in relation to dogs.

Action: The Committee request that Council consider giving more resources for Rangers.

Action: Advisory Group Support Officer to follow up the sharing of committee members contact details.

The meeting close at 5.43pm.

Next Meetings: **Thursday 28 May 2020**
 4pm – 6pm
 Central Coast Council Wyong Office
 Level 2 Committee Room

Wednesday 8 July 2020
4pm – 6pm
Central Coast Council Gosford Office
Level 1 Committee Room