



COUNCIL PROGRESS REPORT

Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council (Internal)

TOPIC
TITLE:

Woorabinda Animal Welfare and Control

DATE: 27 May 2024

Topic Overview: Working towards Community compliance and safety with WASC animal management local laws.

Progress:

- Delegation of Council Authorised Officers under the Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008
- AMRRIC – Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities report and education program. Positive response by domestic pet owners to Local Law compliance.
- RSPCA welfare contact for community education animal welfare program.
- Recruiting Animal Management Facility Officer and Compliance Officer
- Current vet clinic progress demonstrated in AMRRIC report attachments – low body score and parasites.

Plans:

Short Term – 1 month

- Review of relevant Local Laws
- Create community education programs
- Update WASC website with animal control information and impound
- Recruit 1-2 Compliance Officers
- Vet clinic 1st Tuesday of the month

Medium Term – 3 months

- Compliance Officer training – Authorised Officer and microchipping
- Enforcement commences
- Community education continues – AMRRIC and RSPCA programs
- Support from Traditional Owners, Police and Pet Rescue Groups
- New vet clinic facility
- Funding for Council animal parasitic treatment program

Long Term – 6 -12 months

- Dog/Cat steralisation rates 70-90%
- Pet registration and microchipping 90%+
- Vet clinic reduced to every 4 months
- Animals contained to registered premises and under effective control
- Community support with self-managing domestic pets
- Effective education programs continue
- Low rates of incident and welfare reports

Problems:

- Safety and Change Management – backlash from Community and safety concerns for Compliance team once enforcement commences
- Local laws require updating
- Training for new staff required to become Authorised Officers
- Animal Management Facility has 6 kennels – limited with pet impounds
- No cat impound facility
- Vet clinic procedures room is currently the water treatment room – waiting on grant funding for new facility build. WHS health issues.
- Pet rescue availability

Key Information:

- AMRRIC conducted a 3-day door to door census with Community. Positive feedback from most residents wanting to be compliant with Local Laws.
- Council to review Local Laws prior to Community Education program to ensure best practice in Community.
- Enforcement and investigations to have a community education and support focus rather than penalty infringements.
- Department of Housing will support tenancy breaches if any residents not complying to Council Local Law direction.
- Any enforcement action sits with the compliance team and not the Environmental Health Worker and Animal Management Facilities Officer who deliver community education and support.

Conclusion: Council to consult on best practice to control the current issues with animal management in community in a staged and educated approach.

Carmen Taylor

Quality and Compliance Manager

Attachments: AMRRIC Census Reports – Dogs and Cats

