

Policy Title	Management of Feral and Infant Companion Animals
Related Documentation	DocSet: 3520603 – Form – Infant Animal Assessment Form DocSet: 3520597 – Form – Feral Cat Assessment Form DocSet: 2468330 – Procedure Document – Euthanasia of Impounded Animals. DocSet: 2241642 – Procedure Document – Impounding Animals DocSet: 2535841 – Procedure Document – Housing Impounded Animals Risk Identification (R1011ACF) Euthanasia of Animals Risk Identification (R1012ACF) Disposal of Dead Animals
Relevant Legislation/ Corporate Plan	<i>Companion Animals Act 1998</i> – S64& 64A; Guideline on the Exercise of Functions under the <i>Companion Animals Act 1998</i>
Responsible Officer	Manager City Standards and Compliance and Animal Care Facility Team Leader

Policy details may change prior to review date due to legislative changes, therefore this document is uncontrolled when printed.

Objectives

To authorise the humane euthanasia of seized, abandoned or surrendered feral and infant companion animals before the end of any statutory holding periods in certain circumstances, as prescribed in the Policy Statement and as permitted under Section 64 (2) of the *Companion Animals Act 1998*.

Policy Statement

The policy provides for the assessment and management of Feral and Infant Companion Animals that are not deemed either suitable for re-homing or practical to retain for humane or other reasons at Council's Animal Care Facility (ACF).

Feral and infant companion animals may not be practical to retain at Council's ACF for various reasons such as:

- Biosecurity risk
- Animal health or behavioural issues
- Humane reasons
- Care requirements.

Scope

The policy provides for the assessment and management of Feral and Infant Companion Animals that are not deemed either suitable for re-homing or practical to retain at Council's Animal Care Facility (ACF).

DATA AND DOCUMENT CONTROL

Division: City Development
Section: City Standards and Compliance
DocSet: 3829666

Adopted Date: 08/04/2014
Revised Date: 11/06/2019
Minute Number: 096
Review Date: 30/06/2021

Definitions

1. **Companion Animal** means a dog or cat and any other animal that is prescribed by the *Companion Animals Act 1998* regulations as a companion animal
2. **Feral** means wild or showing no signs of domestication but does not include any companion animal that is micro chipped or wearing a collar
3. **Infant** means a companion animal that appears to be under 8 weeks of age
4. **Euthanasia** refers to the euthanasing procedure administered by Council's authorised veterinary surgeon in accordance with Procedure Document DocSet: 2468330 Euthanasia of Impounded Animals.

Legislative Context

The *Companion Animals Act 1998* at Section 64(2) provides for the humane euthanising of feral or infant animals prior to the end of the statutory holding periods if there is an adopted Council policy in place to do so. This policy has been developed to comply with that provision.

Principles

1. Feral companion animals

Feral cats may be euthanised at any time prior to the expiration of the statutory holding period providing the requirements of this policy are observed and documented evidence of this is recorded by the ACF Team Leader or a delegated officer on a feral cat assessment form.

Upon receiving the animal at Council's ACF, a feral cat assessment form (DocSet: 3520597) is to be completed to document and justify the assessment of the animal as feral.

2. Infant companion animals

Prior to euthanising an infant companion animal, all reasonable and practical steps shall be taken by the ACF Team Leader or a delegated officer to ascertain:

- a) if the infant is in good health and able to be cared for and if so
- b) if there is a suitable lactating animal at the Animal Care Facility that is able to adopt and care for the infant or
- c) if there is an alternative care arrangement (for example an arrangement with a foster carer that is associated with an approved Rescue Group) that is able to be implemented immediately to accept responsibility for, and deliver an appropriate level of care to, the infant.

Infant companion animals may be euthanised prior to the expiration of the statutory holding period if the requirements of this policy, as indicated at (a) – (c) above, are observed and documented evidence of this is recorded by the ACF Team Leader on an infant animal assessment form.

Upon receiving the infant animal at Council's ACF, an Infant Animal Assessment form (DocSet: 3520603) is to be completed to document and justify the assessment of the animal as an infant.

Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the Animal Care Facility Team Leader or delegated officer to administer this policy.

Effectiveness of this Policy

The policy will be administered in accordance with the *Companion Animals Act 1998* to manage the infant and feral companion animals received by the Animal Care Facility.

END OF POLICY STATEMENT