



| | |
|---|---|
| Policy Title | Management of Feral and Infant Companion Animals |
| Related Documentation | Form – Infant Animal Assessment Form Form – Feral Cat Assessment Form Procedure Document – Euthanasia of Impounded Animals. Procedure Document – Impounding Animals 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 the Animal Care Facility Operations Lead |

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* (the Act).

Policy Statement

This 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.

Feral and infant companion animals may not be practical to retain at Council’s Animal Care Facility for various reasons such as:

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

Scope

This 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.

DATA AND DOCUMENT CONTROL

| | | |
|---|---|---------------------|
| Division: City Planning and Environment Section: City Standards and Compliance Record No: CDO-23/809 | Adopted Date: 08/04/2014 Revised Date: 07/11/2023 Minute Number: 284 Review Date: 30/06/2027 | Page: 1 of 3 |
|---|---|---------------------|

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
5. **Statutory Holding Period** means the minimum period of time an animal specified under the Act is to be held at the Animal Care Facility.

Legislative Context

Section 64(2) of the Act provides for the humane euthanasing of feral or infant animals prior to the end of the relevant statutory holding period 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 Animal Care Facility Operations Lead or a delegated officer on a feral cat assessment form.

Upon receiving the cat at Council's Animal Care Facility, a feral cat assessment form (DocSet: 3520597) is to be completed to document and justify the assessment and the determination of the feral classification of the cat.

2. Infant companion animals

Prior to euthanasing an infant companion animal, all reasonable and practical steps shall be taken by the Animal Care Facility Operations Lead 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 possibility 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 Animal Care Facility Operations Lead on an infant animal assessment form.

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

Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the Manager City Standards and Compliance and the Animal Care Facility Operations Lead, or delegated officer, to administer this Policy.

Effectiveness of this Policy

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

END OF POLICY STATEMENT