

# Companion Animal Re-homing

PROCEDURE 4.3.2(c)

POLICY NO AND TITLE	<b>4.3.2</b>	<b>Companion animal management policy</b>
PROCEDURE	4.3.2(c)	Companion animal re-homing
VERSION AND DATE ADOPTED	1	12 August 2003
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER		

## Introduction

This Policy is concerned with Council's role in the re-homing of companion animals in the Shire. It is consistent with Council's commitment to ecologically sustainable development.

## Aim

The aim of this Policy is to ensure that companion animal owners and others enjoy the benefits of companion animals, whilst protecting against the problems caused by irresponsible animal ownership and the nuisance or threatening behaviour of uncontrolled or aggressive animals. This will be achieved by planning and management measures to accommodate the needs of companion animals and their owners whilst recognising the varying needs of community members in relation to companion animal management.

## Objectives

The objectives of this Policy are to:

- Reduce the number of intact animals re-homed from Council's Companion Animal Pound
- To facilitate and achieve permanent changes in community perception and behaviour towards responsible pet ownership

## Definitions

"**Authorised officer**" means a person authorised by the Council to exercise the powers of an authorised officer under this Policy.

"**Companion Animal**" has the same meaning as in the Companion Animals Act 1998 and includes cats and dogs.

## Application

The Companion Animals Act 1998 provides that if an animal is not claimed within seven (7) days (or fourteen (14) days if the owner of the animal is known) of its seizure then Council may sell or destroy that animal.

This Policy only applies to Companion Animals available for sale by Council from the Companion Animals Pound at Wallagoot and does not relate to companion animals that are returned to their owners.

## **Mandatory de-sexing**

Upon selection of suitable companion animals for re-homing from Council's Companion Animals Pound, Council will offer the animal for sale. The dog or cat shall only be resold by Council if proof of the dog or cats de-sexed status can be demonstrated or if prospective purchasers or re-homing agencies arrange to have the dog or cat de-sexed.

Council authorised officers will deliver intact dogs or cats that have been purchased to a veterinary service of the purchasers choice. The de-sexing of the animal will then be undertaken by the veterinarian and all costs associated with that de-sexing will be met by the purchaser of the dog or cat upon collection of the companion animal following the de-sexing procedure.

## **Re-homing fees:**

Council may set a fee for the sale of companion animals pursuant to the provisions of Section 608 and 609 of the Local Government Act, 1993. The fees and charges associated with the re-homing or sale of the companion animal are ordinarily advertised in Council's Management Plan each year. The fees advertised and adopted by Council for 2003 / 2004 will require amendment to exclude the cost of de-sexing. Council's re-homing fee shall include microchipping and lifetime registration costs only.

## **Unsuitable companion animals for re-homing**

Council recognises that a large proportion of cats and dogs that are impounded have good natures and are suitable for re-homing to caring homes. It is, however, also recognised that some animals are not suitable for re-homing and as such re-homing will not be considered in these circumstances. The types of animals that will be considered unsuitable for re-homing include:

- dangerous or savage dogs,
- diseased, aged or infirm cats or dogs,
- feral, stray or aggressive cats or dogs,
- animals of a poor nature or disposition such as those exhibiting aggression,

Council's Ranger staff and other authorised staff will select companion animals at the conclusion of the statutory pound time that are considered suitable for re-homing within input from other agencies as required.

## **Obligations of companion animal purchasers**

Council has an obligation to ensure that re-homed animals are cared for within a caring and safe environment. People wishing to re-home an animal from Council's pound shall satisfy Council that the animal will be kept in an environment suitable to the animals needs, eg appropriate housing and fencing.

Council urges all potential purchasers of companion animals from Council's Companion Animal Pound to think carefully before offering a home to any animal. Re-homing of a pound animal takes dedication, time and money to provide the animal with the correct home and environment. It is recognised that this commitment is for the life of that animal which in some cases can be many years.