

Management of Feral/Infant Companion Animals

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| Date | September 2016 |
| Council Resolution Date | 27 February 2017 |
| Clause Number | CCL17/6 (WSC17/3) |
| Responsible Position | Manager Environmental Control |
| Branch | Environmental Control |
| Division | Environmental Services |
| Version | One |
| TRIM Reference Number | ED17/34138 |
| Review Period | Every two years |
| Review Date | September 2018 |
| Consultation | Public consultation (from/to dates) |

| Document Revision History | |
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| Description | Date |
| Dubbo City Council Policy, Clause WSC14/58 | 23 June 2014 |
| Notes | |
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POLICY

PURPOSE

To manage the high numbers of feral and infant companion animals that come into the care of Council in a timely manner by permitting euthanasia where there are no alternative options.

BACKGROUND AND RELATED LEGISLATION

This Policy is in accordance with the provisions of the Companion Animals Act, 1998 (the Act), as detailed below:

- Subsection 64(5) of the Act which cites before destroying a seized or surrendered animal as authorised by Subsection 64(1) of the Act, it is the duty of the council concerned to consider whether there is an alternative action to that of destroying the animal and (if practicable) to adopt any such alternative; and
- Subsection 64(2) of the Act which cites the council may, in accordance with any policy that has been adopted by the council in relation to the management of feral or infant companion animals, destroy the seized or surrendered animal concerned before the end of any such period referred to in Subsection 64(1) of the Act.

SCOPE

The policy applies to infant and feral companion animals that are seized by, or come into possession of Council.

DEFINITIONS

To assist in the interpretation of this Policy, the following definitions apply:

| Term | Definition |
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| Infant animal | An animal less than eight (8) weeks of age |
| Feral animal | An animal in a wild or untamed state |
| Companion Animal | A dog, cat or other animal as defined by the Act |
| Associated organisation | Animal welfare organisations and like-minded community groups (which are sometimes referred to as 'rescue groups') |

POLICY

In line with the provisions of the Companion Animals Act 1998, Council will take the most appropriate course of action in accordance with the following agreed outcomes:

1. To facilitate the humane euthanasia of feral and/or infant animals deemed unsuitable for re-homing, or where it is in the best interest for the welfare of the animal. In addition the

euthanasia of infant animals is permitted where resources do not allow alternate options to be considered.

The Manager Environmental Control, Shelter Supervisor or delegated representative may authorise such euthanasia prior to the legislated holding period being surpassed.

2. As it is Council's intention to comply with Subsection 64 (5) of the Act wherever possible, in the case of healthy infant animals and as resources permit, Council endorses that the animals be placed:
 - a. In temporary care with an RSPCA NSW sanctioned foster carer until such time as the animal's legislated holding period is surpassed; or
 - b. In temporary care of an eligible associated organisation until such time as the animal's legislated holding period is surpassed.

RSPCA or associated organisations/community groups that foster animals will be required to agree in writing that costs of care will not be Council's responsibility and that the organisation will ensure adequate traceability and monitoring of each animal for the duration of the legislated holding period.

RESPONSIBILITIES

This Policy is to be enacted by Environmental Control officers with all euthanasia to be conducted by appropriately qualified officers at the Dubbo City Animal Shelter or by qualified veterinarians.