



Snip it in the Bud!

Banyule Animal Management Team





About us!

- Urban Area
- 7-21 kilometres North East of Melbourne the CBD
- Covers 63 square Kilometres
- 20 Suburbs
- 2 Animal Management Officers EFT



Location





Initial Problems

- Overpopulation and Euthanasia- too many cats
- AVA Desexing vouchers- not utilised
- Low Socioeconomic areas- residents with no money or no transport



Initial Problems

- Lack of holding capacity in the pound to cater for the amount of cats- 5 councils utilising the same pound
- Officer time spent-cat trapping, collecting, complaints
- Emotional Impact



Issues

- majority of these are not owned and semi owned cats, owned cats being a minority of the issue
 - kittens being disposable and passed on in the same neighbourhood and then not being desexed
 - mainly dealing with female cats/ pregnant with kittens from day old
 - residents not taking responsibility or just the old excuse of “I want my child to see a litter born”
 - cat hoarders and the feeling that these people were doing good by saving cats/ kittens, when they were creating a bigger issue
 - there was no foster system for the cat pound
 - large amount of unhand able semi owned cats
- AVA Vouchers
 - not being utilised, still a cost involved and we found out that there was \$7,000 sitting in the budget not used for the



One kitten





The Start!

- New dog pound contract with RSPCA- we spoke of our cat problem and our wish to try and help Banyule cats.
- Our Wish list:
 - Free desexing for cats in our municipality
 - Free microchipping as well
 - Desexing done in the council area so residents didn't have to drive or find transport
- **\$7,000 in the budget-** this had not been utilised for the AVA Vouchers Scheme



And so.. desexing started

- AMO's did targeted door knocks around our problem areas- the low socio economic areas were dropped flyers in the West Heidelberg and Heidelberg Heights areas.
- “Mac” the RSPCA mobile animal care unit - came to Banyule- parked at our depot with a full compliment of staff
- The AMO's ran a courtesy bus for pick up and drop off- to and from the mobile clinic



How it works



- **Advertising-** the local paper, Banyule newsletter for all residents, social media eg Facebook, waiting list and word of mouth
- **Customer Service-** email us the information of details of owner, number of cats and contact details
- **Animal Management** – call them back get further details of cat/ cats eg sex, breed, colour, age and name of cat
- **Data Inputted** -by AMO's and emailed to vet
- **Vet-** books cats in to suit their schedules

Mac- Mobile Animal Care Unit



News spread far and wide!





Feedback

- Diane Burkhalter (animal rights activist)- working in conjunction with Just Cats Tasmania on a submission for \$600,000 for a mobile desexing clinic for Tasmania
- La Trobe University Cat Adoration Team
- Pound Reform Alliance Australia
- Various Rescue Groups within Victoria
- Other municipalities within Victoria and Interstate
- Local Residents
- Geelong Advertiser Newspaper
- Animal Welfare League SA

Evaluation: Impound figures



Financial Year	Impounded Cats	Impounded Kittens	Banyule Total of Cats and Kittens	Euthanized	Reclaimed By Owner	*Like Council Total of Cats and Kittens Impounded
2010-2011	463	541	1004	578	52	
2011-2012	436	390	826	434	nil	
2012-2013	311	85	396	138	23	766
2013-2014	298	61	359	84	24	766
2014-2015	319	162	481	87	37	995
2015-2016	393	94	487	82	65	884
2016-2017	366	120	486	102	51	858

Evaluation for Problem Areas



Heidelberg Heights (3081)		
2012	11	19
2013	11	12
2014	17	10
2015	13	20
2016	30	16
Heidelberg West (3081)		
2012	17	39
2013	38	33
2014	26	8
2015	22	13
2016	37	29

Problem areas



- Heidelberg West and Heidelberg Heights.
- Distinguished by its socio-economic profile with high levels of disadvantage
- A large area of social housing and lower income young families
- High unemployment, low educational attainment
- High levels of crime, drug use and mental health issues
- Highest amount of cat/ kitten complaints smaller area
- Intake per 1000 residents = 2.7 for whole of Banyule; Heidelberg Heights 7.6 and Heidelberg West 11.9 (four times higher)

Outcomes



- **The Statistics-** targeted areas are more successful
- **Mobile Clinic-** after hours emergencies for cats with issues after surgery v's local Vet practises
- **Legislation-** focus on desexing and overpopulation v's registration
- **Logistics of Courtesy Bus-**
 - Officer time and still had day to day duties/ complaints
 - 12 hour days

Current Situation



- Approximately 540 cats/ kittens desexed to date
- We run 2 sessions per year- April/ August (before kitten season)
- Each cat is desexed, microchipped and now registered.
- All cats participating in this program are now fully owned- increasing the ownership responsibility

Other Important Links



- **Domestic Animal Management Plan**
 - Signed off by Council
 - Ongoing commitment for funding for the desexing program
- **Know Your Council Website**
 - Local Government Reporting on reclaim rates
 - Working in partnership with the pound to increase reclaim



Where to from here?

- **Extra funding**

Funding double from the original \$7,000 to \$14,000 and is now \$30,000

- **A refocus on target problem areas**

Back to basics with targeting Heidelberg West/ Heights and continue to snip it in the bud!

The number of found cat/ nuisance complaints recorded on customer Requests by suburbs

	Population	SEFIA* Rank - Index of relative advantage & disadvantage	Estimated number of semi-owned cats (100 cats/1000 residents)	Estimated number of desexing needed(at least 50%)	2016	Calls per 1000 residents
Heidelberg West	5545	830	555	277	80	14.4
Bellfield	1793	907	179	90	16	8.9
Heidelberg Heights	6087	981	609	304	56	9.2
Watsonia	5214	998	521	261	25	4.8
Bundoora	28653	1026	2865	1433	33	1.2
Briar Hill	3152	1040	315	158	5	1.6

Where to from here?



- **Increasing the number cats/ kittens desexed each program**
 - from 60 cats to 120 cats with council agreeing to further funding for another one or two sessions throughout the year.
- **Domestic Animal Management Plan**
 - great tool for achieving initiatives, using this as a living document not something that sits on a shelf as another dust collector

