

City of Darwin

Evidence Based Approach to Animal Management



Angie Heriot, Animal Policy and Education Officer.

Animal Management Team

- Executive Manager of Leisure & Regulatory Service
- Animal Management Supervisor
- 8 Authorised Animal Management Rangers
- 2 Animal Education Staff
- Pound Coordinator
- 2 Pound Attendants



Legislative framework for the Northern Territory/ City of Darwin.



Local Government ACT 2008



City of Darwin Council By-Laws 1994



Animal Management Policy 001 and



The Dog and Cat Management Strategy 2018-2022.



2018 Total Animal Management Complaints.

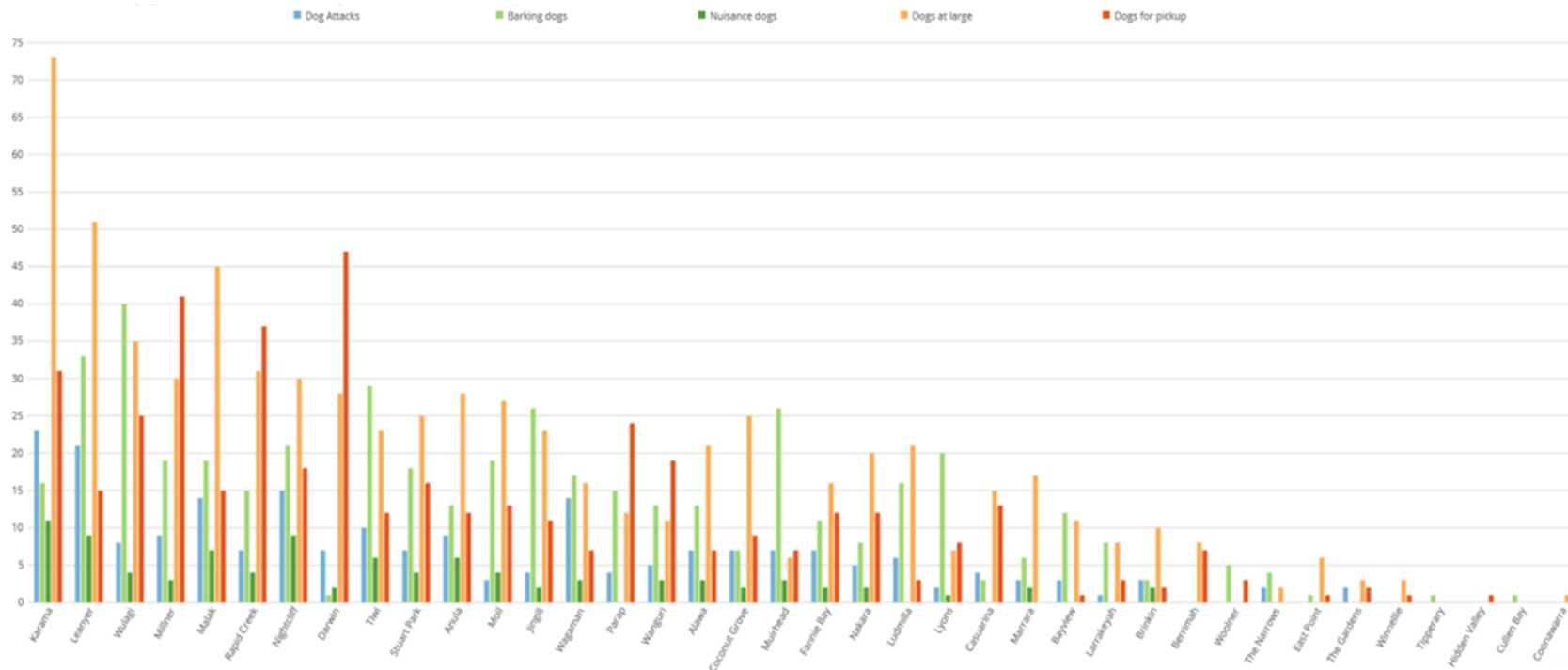
Animal management complaints during the 2018 calendar year:

- Dog Nuisance: 299
- Dog attack: 270
- At Large: 901



BY-LAW	OFFENCES FOR DOG INFRINGEMENTS	PENALTY	
63(1)	UNREGISTERED DOG	\$155.00	
64(1)	NO LICENCE TO KEEP DOGS AS REQUIRED	\$155.00	
66(1)	REMOVE IDENTIFICATION DEVICE	\$155.00	
67(1)	DOG AT LARGE	\$155.00	
68	ENTICEMENT OF DOG TO COMMIT OFFENCE	\$310.00	
70	DOG CHASES VEHICLE	\$310.00	
72	ABANDON DOG	\$310.00	
73 A(2)	FAIL TO RESPOND TO NOTICE OF IMPOUNDMENT	\$310.00	
65 (2)	DOG IN RESTRICTED AREA	\$155.00	
69 (1)	LEVEL 1 DOG ATTACK	\$930.00	
69 (1)	LEVEL 2 DOG ATTACK	\$775.00	
71(1)	DOG CAUSES NUISANCE	\$310.00	
69 (1)	SUBSEQUENT ATTACK WITHIN 12 MONTHS	\$1,085.00	
70A(2)	OFFENCE IN RELATION TO DOG DEFECATING	\$155.00	
63A (1)	FAIL TO COMPLY WITH CONDITIONS DOG REGISTRATION	\$310.00	
66A (1)	FAIL TO CONTAIN DOG	\$310.00	
BY-LAW	OFFENCES FOR CAT INFRINGEMENTS	PENALTY	
63(1)	UNREGISTERED CAT	\$155.00	
64(1)	NO LICENCE TO KEEP CATS AS REQUIRED	\$155.00	
67(1)	CAT AT LARGE	\$155.00	
63A(1)	FAIL TO COMPLY WITH CONDITIONS OF CAT REGISTRATION	\$310.00	

2018 Dog Offences - suburb



Evolution of the current Policy

- City of Darwin, Policy No. 001 - Animal Management was required to be updated as Council adopted the Dog and Cat Management Strategy (2018-2022) in April 2018.
- Evidence based review was completed to evaluate other jurisdictions across Australia to compare and review best practice/ develop a new standard of Animal Management within Darwin.
- The Policy has been strategically aligned with Council's Dog and Cat Management Strategy 2018-2022 and Animal Management By Laws.
- In addition the policy definitions, scope and related documents have been updated.
- Heavy consultation with key interest groups including rehoming groups, Animal Welfare and legal teams has been part of the consultation process.



Managing Community Expectation

The revised Policy now includes:

- Provision for safety and responsible pet ownership guidelines
- **Dog and cat registration/ license**
- **Nuisance barking- quantifiable criteria for assessing nuisance barking**
- Fence rushing and dog attacks
- Declared dogs
- Animals in public places
- **Dog exercise areas**
- Dogs defecating
- **Cat containment**
- Pound operations
- Cat Containment



Total Number of Animals

Council's reviewed policy will only consider a new licence application where:

- the total number of dogs at a residential premise does not exceed 3 and the number of cats does not exceed three. and the overall number of animals does not exceed 4.
- With the endorsement of the 4 animal total per property Council also updated the process of application review including:
 - Size of property (minimum lot size of 400m²)
 - adequate fencing to contain the animals
 - overall assessment of the premises as a suitable environment for the number of animals to be kept on that property
 - consultation with joining neighbours and surrounding properties
 - Complaint history, owner and animal
 - Consideration of animal species, breed and temperament.

When your landlord says no dogs allowed



National Comparison of Registration & Licensing

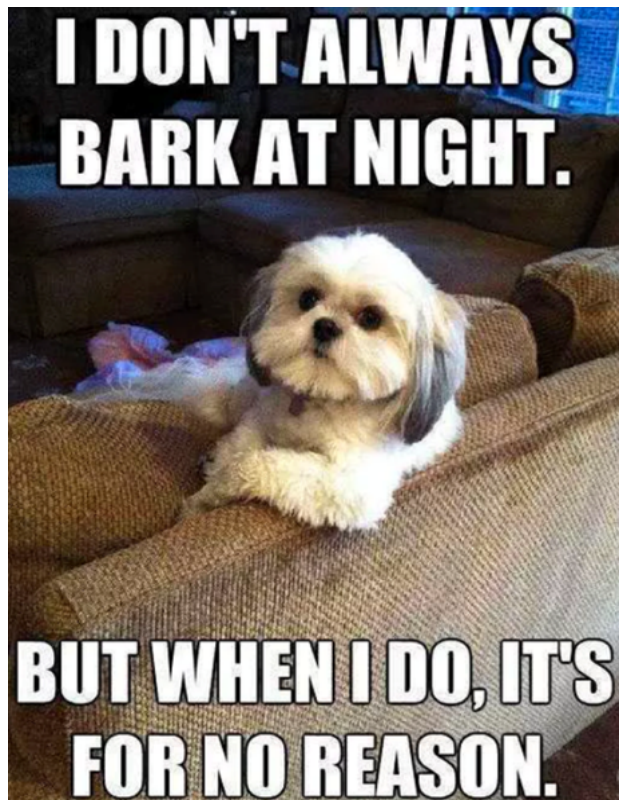
Totals

ATTACHMENT 4

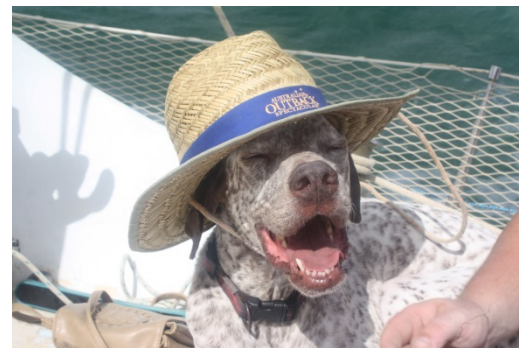
State & Territory	Council/ Local Government area/ region	Number of dogs allowed	total number allowed on a licence	Number of cat allowed	Total number of cats allowed on a licence	Comments
Northern Territory:	Darwin	2	5	2	5	
	Litchfield	4	Not Required	Not Required	Not Required	
	Palmerston	2	5	Not Required	Not Required	
Queensland:	Brisbane City Council	2	4	3	No Defined Limit	Application Process Applies
	Mackay Regional Council, Queensland	2	4	2	4	Application Process Applies
	Brisbane City Council	2	4	3	No Defined Limit	Application Process Applies
	Burdekin Shire Council	2	No Defined Limit	2	No Defined Limit	Council rarely issues approvals for additional dogs. Approvals may only be issued for an additional dog if extraordinary circumstances are deemed to apply.
	Cairns Regional Council	2	4	2	4	
	Logan City Council	2	3	2	4	Extensive application process 9- 25 animals permitted for breeders, kennels catteries etc.
	Noosa Council	2	No Defined Limit	2	No Defined Limit	Application Process Applies
	Rockhampton Regional Council	2	4	Not Required	Not Required	Cats are not required to be register however must be microchipped
	Surf Coast Shire	2	5	2	5	Application Process Applies
	Townsville Council	2	4	2	6	Application Process Applies
Western Australia:	City of Perth	2	0	No Limit	No Defined Limit	Unlimited amount of cats however WA has mandatory desexing
	Broome Regional Council	2	5	2	9	
	City of Busselton	2	4	2	No Defined Limit	Unlimited amount of cats however WA has mandatory desexing
	Shire of Carnarvon	2	2	No Limit	No Defined Limit	Unlimited amount of cats however WA has mandatory desexing
	City of Geraldton	2	4	No Limit	No Defined Limit	
	City of Joondalup	2	6	3	No Defined Limit	Unlimited amount of cats however WA has mandatory desexing
	City of Mandurah	2	6	No Limit	No Defined Limit	Unlimited amount of cats however WA has mandatory desexing
	City of Melville	2	3	No Limit	No Defined Limit	Unlimited amount of cats however WA has mandatory desexing
	City of Swan	2	6	2	No Defined Limit	Application is required for dogs, Council is keeping a record for more than 2 cats however no application process required.
	City of Wanneroo	2	4	3	No Defined Limit	Unlimited amount of cats however WA has mandatory desexing
	Shire of Wyndam/ East Kimberley	2	4	3	No Defined Limit	Unlimited amount of cats however WA has mandatory desexing
South Australia:	City of Adelaide	1	6	Not Required	Not Required	Application still applies for additional dogs, Cats do not need to be registered with this council
	City of Marion	2	No Defined Limit	Not Required	Not Required	Application still applies for additional dogs, Cats do not need to be registered with this council
	City of Onkaparinga	2	1	Not Required	Not Required	Application still applies for additional dogs, Cats do not need to be registered with this council
	City of Port Adelaide Enfield	2	6	Not Required	Not Required	Application still applies for additional dogs, Cats do not need to be registered with this council
	City of Prospect	2	4	Not Required	Not Required	Application still applies for additional dogs, Cats do not need to be registered with this council
	City of Salisbury	2	4	Not Required	Not Required	Application still applies for additional dogs, Cats do not need to be registered with this council
	City of Tea Tree Gully	2	No Defined Limit	Not Required	Not Required	Application still applies for additional dogs, Cats do not need to be registered with this council
	Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council	No Limit	No Defined Limit	Not Required	Not Required	
	Kangaroo Island Council	No Limit	No Defined Limit	2	No Defined Limit	Cat containment applies. Any additional animal requires a licence no limit of how many people can apply for.
	Mitcham Council	2	4	2	No Defined Limit	
	Yorke Peninsula Council	2	No Limit	Not Required	Not Required	Cats do not need to be registered with this council
Victoria	City of Melbourne	2	No Defined Limit	2	No Defined Limit	
	Baw Baw Shire Council	2	6	2	6	
	Banyule City Council	2	No Defined Limit	2	No Defined Limit	
	Brimbank Council	2	No Defined Limit	2	No Defined Limit	
	Buloke Shire Council	2	6	2	6	More than two animal licence required outside of township.



Nuisance Barking



By-Law 71 (1) : “a dog that makes a noise, by barking or otherwise, that persistently occurs or continues to such a degree or extent that it unreasonably interferes with the peace, comfort or convenience of any person in any other premises”.



State and Territory Local Governments and Animal Management restrictions and licencing

ATTACHMENT 5

State or Territory	Local Government area/ region	National Definitions of Nuisance Barking
Northern Territory	Darwin	A dog that makes a noise, by barking or otherwise, that persistently occurs or continues to such a degree or extent that it unreasonably interferes with the peace, comfort or convenience of any person in any other premises.
	Litchfield	A dog that creates a noise, by barking or otherwise, that persistently occurs or continues to a degree or extent that has a disturbing effect on the state of reasonable mental, physical or social well-being of a person; or repeatedly barks when people or vehicles use a public place in the vicinity of the premises where the dog is kept;
	Palmerston	A dog that creates a noise, by barking or otherwise, that persistently occurs or continues to a degree or extent that has a disturbing effect on the state of reasonable mental, physical or social well-being of a person;
Queensland	Brisbane City Council	In determining whether a nuisance has occurred, an authorised person can consider a number of factors. These include: Whether complaints have been received from multiple persons, occupying separate dwellings in the same or adjoining streets as the noise The frequency and intensity of the noise The time and duration of the noise, specifically where the noise is made for more than a total of 6 minutes in any hour from 7am to 10pm on any day where the noise is made for more than a total of 3 minutes in a 30 minute period at any time after 10pm and before 7am on any day
	Burdekin Shire Council	Council will investigate barking complaints. Barking is considered excessive if it occurs: •7am-10pm no more than six minutes of noise in any hour •10pm-7am no more than three minutes of noise in any 30-minute period



	Cairns Regional Council	<p>Some of the criteria that Council will consider when deciding whether a nuisance is unreasonable include:</p> <p>The number and location of complaints received</p> <p>The duration of the noise:</p> <p>more than 5 minutes in any 30 minute period between 10pm and 7am the next morning</p> <p>more than 10 minutes in any hour between 7am and 10pm that day.</p>
	Flinders Shire Council	Excessive noise is defined as noise that exceeds three (3) minutes accumulated time in any one (1) hour.
	Rockhampton Regional Council	Excessive dog barking is considered a noise nuisance if, in the opinion of an authorised person it unreasonably disrupts or inhibits an activity ordinarily carried out on residential premises.
	Townsville Council	If a dog barking exceeds six (6) minutes of accumulated time in any hour between 7am and 10pm, or, three (3) minutes accumulated time in any 30 minute period between the hours of 10pm and 7am, it is considered to be excessive.
	Logan City Council	If a dog barking exceeds six (6) minutes of accumulated time in any hour between 7am and 10pm, or, three (3) minutes accumulated time in any 30 minute period between the hours of 10pm and 7am, it is considered to be excessive.
Western Australia	<p>The following WA Councils all reference state Legislation:</p> <p>City of Bayswater, City of Wanneroo, City of Vincent, Town of Cambridge, City of Cockburn, Shire of Karratha, City of Wanneroo, City of Albany</p>	<p>Nuisance dogs</p> <p>For the purposes of this section, a dog is a nuisance if the dog —</p> <p>a) makes a noise, by barking or otherwise, that persistently occurs or continues to such a degree or extent that it unreasonably interferes with the peace, comfort or convenience of any person in any place; or</p> <p>b) is shown to be allowed to behave consistently in a manner contrary to the general interest of the community; or</p> <p>c) makes a noise, by barking or otherwise, that exceeds —</p> <p>(i) a prescribed noise level measured by a prescribed method over a prescribed period of time; or</p> <p>(ii) a prescribed number of times of occurrence during or over a prescribed period of time.</p>
	City of Gosnells	<p>Standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a dog barks for more than six minutes in any hour between 6am and 10pm on any day, • If a dog barks for more than three minutes in any 30 minute period between 10pm and 6am on any day, or • If a dog barks 240 or more times between 6am and 10pm, and 32 barks overnight.



New South Wales	<p>The following NSW Councils all reference state Legislation:</p> <p>City of Sydney, Monsaman Council, Wingecaribee shire Council, Bellingen Shire Council, Cessnock City Council, City of Parrmatta, Dungong Shire Council, Inner West Coucil</p>	<p>Nuisance dogs: makes a noise, by barking or otherwise, that persistently occurs or continues to such a degree or extent that it unreasonably interferes with the peace, comfort or convenience of any person in any other premises,</p>
South Australia	<p>The following SA Councils all reference state Legislation:</p> <p>City of Adelaide, Adelaide Plains Council, City of Salisbury, City of West Torrens, City of Port Lincoln,</p>	<p>A person who owns or is responsible for the control of a dog is guilty of an offence if the dog (either alone or together with other dogs, whether or not in the same ownership) creates a noise, by barking or otherwise, which persistently occurs or continues to such a degree or extent that it unreasonably interferes with the peace, comfort or convenience of a person."</p>
Victoria	<p>The following VIC Councils all reference state Legislation:</p> <p>Moreland City Council, Latrobe City Council, Baw Baw Shire Council, City of Greater Geelong, Borough of Gueenscliffe Council,</p>	<p>The Domestic Animals Act 1994 covers noise from dogs or cats. A dog or cat can be regarded as a nuisance if the animal creates a noise that persistently or continuously disturbs a neighbour. Barking dogs can also be considered unreasonable noise under Section 48A of the EP Act</p>

Nuisance Barking

The purpose of outlining a method or metric of measuring a standard of what may constitute nuisance barking was aimed to guide Council, Officers and community members to a more robust definition of nuisance barking.

The adopted review with National comparison, assessment of Noise Net and consultation with other jurisdictions may be defined as below:

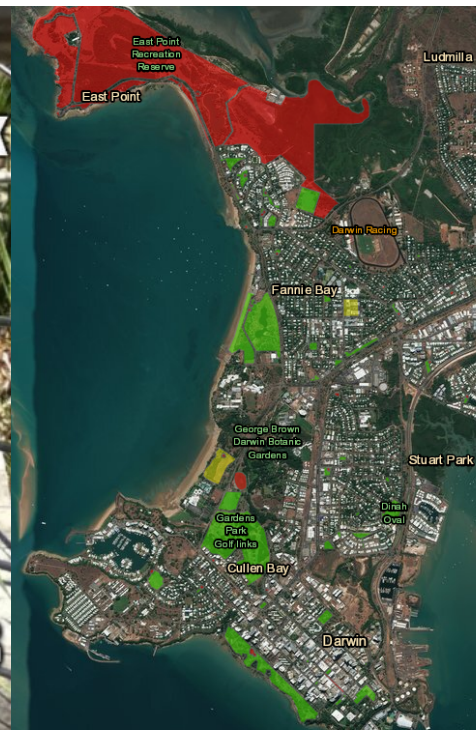
- Barking that exceeds three (3) minutes in any 30 mount period between 10 pm and 7am the following morning,
 - Barking that exceed six (6) minutes in any hour period between 7am and 10 pm that day.

As part of the Policy review we included that as a general rule Council wouldn't investigate Nuisance barking where if non-continue barking occurs where:

- Emergency vehicle sirens
- Fireworks in the neighbourhood
- Storms
- Mail delivery person
- Uninvited person on premises
- Peak hour foot traffic- i.e. School open and closure times.
- A nuisance barking complaint has been investigated and no nuisance barking has been substantiated or behaviour is resolved, a customer will not be able to complete a secondary complaint unless there are significant changes in the circumstances to the animals at the property. - i.e. additional dogs, new dog, new tenants etc.



Off and on-lead areas in Darwin



Cat Containment



By Law 67 (1) Dog or cat at large 'If a dog or cat at large is not under effective control, the owner of the dog or cat commits an offence. For this by-law, a dog or cat is under effective control if the dog or cat is restrained by a suitable leash'.

- Cat containment promotes responsible pet ownership by supporting cat health and reducing the negative impacts of domestic cats on the natural environment. For example, Defence Housing Australia is developing two residential sites adjoining Lee Point Road. Lee Point Road adjoins Casuarina Coastal Reserve. The reserve protects key ecological values which are significant at a local level where habitat is diminishing rapidly, i.e. Black-footed Tree Rats, Shorebirds, Nesting Turtles.
- Council recognises that cat containment is of particular importance in areas identified as ecologically significant.
- Council will encourage compliance via education, promoting awareness of the impact of cats at large and methods of cat containment.
- Council will undertake targeted cat trapping programs, seize and impound cats at large and administer fines or prosecution for cats found to be at large.

Great Pets Start with You, Animal Management Campaign



The Great Pets Start with You campaign has been developed with a series of short-term and long-term goals which are continually evaluated for effectiveness and deliverable outcomes. In order for Council to achieve the broader Council goals as outlined within the Dog and Cat Management Strategy, initiatives fall into the five key themes:

- Education and communication
- Incentives
- Regulation and enforcement
- Innovation and technology
- Partnerships and collaboration

In order to fully implement the actions of the strategy, additional resources were requested and supported to develop and deliver:

- An urban school based Animal Education program,
- Free monthly behavioural and barking workshops
- Municipal Wide mail out campaign,
- TVC, Radio Social and print media campaign
- Dog or Cat registration pack
- Youth targeted workshops
- Free microchipping and supporting desexing events



City of Darwin

September 26 at 9:28 AM

Considering a career working with animals?
Well this one's for you!

The Pet First Aid (ages 14 - 25) school holiday workshop will teach you a range of skills to help look after your furry friends, including bandaging & micro chipping techniques and how to recognise a range of common illnesses in the Top End.

Our team have plenty of info to share on career pathways in the field, so come along to find out more!



TUE, OCT 1

Pet First Aid (ages 14-25)

Casuarina Library, 17 Bradshaw Terrace, Casuarina
31 people interested

✓ Going

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iSXnOvMZiQk>

Questions?

