

MANAGEMENT OF FERAL AND INFANT COMPANION ANIMALS POLICY

POLICY ADMINISTRATION

Dates	Policy approved 22/02/2021 This policy is effective upon its approval. Policy is due for review February 2024
Approved by	Council Meeting 22/02/2021 Council Resolution CCL005-21
Exhibition Period	14 October to 27 November 2020
Policy Owner	Manager Environment, Health and Regulatory Services
Related Documents	Nil
Appendices	Appendix A – Feral Companion Animal Assessment Form Appendix B – Infant Companion Animal Assessment Form
References and Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 • Companion Animals Act 1998 (NSW) • Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) • Impounding Act 1993(NSW)
Document Identifier	Policy #: Pol-075.01 Doc Number: D21/053432
Breaches of Policy	Breaches of any policy will be dealt with and responded to in accordance with Council's Enforcement Policy.
Record Keeping	All documents and information obtained in relation to the implementation of this policy will be kept in accordance with the NSW State Records Act 1998, Georges River Council's Corporate Records Policy and adopted internal procedures.

PURPOSE

This policy outlines humane assessment criteria to be applied in the management of Feral or Infant Companion Animals, which have been lawfully seized or surrendered.

SCOPE

This Policy applies to the assessment and management of any Feral or Infant Companion Animal which has been lawfully seized or surrendered within the local government area of Georges River Council that is not suitable for re-homing, or able to be housed at Council's Impounding Facility.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Term	Meaning
Approved Premises	As defined in the Companion Animals Act 1998 (NSW)
Authorised Officer	An employee of Georges River Council with delegated authority under the Companion Animals Act 1998 (NSW)
Companion Animal	As defined in the Companion Animals Act 1998 (NSW)
Council	Georges River Council
Council's Impounding Facility	As nominated in Council's Impounding Facility contract from time to time.
Feral Animal	Wild Companion Animal that has escaped domestication. It is born outside human society and has had no or minimal contact with people.
Infant Animal	Companion Animal that appears to be under 8 weeks of age, and which is unable to feed or fend for itself without the assistance of another animal or person.
Statutory Holding Period	As defined in s 64 of the Companion Animals Act 1998 (NSW).

POLICY STATEMENT

1. General Principles

- 1.1. This Policy provides for the humane assessment and management of Feral or Infant Companion Animals that are deemed unsuitable for re-homing or which are not able to be housed at Georges River Council's Impounding Facility.
- 1.2. This Policy authorises their humane euthanasia before the end of any Statutory Holding Period in certain circumstances, in accordance with this Policy and as permitted under Section 64 (2) of the [Companion Animals Act 1998](#) (NSW).

1.3. Feral Companion Animals

1.3.1. Feral Companion Animals accepted into Council's Impounding Facility or held at any Approved Premises within Council's local government area may be humanely euthanised at any time prior to the expiration of the relevant Statutory Holding Period, provided the following requirements are observed:

- a) Upon the intake of a Companion Animal that appears to be 'Feral' at an Approved Premises or at Council's Impounding Facility, an Animal Assessment Form (Appendix A) is to be completed by a veterinarian to verify the assessment of the Companion Animal as 'Feral'.
- b) A record of the completed Animal Assessment Form is to be retained at the Approved Premises or Impounding Facility for provision to Council upon request.

1.4. Infant Companion Animals

1.4.1. Infant Companion Animals accepted into Council's Impounding Facility or held at any Approved Premises within Council's local government area may be humanely euthanised at any time prior to the expiration of the relevant Statutory Holding Period, provided the following requirements are observed:

- a) Upon the intake of a Companion Animal that appears to be an Infant at an Approved Premises or at Council's Impounding Facility, an Animal Assessment Form (Appendix B) is to be completed by a veterinarian to verify the assessment of the Companion Animal as 'Infant'.
- b) Following the completion of an Animal Assessment Form the following options are to be applied:
 - i. If the Infant Companion Animal is of such a size and age that survival in the long term would be remote, humane euthanasia is authorised under this Policy.
 - ii. If the Infant Companion Animal is of such a size and age that survival is possible through intensive care of an approved animal rescue organisation, then Council authorises the release of the Infant Companion Animal as an alternative to euthanasia, subject to the early release conditions as outlined within this Policy.

1.5. Early release as an alternative to euthanasia

1.5.1. Companion Animals identified as being Infant may be released on a permanent basis prior to the expiration of the Statutory Holding Period as an alternative to euthanasia, or on the basis that such action is in the best interest of the Infant Companion Animal's welfare.

1.5.2. Early release is subject only to the Infant Companion Animal being released to one of the following organisations:

- a) Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals NSW; or
- b) Any animal rehoming organisation approved by the Departmental Chief Executive, Local Government NSW under clause 88B of the [Companion Animals Act 1998 \(NSW\)](#).

RESPONSIBILITIES

Position	Responsibility
Authorised Officer (within the Environment Health and Regulatory Services Section)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To effectively participate in policy training.• To follow the policy outlined.• To report any barriers or concerns relating to policy implementation to the Coordinator without undue delay.• To effectively participate in document review.• To make decisions relating to the investigation of alleged unlawful activity with the support of the Coordinator.
Coordinator Parking and Rangers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To effectively train, guide and monitor staff in policy implementation.• To effectively respond to reported concerns or barriers to policy implementation.• To be an active advocate for policy implementation.• To effectively coordinate and participate in policy review.• To ensure policy requirements remain consistent with Council Policy and Organisational objectives.• To review decisions relating to investigation of alleged unlawful activity made by an Authorised Officer.
Manager Environment Health and Regulatory Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To effectively respond to reported concerns or barriers to policy implementation.• To be an active advocate for policy implementation.• To effectively coordinate and participate in policy review.• To ensure policy requirements remain consistent with Council Policy and organisational objectives.

VERSION CONTROL AND CHANGE HISTORY

Version	Amendment Details	Policy Owner	Period Active
1.0	New Management of Feral and Infant Companion Animals Policy adopted by Council	Manager Environment, Health and Regulatory Services	22/02/2021 - ongoing

APPENDIX A – FERAL COMPANION ANIMAL ASSESSMENT FORM

Feral Companion Animal Assessment Form		
Council Reference Number:		
Date and Time:		
Seized/Surrendered by:		
Address seized:		
Phone:		
Type of Animal(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Cat	<input type="checkbox"/> Dog
Does the animal have a microchip or collar? (If yes then the animal cannot be assessed as feral)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Notes:		
Does the animal show any signs of aggression? (e.g. hisses, spits, growls, swats, attempts to bite, etc)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Notes:		
Does the animal appear to be fearful or defensive or withdraws from human interaction?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the animal in poor physical condition? (e.g. matted coat, obvious injuries or healed injuries, prominent ribs etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the animal appear to be domesticated? (e.g. Is it playful, solicits petting or attention. . If yes, then cannot be assessed as feral)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Comments/recommendation and reasons for assessment:		
Animal to be <input type="checkbox"/> Rehomed <input type="checkbox"/> Euthanised		
Assessment made by:		
Name	Signature	Title
Date		
Feral animals can be euthanised prior to the expiry of the statutory holding period in accordance with Section 64 of the <i>Companion Animals Act 1998</i> (NSW).		
If released to a rehoming organisation approved under 88B of the Companion Animals Act:		
Have rescue groups been contacted?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Rehoming Organisation name		
Person collecting		
Name	Signature	Date
Note: Assessment only to be completed by a qualified veterinarian.		

APPENDIX B – INFANT COMPANION ANIMAL ASSESSMENT FORM

Infant Companion Animal Assessment Form		
This form may be used where multiple animals of the same litter are being assessed		
Council Reference Number:		
Date and Time:		
Seized/Surrendered by:		
Address seized:		
Phone:		
Type of Animal(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Cat	<input type="checkbox"/> Dog
Is the animal(s) microchipped? (If yes then owner must be contacted)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Notes:		
Does the animal(s) appear to be under 8 weeks of age and unable to feed without the assistance of another animal or person, or fend for itself?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Notes:		
Final assessment – Is the animal Infant?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Comments/recommendation and reasons for assessment::		
Animal to be	<input type="checkbox"/> Rehomed	<input type="checkbox"/> Euthanised
Assessment made by:		
Name	Signature	Title
		Date
Infant animals can be euthanised prior to the expiry of the statutory holding period in accordance with Section 64 of the <i>Companion Animals Act 1998</i> (NSW)		
If released to a rehoming organisation approved under 88B of the Companion Animals Act		
Have rescue groups been contacted?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Rehoming Organisation name		
Person collecting Name	Signature	Date
Note: Assessment only to be completed by a qualified veterinarian.		