

## **Animal Management and Exercise Plan 2020-25**

Did you know by 2024 there will be over 24,000 dogs and 20,000 cats in Cockburn. That's a lot of animals to co-habitat with us humans and our native wildlife which needs ongoing protection.

For this to work, and to meet the growing demands of our furry friends the City recently completed a draft Animal Management and Exercise Plan. We need your feedback on this plan by 26 August. So what does the plan propose?

Firstly, a traffic light sign system to help you understand where dogs can and can't be, and if they need to be on or off-leash. These signs will be placed in all prominent reserves and dog friendly areas.

Secondly, more dog friendly areas and improved spaces to play off-leash, including sections of our coastline. Owners will still be required to control their dogs in these areas.

Cats are just important as dogs, and should be treated accordingly. We want to keep them safe from danger. We also want to keep cats away from our native wildlife by keeping them out of conservation reserves and regional parks. As such, the plan proposes cat laws be revised. This would require owners to keep their cats on their property at all times, like you would with your dog. More cat control measures would be investigated and rolled out as well.

The City is also exploring options to subsidise catteries and microchipping.

It is also looking at technology to improve animal tracking and management, like geo-fencing, sensor lights and remote waste collection vehicles to name a few.

We need you to speak on behalf of all of the cats and dogs in Cockburn. This will ensure we get the plan just right before it goes to council in September for endorsement. Anything adopted in the plan though will only be successful if everyone does the right thing.

To comment on the Draft Animal Management and Exercise Plan, visit the website, Comment on Cockburn and leave your feedback by 26 August.