

Policy 4.04 Companion Animal Management

Directorate	Community, Environment and Planning
Responsible Officer	Director Community Environment and Planning

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Record of Administrative Amendments

<u>Amendment Version No.:</u>	<u>Description of Administrative Amendment</u>	<u>Date Reviewed</u>
4.2	Version placed on public exhibition (D25/37395)	May 2025
4.1	Review of policy in accordance with Section 165 of the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> Workshopped with Councillors on 9 April 2025	March 2025
4	Adopted by Council (D22/70857)	20/07/2022

1 Introduction

1.1 Scope

This policy prescribes the processes implemented to facilitate the management of companion animals ~~across~~ within the Bega Valley Shire.

The scope of this policy demonstrates direct commitment to the following strategic guiding principles:

- Accountable | clear accountability; commitment to risk management and compliance and proactive consultation and engagement organisation wide; proactive consultation and engagement internally between business areas and externally with key stakeholders
- Transparent | decision making processes are clearly outlined, including how a decision is made and who is involved; stakeholders are informed of progress of actions in line with decisions; commitment to open communication; nurturing a trusting and supportive partnership with community, local businesses and funding partners
- Responsive | commitment to serve the needs of the entire community; timely and accurate information sharing with community and stakeholders; adapting better practice in management and service delivery;
- Equitable and inclusive | commitment to open and respectful connections with stakeholders in considering their needs; embracing change with a positive, open mindset; advancing organisational values.

1.1.2 Purpose

To provide a framework for the control, regulation and management of companion animals in the shire in accordance with the *Companion Animals Act 1998* and *Companion Animals Regulation 2018*, and accepted best practices.

1.2.3 Definitions

Word or Terminology	Description
Companion Animal	As per the definition in the Companion Animals Act 1998 <u>“a dog” or “a cat” or “any other animal that is prescribed by the regulations as a companion animal”</u>

2 Legislation

Companion Animals Act 1998

Companion Animals Regulations 2018

3 Implementation

3.1 Policy Statement

Bega Valley Shire Council will systematically manage companion animals by ~~address the matter of ‘Companion Animal Management’ in a systematic manner by:~~

- ~~Managing companion animals for which Council has an identified legislative responsibility in accordance with the companion animal legislation.~~
~~Declaring, promoting and regulating leash free areas, wildlife protection areas and other control areas as required by the legislation.~~
~~Operating a companion animal management facility in accordance with the relevant legislation and best practice.~~
~~Delivering companion animal education programs aimed at promoting responsible ownership through the identification of companion animals, de-sexing and the protection of our local native wildlife.~~
- Managing Legislative Responsibilities: Ensuring Council meets its legal responsibilities, and that all companion animals under the Council's jurisdiction are managed in accordance with the *Companion Animals Act 1998* and Companion Animals Regulation 2018.
- Regulating Control Areas: Declaring, promoting, and regulating leash-free areas, wildlife protection areas, and other control zones as required by legislation.
- Operating Management Facilities: Running a companion animal management facility that adheres to relevant legislation and best practices.
- Promoting Responsible Ownership: Delivering education programs that encourage responsible pet ownership, including the identification and de-sexing of companion animals, and the protection of local native wildlife.

1.43.2 Responsibilities

~~This Policy is the responsibility of Council's Manager Certification and Compliance.~~

3.2.1 Elected Council

Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to undertake functions as per the *Companion Animals Act 1998* and Companion Animals Regulations 2018.

3.2.2 Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Leadership Executive Group (LEG)

Delegate authority to the Authorised Officers to undertake and perform all necessary functions in accordance with this policy and relevant legislation.

3.2.3 Authorised Officers (insert Directorate or section details)

All staff Bega Valley Shire Council Rangers are the Authorised Officers responsible for the management and regulation of companion animals within the *shire*. ~~and investigations of alleged unlawful activity~~ Rangers must undertake their work in accordance with this policy and Council's delegations register. Authorised Officers may use body worn camera technology to assist with compliance activities in accordance with the relevant procedures.

Authorised Officers are responsible for ensuring that any other potential unlawful activity identified while performing their duties is reported to the relevant *Council section or* government agency, for example animal welfare matters will be referred to RSPCA or AWL for action.

~~(insert position name details if applicable)~~

Insert text here

4 Supporting documents

7.5.14.1.1 BVSC Procedures that relate to this Policy

Procedure No.:	Procedure Name	External or Internal Procedure
4.04.01	Companion animal re-homing	External
4.04.02	Companion animal - feral and infant animals	Internal
4.04.06	Companion Animals Control Areas	External
4.04.07	Dangerous and Menacing Dog Declaration Appeals & Revocation Guideline – Companion Animal Dangerous and Menacing Dog Declaration Review	External

7.5.24.1.2 BVSC Policies that Relate to this Policy

Policy No.:	Policy Name
4.03	Public Regulation
4.05	Enforcement & Compliance

Note: Policy details may change from time to time. To ensure you are viewing the most recent version please view Council's adopted Policies and Procedures on the Council website: www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au