

Animal Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes

Meeting held – Thursday 12 March 2020

Present: **Councillors:** Cr Mary-Lou Jarvis (Chair), Cr Matthew Robinson, Cr Nick Maxwell
Community: Animal Professionals – Michael Linton from Sydney Veterinary Emergency & Specialist,
Residents: Paul Mitchell, Nicola Grieve, Rebekah Lam, Adam Courtenay, Bridgett Regener

Staff: Colin De Costa (Coordinator - Regulatory Services), Sophie Katrakis-Mol – (Ranger - Animal Control), Paul Fraser, (Manager – Open Space & Trees) Timothy Tuxford (Manager – Compliance), Elizabeth Irwin (Secretary)

Apologies: **Community:** Lea Dazley
Staff: Paul Saffery, Suzy Rich and Andrew Charles

Meeting opened: 1pm

Item No.	Subject	Discussion	Action
1.	Welcome to New Animal Advisory Committee From Chair		
	Each Committee member and Council staff was invited to introduce themselves and the Chair thanked them for the contributions they would be making. The Chair then gave an overview of the role of the Committee.		
2.	Confirmation of the previous minutes		
2.1	Nil		
3.	Business arising from previous Minutes		
3.1	Nil		
4.	New Business		
4.1	Overview of AAC and adopted Terms of Reference	A copy of the ‘Terms of Reference’ were handed to all committee members. A brief discussion about the Terms of Reference was held.	Noted
4.2	Briefing on animal control provisions & legal framework	Colin De Costa presented the following information; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An additional Ranger is being recruited which will bring the total number of Rangers to 6, including 2 Rangers – 	Noted

		<p>Animal Control. The specialist Rangers for Animal Control have now doubled.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2019 statistic were presented on; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Customer requests relating to animals ○ Number of dog attacks per month ○ Percentage of dog attacks by suburb ○ Number of animal infringement notices <p>It was noted that Council only has one order for cats which is a ‘nuisance animal’ Order.</p>	
4.3	Local Strategic Planning Statement – importance of companion animals	<p>Action 27 was included in ‘Woollahra Local Strategic Planning Statement’ adopted on 24/02/2020 and states;</p> <p><i>“27. Advocate for policies and strata bylaw reform that reflect increases in companion animals and pet ownership.”</i></p>	Noted
4.4	WMC Animal Control Update 2019 annual statistics	<p>Colin De Costa presented Council’s 2019 Animal Control statistics by PowerPoint. Key issues discussed;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was agreed quarterly animal statistics not annual statistics would be presented to the next meeting • Statistics on dog attacks were located in areas where the actual attack took place not where the animal resides • Statistics presented were from Woollahra Council only • There is no clear statistic on deceased animals. Michael Linton from Sydney Veterinary Emergency & Specialist suggested that Vet practices might assist with ensuring more accurate recording of registrations by filling in paperwork for owners when it is necessary to euthanise an animal. • Stats to change from “lost dogs” to “lost and found” • Animal complaints last year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 103 – Barking Complaints 30 – Dog Attacks 10 – Dangerous 19 – Lost & Found 	<p>Noted</p> <p>Quarterly statistics to be presented to next meeting</p> <p>To be presented to next meeting</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggested number of ‘dangerous dogs’ and ‘menacing dogs’ declarations in 2019 to be reported to next meeting of AAC • Animals lost are returned home immediately if possible or taken to WMC office before being impounded and transported to the Sydney Dog & Cats Home (SDCH) at Carlton. They are returned to owners as soon as possible • SDCH is a low kill pound. In 2019 a total of 19 lost dogs were impounded from Woollahra and all were returned to their owners • A lot of lost animals are taken to Vet Hospitals that would not be included in the statistics • Last year only 1 dog was found with no microchip. This dog was returned to its owner • Local courts can amend dangerous dog declarations and put in place control orders. Council cannot amend the control order that is put in place for dangerous dogs. E.g. mussel, enclosed area, etc. • The number of animals recorded on the NSW Pet Register for WMC is over 10,000 dogs. It was noted this number is not necessarily accurate with deceased dogs only being updated on the registry if Council is notified. It is estimated that the actual number of dogs in WMC would be closer to 5,000 • Unregistered animals are given a 14 day notice to register prior to any infringement being issued • Council’s first option is to educate owners, rather than issuing a fine. 	
4.5	Reporting and dealing with issues such as nuisance barking	<p>Dog barking is currently the majority of animal related complaints received by Council.</p> <p>Rangers recommend options to assist people with problem barking, e.g. Doggy Day care, Dog walking.</p>	Noted

		Options for neighbours having issues with barking dogs outside of Council include; 1. Contacting the Community Justice Centre who provide mediation services for neighbours; and 2. Seeking a noise abatement order from the local court.	
4.6	Educational material	Council's communication team is working on a social media campaign to help educate people about responsible animal ownership. Education material and brochures are available and can also be accessed on the WMC website. A link will be sent to all committee members along with the minutes.	Noted To be circulated with minutes
4.7	Park Signage	Paul Fraser explained that Council is currently renewing some signs that need replacing including the painting of signs on footpaths within parks. Rangers and the community provide regular feedback as to where the signs should be placed. Council will look into the signage at Rose Bay foreshore and amend as needed.	To be discussed further at next meeting
4.8	Dogs in Pubs	A 5 page memo was handed to all committee members to read, giving information on Dogs in Pubs. Summary of memo presented in PowerPoint and discussed.	Noted Copy of memo attached
4.9	Protecting animals in the public domain – leashing, poisoning incidents	To be discussed in next meeting	To be included on next agenda
4.10	Managing dog control provisions;	To be discussed in next meeting	To be included on next agenda
4.10.1	Rose Bay Beach	To be discussed in next meeting	To be included on next agenda
4.10.2	Vaucluse Beach Paddock	To be discussed in next meeting	To be included on next agenda
5	General Business		

5.1	Request to include all members names on Council's website	It was agreed all members' names only would be included on the AAC page of Council's website.	Webpage to be updated
5.2	Background information on members	It was suggested that members should provide details of their dog, including type, name and photograph for next meeting.	Members' dog details & photographs to be provided for next meeting

The meeting closed at 2:07pm.

NEXT MEETING:

5pm Wednesday 22nd April 2020