

Animal Management Guidelines for MacDonnell Regional Council

Working toward Best Practice

2020 - 2023



Effective July 2015

Review conducted January 2020

Next Review to be conducted January 2022

Animal Management four (4) level implementation program 2020-2023

The MacDonnell Regional Council has developed Animal Management Guidelines to improve the health and control of dogs and other animals in a culturally sensitive way; and, to achieve a maintenance and long term reduction in animal numbers without the need for mass culling. The success of any animal management plan is based on three factors – Regular and frequent Veterinarian visits; Medical or Chemical sterilisation; and a Continual Educational program. Principally, animal management refers to companion animals such as dogs and cats but may also include larger animals such as horses, etc.

These guidelines provide a four (4) level implementation plan for Animal Management on communities to reach a service level standard within the various timeframes, taking into account the Regional Council's Goal of Healthy Communities; and, also in accordance with relevant legislation. This legislation includes the *NT Animal Welfare Act* and the *NT Summary Offences Act (S.75A)*.

Intent: to achieve best practice in Animal Management across the Region.

In commencing this four (4) level implementation plan, it should be noted there have not been any documented practices and standards for staff to adhere apart from regular visits by a qualified veterinarian and a trial animal management program that was conducted at Ntaria in 2012-2013. On occasion, AMRRIC has facilitated in providing a team of visiting veterinarians to target specific communities and provide a concerted surgical sterilisation program.

Most Regional Council Service Delivery Centres (SDCs) have made significant advancements in improving their animal management over the past twelve (12) years. This is in part due to initiatives by MRC and the community.

In outlining the targets of the four (4) service level guidelines, we note that some SDCs have already achieved some of the targets for various levels. These sites will be required to continue implementing acceptable standards and practices that have not yet been met. The objective is for relevant SDCs to meet each service level's targets for Animal Management. Achieving the next level's targets is encouraged.

Eleven (11) priority actions have been identified for Animal Management in the Region. These actions are to be achieved in each community by the end of the four (4) service level periods that this plan applies.

Priority Actions

<p>1. Regular visits by Qualified Vet (preferably quarterly)</p>	SL1	<p>7. Recruit one or more Animal Management Officers (para-Vet) to assist with the delivery of community based animal management and associated education program</p>	SL3
<p>2. Visit to all households each visit</p>	SL1	<p>8. Conduct a baseline survey</p>	SL3
<p>3. Treat all infected dogs each visit</p>	SL1	<p>9. Develop reporting protocols</p>	SL3
<p>4. Medical or Chemical sterilisation of identified animals</p>	SL2	<p>10. Develop a community animal management plan</p>	SL4
<p>5. Euthanize any diseased or cheeky animals, with owner's consent</p>	SL2	<p>11. Implement Regional Council Animal Management By-Laws</p>	SL4
<p>6. Conduct educational program within schools on animal management practices</p>	SL2		

Service Level One: Regular visits by a Qualified Veterinarian (preferably quarterly)

Actions at this level are to ensure regular community visits are carried out by a qualified Veterinarian to ensure that all households are visited; and, all animals are regularly seen and treated, as necessary.

Actions are to be taken to commence and complete Service Level One requirements in the timeframes below. Regular visits are dependent upon funding.

Service Level One Targets	Anticipated Time Frame	Completed (Y/N)
<i>Regular visits by qualified Vet</i>		
Advise community of dates of visit from the Vet by placing notices around the community	3 months	
Facilitate visit by the Vet by providing a place for treatment, if necessary	3 months	
<i>Visit all households regularly</i>		
Vet is to visit all households to inspect all animals in the care of residents	3 months	
<i>Treat all infected animals regularly</i>		
Vet to de-worm animals as necessary	3 months	
Vet is to control external parasites with Ivomec injections or oral administration	3 months	
Vet to surgically treat any animal wounds as necessary	3 months	
<i>Conduct educational program within schools</i>		
Vet to develop a relationship with the School in order to provide basic animal management education to students.	On-going	
Education program is to include meeting a new dog safely; caring for your dog; educating your dog; animal cruelty; external parasites; and, internal parasites.	On-going	



Service Level Two: Surgically deal with any animals as necessary

Actions at this level are to improve the overall health of the animal, the household and the community by providing appropriate surgery for animals as deemed necessary by the Veterinarian but in consultation with the owners of the animal. Actions should be dealt with in months, rather than deadlines.

Service Level Two Targets	Anticipated Time Frame	Completed (Y/N)
Surgically De-sex identified animals		
Provide an appropriate place for the Vet to perform surgery	3 months	
Surgically euthanize identified animals, with the owner's consent		
Identify any diseased animals for euthanizing	On-going	
Identify any cheeky (vicious) animals for euthanizing.	On-going	
Consult and seek consent from the owner of the animal(s) prior to euthanizing the animal, unless the animal has been vicious.	On-going	
Remove any euthanized animals for appropriate burial at the waste management facility.	As required	
Staff Management		
Staff member to accompany Veterinarian	On-going	
Staff are trained in Animal Control practices	12 months	



Service Level Three: Deliver a community based animal management and associated education program

At this level, actions are aimed at employing a local Animal Management Officer who will assist the Veterinarian and at the same time improve the knowledge base and reporting protocols to provide a relevant overall picture of animal health on a community. Actions should be dealt with in months, rather than deadlines.

Service Level Three Targets	Anticipated Time Frame	Completed (Y/N)
<i>Recruit Animal Management Officers (para-Vet)</i>		
Identify and recruit an Animal Management Officer that that can develop into a para Vet (Veterinarian nurse)	12 months	
<i>Conduct a baseline survey</i>		
Animal Management Officer to conduct a household survey to determine the number of animals per household; number of dogs assessed; number of dogs de-sexed; number of dogs vaccinated; number of dogs euthanized and their state of health	12 months	
<i>Develop Reporting Protocols</i>		
In consultation with the Veterinarian, develop a quarterly report that provides updated information on the baseline survey above.		
<i>Continue with community education program</i>		
Advise residents on potential risks associated with breeding dangerous animals	On-going	
Advise residents on how to care for animals	On-gong	



Service Level Four: Develop a Community Animal Management Plan

At this level, actions are primarily aimed at improving the overall community health by developing a local relevant community Animal Management Plan and implement any Animal Management By-laws that may be introduced. Actions should be dealt with in months, rather than deadlines.

Service Level Four Targets	Anticipated Time Frame	Completed (Y/N)
<i>Develop a community management plan</i>		
Consult with Local Authority to determine an appropriate number of animals per dwelling	12 months	
Consult with residents advising them of Local Authority determinations and work with the residents to meet those goals.	12 months	
<i>Implement Animal Management By-laws</i>		
Regional Council to consider and approve Animal Management By-laws across the Region	On-going	
Staff to implement Regional Animal Management By-laws in conjunction with relevant authorities	On-going	
<i>Staff Management</i>		
Animal Management Officer continues with appropriate training.	On-going	

