# Domestic Animal Management Planning

## Workshop

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for all creatures **great** & **small**

# 84Y – barriers

Compulsory desexing: concerned about impact of strict conditions and lack of compliance by vets (Frankston)

Missing the history when vets reunite directly; they don't know if the animal has attacked or been loose before. Vets need to realise the health and safety of people is paramount to welfare of the animal (Maroondah)

Agreements need to be in writing (Mornington Peninsula)

Requirements to ensure compliance; when you have a seized animal, must be microchipped and desexed before being released; seems pointless to release without checking these details

There's differences between a growth area municipality and an area with a smaller population and wide geographic boundaries; there's a need for adaptations to make it suit your municipality, no one size fits all.

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# 84Y – enablers

Establishing a relationship wit h vets is the first thing, and having a shared understanding of what 84Y is, the objectives of 84Y, this must be the first step. Yarra Ranges feels it has not done this at all, or well enough. Timing of engagement with stakeholders is important(Yarra Ranges)

# 84Y – support needed

External support: what do you need? From the AVA, to broker the deals between AVA and local government; we are doing it on an individual basis at the moment, and some occasions vets are reluctant to take on those responsibilities for non-customers; if AVA are interested, they could break down those barriers between LG and vets, find it hard to put it in writing to allow vets to reunite (Mornington Peninsula)

Being a rural council, we have a commitment to return pets and people moving to the area who don't understand the issues of roaming dogs and dog attacks on livestock, council has a responsibility to the industry to seize dogs (Golden Plains)

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# Registration - barriers

If you've got a 24 hour cat curfew, how do you sell the registration value to owners? The challenge is getting cats registered. (Yarra Ranges) A: It's about equalling up the ledger with dog owners, that's what they've done; they're a bit behind with cat owners, about education, they're distinctly different animals and we don't offer as many services that cat owners can use (eg. dog parks are only for dogs; only service for cats is escaped cats).

Availability of resources and money; Peter says councils can copy Yarra Ranges' work and use as a template. If the social norm is most people registering, this will cost a bit to start with but it's worth it.

We have three vets who do desexing, microchipping. They tell customers that you do these things at 6 months old, which is contrary to DAA. Council finds pets that are 4, 5, 6 months old but are not compliant. We need to get vets on board to be compliant with the DAA(Mansfield) – Paul (AVA) says that this is generational, and you need to go to speak to them, and if that doesn't work, the AVA will speak to them and pass on the concerns to the regulatory body.

Less benefits for cats than dogs, but this is reflected in the price of registration for cats compared to dogs.

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# Registration - enablers

Does anyone have an 84Y agreement with a vet allowing the vet to process registrations?

We offer everybody free rego under 3 months of age, between 3-6 months it's full fee but if then desexed, they get a refund of the rego fee (Mitchell)

Online registration; making it as easy as possible for people to register, and including information in the renewal notice to remind people why they should; SMS reminders

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# Registration – support needed

Given every cat and dog needs to be registered in Vic at the same time, should be a state wide program; seems crazy that we shouldn't promote it as the whole state.

Exploration into where the microchipping gets into the animal, at which point the microchipping registry should be notifying the local government, the person would walk away knowing that their details are going to be passed on (Mornington Peninsula)

We have a microchipping service, 2 hours a day they will microchip the animals and it is cheaper than at vets; great for registration rates(Central Goldfields)

"Make it easy for us"; give us the tools we need to do it.

Making sure that microchipping registries have close relationships with councils.

# Community information - barriers

Resourcing: how much time does it take for the team to resource that page? (Murrindindi) A: we don't have anything formally structured, just a really passionate team and active on social media anyway; anything that comes through they get a notification, in relation to negativity, there have been issues with the main council page, it has been dealt with the next day; we have no guidelines but looking to include it in an agreement in the future

Nervous about an open forum where people can say anything. A: it goes back to there being open transparent behaviour of councils, the more we try to hide and not share what we're doing, the more detrimental it is to the industry.

Council has a page, but it is monitored and operated by IT, which is a barrier.

Councils may not run their social media pages during caretaker mode.

Internal barriers, operational people on social media. Building those internal relationships and trust to get licence to operate in this space.

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# Community information - enablers

$7 to boost your post?(Warrnambool) A: every post we do, you can pay to have it boosted to a certain area or demographic, but we don't use that. Boosting is better for reaching new audiences, but if you already have an engaged community, they'll see the posts anyway and will share it for you.

Resource wise, he's on social media himself, so he puts it up himself which takes a few hours a week, and he shares a lot of Elke's posts, follow a lot of other council pages and share their posts. The followers love to see an animal come in in poor condition and follow that story all the way through. Really good way to engage with the community. (Moorabool)

A suite of posts that could be altered to suit communities.

A great way of showing the community what their registration is achieving, by communicating with the community in a way that does not shove it down their throat.

A starter pack and mentoring from those who have already implemented would be very beneficial.

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# Community information – support

For a large audience, it would be worthwhile to boost posts, if you're in a larger shire? Yes.

Is everyone confident in setting up their own Facebook page? Could there be a seminar in running a Facebook page? Interest shown.

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# Return home - barriers

Higher numbers of animals in some municipalities eg. Mitchell

The change from Civic Compliance Offices to everyone doing everything; (Banyule) A: historically you would recruit separately for AMOs and a local laws officer; the domestic animal management plan is being developed, building is a big thing in our municipality, lots of apartments being built, the pull on those resources goes the other way too when there's a lot of local laws issues; it's about finding the right person and empowering them, when there's issues we bring them in to what we're doing and see what the solutions are, it's a cultural shift, engage them on how they can fix it, if the answers come from them, they will have the passion for it and they will sell it.

What are your pound fees? $100, RSPCA collects a penalty fee instead of issuing a fine, so it can be $200.

With the three shifts, have you got penalty rates? A:v When we went out to the staff and discussed that, there was an EBA, yes there is an annualised salary that incorporates that.

It's a good model for metro councils, rural council tries to return home, tend not to issue infringements, but the big issues we have is the transient issues coming through, a lot of hunting hounds (not a city issue).

What about unregistered animals? What's the enforcement in relation to that? A: we aim to get them registered, so we organise that, we can generally meet them at a vet and get it done there at the time, the person needs to meet council to organise payment. When you engage and talk about the welfare of the animal, we get the animal back to someone who might not be the owner, because people don't want their pet in the pound.

Challenges around shifts: not easy for people to step out of work to receive their animal if it

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# Return home - enablers

Would be great to collate the different models that councils are using; what registration gets you; different council approaches. A number of councils interested in what colleagues are doing re: DAM plans, adding a few other questions in there because of today's conversation, getting survey out so that we can ask and share that information, we can include questions about these issues discussed today.

Good way to interact with community, to encourage the idea that council is not just collecting money, but enables genuine and positive interaction between councils and community.

The idea is to achieve compliance, first instance is a chance to educate. When you offset the cost of extracting pet from pound, to be able to put that money into a preventative initiative.

Different councils will do different things; some councils may be very willing to waive reclaim fees, other councils will not want to waive them, and there is room within this model to do both. The first year registration free after desexing is a great idea. Small scale investments can make these initiatives work.

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# Return home – support needed

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# General discussion

Authorised persons' organisation in Vic? Trying to be organised.

AMOs want protective gear and clothing, worn in some municipalities; vests slash and stab resistant in Casey City Council and others, steel capped boots. Most councils have officers going out on their own.

Congratulate on today, and really pleasing that this is booked out; is there any opportunity to have this again both city based and one based in Geelong or Bendigo? We are hoping to do a feedback survey.

The declared dog registry: for the RSPCA, do they have to address that if they get a dog comes in, do they check the microchip on the registry? RSPCA does not have access to the declared dog registry, have conversations with State Government at the moment under POCTA, RSPCA is working with NSW and SA in terms of sharing intelligence about animals travelling between jurisdictions, but RSPCA needs full access to all that information. But it should say on the microchip if the dog is declared.

Recently contacted the microchipping company and wanted all info for Darebin Council, and they've sent it over as a spreadsheet. There's about 2000 animals microchipped but not registered, so they're chasing those owners up.

# General discussion

The reason why he asked for the microchipped data is because Darebin is working with BitForce, to integrate the microchip data with it, so they can issue a fine on the spot. The microchip info will be updated on a monthly basis.

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