

POLICY

TITLE:	UNCLAIMED IMPOUNDED COMPANION ANIMAL MANAGEMENT - PRO-LIFE POLICY	CODE:	AD.01
PURPOSE or OBJECTIVE:	To confirm the City's 'Pro-Life' philosophy relating to impounded companion animals that are not claimed by their owners.		
REFERENCE DOCUMENTS:	Enabling Legislation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dog Act 1976</i> • <i>Cat Act 2011</i> • <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> 		

POLICY STATEMENT

The City operates under a 'pro-life' philosophy. This Policy confirms the City's position that the euthanasia of unclaimed impounded companion animals will be undertaken as a last resort.

1. Scope

The implementation of this Policy is an administrative function to be conducted in accordance with the relevant legislative provisions and CEO Instruction *ADC.01 - Impounded Companion Animal Management Guidelines*.

2. Definitions

Words and expressions defined in the *Dog Act 1976* and *Cat Act 2011* have the same meaning in this Policy as they have in the respective Act. In this Policy the following definitions apply:

<i>Companion Animal(s)</i>	Domestic cats and dogs.		
<i>Canning Cat(s)</i>	Cats that:	1)	Remain unclaimed after having been impounded for the minimum statutory period prescribed under the <i>Cat Act 2011</i> ; or
		2)	Have been 'surrendered' to the City by the last known lawful owner under Sections 34(1)(c) or 49(1)(b) of the <i>Cat Act 2011</i> .
		3)	Are not deemed 'feral, diseased or dangerous' pursuant to Section 34(2) or Section 49(1) of the <i>Cat Act 2011</i>
<i>Canning Dog(s)</i>	Dogs that:	1)	Remain unclaimed after having been impounded for the minimum statutory period prescribed under the <i>Dog Act 1976</i> ; or
		2)	Have been 'surrendered' to the City by the last known lawful owner under Section 29(14) of the <i>Dog Act 1976</i> .
<i>Euthanasia</i>	The act or practice of causing death to an animal in a humane manner consistent with ethical veterinary practice by a registered Veterinarian, in accordance with the relevant legislative provisions.		
<i>Rehoming</i>	The permanent transfer of ownership of a <i>Canning Cat</i> or <i>Canning Dog</i> to an approved third party.		

3. Rehoming

The City recognises that the rehoming of unclaimed or surrendered companion animals is a key factor in minimising euthanasia rates. Accordingly, the City is committed to rehoming *Canning Cats* and *Dogs* wherever possible.

The rehoming of *Canning Cats* and *Canning Dogs* is an administrative function to be conducted in accordance with the relevant legislative provisions and CEO Instruction *ADC.01 – Unclaimed Impounded Companion Animal Management Guidelines*.

4. Euthanasia

Whilst euthanasia of unclaimed impounded companion animals should always be considered as a last resort, the City recognises that despite its Pro-Life philosophy there are circumstances under which euthanasia may be necessary:

- a) in order to limit or mitigate risk,
- b) in order to comply with the order of a Court
- c) where medical reasons cannot be reasonably resolved and are severely impacting the animals quality of life

The euthanasia of *Canning Cats* and *Canning Dogs* is an administrative function to be conducted in accordance with the relevant legislative provisions and CEO Instruction *ADC.01 – Unclaimed Impounded Companion Animal Management Guidelines*.

GOVERNANCE REFERENCES

Statutory Compliance	<i>Dog Act 1976</i> <i>Cat Act 2011</i> <i>Local Government Act 1995 Section 3.47A</i>
Process Links	<i>CEO Instruction ADC.01 – Unclaimed Impounded Companion Animal Management Guidelines</i>

POLICY ADMINISTRATION

Directorate	Officer Title	Authority to Approve	
Community Development	Director Community Development	Council	
Version	Decision Reference	Synopsis	Delegation No
1	August 2016	New Policy Drafted (D16/123654)	N/A
2	CD-009-16 18 October 2016	Policy adopted (D16/136943)	