

FERAL OR INFANT COMPANION ANIMALS - MANAGEMENT

Objective

To establish guidelines for dealing with feral or infant companion animals and, in particular, aim to safeguard staff from the possible risks posed by feral animals.

Scope

This policy applies to all feral or infant companion animals that are received into Council's custody.

Policy

Where companion animals which are seized or received under the Companion Animals Act 1998 are assessed as being "feral" or "infant" they may be humanely euthanased prior to the end of the required holding period as determined by the Act.

Validation

- Feral animals have no prospect of re-homing
- Feral animals may pose a health and/ or safety risk to the officer required to care for it
- To confine a feral animal would cause stress and an unacceptable level of cruelty
- Infant animals are unable to be adequately cared for by the facility as outlined in the Code of Practice
- Infant animals are unlikely to be rehomed after a period of seven (7) days
- To keep an infant animal to a stage where it may be rehomed would consume vast resources over a period of six to ten weeks.

Legislative Requirement

Section 64 of the Companion Animals Act 1998 allows that a seized animal, including surrendered animals that have not been claimed, may be sold or destroyed by Council if a relevant notice has been given and the animal has been held by Council for the required time. Times vary between seven (7) and fourteen (14) days depending on the circumstances.

Section 64(2) of the Companion Animals Act 1998 does make provision for the management of these feral and infant companion animals in that, "*the council may, in accordance with any policy that has been adopted by the council in relation to the management of feral or infant companion animals, destroy the seized or surrendered animal concerned before the end of any such period referred to in subsection (1)*".

Relevant Legislation

Companion Animals Act 1998
 Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979
 NSW Animal Welfare Code of Practice No. 5 – Dogs and Cats in Animal Boarding Establishments
 Work Health and Safety Act 2011

Associated Documents

Nil

Responsible Officer:	Director Planning & Environment		
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