



HARLOCK JACKSON
URBAN POLICY ANALYSTS AND TOWN PLANNERS

DOGS AND CATS IN MACEDON RANGES SHIRE

DOG ON AND OFF LEASH
AND
CAT CURFEW REVIEW

A SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

PREPARED FOR: MACEDON RANGES SHIRE COUNCIL

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Suite 12, 497 Burke Rd,
Camberwell VIC 3124

tel. +61 3 9419 7477
fax. +61 3 9419 7577

eml. info@harlockjackson.com.au
web. www.harlockjackson.com.au



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1 INTRODUCTION

In 2018, Macedon Ranges Shire commenced a Dog On and Off Leash and Cat Curfew Review.

Community feedback was obtained in November 2018. This is a report on that feedback.

- Section 2 provides an overview of the community engagement: how the review was publicised and how feedback was obtained.
- Section 3 provides a summary of the feedback received.
- Appendix 1 contains the detailed feedback received from the community survey.
- Appendix 2 contains the options that were released for community comment.

2 WHAT WAS DONE

METHODS USED TO OBTAIN FEEDBACK

Feedback was obtained from the following methods:

- Combined community survey for the cat curfew and dog on leash proposed options – online and hard copy options (728 completed surveys).
- Two industry stakeholder surveys – one for cats (8 completed surveys) and one for dogs (12 completed surveys)
- Use of Pozi maps to provide visual feedback on the proposed on and off leash and prohibited areas (83 comments)
- A community forum held on Tuesday 13th November 2018 in Woodend (attended by 6 members of the community)
- Written and verbal submissions (21 received)
- Facebook discussion.

It is known that some participants participated in more than one feedback method.

METHODS USED TO PUBLICISE THE REVIEW

The following methods were used to publicise the review and encourage the community to participate:

- Information was included on Council's website.
- Information was included in the Community Newsletter and Council e-newsletters.
- The study was publicised on Council's facebook page - reaching 8,697 people with 1,149 engagements.
- Flyers were placed in Council service centres, libraries, feed stores and veterinary clinics.
- Emails and the industry based surveys were sent to industry stakeholders including animal shelters, animal welfare organisations, boarding facilities, greyhound establishments, dog obedience clubs, community foster carers, grooming establishments, pet supply stores, veterinary practices and veterinarians and training and animal behaviourist specialists.
- Emails were sent to stakeholders identified by Council's recreation, environment, family and children's services and economic development teams inviting them to participate.
- Council's Youth Consultants spent 24 hours in public places within the Shire inviting people to participate in the study. They made contact with approximately 250 people at:
 - + Riddells Creek, Malmsbury and Clarkefield Railway Stations
 - + Kyneton Show
 - + Dixon Field
 - + Romsey township
 - + Woodend township
 - + Kyneton River Walk
 - + Community Event (Art Show Opening)
 - + Community Event (Art Show Closing)
- The Community forum held on Tuesday 13th November 2018 was used to publicise the study as well as collect feedback. To encourage people to attend, presentations were given by Dr Emma Hughes of Better Behaviour Veterinary Services (on Feeding Outside the Bowl) and Dr Jocelyn Hoogstraten of Woodend Veterinary Centre (on the latest figures on adoption, abandonment and euthanasia of cats).

3 FEEDBACK RECEIVED

3.1 COMMUNITY SURVEY

The survey questions and detailed results of the community survey are reproduced in Appendix 1. Extensive qualitative comment is provided which is grouped around themes.

This section provides a summary of the key quantitative results.

CAT CURFEW

Support for a dusk to dawn curfew:

- Yes: 78.2% - the most common reasons were to protect wildlife and reduce cat trespass on private property
- No: 12.1% oppose – the most common reasons were difficult to comply with, impossible to enforce, it is a waste of resources, it is not justified and Council should educate cat owners instead.
- Undecided: 6.6%:
- Did not respond: 3.2%

Support for designating public places where cats are prohibited from entering for environmental reasons:

- Yes: 74.54% – to protect wildlife, to provide a safe haven for wildlife
- No: 8.7% - difficult to comply with, difficult to enforce, how would you prevent cats from entering designated spaces?
- Undecided: 10.3%
- Did not respond: 5.8%

Respondents were asked if they allow their cats outdoors now:

- Yes - day and night: 25.8%
- Yes - day only: 44.4%
- Yes - night only: 1.2%
- No: 28.2%
- Did not respond: 0.4%

Respondents were asked if they would comply with the proposed cat curfew:

- Very likely: 61.1%
- Likely: 11.5%
- Unlikely: 9.1%
- Very unlikely: 8.7%
- Undecided 7.5%
- Did not respond 2.0%

Respondents were asked if they would comply with the requirement to ban cats from designated environmentally sensitive areas:

- Very likely: 64.3%
- Likely: 13.9%
- Unlikely: 4.0%
- Very unlikely: 5.6%
- Undecided 8.7%

- Did not respond 3.6%

Cat ownership amongst respondents to this survey:

- Yes: 34.6%
- No: 61.1%
- Did not respond: 4.3%

DOG ON AND OFF LEASH

Support for introducing a requirement that dogs must be on a leash in all public places except designated off leash areas:

- Yes: 60.3%
- No: 24.6% oppose
- Undecided: 7.4%:
- Did not respond: 7.7%

Support for the proposed requirement for dogs to be kept under effective control in public places:

- Yes: 80.4%
- No: 6.3% oppose
- Undecided: 4.7%:
- Did not respond: 8.7%

Support for designating public places where dogs are prohibited from entering for environmental reasons:

- Yes: 69.9% – to protect wildlife, to provide a safe haven for wildlife
- No: 10.4% - difficult to comply with, difficult to enforce, how would you prevent dogs from entering designated spaces?
- Undecided: 9.9%
- Did not respond: 9.8%

Respondents were asked where they exercise their dogs off leash now:

- 52.9% in the streets near home
- 81.6% in parks/reserves near home
- 55.7% on sports grounds/ovals
- 39.3% in bushland reserves
- 21.3 nominated other

Respondents were asked if they would comply with the requirement that dogs be leashed except in designated off leash areas:

- Very likely: 29.5%
- Likely: 18.9%
- Unlikely: 18.9%
- Very unlikely: 22.1%
- Undecided 9.0%
- Did not respond 1.6%

Respondents were asked if they would comply with the requirement for dogs to be kept under effective control:

- Very likely: 71.6%



- Likely: 16.2%
- Unlikely: 3.4%
- Very unlikely: 3.8%
- Undecided 2.7%
- Did not respond 2.3%

Respondents were asked if they would comply with the proposal to ban dogs from designated public places for environmental reasons:

- Very likely: 60.1%
- Likely: 18.7%
- Unlikely: 5.0%
- Very unlikely: 4.1%
- Undecided 8.8%
- Did not respond 3.4%

Dog ownership amongst respondents to this survey:

- Yes: 61.08%
- No: 29.9%
- Did not respond: 9.1%

3.2 WRITTEN AND VERBAL SUBMISSIONS FROM THE COMMUNITY

21 written and verbal submission were received providing the following feedback:

- The Stanley Park Committee of Management supports dogs on leads and the list of prohibited areas. However it wants the list of prohibited areas to extend to all bushland reserves. Supports cat curfew (but would prefer 24 hour confinement)
- Positive Paws Dog Trainer – needs extensive community education and well designed off leash parks.
- Submitter: agree with the proposed off leash areas but extend the dog prohibited areas to all bushland reserves.
- Three submitters – no change to dog laws.
- Most submitters: support the cat curfew – several say it should be 24 hours.
- Please don't make Bowkett Close Reserve off leash – wildlife and children playing there.
- Query regarding the signage and reserve names along creek in Campaspe Park (site no 53)
- Problems with dogs at the market in St Pauls in Kyneton.
- There is wildlife present in Gisborne Botanical Gardens.
- 1 submitter provides a detailed proposal for the establishment of a Dog Park at Woodend. The proposed location is a 6,300sqm grassed area running between the northern edge of Five Mile Creek and the south side of the bitumen CFA exercise area.

3.3 INDUSTRY SURVEYS

CAT CURFEW

Eight completed surveys were returned.

- All respondents support a night curfew for cats.

- 5 respondents support Council designating public places where cats are prohibited (1 did not support, 1 was undecided, 1 skipped this question). Concern were raised about whether this would lead to an increase in cats being euthanized in shelters and difficulties with enforcement.
- Continuous communications and education were considered the best assistance that could be provided to cat owners. Other suggestions were fines, information about desexing, registration fees increase, tattoos and joint approaches with other councils.
- Consider the RSPCAs National Cat Management Strategy.
- Useful to understand the statistics and motivation of introducing a cat curfew.

DOG ON AND OFF LEASH AREAS

Twelve completed surveys were returned.

- 8 respondents support introducing a requirement that dogs be leashed in public areas except those designated as an off leash area (1 opposed, 2 were undecided, 1 skipped the question)
 - + Most support as responsible dog management.
 - + One thinks its appropriate in townships but not in rural areas.
- 7 respondents think that it is very important to provide designated off leash areas (1 said it was somewhat important, 3 said it was not that important)
 - + One said dogs should always be on the leash because of irresponsible dog owners.
 - + Select off leash areas according to location of registered dog owners.
 - + Not too close to roads.
 - + Make sure they are well designed as dog parks.
 - + Provide them in multiple locations.
 - + Provide water and enough space.
- 8 respondents supported a requirement that dogs be kept under effective control in public places (1 said no, 1 was undecided, 2 skipped)
 - + Important to communicate expectations.
 - + Some of your definitions are not appropriate e.g. a dog can be under effective control and be more than 50m away.
- 4 respondents supported Council designating public places where dogs are prohibited for environmental reasons (2 said no, 4 were undecided, 2 skipped).
 - + Dogs on leash should be sufficient.
- Continuous communications, education and dog obedience training and signage were considered the best methods to assist dog owners to comply with the requirements.
- Other comments were:
 - + A concern that the requirements were being introduced to address a minority of poor dog behaviour.
 - + Suggestion to use unused tennis court at the Riddells Creek Rec Reserve as an off leash area.

3.4 FEEDBACK FROM POZZI MAPS

83 comments were made on the Pozzi Maps of which:

- 63 comments were made about the listed reserves.
- 20 were made about reserves that were not included in the listed reserves.



TOWNSHIP	COMMENT
Bullengarook	No comment
Carsruhe	No comment
Clarkefield	No comment
Daraweit Guim	No comment
Hanging Rock	See comments below in relation to reserves where dogs and cats would be prohibited.
Gisborne	<p>Dixon Field - why not the whole area, it is good, the designations are confused, provide a fenced area here please. Another said it was excessive overkill to have all this off leash.</p> <p>Pleaant View Reserve is good as an off leash area.</p> <p>Worcester Road Reserve is good an off leash area,</p> <p>Gisborne Fields - this is the only area in the whole estate - will need to balance the needs of everyone. It needs to be fenced. Maybe some of the area should be on-leash.</p> <p>Sankey Reserve - what will you do about dog poo on sportsground</p>
Gisborne South	I.R Robertson Reserve very underutilised by the pony club
Kyneton	<p>How about a small fenced area for small dogs in Malmsbury or Kyneton.</p> <p>Oak Park area should be on leash. 1 off leash area in the town is enough. Four others said it was ideal for off leash and that the entire river walk should be off leash. One said we want to be able to walk not stand around.</p> <p>Gasworks Park should be on leash.</p> <p>Kyneton Showgrounds should be on leash. It is not fenced. Barkly Square is sufficient for off-leash.</p> <p>2 support the Velodrome for off leash. 1 supports Bluestone Rise Park.</p> <p>Off leash area in the Cemetery is wrong (2 submitters)</p> <p>Consider a fenced off leash area in Kyneton Botanic Gardens</p> <p>Campaspe Place beside river racetrack side is a nice area to walk off leash (DELWP land)</p>
Lancefield	No comment
Malmsbury	How about a small fenced area for small dogs in Malmsbury or Kyneton.
Macedon/Mt Macedon	<p>Clifford Reserve is good as an off leash area</p> <p>Tony Clarke Reserve – the whole area is effectively off leash because of the lack of fencing</p>
New Gisborne	<p>Chessy Park Drive is not great for off leash because it is not fenced</p> <p>Ross Watt Reserve is great. I use it every day</p>
Riddells Creek	<p>Riddells Creek Recreation Reserve great as an of leash area (2)</p> <p>The oval is good for off leash providing dog faeces are picked up</p>
Romsey	No comment
Tylden	No comment
Woodend	<p>Support for Quahlee Park as an off leash area.</p> <p>Lake Earnshaw Reserve – designated area – good as an off leash area</p> <p>Corner Wood and Anslow Street – designated area – needs to be defined, the proposed off leash area is at odds with established pattern of on-leash dog walking</p> <p>Peppermint Lane/Reidwell Crt is not suitable as an off leash area because of wildlife and children.</p>

RESERVES WHERE DOGS AND CATS WOULD BE PROHIBITED

The following comments were made about the proposal to prohibit dogs and cats from some public reserve

Woodend Grassland Reserve	Oppose prohibition of dogs and cats Support prohibition from inner grassland but leashed dogs on tracks should be allowed (2)
Hanging Rock Reserve (in Conservation Zones)	Should be treated the same way as the rest of the park. Support prohibition from inner grassland but not the track (2) Grassland area is highly significant natural asset. Dogs being walked on track regularly enter the grassland. Tracks works well to exercise dogs. By all means prohibit cats. This is a paddock why should dogs and cats be prohibited from here.
Suggested Dog and Cat Prohibition Reserves	Off Trawalla Road before turns to Mount Teneriffe Road, Riddles Creek. Stanley Park Mount Macedon Blackhill Reserve Kyneton Rifle Range Kyneton Campase Drive side of river (DELWP land) Public Reserve 198 Mount Gisborne Road Gisborne
Suggested reserves that should not be Dog and Cat Prohibited	Ruby McKenzie should not be prohibited space but the sign says it is for cyclists and animals.

OTHER COMMENTS

The following comments generic comments were made about the proposal

What will you do about dog faeces on ovals?
People should be able to walk their dogs off the leash outside town boundaries.
Oppose off leash in Hutchison Lane/Robb Road Romsey - many off leash now

3.5 FACEBOOK DISCUSSION

CAT CURFEW

Most posts support a cat curfew (14) with 35 likes to these posts. One sought 24 hour confinement.

Two posts did not support a curfew; one because they believe it is unreasonable for farm cats to be confined.

DOGS IN PUBLIC PLACES

The posts were mixed on whether or not to require dogs to be leashed except in designated off leash areas:

- *Its why I moved here. I have never met anyone who is frightened of or doesn't like dogs* (16 posts in support).

- Confusion about signage and advice from Council officers about whether dogs are allowed off leash (3 posts)
- Support for on-leash (5 posts in support).
- Provide an enclosed off leash area but otherwise leave it as off leash (8 posts in support)
- Support for provision of off leash areas [appears to think all on leash now] (4 posts in support)
- Support for provision of off leash areas but support for default on leash because the person has been knocked over (6 posts in support).
- Leave it as is.
- No off leash areas unless people have complete recall of their dog.
- Off leash areas should only be provided outside township areas for safety.
- Request for an enclosed dog park (2 posts in support)
- Undecided on proposed controls (1 post in support)

3.6 COMMUNITY FORUM

The forum held on 13th November in Woodend was attended by 6 members of the community drawn from postcodes 3444 and 3442.

The following comments/concerns were raised:

- Think that not many residents were aware of the survey or forum. Prefer not to change to default on-leash as currently walk 3 hours a day with dog along the Kyneton River and have done so for 10 years with no incidents. If a change is required, could dogs be allowed off leash between 8am and 8pm. Oak Park is not big enough to exercise large dogs and would reduce exercise for people.
- The panel was asked if there a current requirement to keep dogs under effective control.
- Dr Hughes was asked if dogs are happier being walked off leash and having a ball thrown for them. Dr Hughes said a leash can encourage a fight or flight response in some dogs. Favoured off leash walking on Kyneton River. The attendee said the best solution is to Do Nothing.
- 2 attendees talked about establishing a dog park in Woodend. The 3 hectare dog park in Sunbury is fenced and ideal. It is a positive experience for dogs and their owners.
- 1 attendee acknowledged that some residents have a genuine fear of dogs. She therefore walks her well trained dog on rural roads and rarely encounters anyone.
- 1 attendee from a rural area walks her dog in Kyneton. The restrictions would not allow a place for her dog to swim in the hot weather in Kyneton River.
- 1 attendee asked what would happen to off leash areas on sports grounds if irresponsible dog owners do not pick up dog faeces.
- 1 attendee noted that many people she knew said they would not comply with restrictions even though they were law abiding citizens.
- 1 attendee queried the inconsistency of existing signage near Kyneton River.



APPENDIX 1:

COMMUNITY SURVEY RESPONSES

SURVEY RESPONSES

QUESTION 1: **WHAT IS YOUR POSTCODE?**

POSTCODE	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS
2437	1
2747	1
3018	1
3018	1
3040	1
3042	1
3124	1
3427	1
3429	6
3430	1
3431	38
3433	1
3434	69
3435	32
3437	119
3438	30
3440	16
3441	16
3442	181
3444	189
3446	8
3458	1
3460	1
3461	2
3537	1
3550	1
3756	1
3758	1
3764	1
3922	1
No response	5



QUESTION 2: DO YOU SUPPORT COUNCIL INTRODUCING A NIGHT TIME (SUNSET TO SUNRISE) CAT CURFEW THAT ENSURE CATS ARE SECURELY CONFINED TO THEIR OWNER'S PREMISES?

YES	569	78.2%
NO	88	12.1%
UNDECIDED	48	6.6%
DID NOT RESPOND	23	3.2%
TOTAL	728	100%

WHY?

THEME	COMMENT
HUNTING/ WILDLIFE	<p>Dusk, Dawn and night is high traffic time for nocturnal native animals. Cats being outside overnight is a risk to the wild life. If you own a domesticated animal as a pet, it should be kept inside at night (within reason... obviously not horses or livestock) cats (with exception of farm/barn cats) should be kept inside the property at night as it is safer for them and for others.</p> <p>If we are serious about biodiversity in the Macedon Ranges cats must be (a) registered (b) de sexed and (c) contained at all times - not just at night time. To own a cat the premises should have an approved cat-run constructed so that the animal is not free to roam - even during the day time. This efficient hunter and killer of native fauna is anathema to maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity in the central highlands. To talk about biodiversity and not have strict by laws about cats is a complete waste of time.</p> <p>I can't see how it is isn't obvious that cats, day or night, by their inherent nature, are simply not able to be controlled by humans. They are expert hunters. To confine them at night is the minimum we can do. After all, they have all day to hunt, which they certainly do (the neighbours cats) with great success with the birds from my garden.</p> <p>A cat curfew is not necessary in the vast majority of the Shire. Having had cats for many years, I appreciate that they are natural hunters and in that, they do a great job keeping down the numbers of rats and mice. And they are most likely to catch these dirty rodents at night! So please just let them be cats.</p> <p>There is no balancing the needs of a cat against the need of native birds. The cat needs to kill. The bird needs to stay alive.</p>
FIGHTING/ DISTURBANCES	<p>Most cats are left to roam by their owners and can kill native animals, and be a nuisance at night time fighting with other cats.</p> <p>My cat is inside at night, sunset to sunrise, but occasionally slips out past an unknowing visitor or someone off their game. When he has slipped out at night (maybe once every 6 months) he usually ends up in fights with other cats. This led to an abscess and expensive vet bill. On more than one occasion he has needed steroids or medicine after an injury caused by other cats at night. When he is inside, they come to our windows and try to cause arguments. We have to sleep with the bedroom window shut in summer because the cats come to the window and swear at my cat.</p> <p>Nuisance of cats entering, fighting and defecating in other people's yards.</p> <p>Roaming cats are at risk of injury through road trauma, fighting with other cats (feral), and contracting cat borne diseases such as toxoplasmosis which can effect humans.</p> <p>Cats are territorial and some cat owners don't register their cats and won't keep them in at night. Plus, there are abandoned and feral cats in the area. If a cats in kept in at night, other cats will come into their territory causing distress for the cat and it will cry and make a lot of noise. Disturbing sleep for owner and distressing the cat.</p>
IMPLEMENTATION	I believe curfew should be 24hrs a day in the Macedon Ranges, not just overnight.

THEME	COMMENT
	<p>Cats are not as trainable as dogs and I would have concerns if a cat had not returned by curfew.</p> <p>Many people commute to Melbourne / Bendigo etc. for work and on the short winter days aren't home by dusk. I think cats being in at night should be encouraged but not enforced by law. I also suspect that cat curfews encourage an anti-cat element of the community who use it to justify acts of cruelty to cats.</p> <p>In theory yes (my cat is already indoor only), but what would happen if cats are caught outside? Sent to pound and a fine? It's a good concept, but I think it may be hard to train many older cats to this schedule, and know from prior experience that even a trained cat sometimes doesn't come home some nights... so I think this could cause a lot of anxiety to people in those situations.</p>

QUESTION 3: DO YOU SUPPORT COUNCIL DESIGNATING PUBLIC PLACES WHERE CATS ARE PROHIBITED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL REASONS?

YES	542	74.5%
NO	63	8.7%
UNDECIDED	75	10.3%
DID NOT RESPOND	42	5.8%
TOTAL	728	100%

WHY?

THEME	COMMENT
NATIVE WILDLIFE/HABITAT	<p>We live in a beautiful sensitive area that needs to be preserved for future generations.</p> <p>Cats are perfectly created hunters who are indiscriminate killers. Their impact on wildlife is unquestionable.</p> <p>There are three locations not included, they are Mt Gisborne Reserve, UL Daly Nature Reserve and Stanley Park. Once they are included my response would be yes.</p> <p>Yes, but I think cats should be prohibited from all public places unless on a lead. Cats should not be in environments of native flora.</p>
CONTROL/IMPLEMENTATION	<p>Very hard to implement? Maybe if cat owners are given a council subsidy so they can build an outdoor cat run attached to house for their pet who enjoys being outside?</p> <p>Impossible to teach roaming cats to ignore certain boundaries!! If the area is very sensitive, best to fence it off with as cat proof a fence as possible (e.g. if trying to protect marsupials)</p> <p>I feel our country is trying to control our lives in every way, it is everyone's right to own a pet, no matter where you live.</p> <p>It just isn't needed in the Macedon Ranges.</p>

QUESTION 4: DO YOU OWN A CAT/S?



YES	252	34.6%
NO	445	61.1%
DID NOT RESPOND	31	4.3%
TOTAL	728	100%

QUESTION 5: DO YOU ALLOW YOUR CAT OUTDOORS?

YES – DAY AND NIGHT	65	25.8%
YES – DAY TIME ONLY	112	44.4%
YES - NIGHT TIME ONLY	3	1.2%
NO – I DO NOT LET MY CAT/S OUTDOORS	71	28.2%
DID NOT RESPOND	1	0.4%
TOTAL	252	100%

COMMENTS

THEME	COMMENT
EXPLORATION/ FREEDOM	<p>Cats need time to explore their own environment, and exercise.</p> <p>If cats are happy and fed well they will come to you before dark, so letting them out in the day most times is safe.</p> <p>My cat spends the majority of the time inside, however goes outside to go to the toilet. He doesn't travel far from our property</p> <p>He loves it and prefers to be outside other than inside</p>
HUNTING/ SAFETY	<p>My cat is elderly and all her life has been spent with a cat collar with more than 6-8 bells on it set at various increments and lengths round her collar. Think reindeer bells and all the native birds in my garden are safe as they can hear her coming long before she arrives. I do wildlife rescue.</p> <p>We allow cat to roam at night to catch mice and rats in and around chicken pen/sheds</p> <p>Cats can roam their local area creating havoc - so for the safety of wildlife, and also her own safety it is better to keep her inside. She has adapted well, so to those who think cats do not adjust - they do!</p>
SELF IMPOSED CURFEW	<p>Cats do not need to roam outside, and I would hate for my cat/s to cause someone else harm or dilemma by running in front of their car and being killed.</p> <p>Our cat lives in a cat run which is attached to our house, therefore our cat can come and go as he pleases in safety.</p> <p>I only allow my cat outside closely supervised in my own back yard or on a leash in public areas.</p> <p>They are allowed out until 9pm at the latest.</p> <p>We use a sureflap door with auto curfew timer so this curfew is enforced if we're not home in time.</p>



THEME	COMMENT
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My cats are only allowed outside when I'm home, only in the daytime. They wear an anti bird catching cat bib, you should investigate and promote these for cat owners use ONLY with detachable clip collars nut buckle clips. Find these bibs on line available for sale in Australia.

Daytime for short periods and occasional night time stints when she escapes. She is white and can't go in sun without burning and at night she is easily seen and heard by any wildlife. I'd prefer to have an enclosed cat run on my property that she can access whenever she likes and then she can't be a threat to local wildlife but it is expensive and difficult to implement if renting your property.

QUESTION 6: HOW LIKELY WOULD YOU BE TO COMPLY WITH A NIGHT TIME CAT CURFEW?

VERY LIKELY	154	61.1%
LIKELY	29	11.5%
UNLIKELY	23	9.1%
VERY UNLIKELY	22	8.7%
UNDECIDED	19	7.5%
DID NOT RESPOND	5	2.0%
TOTAL	252	100%

COMMENTS

THEME	COMMENT
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DIFFICULTY IMPLEMENTING AND CONTAINING	<p>I'd try but cats have a way of getting what they want and can be very good at escaping. A cat run outside which can access 24/7 would be the best for all cats if you ask me. That way they still have a choice and shouldn't give their owners a hard time or wreck the furniture!!</p> <p>Will be trying as much as possible and it may prompt us to think about a cat cage to restrict outdoor time to a limited area.</p> <p>Who is going to police this? There are more important things to police!</p> <p>If my cat, who doesn't use cat litter, wanted to go to the toilet she goes out and then returns within 5-10 mins, her collar is never removed.</p> <p>We would try our best but they are not as malleable as dogs!!</p> <p>I would be likely to comply only if sufficient time is allowed for cat owners to "retrain" their cats. As mentioned earlier, my cat becomes extremely stressed when confined. Acclimatising him to being confined would be a long-term project. I suggest a minimum of three years lead time before a night time curfew is introduced. If the night time curfew is implemented sooner, I will be unable to comply, because my cat would suffer too much by being suddenly confined.</p>
DON'T SEE THE POINT	<p>If my cat wants to go out, I will let him.</p> <p>Already do but I believe just as much damage is done to wildlife as speeding drivers.</p> <p>Don't see how it can work any better than we already practice. The problem is not wandering cats but irresponsible owners!</p>



THEME	COMMENT
	<p>There is no way that my cats would follow the routine.</p> <p>I want my cat out when she can catch rats and mice and rabbits which tends to be dusk.</p> <p>These curfew ideas are ridiculous, and driven by a vocal minority</p>
ALREADY COMPLY	<p>I still support 24 hr cat curfew. Cats adapt, they do not get traumatised. You just have to look after their needs</p> <p>Yes, unless they accidently escape and then in warmer weather they are harder to get back in.</p> <p>I support a cat curfew having always kept my cats indoors at night for their own safety and for the safety of native wildlife</p> <p>I would continue as per usual, making every effort to have the kitties indoors at nights but there will be always some occasions where this is just not possible.</p>

QUESTION 7: WHAT COULD COUNCIL DO TO ASSIST YOU TO COMPLY WITH A NIGHT TIME CAT CURFEW?

THEME	COMMENT
ABILITY TO COMPLY	<p>Some sort of subsidy to be able to build a cat enclosure</p> <p>For me, I don't need anything. But for others, maybe cheaper registration rates?</p> <p>Nothing for us as we already keep them in. But perhaps for others education. Teach people how to care for animals so they don't kill wildlife. A well fed loved cat will not hunt.</p> <p>There is nothing they could do except make desexing more affordable, to control the population more.</p> <p>I think having compulsory desexing of all cats would be a far more humane option for everyone-especially the cats themselves! This would reduce unwanted litters- some of which end up being dumped and doing what they must to survive. Assuming every household has the finances to build a cat enclosure is quite naive, there are residents in Kyneton struggling to pay their rent!!</p> <p>I don't think there is anything that Council could do, it comes down to being a responsible pet owner.</p>
ENFORCEMENT	<p>Advertise it and impose large fines.</p> <p>Ensure ALL cats follow the rules which is impossible.</p> <p>Accept that sometimes this will be broken by accident and provide some leniency</p> <p>Impound roaming cats and fine owners.</p> <p>I would like to know that real effort is put into trapping and destroying any cats that are found outside at night time. This will not be effective unless it is enforced.</p>
ALTERNATE OPTIONS	<p>Not proceed with curfew, look into a bell on collar method to solve same issues.</p> <p>My cat would need to be rehomed out of the shire or put down. He does not and has never been inside.</p> <p>I have a dog/cat door so cannot restrict access outdoors.</p>

QUESTION 8: HOW LIKELY WOULD YOU BE TO COMPLY WITH THE PROPOSED PLANS TO BAN CATS FROM ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS?



VERY LIKELY	162	64.3%
LIKELY	35	13.9%
UNLIKELY	10	4.0%
VERY UNLIKELY	14	5.6%
UNDECIDED	22	8.7%
DID NOT RESPOND	9	3.6%
TOTAL	252	100%

COMMENTS

THEME	COMMENT
DIFFICULTY IMPLEMENTING AND CONTAINING	<p>Without knowing the location of these areas, and where my cats goes during the day I am unable to confidently say we could comply.</p> <p>People who already own cats in the designated area should be allowed to keep them - no new cats.</p> <p>You can try to talk to my cats about imaginary lines, but i doubt they'll listen.</p>
ENFORCEMENT	<p>Only way you could do that is to confine the cat.</p> <p>You have more important pet ownership and feral animal issues than enforcing and controlling this, what a ridiculous are you going to force entry into homes to see if there's a cat? A dog next? The dog next door kills an abundant amount of local lizards so are they next?</p> <p>Our reserves are not the only sensitive areas. All of Mount Macedon is sensitive, we have wildlife in our back yards daily. All high wildlife areas should have a 24 cat restriction.</p>
SUITABILITY	<p>Cats are not suited to many Australian environments and most people living in such areas would know that.</p> <p>Personally I do not believe people should keep cats at all - I think our native birds and other animals will be completely wiped out if we continue to indulge our desire to have pet cats.</p> <p>As mentioned before, I have no problems with banning cats from environmentally sensitive areas as long as the same ban is put in place for dogs!</p>

QUESTION 9: WHAT COULD COUNCIL DO TO ASSIST YOU TO COMPLY?

THEME	COMMENT
POLICY/ INCENTIVES/ DETTERANTS	<p>Incentives to install cat runs on properties in area that wants cats.</p> <p>Lower registration fees for people with cat runs.</p> <p>Strong enforcement, trapping and fines.</p> <p>Rangers to patrol.</p> <p>Enclose the area so cats can't get in.</p> <p>For persons with existing cats within these areas then a contribution by council towards outdoor cat enclosures would be appropriate. Additionally, that council submit to Land titles office an amendment to titles, adding a restriction notation on all existing and proposed cat bans environmentally sensitive areas it that title falls within the restricted area.</p>

THEME	COMMENT
	<p>Force everyone to desex their cats for a start. Start issuing huge fines to residents who don't desex their pets. Work with all the local vets to find out about every single person in the shire who owns cats & then proceed accordingly.</p> <p>It might be cool for people who do have outdoor cats if you provided those GPS trackers that cats can wear on their collar?</p> <p>Not have bans on cats.</p>
PHYSICAL	<p>Street signage, "Cat free zone"? signage on walks. local information and online information on the location of "sensitive" areas.</p> <p>Just be clear where the sensitive areas are.</p> <p>Stop expanding our towns so rapidly, without thought of consequences and without first improving necessary infrastructure to support proposed expansion.</p>

QUESTION 10: DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS FOR OTHER WAYS COUNCIL CAN IMPROVE CAT MANAGEMENT AND WELFARE IN THE SHIRE?

THEME	COMMENT
ENFORCEMENT	<p>My neighbours have unregistered cats and dogs. Rangers have been advised of the presence of these dogs and the nuisance they cause. As a result of these reports, I, and the ranger, is aware that animals on my neighbours residence are NOT registered. Enforcement of by laws is essential - but not by MRSC apparently.</p> <p>Less laws and more support!! Providing cat traps, allowing the ranger to attend to animals that have been caught (currently they only come if the animal is contained in a yard). Not sure how you expect residents to contain cats to yards. Especially as many new homes aren't allowed to put up a front fence and the fencing requirements are so strict.</p>
POLICY	<p>24 hour curfew. All cats must be contained at all times.</p> <p>Making sure people desex, vaccinate and microchip their cats, maybe find ways to provide incentives for this.</p> <p>Limit of one per household.</p> <p>Increase registration fees, and make them ALL wear bells to protect wildlife.</p> <p>Round up feral ones.</p>
EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGNS	<p>Provide workshops, information brochures and possibly subsidized materials for people to build outdoor cat enclosures. Implement regular low cost or free desexing for community cats. Build up a value for cat owners to register their pets so that you can target your education and support to owners.</p> <p>Support the Zoos Victoria and RSPCA Victoria "Safe Cat, Safe Wildlife" campaign http://www.safecat.org.au/about-us.html</p> <p>There are barriers that can be put on the top of fences and gates to stop cats leaving properties during the day. Council could help cat owners in assessing such barriers.</p>

QUESTION 11: DO YOU SUPPORT COUNCIL INTRODUCING A REQUIREMENT THAT DOGS MUST BE ON A LEASH IN ALL PUBLIC PLACES EXCEPT THOSE DESIGNATED AS AN OFF LEASH AREA?



YES	439	60.3%
NO	179	24.6%
UNDECIDED	54	7.4%
DID NOT RESPOND	56	7.7%
TOTAL	728	100%

WHY?

THEME	COMMENT
SAFETY	<p>Dogs often get excited around people especially children and other dogs. Dogs can rush up to people, often to play, but many people are frightened by this. Dogs can knock children over when trying to play/jump on them. Some dogs are fearful or aggressive and their behaviour can sometimes be unpredictable.</p> <p>Non-dog owners should be able to enjoy public areas without nuisance animals roaming around.</p> <p>Too many attacks on people, children, other dogs and other animals such as cats.</p> <p>Have seen dogs running around the streets off-lead causing a traffic hazard and a danger to themselves.</p> <p>Dogs should be on lead at all times I do not support off leash areas too many opportunities for dog fights especially if people don't have trained dogs.</p> <p>I always keep my dog on leash. My dog is shy (rescue dog) and a smaller breed, so there are many places I can't walk her because of larger dogs that are uncontrolled off-leash. I have often felt unsafe because of these dogs, and have had incidents where I had to act quickly to remove myself and my dog from a situation to avoid a confrontation/potential attack from very dominant/aggressive dogs. I am sick of this, and would love to be able to use more of the public walks in safety.</p> <p>Not all dogs need to be on leash to be under control.</p>
APPEAL OF THE SHIRE	<p>We control our dogs off leash. MRSC is very attractive just because of these relaxed rules! Also not enough off leash areas - not within walking distance.</p> <p>We are in a country town I enjoy walking with my dog off lead.</p> <p>The areas you have designated are very restrictive.</p> <p>I ride a horse and have been menaced by dogs in Woodend. People think moving to the country means their animals can run free. They don't realise the damage.</p> <p>I live in the Bushland Resort and the attraction of the area for both residents and holiday-makers is the wildlife. Having dogs in the area is a terrible problem and there is far less wildlife in the area now than when we moved there to enjoy this unique feature of the area - we may as well have remained in the suburbs.</p>
ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING	<p>I want my dogs to be able to exercise properly- this reduces barking (upset neighbours) and increases their wellbeing.</p> <p>We have people from the town walking their dogs off leash along Moffats lane. We have sheep in adjacent paddocks to the lane. We are concerned that some dogs may enter our paddocks. As well I have a 1080 ACUP and bait for foxes in paddocks adjacent to Moffats lane. Foxes take baits and may drop them as they move to their dens in or across the lane. Unleashed dogs could pick them up.</p> <p>I think if you care about your dog, its safety is paramount, so why would you want it running all over the place?</p>
IMPLEMENTATION	<p>In Macedon the only area that will be off-leash the whole time is near a dangerous corner on Mt Macedon Road. Dogs need plenty of space to run & be properly exercised off a lead & I don't believe you have provided enough options. I support them being on a lead in</p>

THEME	COMMENT
	<p>playgrounds and on pavements etc. but there must be more spaces designated as off-lead without restrictions other than a place right next to a busy road. What happens if they are chasing a ball & the ball goes too far? They need to be able to be exercised properly in a safer place. Could they not be off-lead in the pine plantation for example? If a dog is not sociable you would hope the owner would then be responsible enough to keep it on a lead in public but there must be more space for dogs to be allowed to run freely.</p> <p>I'd rather you designate on-leash areas. As it is written, this is a suburban policy, not a rural one. Basically, you're penalising off-leash dog activity across the board except in highly restricted places. By all means, set regulations requiring dogs to be under control, create mechanisms for reporting irresponsible dog users, but don't ban harmless off-leash dogs from virtually everywhere. Moreover, adding qualifications like 'on or within 5 metres of a footpath' makes the permitted areas so restricted they are largely unusable, is completely unenforceable, and will promote conflict between users. This is massive over regulation and you haven't explained the evidence to justify it.</p> <p>Default position should be "under effective control" A blanket "on leash" for the whole shire is counter to the health benefits enjoyed by dogs and their owners in responsible use of public places. The irresponsible will never manage their dogs properly regardless of regulations. On leash as the default is blatant over-regulation, and unfairly targets those trying to be responsible according to circumstances. The last thing we need is more infringement notices for everyday activities such as taking your dog for a harmless walk.</p> <p>Yes, very strongly. The current Local Law No 10 is a disgrace. We have locals walking their dogs off leads, we have tourists & bush walkers bringing their dogs into this area, off leads, there is an unofficial web page that advises bush walkers that because the MRSC Local Law No 10 states that dogs do not have to be on leads in the shire that this applies to the Macedon Regional Park as well. Consequently, bush walkers bring in their dogs and spend the day walking through the sensitive areas of the Regional Park which is a habitat area. Council needs to talk to Parks Vic to resolve this issue. Additionally, at Stanley Park, there are 14 signs to have dogs on leads, doesn't work. Dogs are off leads all the time, their presence disturbs our nesting birds and wild life that live in the reserve. There have been a number of incidents where dogs have been seen chasing or stalking wildlife. Dogs are also causing problems with charging and barking at the reserve visitors, jumping up and grabbing people's arms. I fully support off lead areas, but do something about the bigger picture.</p> <p>In Lancefield Showlers Lane Reserve should be considered for off-leash. It has multiple access points and broad community support.</p> <p>Please do not let dogs go on sports grounds - the people who don't pick up their dogs droppings should be ashamed of themselves.</p> <p>Romsey would have inadequate off leash areas. If more/larger areas were proposed, I would support it but the current proposal would mean that I just have to stand and throw a ball to give my dogs enough exercise (boring, not practical with a toddler to look after). Walking on a lead does not provide my dogs with adequate exercise as they are very fit and need to run.</p> <p>Keep 5 Mile Creek in Romsey as off leash.</p>

QUESTION 12: DO YOU SUPPORT THE PROPOSED REQUIREMENTS FOR DOGS TO BE KEPT UNDER EFFECTIVE CONTROL IN PUBLIC PLACES?

YES	585	80.4%
NO	46	6.3%
UNDECIDED	34	4.7%
DID NOT RESPOND	63	8.7%
TOTAL	728	100%



WHY?

THEME	COMMENT
EFFECTIVE CONTROL	<p>A dog should not be let off leash unless the owner has effective control of their dog for public safety.</p> <p>Because not everyone loves dogs and public areas are for everyone not just dog owners/lovers. Dogs are unpredictable and their owners frequently chose to hope that they can control them by voice commands alone.</p> <p>Dog should always be under effective control - I thought this was already a requirement. Effective control is very important for people's and other animal's safety.</p> <p>We always keep our dogs under effective control anyway.</p> <p>I totally support the requirement for the owner to have control of their dog but do not support the on lead / off lead restrictions.</p> <p>Use the walking track from Romsey to Lancefield every day and I see people all the time with their dogs off lead and they run at you and your dog which I have on the lead.</p> <p>Its very hard to walk in Romsey when there are dogs constantly off leads and not under effective control. I think having designated off leash areas is brilliant.</p>
UNATTENDED DOGS TIED UP	<p>Only because it states that you can't leave your dog tied up outside a shop for a short period (5 minutes) This would stop many dog-owners from patronising local shops and cafes surely. I do think if a dog behaves aggressively towards other people and/or dogs there should be a restriction on their public outings until they have had more socialising/behavioural training...which in turn means being on and off lead with other dogs in a controlled situation until this is addressed and council provide/encourage use of these facilities and dog-trainers.</p> <p>I don't support that dogs can't be left on leash in front of shops etc. The other definitions I agree with.</p>

QUESTION 13: DO YOU SUPPORT COUNCIL DESIGNATING PUBLIC PLACES WHERE DOG/S ARE PROHIBITED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL REASONS?

YES	509	69.9%
NO	76	10.4%
UNDECIDED	72	9.9%
DID NOT RESPOND	71	9.8%
TOTAL	728	100%

WHY?

THEME	COMMENT
NATIVE FLORA AND FAUNA	<p>Because of ducks, ducklings, echidnas, waterfowl, fish, snakes lizards, occasional wombats, and contamination of water way's from dogs swimming in creeks predominantly from flea/tick spot on treatments and shampoos used on them.</p> <p>Same as for cats: to protect environment and native animals.</p> <p>This is already in place in some national parks etc. so guess there is a reason.</p>



THEME	COMMENT
	<p>If it is to protect delicate key environmental areas which would otherwise be damaged, then I support this.</p> <p>So long as there are still sufficient nature environments available for people to enjoy with their dogs. Walking dogs in nature is a very important element of recreation for many people.</p> <p>I do support this idea but only in a very limited way. There are very few areas that need that sort of blanket protection.</p> <p>If owners are responsible then unless the area is highly sensitive, I don't see it as a huge problem. Again, dogs have to be exercised properly or people may as well not have them.</p> <p>Dogs under control would not impact the environment. Uncontrolled children can also impact the environment, will you also ban them?</p>
SPECIFIC LOCATIONS	<p>Could not see Mt Gisborne, UL Daly Nature Reserve and Stanley Park listed?</p> <p>Of course; there are some places where for environmental reasons dogs and cats should be prohibited. Blackhill Reserve Kyneton for example with the native wildlife - kangaroos, wallabies, echidnas, birds. Plus, the native vegetation should be protected. Dogs are supposed to be on leash here at present, but they are often not on leashes. From what we have seen, many dog owners are renowned for not doing what they know they should if they think no-one is looking - so a total ban on dogs/cats in environmental may help solve this problem. Native animal welfare and safety do not go with roaming dogs/cats.</p>
IMPLEMENTATION	<p>Appropriate signage stationed at entrances of each park/oval/ space so that there is awareness of that is required in that area combined with bins and doggie poop bag dispenser to encourage people to clean up after their animals.</p>

QUESTION 14: WHAT DO YOU THINK COUNCIL CAN DO TO ASSIST DOG OWNERS TO COMPLY WITH THE PROPOSED NEW REQUIREMENTS?

THEME	COMMENT
EDUCATION/ COMMUNICATION	<p>Send out a letter to all registered dog owners. Advertise in the local papers.</p> <p>Clear signage, consistent enforcement, escalating penalties for repeat behaviour and a clever marketing campaign.</p> <p>Provide a program of education explaining why dogs should be prohibited. Provide signage noting penalties at those places.</p> <p>Education about why and where. Also need to educate the non-dog owners so they are clear about off leash areas. Have more dog waste bags and bins around. Carrying a bag/s of poo on a long walk is unpleasant. More bins for disposal is an incentive to pick up.</p> <p>Teach individuals to better control their dogs rather than bringing in laws that discriminate against owners who do the right thing.</p>
ENFORCEMENT/ INCENTIVES/ DETERRANTS	<p>Communicate changes, signage, offer warnings in first 6-12 months of change and then start issuing notices for repeat offenders.</p> <p>Enforce the rules. Have council officers doing spot checks.</p> <p>Ranger visits to key public spaces to enforce new requirements. Warnings & fines are all appropriate for repeat non-compliance</p> <p>Limit the number of dogs people can have. My neighbour owns 8 Huskies and they drive me nuts with their howling!</p>



THEME	COMMENT
DOG PARKS	<p>Maybe have a fenced off leash park for uncontrollable dogs, but that doesn't have to necessitate also making all other areas automatically on leash areas.</p> <p>Build fenced dog parks for safety and aesthetics.</p> <p>You must create proper dog parks if you're going to bring in this silly requirement. You can't take something away from us and not give us something back. We pay a lot for our rates and one of the reasons we moved to this area was for our dogs to have a happy life. Our pets are our babies, we don't have children. You can't always make rules for families and not consider people who don't have children.</p> <p>Please really consider this. I walk roads on the outskirts of town where there is no people and let my dog off the lead - he is in control at all times. Do not follow the lead of city councils by the on lead / off lead rules, which is needed i those areas but we are a country town. If you dictate where an off lead area is next people will then want these areas fenced - think of the consequences. We live in a beautiful area and having the ability to enjoy our beautiful area while walking my dog is very important and encourages a healthy lifestyle.</p>

QUESTION 15: **DO YOU OWN A DOG/S?**

YES	444	61.0%
NO	218	29.9%
DID NOT RESPOND	66	9.1%
TOTAL	728	100%

QUESTION 16: **DO YOU WALK OR EXERCISE YOUR DOGS OFF LEASH IN PUBLIC AREAS NOW?**

YES	244	55.0%%
NO	195	43.9%
DID NOT RESPOND	5	1.1%
TOTAL	444	100%

QUESTION 17: WHERE DO YOU WALK OR EXERCISE YOUR DOG/S OFF LEASH? (TICK ALL THAT APPLY)

IN THE STREETS NEAR HOME	129	52.9%
IN PARKS/RESERVES NEAR HOME	199	81.6%
ON SPORTS GROUNDS/OVALS	136	55.7%
IN BUSHLAND RESERVES	96	39.3%
OTHER – PLEASE SPECIFY	52	21.3%
TOTAL	244	n/a

QUESTION 18: HOW LIKELY WOULD YOU BE TO COMPLY WITH THE PROPOSED REQUIREMENT THAT DOGS MUST BE ON A LEASH IN ALL PUBLIC AREAS EXCEPT THOSE DESIGNATED AS AN OFF-LEASH AREA?

VERY LIKELY	72	29.5%
LIKELY	46	18.9%
UNLIKELY	46	18.9%
VERY UNLIKELY	54	22.1%
UNDECIDED	22	9.0%
DID NOT RESPOND	4	1.6%
TOTAL	244	100%

COMMENTS

THEME	COMMENT
ABILITY TO COMPLY	<p>I'm prepared to abide by it despite owning a highly trained dog that normally would be walked off leash.</p> <p>Only if it includes large areas for a dog to have a run.</p> <p>Not enough designated areas and not within walking distance. If they were I would comply... if the 'must be on a leash within 5 metres of a path' would get scrapped. That makes it impossible, surely there are better options to protect pedestrians on paths?!</p> <p>Too far away. Too far away. Too far away!! Oh yeah, and also those stupid 5-mtr within path rule that will prove impossible even if I wanted to comply with it!</p> <p>I have one dog who is lame and walks at a different pace to my other dog, who is very active and likes a ball thrown for him during walks. It would be impossible to do this if I had them both on a lead at the same time. My dogs are extremely obedient and leashing them would unnecessarily impact our exercise regime and relaxation.</p>
LOSS OF AMENITY / DETRIMENTAL IMPACTS	<p>Likely. But it would be a great loss to myself and friends here who have dogs and we all love the racetrack for example, and we use it responsibly - slipping our dogs back on lead when others with/without dogs approach. I've never had an incident. Such a pity to potentially not have that space. Very disappointed that council wants (probably because of a disgruntled few</p>



THEME	COMMENT
	<p>who might occasionally use the race track) to enforce a system over an area that is a major component of the enjoyment of our life here.</p> <p>If there's no one around, I'd probably let the dog have a run just like I do now. I'm not really big on breaking the rules though so this would make my walk stressful thus impacting on my mental health and well-being. My dog walk each day is an important aspect of my well-being and adding stress to this activity would be detrimental.</p> <p>A major part of enjoyment of living in my regional area is walking my well trained dogs off lead.</p> <p>I moved from the city to the country to have these freedoms. Can't you guys leave it alone?</p>

QUESTION 19: **HOW IMPORTANT IS IT TO BE ABLE TO EXERCISE YOUR DOG OFF LEASH IN A PARK OR RESERVE?**

VERY IMPORTANT	242	54.5%
SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	73	16.4%
NOT THAT IMPORTANT	111	25.0%
DID NOT RESPOND	7	1.6%
TOTAL	444	100%

COMMENTS

THEME	COMMENT
EXPLORATION/ DIVERSITY OF PLACE	<p>Dogs need to be able to run free to sniff and play in open areas unrestricted by leashes. I don't feel comfortable letting my dogs off leash in an unfenced area. A fully fenced dog park would meet these needs, and one that includes separate areas for small and big dogs would be beneficial for small timid dogs away from large boisterous ones.</p> <p>Dogs need proper & diverse space to exercise in.</p> <p>Large dogs need exercise and sniffing time.</p> <p>Very! I exercise my dog daily, twice a day, religiously, hail rain or shine.</p> <p>Increases dogs exercise and wellbeing. For people with a disability it can be the only way they can give their dog good exercise. Socialises dogs. Helps to train dogs.</p>
BACKYARDS/ PROPERTIES	<p>They need to have some running freedom if you don't have land yourself to allow this.</p> <p>My back yard is big enough for him to run in I enjoy walking my dog on lead but am scared to do so as too many people walk theirs off lead thinking they have control when they don't.</p> <p>Because I own a dog that is yard size appropriate not a dog like an Australian kelpie/cattle dog that requires lots of exercise to alleviate boredom! along with this list of dogs that really should not be stuck in small backyards.</p> <p>I live on acreage so it's not important to me but I understand it may be to others in the area.</p> <p>I live on a large property, so do not need to exercise my dogs elsewhere. However, it is good for dogs to have some areas where they can run off-leash, so long as they are under effective voice control.</p>
PRIORITIES	<p>It is more important to me to be able to take my companion with me where I go, when I go out for walks or into town to a café.</p>

QUESTION 20: HOW LIKELY WOULD YOU BE TO COMPLY WITH THE PROPOSED REQUIREMENTS FOR DOGS TO BE KEPT UNDER EFFECTIVE CONTROL IN PUBLIC PLACES?

VERY LIKELY	318	71.6%
LIKELY	72	16.2%
UNLIKELY	15	3.4%
VERY UNLIKELY	17	3.8%
UNDECIDED	12	2.7%
DID NOT RESPOND	10	2.3%
TOTAL	444	100%

COMMENTS

THEME	COMMENT
COMPLIANCE	<p>The proposed requirements don't allow dogs to run very much or exercise well. If you want well-behaved animals, they need space.</p> <p>I ride horses and have been harassed by ignorant dog owners and their pets.</p> <p>Unless the dog I was walking was under effective control I would not allow it off leash in public areas.</p> <p>With the proviso that there is a secure off-leash dog park provided.</p> <p>This is not negotiable. Everybody should take responsibility for their dog's behaviour. However: one caveat: Dogs, like children, like many adults even, are sometimes disobedient. Let's keep a sense of proportion here. We can all exercise a little tolerance when things aren't completely to our liking. (I don't believe this tolerance should extend to aggressive or dangerous dogs. But I would hope that there are existing laws to address that sort of thing).</p> <p>I currently comply with most of the things listed. But I would still tie my dog up to quickly go into a shop. When it's all said and done I suppose I won't be able to continue to enjoy recreation with my dog the way I currently do. There is also the issue of the dog having a council tag which I mentioned in an earlier response.</p> <p>My dogs are always on lead in public places because they are big and people are scared of them. Although they are very friendly if they come across someone who is scared of them I cannot guarantee what they might do. Hence, I keep them on lead when in public.</p> <p>My dog is not dangerous and is very obedient. Regarding having on-leash, Very Unlikely.</p> <p>I will not restrain him on leash. All other requirements are part of responsible pet ownership and the dog is under effective control at all times.</p>

QUESTION 21: HOW LIKELY WOULD YOU BE TO COMPLY WITH THE PROPOSAL TO BAN DOGS IN DESIGNATED PUBLIC PLACES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL REASONS?

VERY LIKELY	267	60.1%
LIKELY	83	18.7%
UNLIKELY	22	5.0%
VERY UNLIKELY	18	4.1%
UNDECIDED	39	8.8%
DID NOT RESPOND	15	3.4%
TOTAL	444	100%

COMMENTS

THEME	COMMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL REASONS	<p>Not necessary in nearly every case.</p> <p>If the dog is on lead and you pick up after them what's the issue? my dog helps my son who has an intellectual disability and he helps keep him calm. if the dog is on lead I don't see the issue.</p> <p>Environmental reasons I understand a ban, if dogs do in fact impact that particular space. I'm all for that. But the proposal to ban the racetrack from being off lead is unfortunate. It is used responsibly and the dogs and people 9/10 are sticking to the track and enjoying the natural space from the track. The man made track, complete with unnatural exercise equipment dotted around it - that no one uses.</p> <p>Protecting a couple of environmentally sensitive areas is fair enough, but if bans are put in place for "environmental reasons" all over the place, this would not be believable or realistic.</p> <p>Environmentally sensitive areas, yes, but if my family is at the creek or park, it is nice to include the dog in the adventure.</p> <p>Only if it is truly for 'environmental reasons'.</p> <p>I already do this.</p> <p>The welfare of native flora and fauna is very important to me.</p> <p>I respect that there will be areas my dog may not be welcome.</p> <p>If dogs are on the lead, they cannot chase birds etc or get up to too much mischief</p>
REGISTRATION	<p>I just want undesexed dog registration be a more realistic price as in under 100 dollars, Hume council down the road are far cheaper and they pay less rates than us.</p>

QUESTION 22: WHAT PUBLIC PLACES IN THE SHIRE DO YOU USE FOR RECREATION NOW (E.G. WALKING, JOGGING, CYCLING, SPORTS OR OTHER OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES? (TICK ALL THAT APPLY))

STREET/PATHS NEAR HOME	200	82.0%
PARKS/RESERVES NEAR HOME	187	76.6%
SPORTS GROUNDS/OVALS	99	40.6%
BUSHLAND RESERVES	151	61.9%
OTHER – PLEASE SPECIFY	24	10.0%
TOTAL	244	n/a

QUESTION 23: HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR ENCOUNTERS WITH DOGS BEING EXERCISED IN PUBLIC PLACES WITHIN MACEDON RANGES SHIRE?

MOSTLY POSITIVE ENCOUNTERS	94	38.5%
SOMETIMES POSITIVE ENCOUNTERS	21	8.6%
SOMETIMES NEGATIVE ENCOUNTERS	18	7.4%
MOSTLY NEGATIVE ENCOUNTERS	56	23.0%
NEITHER POSITIVE NOR NEGATIVE ENCOUNTERS	15	6.1%
I DON'T HAVE MANY ENCOUNTERS WITH DOGS IN PUBLIC PLACES WITHIN THE SHIRE	17	7.0%
DID NOT RESPOND	23	9.4%
TOTAL	244	100%

COMMENTS

THEME	COMMENT
SAFETY	<p>Whenever a dog's behaviour has a negative impact, the owners invariably say, "He's never done that before." Which is the point about dogs. Even the best trained dog will sometimes ignore commands and revert to instinctive responses.</p> <p>Personally, I enjoy encountering dogs while out walking and hope to have one in the future. However, there are some people who are very uncomfortable with dog. Therefore, all dogs at all time should be on leash (except when in designated off-leash areas).</p> <p>I do not appreciate dog fights in public places, and there are quite a few. Other than that I have had few problems.</p> <p>Most owners are responsible - some are not.</p> <p>I love dogs and usually stop to pet or speak to them. I have never had a bad experience.</p> <p>Children and some adults can be frightened by dogs that bound and jump around them if not under leash control...even if the dog is 'just happy'.</p>

THEME	COMMENT
AMENITY/ NUISANCE	<p>Only ever positive. People are very polite and considerate now.</p> <p>Some are enthusiastic. It's not that I have that many encounters with dogs while walking, but what they leave behind is very disappointing. Quite often I pass 6 or more dog droppings along the way past the Primary school, along main road and through the Lions park and along Sutherlands and Racecourse Roads. This is actually on the walking paths.</p> <p>I find it offensive when dogs approach, sniff, lick, jump etc. Keep the dogs for the dog owner. I don't like them and I shouldn't have to deal with their approaches in public spaces.</p> <p>One of our neighbours walks his dogs off leash and lets them run after our cats in our own yard. He doesn't listen to requests from us to keep them on a leash.</p> <p>I used to own and appreciate good dogs when I had the space to keep them. Now I have a town neighbour with an aggressive, neurotic, large dog that is let out on the balcony of their double story building and it automatically barks and threateningly growls at people it sees when looking down into my yard. The owners choose to let their psycho dog out in warmer weather onto this balcony but keep it off the balcony in Winter, which proves they can prevent this nuisance dog from aggressively barking at neighbours if they chose to. Who needs a dog in the middle of Kyneton that was bred to bring down two tonne rhinoceros. It is the owner that has aggressive issues and it is his deliberate choice of dog breed. Find ways to easily and effectively deal with these nuisance dog owners that does not involve tons of time and paperwork on the part of the neighbours regularly and adversely affected. You would not want to meet this dog unleashed in a public place but thankfully most dog owners are not like this one.</p>

QUESTION 24: DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER SUGGESTIONS OR FEEDBACK THAT YOU WOULD LIKE COUNCIL TO ADDRESS IN RELATION TO DOGS?

THEME	COMMENT
DOGS	<p>Enforce laws regarding barking and owners disposing of dog faeces.</p> <p>Better enforcement of leash laws.</p> <p>Ovals should not be left for dogs to roam free on.</p> <p>Off leash areas are a fantastic way for dogs to interact but people need to understand their dogs. Also council could promote local dog obedience clubs and emphasise how the training of your dog makes them a much better pet and much safer and happier for people around them when they have been exercised and socialised.</p> <p>Barking dogs is a great problem in the townships and seems to be worsening.</p> <p>It is awkward to report nuisance dog barking. People don't want to make enemies out of their dog-owning neighbours.</p> <p>Limits on dog numbers, especially due to accumulative impacts of neighbouring dogs barking.</p>
GENERAL PET LAWS AND REGULATIONS	<p>Lots of people swim dogs in our area so a blanket rule on keeping dogs out of water bodies is unlikely to be effective.</p> <p>Compulsory desexing unless you're a registered breeder.</p> <p>Consider how the laws will be enforced in a fair and common sense way that encourages training and educational rather than punitive measures that will just divide people.</p> <p>Limit on pet numbers to make sure pets are looked after properly due to financial commitment required.</p> <p>Too many stray animals roaming the streets.</p> <p>Pets locked up at night.</p>

THEME	COMMENT
	<p>Enforcement of laws against uncontrolled breeding.</p> <p>All pets should be restricted to owner's property.</p> <p>Fence and enclose dog parks.</p> <p>Combined rates and registration costs should be capped, especially if cat registration is made compulsory.</p> <p>Need solutions for rodents.</p> <p>Pet owners should be enforced to have enclosures to contain their animals on their properties at their own expense.</p> <p>You have not asked if proposed off leash areas in Kyneton are acceptable? I agree they are. The entire Campaspe River walk is at present used by dogs off leash and it has to stop. There is dog faeces everywhere and more and more people are using the path now that it is all sealed.</p> <p>Animal management could never be policed and is just silly.</p> <p>Registration is just revenue for council.</p> <p>Registration serves no purpose.</p>
COUNCIL SERVICES	<p>Council needs to enforce animal management laws better.</p> <p>Council should employ rangers to patrol or get local residents to do in an offender.</p> <p>Council should subsidise desexing and microchipping.</p> <p>Do something about dogs who continually bark for no reason.</p> <p>Dog poo bag dispensers in Lancefield Park. Too many people do not pick up after their dogs.</p> <p>I've contacted council a dozen or more times regarding straying dogs (both that I had secured, and to advise of dogs that were regularly out and posed a risk to others) and have not once been anything other than disappointed with the council's services. There is a lot of information available on proactively managing stray dogs (including returning them home) and potentially problematic dogs, and I am yet to see any evidence of council implementing any of it (except this questionnaire!). I've taken to simply hunting down owners myself, returning dogs, and chatting with them about how to contain their dogs better or find help for behaviour problems, with no council involvement at all... and I pay council to provide this service while doing it myself.</p> <p>It's in the best interest of the public to have strict rules when it comes to domestic animals. I am so over having other people's dogs being a nuisance in my own home - we need stricter rules.</p> <p>One of the main reasons we moved here was the beautiful open parklands that we and our dogs could enjoy without leashes. We would respect designated environmental and shopping precinct restrictions but if the parks and open public spaces became 'default on-leash' we would leave the shire.</p> <p>Continue working hard on this important area for the community and rate payers.</p> <p>Improve signage around local laws & expectations for pet owners. If people are clear about expectations, they are more likely to comply. I hope that off leash areas are not just simply parks, but places where families can walk or ride their bikes and take their dogs off leash at the same time. E.g. Walking and running trails.</p> <p>Animal management services should be respectful of animal owners and speak clearly and informatively with them, and help to resolve issues within a reasonable time frame. Especially chronic nuisance barking coming from bored or scared dogs being left alone outside at home all day.</p> <p>Council's process for barking dogs is too slow and places the burden on the victim instead of the offenders.</p> <p>Thank you for your survey.</p>



APPENDIX 2:

OPTIONS RELEASED FOR COMMUNITY COMMENT

PROPOSED CONTROLS FOR DOG AND CATS IN PUBLIC PLACES

RELEASED FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (NOV 2018)

The owner/person in control of a dog must restrain the dog on a leash when the dog is in any public place or Council reserve that is not designated as an off leash area. When a dog is in a public **on leash area**, it must also be under the effective control of a person at all times under the following conditions:

- Dogs must be restrained using a leash, chain or cord attached to an appropriately fitted collar, harness, or halter, all of which must be in good condition; and
- A current Council registration tag must be worn by the dog; and
- Dogs must not be allowed to harass, interfere with, or behave in an anti-social manner toward another person or animal; and
- Dogs must not be left unattended (eg. tethered in a public place).

The owner / person in control of a dog may exercise the dog off the leash in a designated off leash area according to the requirements for the area. When a dog is in a designated public **off leash area**, it must be under the effective control of a person at all times under the following conditions:

- The owner / person in control must carry a leash, chain or cord that is in good condition and is able to be placed on the dog when necessary; and
- Dogs must wear an appropriately fitted collar, harness, or halter with a current Council registration tag attached; and
- The owner / person in control must actively supervise the dog and maintain a clear and unobstructed view of the dog at all times; and
- The dog remains within 50 metres of the owner / person in control so that it is in visual and audible range to allow for effective recall at any time; and
- Dogs must respond to recall commands and return to the owner / person in charge upon verbal command or hand signal;
- Dogs must not be allowed to harass, intimidate, worry, or behave anti-socially toward another person or animal; and
- Dogs that attack or behave aggressively toward another person or animal must be immediately placed on a leash and removed from the off leash area; and
- Dogs must be restrained by leash when leaving the designated off leash area.

Dog on-leash by default across all public spaces in the Shire and specifically:



- On & within: 5 metres of a footpath (even if in an off-leash area)
- In & within: 10 metres of a playground, BBQ's and picnic tables
- Within all Bushland Reserves unless the reserve or area is an area where dogs/cats are prohibited.

Designated dog off leash areas

- As listed in table below.

Dog and cats prohibited in all waterways / water bodies and within 5 metres of a waterway banks (even if within an off-leash area)

Dogs and cats prohibited in designated public spaces for environmental reasons:

- As listed in table below.

Cats to be contained to their owner's property from dusk to dawn.

Key

	Green – Off leash		Orange – off leash with restrictions		Red – dogs and cats Prohibited
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TOWNSHIP	AREA	MAP REF.	STATUS
Bullengarook	Bullengarook Recreation Reserve – Oval and surrounds up to Pony Club	1	Off leash with restrictions – when sporting events not in progress
Clarkefield	Clarkefield Recreation Reserve	3	Off leash with restrictions – when sporting events not in progress
Carlsruhe	The Common – designated area between Jeffrey St and Ebden St	2	Off leash
Darraweit Guim	Darraweit Guim Recreation Reserve	4	Off leash

TOWNSHIP	AREA	MAP REF.	STATUS
Gisborne	Sankey Reserve	5	Off leash with restrictions – when sporting events not in progress
	Jacksons Creek – designated area between Gardiner and Sankey – south/east side walking trail	6	Off leash
	Dixon Field – designated area behind council office car park	7	Off leash
	Dixon Field ovals and surrounds	8	Off leash with restrictions – when sporting events not in progress
	Pleasant View Reserve	9	Off leash
	Turanga Reserve	16	Off leash
	Gisborne Fields – designated area of reserve	14	Off leash
	Willowbank Drainage Reserve – East between Willowbank Rd, Fowler Ct, Glenton Ct and Carinya Dr	12	Off leash
	Worcester Road Reserve	10	Off leash
	Carroll Crt Reserve	11	Off leash
Stirling Way Reserve	13	Off leash	
Gisborne South	I.R. Robertson Reserve	17	Off leash with restrictions – when no pony club events are on
	Gilligan Reserve – designated area back (north) section	18	Off leash

TOWNSHIP	AREA	MAP REF.	STATUS
Kyneton	Oak Park Area- Designated Area of Botanic Gardens/River Walk (North-west portion)	23	Off leash
	Barkly Square (public access restricted during obedience training)	20	Off leash with restrictions – when sporting events not in progress
	Gas Works Park	22	Off leash
	Kyneton Showgrounds – Secondary East Oval	21	Off leash with restrictions – when sporting events not in progress
	Bluestone Rise Park – Patterson Drive	27	Off leash
	Campaspe Views Reserve – Designated Area north of Campaspe Dr between Windridge Way and Village Green Dr	26	Off leash
	Bolton Reserve – in Campaspe Views Estate	25	Off leash
	Rollinson Reserve	19	Off leash with restrictions - when sporting events not in progress
	Velodrome	24	Off leash with restrictions – when events not in progress
Lancefield	Dundas and Noel Street Road reserve (East of Lancefield Recreation Reserve)	30	Off leash with restrictions – outside of school hours
	Park Street road reserve (end of Park St, west of Lancefield Recreation Reserve)	29	Off leash with restrictions – outside of school hours
	James Patrick Way Reserve	28	Off leash

TOWNSHIP	AREA	MAP REF.	STATUS
Malmsbury	Arboretum	34	Off leash
	Malmsbury Cricket Ground	35	Off leash with restrictions – when sporting events not in progress
	Malmsbury Common Grasslands Section (Conservation Zone 2)	36	Dogs / Cats prohibited
Macedon / Mt Macedon	Tony Clarke Reserve	32	Off leash with restrictions – when sporting events not in progress
	Clifford Reserve	31	Off leash with restrictions – when sporting events not in progress
	Centennial Park	33	Off leash
New Gisborne	Macedon Ranges Netball Arena (MRNA) – back part	37	Off leash with restrictions – when sporting events not in progress
	Ross Watt Reserve– designated area behind tennis court	39	Off leash
	Zeal St Reserve	40	Off leash
	Chessy Park Drive Reserve	38	Off leash
	Steam Park designated area	41	Off leash with restrictions – when no events in progress
	Gisborne Marshlands (at Steam Park)	15 / 42	Dogs / Cats Prohibited

TOWNSHIP	AREA	MAP REF.	STATUS
Riddells Creek	Dog Club Area (public access restricted during obedience training) – section of Riddells Creek Recreation Reserve	44	Off leash with restrictions – when sporting events not in progress
	Riddells Creek Recreation Reserve	43	Off leash with restrictions – when sporting events not in progress
	Rangeview Park – designated section only Southeast section between Yellowgum and Parkview Terrace	45	Off leash
Romsey	Romsey Community Oval – within oval only	46	Off leash with restrictions – when no sporting events or school use in progress
	Lomandra Reserve – North of Greenfields Blvd	48	Off leash
	Metcalfe Drive Reserve	47	Off leash
	Bowkett Close	49	Off leash
Tylden	Tylden Oval – designated area	50	Off leash with restrictions – outside of school hours
Woodend	Quahlee Park	51	Off leash
	Racecourse Reserve Cricket Oval	56	Off leash with restrictions – when sporting events not in progress
	Racecourse Reserve Pony Club Area (Oval)	59	Off leash with restrictions – when no pony club events on
	Woodend Grassland Reserve	57	Dogs / Cats Prohibited
	Hanging Rock Reserve (in Conservation Zones)	58	Dogs / Cats Prohibited



TOWNSHIP	AREA	MAP REF.	STATUS
Woodend (cont)	Lake Earnshaw Reserve – designated area	52	Off leash
	Cnr Wood and Anslow Street (designated area of Campaspe Park through to Pyke St)	53	Off leash
	Peppermint Lane/Reidwell Crt	54	Off leash
	Timber Lane Reserve	55	Off leash