

15.3 Dog Management Policy Review**Report Number** 15.020/25***Strategic Plan**
1. An empowered, healthy and connected community
4. Vibrant towns and villages
5. A transparent and trusted Council**File Reference** 13/33 and 08/10**Responsible Officer** General Counsel**Reporting Brief** General Counsel presenting a report on a review of the Dog Management Policy GOV-DEV 007**Conflict of Interest** No officer declared an interest under the *Local Government Act* 1993 (LGA 1993) in the preparation of this report.**Attachments**
1. Huon Valley Dog Management Policy GOV-DEV 009 [15.020/25*.1 - 14 pages]
2. Preliminary Submissions and Responses [15.020/25*.2 - 8 pages]
3. FINAL DRAFT Huon Valley Dog Management Policy [15.020/25*.3 - 20 pages]**Background**

1. Upon commencement of the *Dog Control Act 2000* (the Act) in April, 2001 the Council was required, by section 7 of the Act, to adopt a Dog Management Policy.
2. The Council has adopted a Policy since that time.
3. The existing Huon Valley Dog Management Policy was endorsed by Council in February 2015 and was reviewed in May 2019 with some minor changes being made at the time.
4. The current Policy is included as Attachment 1 to this Report and is available on the Council's website at: www.huonvalley.tas.gov.au/council/reports-and-publications/policies/
5. The purpose of this Report is to undertake a review of the current Policy.

Council Policy

6. Council Policies are reviewed in accordance with the *Policy Development and Review Policy GOV-CORP 002*.

Legislative Requirements

7. Section 7 of the *Dog Control Act 2000* requires the Council to develop, make and implement a policy relating to the management of dogs in its municipal area.



8. The policy is to include the following:
 - A code relating to responsible ownership of dogs
 - The policy in relation to declarations made, or to be made in relation to declares areas including Exercise Areas, Training areas, prohibited areas and restricted areas
 - A fee structure
 - Any other relevant matter.
9. Council is to:
 - Invite public submissions relating to the proposed dog management policy or an amendment of the policy
 - Consult with any appropriate body or organisation
 - Consider any submissions and results of any consultation before making the policy or the amendment.
10. Council is to review its dog management policy at least once every 5 years.
11. Under sections 20 to 23 of the Act, the Council may declare Exercise areas, Training areas, Prohibited areas and restricted areas. These areas are included within the Policy.
12. These declarations are to be reviewed at least once every 5 years and the review is being taken at the same time as the Policy.
13. Section 24 of the Act provides that before the Council resolves to make a declaration it is to:
 - notify, by public notice, the details of –
 - the area; and
 - any condition relating to the use of that area; and
 - in the case of a restricted area or prohibited area, the reasons for the declaration; and
 - invite submissions to be lodged within 15 working days after the notice is published; and
 - consider any submissions lodged.
14. The two review processes will be undertaken together.

Risk Implications

15. A failure to review the Policy is a breach of the Act. Whilst there are no consequences for failing to review the Policy, Council will not be meeting its governance requirements and addressing any issues that are required to keep the Policy up to date.

Financial and Budgetary Risks

16. Fees and Charges are set annually in accordance with the principles of the Policy. These fees and charges part fund the municipal inspector programme responsible for administration and enforcement of the Act.

Environmental Risks

17. There are no Environmental Risks identified for this report. The Act does however allow Council to declare areas where dogs are prohibited from entering that may include environmental considerations.

Engagement

18. Initial feedback was sought on the current Policy from the Huon Valley Dog Walkers Association, Dogs Home Tasmania and the Huon and Channel Kennel Club. The feedback received is included in Attachment 2 to this Report.
19. Councillors were consulted on the Draft amended policies and a workshop was held to discuss the policies on Wednesday 9 May 2025. Feedback has been taken into account as part of this review.
20. Engagement on the Policy will be undertaken at consult level generally, with specific comment and feedback sought from relevant dog organisations such as the Huon Valley Dog Walkers Association and Dog Homes Tasmania.
21. Engagement associated with this decision will be undertaken at Inform Level by inclusion within the Council meeting Minutes that will be available to the public on the Council's website and at the Customer Service Centre.

Human Resource and Financial Implications

22. Given that this is a general review there are no significant human resource or financial implications for the Council arising out of this Report however advertising is required in accordance with the Act.

Discussion

23. The purpose of this Policy is to provide a Dog Management Policy in accordance with the Act relating to dog management in the Huon Valley Municipal Area.
24. Policy does not set out or reproduce all the detail in the Act of the Regulations and therefore it should be noted that the Act and Regulations will be the determining basis of any specific matter. The Policy however, where applicable, guides those considerations and determinations.
25. The review has taken into account feedback provided from the engaged stakeholders as set out in Attachment 2 to this Report.
26. The key changes to the Policy on this review include:
 - A restructure of the Policy to the Council's General Policy format.
 - Removal of the description of the Declared Exercise Areas and Prohibited Area to the Appendix of the Policy. Maps of the areas are also included.
 - Removal of the Declared Exercise Area at Drip Beach. Council does not have any Crown Lease or licence over this land and Exercise Areas are concentrated in the major Towns. Discussions will need to occur separately with the Parks and Wildlife Service regarding declared areas on Crown Land as these are not the responsibility of the Council.



- Relocation of the Code of Responsible Dog Ownership to the Appendix of the Policy.
- All definitions have been updated.
- An update of the Fee Structure to reflect discussions with Councillors in the setting of the 2025/2026 dog fees. This includes removal of any registration fee reduction for Greyhounds.
- Simplification of education role of Council to work with experts and organisations noting that Council's current resourcing levels for dogs does not allow the Council to meet expectations set out in the current policy.
- Inclusion of considerations to make it clear how the CEO will consider a declaration for a dangerous dog.
- Simplification of the Complaints provisions to how to make a general complaint or a nuisance complaint and to provide for confidentiality.

27. The amended Policy following review is included as Attachment 3 to this Report.

28. The declared areas are set out in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 of the amended Policy.

Conclusion and Recommendation

29. It is recommended to adopt the policy as amended and to resolve Council's intention to declare areas to allow for advertising and submissions to be made.

15.020/25*

RESOLVED

MOVED: Cr Paul Gibson

SECONDED: Cr Lukas Mrosek

That:

- a) The Report on a review of the Dog Management Policy GOV-DEV 007 be received and noted.**
- b) Pursuant to section 7 of the *Dog Control Act 2000* (the Act), having been reviewed, the Council resolves its intention that the *Dog Management Policy GOV-DEV 007* be amended in accordance with the Attachment 3 to this Report (the amended Policy).**
- c) Pursuant to sections 20 and 22 of the Act, having been reviewed pursuant to section 26 of the Act, the Council resolves its intention that Exercise Areas and Prohibited Areas be declared as set out in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 respectively of the amended Policy.**
- d) The amended Policy be approved under paragraph b) is to be advertised in accordance with the requirements of section 7 of the Act and notice of intention to make the declared areas under paragraph c) is to be advertised in accordance with the requirements of section 24 of the Act.**

Cr Sally Doyle, Cr Paul Gibson, Cr Debbie Armstrong, Cr David O'Neill, Cr Mark Jessop, Cr Andrew Burgess, Cr Amy Robertson and Cr Lukas Mrosek voted for the motion and Nil voted against the motion.

8 / 0 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



**HUON VALLEY
COUNCIL**

HUON VALLEY DOG MANAGEMENT POLICY

GOV-DEV 009

Version Number	Approval Date
1	25 February 2015
2	22 May 2019

Authority and Other Information	
Date of approval	25 February 2015
Reviewed	22 May, 2019
Source of approval	Resolution of Council No.16015/14* Resolution of Council 17.014/19*
Date of commencement	25 February 2015
Source of authority	<i>Dog Control Act 2000</i> <i>Dog Control Regulations 2010</i>
Legislative Reference	Section 7 of the <i>Dog Control Act 2000</i>
Delegations	<i>Dog Control Act 2000</i>
Strategic Plan Reference	Objective 1 and 4, Strategic Plan 2015 - 2025
Date of review	To be reviewed at least once every five years or as required as a result of any legislative change or change in community needs or circumstances
Previous policies withdrawn or amended	<i>Huon Valley Dog Management Policy</i> developed September 2001 and reviewed in March 2008
Department responsible for implementation	Environment and Development Services
Department responsible for policy	Environment and Development Services
Publication of policy	On the Council Website and for inspection at and free from the Council Customer Service Centre

1. PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

1.1 Background

Dog ownership is an established and constructive part of life for many people in the Huon Valley community, whether for assistance, companionship or business.

The *Dog Control Act 2000* (“the Act”) statutorily appoints a Council as the principal body with authority for ensuring dogs are not a threat to the health and safety of the community within its municipal area.

The Act provides a regulatory basis for balancing the rights and responsibilities of dog owners against the rights and expectations of the community at large to be free from likely risk of threat, harm and nuisance caused by dogs.

The Act makes a dog owner responsible for the actions and behaviour of their dog, and creates a number of obligations on the owner to register and control that dog.

Section 7 of the Act requires a Council to develop and implement a Dog Management Policy for the Municipal area. The Policy must include the following matters:

- A Code relating to responsible ownership of dogs.
- The provision of declared areas.
- A fee structure.
- Any other relevant matter.

1.2 Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to provide a Dog Management Policy in accordance with the Act relating to dog management in the Huon Valley Municipal Area.

This Policy does not set out or reproduce all the detail in the Act of the Regulations and therefore it should be noted that the Act and Regulations will be the determining basis of any specific matter. The Policy may however, where applicable, guide those considerations and determinations.

1.3 Strategic Context

Strategic Area F of the Council’s 2015-2025 Strategic Plan includes for the Council to ensure compliance with Council’s legal and statutory requirements.

2. POLICY

2.1 Policy statement:

Huon Valley Council recognises that dog ownership is a lifestyle choice of a significant proportion of the community, and is committed to ensure that a harmonious relationship between dog owners and non-dog owners is maintained, and that there are appropriate facilities and guidelines to ensure the quality of life for all residents, and for the dogs themselves.

The Council is committed to maintaining standards by being outcome focused and by means of positive education wherever possible. In the event that education avenues are not effective in addressing unacceptable behaviours and attitudes with regard to dog management, enforcement and compliance action is available and will be undertaken where necessary and appropriate.

The Council will exercise its responsibilities in relation to dog control in accordance with the Act, the Regulations, the *Local Government Act 1993* and any relevant legislation or by-laws.

2.2 Policy Objectives:

The objectives of this Policy are to:

- provide an operational framework for the actions necessary to meet the Council's statutory obligations and responsibilities to ensure dog ownership within the municipal area;
- minimise likely risk of threat or harm to the amenity and safety of the community;
- facilitates the pleasures and benefits of dog ownership in a responsible and harmonious manner;
- actively support and promote responsible dog ownership through the development of a Code relating to responsible ownership of dogs;
- ensure that owners of dogs comply with their obligations under the Act to prevent the danger caused by dogs to the public and to other dogs and animals;
- provide, and review, those areas where dogs are permitted, both on-lead and off-lead, and areas where dogs are prohibited or restricted;
- reduce the risk to the community from anti-social and straying dogs through education, routine patrols, and the prompt investigation of concerns and complaints of dog-related issues. Where appropriate enforcement provisions of the Act and the *Local Government Act 1993* will be utilised to penalise breaches of those statutes.

2.3 Code of Responsible Dog Ownership

2.3.1 Background to the Code

Dog ownership satisfies many human needs, they fulfil a working role, a recreational role, a protective role and a companionship role. Dog ownership can improve the quality of human lives on both a psychological and physical level. However if not managed responsibly they can exhibit behaviours that may have a negative impact on individuals or the broader community. In order to achieve the objective of this Policy it is considered necessary to have in place a code of responsible dog ownership.

2.3.1 Purpose of the Code

The purpose of the Code is to foster and promote understanding of the importance of being a responsible dog owner and to provide dog owners or prospective dog owners with guidelines to assist in providing a caring and safe environment for their dog/s. The desired outcome is a healthy, happy, contented suitably-trained dog that does not negatively impact on its surrounding community.

Whilst the Code of responsible dog ownership is not mandatory it does set out best practices principles and acceptable community expectations as to what responsible dog ownership means.

2.3.2 The Code

The Code of responsible dog ownership is a common sense approach to establishing a foundation of easily followed guidelines based on the principles of practical selection, humane keeping, regulatory compliance and respect set out as follows:

(a) Select the Appropriate Dog

- Select a pet that best suits your circumstances i.e. lifestyle, family, budget and property. It may be that a dog is not the best choice of pet in the first place;
- Select a dog breed that best suits your circumstances. Remember you are committing to a long-term companion animal relationship, different breeds of dogs will vary from an 8 year to a possible 20 year lifespan;
- Research/investigate the original purpose of your choice of dog breed because underlying instincts may remain even after generations of cross breeding (ie. herding, guarding, hunting, household companion).
- Find out how big your choice of dog will grow and decide if you yard/house will suit it at full growth.
- The more suited your dog is to your circumstances the easier and more enjoyable it will become for you, your dog, your neighbours and the community in general.

(b) Health and Well-Being

- Ensure that the dog receives proper care and attention;
- Learn about grooming requirements needed to achieve the desired breed look. Some breeds need lots while others need little.
- Provide adequate shelter for your dog/s, warm covered protection in winter and shade in summer. Ensure it is ventilated, dry and the entrance is away from prevailing winds/rain.
- Provide for an adequate and appropriate diet. Some foods are simply not good for dogs.
- Ensure there is ample fresh water for your dog/s.
- Ensure your dog/s receive regular exercise and sensory stimulation.
- Maintain the health of your dog(s) health with regular vaccinations, worming, de-fleeing and veterinarian checks;
- Dogs should be regularly exercised. Not all breeds of dogs are the same and some require more exercise than others. It is important to understand your dog's needs for exercise so you are able to provide adequate exercise to fit in with the owners fitness, health and lifestyle.. A well exercised dog is a satisfied dog.
- Consider taking your dog to education programmes. Stimulation of a dog's mind is important and will be rewarding for you as the owner.
- Provide suitable toys/raw bones for entertainment and mental stimulation, which can assist to alleviate boredom.
- Do not leave dogs unattended in motor vehicles during periods of warmer temperatures.

(c) Social Responsibility

- Ensure your dog/s receive early and ongoing socialisation and exposure to the community in which it lives in order to create a balance of confidence and contentment i.e. appropriately socialise your dog/s with other animals and people in various surroundings, and exercise your dog/s regularly, varying the

route, thereby introducing your dog/s to new sights, sounds, odours and experiences. Appropriately socialised well-adjusted dogs are less likely to develop unwanted behavioural traits.

- Take your dog/s to obedience training. Poor manners in dogs are the predominant reason why people dispose of them, or the cause of complaints about them. Training organisations can be found in telephone directories or by contacting the Tasmanian Canine Association.
- Ensure your dog/s does not create a nuisance by barking excessively or unreasonably which may interfere with the amenity of others in the community.
- Clean up and appropriately dispose of your dog's faeces, both in a public place and on your own private property.
- Always ensure your dog/s remain under effective control when in public i.e. on a lead where required, and responsive to command at all times.
- Maintain your property to ensure your dog/s remains secure at all times and cannot roam.
- De-sexing will eliminate unwanted litters and generally improve the dog's health and life-span.
- Do not permit your dog/s to act aggressively toward people or other animals. Adopt all necessary precautions if you are aware that your dog may become aggressive.
- Take all reasonable steps to ensure that the dog does not injure, endanger, or cause distress to any stock, poultry, domestic animals or wildlife.

(d) Identification and legislative compliance

- All dogs over six months of age must be registered and microchipped;
- A lifetime dog tag will be provided by Council on Registration and must be attached to the Collar of the Dog;
- Apply for a licence to keep dogs if more than two dogs (over the age of six months) are kept on the property.
- Ensure you advise Council of any change in circumstances, such as, change of ownership, change of address, new telephone contact numbers etc.

(e) Regulatory and Compliance

- Responsible dog owners are aware of and prepared to comply with the requirements of laws and regulations as set by governing bodies, and accept that Councils are required to enforce these provisions.

Once you have committed to the decision of owning a dog you must remember, its- 'Your Dog Your Responsibility'

2.4 Dog Registration Fees and Categories

In determining fees for dog registration, Council adopts principles of fairness and equity in recognising responsible ownership, limited income opportunities, working dog classification and restricted breed or declared dog classification where appropriate.

Council will set the following categories of fees and charges:

Fee or Charge by Type of Dog	Proof Required	Fee
Sterilised Dog	A Certificate of Sterilisation or certified signed letter issued by a Veterinarian, or other acceptable demonstrated evidence that a dog meets this category	An amount as affordable as possible as determined by Council from year to year
Non Sterilised Dog	No Proof Required	Will be required to pay a higher level of fee
Pensioner's Dog	Person is in receipt of a current Federal Government Pension Concession Card (PCC) or Repatriation Health Care (TPI or DVA Gold Card)	Pensioners will be provided with an opportunity to register their first dog (only) at a discounted rate
Assistance Dog	Owner must satisfy Council that the dog meets the definition of assistance dog in the <i>Disability Discrimination Act 1992</i> ; and/or a guide and/or hearing dog as defined by the <i>Guide Dogs and Hearing Dogs Act 1967</i>	No Charge
Pure Breed Dog	Current Stud Prefix issued from the TCA	Levied a fee that recognises the purpose for which the animal is kept. The fee will, however, be discounted from that which would normally apply to an entire animal
Working Dog	Owner must satisfy Council that the dog is a bona fide working dog	Discounted Rate
Greyhound	Proof of registration/licence under the <i>Racing Regulation Act 2004</i>	Discounted Rate
Dangerous Dog/Restricted Breed Dog	Relevant declaration under section 28 or 29A of the Act	Will be required to pay a substantially higher level of fee considering the risk of the keeping of the dog to the community
Guard Dog	Relevant notification and declaration under sections 30 and 28 of the Act respectively	To pay the same rate as an unsterilised dog
Hunting Dog	Current membership to a hunting club	To pay the same rate as an unsterilised dog

Council will set its dog fees at its ordinary Council meeting held in May/June of each year. The fees will be made available on the Council website and at its Customer Service Centre and standard renewal notices will be provided to all those who have registered a dog previously.

A discount will be provided for registration of dog fees that are paid prior to 31 July of each year to encourage compliance with the Act.

2.5 Declared Areas

The Act defines specific classes of declared areas under Division 2 of the Act.

Council is the only authority that can determine declared areas within the Huon Valley Municipal Area, with the exception of prohibited public areas which are specified by the Act.

2.5.1 Restricted areas

The Council may declare an area to be an area where dogs, other than guide dogs or hearing dogs, are restricted from entering – during specified hours, days or seasons; or during specified hours, days or seasons unless they are on a lead. A person must not take a dog that is not an assistance dog into a restricted area otherwise than in accordance with the declaration.

The Council has not declared any restricted areas as at the date of this Policy and any future declarations will be considered on the particular circumstances of the case.

2.5.2 Prohibited areas

The council may declare an area containing sensitive habitat for native wildlife to be an area where dogs are prohibited from entering. A person must not take a dog that is not an assistance dog into a prohibited area.

The Council has declared the following prohibited area as at the date of the Policy:

- Burtons Reserve (Certificate of Title 225355/1) on the basis that the land contains sensitive habitat (wetlands) for native wildlife.

Any further declarations will be considered on the particular circumstances of the case.

Section 28 of the Act also provides that the following are prohibited areas:

- Any grounds of a school or crèche or any other place for the reception of children, without the permission of a person in charge of the place.
- Any shop or shopping centre other than a pet shop, veterinary clinic, pet grooming shop, or other premises related to the care and management of dogs.
- The grounds of a public swimming pool.
- The playing area of a sports ground where sport is being played.
- Any area within 10 metres of a child's playground.

2.5.3 Exercise Areas

The Council may declare an area to be an area where dogs may be exercised subject to any specified conditions.

To ensure residents and their dogs have access to exercise areas Council has declared dog exercise areas in the close proximity to each major population centre. Dogs must be under effective control at all times whilst in an exercise area.

Declared exercise areas do not, as a matter of course come with specific improvements other than the placement of a bin for the disposal of dog faeces. The placement of such bins will also be considered for other areas including along walking tracks and open space areas subject to budget, resources and asset management considerations.

It is acknowledged that, where possible, exercise areas need to be easily identified, accessible and usable for dog owners and it is important to plan public open space areas to consider accommodation of dog owners. To facilitate this, subject to budget and asset management considerations, Council may consider the installation or provision of directional signage and items for the safety and convenience of dogs and users including but not limited to fencing, seating and shading as well as opportunities for interactive and educational exercise equipment for dogs.

The Council has declared the following exercise areas as at the date of the Policy noting that, at all times, a dog is to be under effective control within each exercise area:

EXERCISE AREAS :	
Ranelagh Showground	That area west of the unmade section of Elizabeth Street to the western boundary excluding the area utilised by the Huon and Channel Kennel Club as dog shown areas.
Franklin Foreshore	Area South of the Franklin Bowls Club to the southern-most toilet block.
Geeveston	The council land between the Geeveston Scout Hall and the Tennis Club
Huonville	The fenced area in Heron Street, Huonville between the Huonville Scout Hall and the Huonville Swimming Pool Car Park.
Shipwrights Point Regatta Ground	Excluding the children's playground.
Kent Beach Road Dover	Foreshore area from the slipway south to Knobby Point.
Lymington	Drip Beach
Cygnnet	The area at the North Eastern Corner of the Ground bounded by the wood chopping area and Agnes Rivulet of the Cygnnet Recreation Ground (Certificate of Title 35309/1) subject to the following conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Use of the Exercise Area is prohibited when the Cygnnet Recreation Ground is being exclusively used for an event; (ii) Dogs are not permitted on the Cygnnet Oval.

2.5.4 Declared Training Areas

The Council may declare an area where dogs can be trained either on or off lead subject to specified conditions. The Council has not declared any training areas as at

the date of this Policy and any future declaration will be considered on the particular circumstances of the case.

2.6 Education

Council will endeavour to provide education to the community regarding responsible dog ownership and compliance with the Act.

Mechanisms adopted to provide education across all sectors of the community include:

- Provision of advice to persons in relation to the keeping and well being of their dogs, particularly in relation to addressing the issue of nuisance dogs;
- Brochures on responsible dog management;
- Provision of relevant information on Council's website;
- Visits to local schools to make presentations to students on dog ownership issues and responsibilities;
- Undertaking regular training for Council Officers to ensure they maintain a high skill level when providing dog control services;
- Raising community awareness by media advertisements and social media posts on topical issues;
- Council Officers interaction with statutory bodies and associated professionals;
- Participation in debate and discussions on changes to the Act and dog related legislation.

3. APPLICATION

This Policy applies to the Council in implementing the requirements of the Act in relation to dog control and all dog owners within the Municipal Area.

4. DEFINITIONS

The Terms used in this Policy have the same meaning as in the Act, unless otherwise defined in this section where, for the purposes of this Policy the following words shall have the following meanings:

"Act" means the *Dog Control Act 2000*;

"Council" means Huon Valley Council;

"Council Officer" means a person employed by the Council for the purpose of the Act and that is an authorised person within the meaning in section 3 of the Act;

"Guard Dog" means a dog used to guard premises that are not residential;

"Assistance Dog" means a dog as defined by Section 9(2) of the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*; and/or a guide and/or hearing dog as defined by the *Guide Dogs and Hearing Dogs Act 1967*.

“Greyhound” means a Greyhound kept for racing purposes and licenced/registered under the *Racing Regulation Act 2004*;

“Hunting Dog” means a dog used for the purposes of hunting as registered with a hunting club;

“Non Sterilised Dog” means a male or female domestic dog that has not been neutered or spayed;

“Pensioner’s Dog” means a dog owned by person as referred to in the *Local Government (Rates and Charges) Remission Act 1991*;

“Pure Breed Dog” means a pure breed dog kept for breeding purposes and registered with the Tasmanian Canine Association (TCA);

“Regulations” means the *Dog Control Regulations 2010*.

“Sterilised Dog” means a male or female domestic dog that has been surgically sterilised by a Veterinary Surgeon, or a male or female domestic dog that is totally and permanently incapable of reproducing due to age or medical condition;

“Working Dog” means a working dog means a dog used principally for droving or tending stock; or detecting illegal substances; or searching, tracking or rescuing, or working with police officers.

5. PROCEDURES

5.1 Council Officers

The role of Council Officers will include the administration and enforcement of the Act. The Officers will be consultative in their approach and will work with community members to endeavour to achieve the best outcome for dogs and their owners. Council Officers will patrol the Huon Valley and will attend to complaints and requests received from members of the community.

5.2 Hours of Operation

Council Officers will work during standard office hours Monday to Friday (8.20am – 5pm) and during normal business hours Council Officer will conduct regular patrols and respond as soon as practicable to:

- reports of dogs attacking people or animals;
- formal complaints regarding dog nuisance;
- reports of dogs at large.

5.3 After Hours

After normal business hours Council will provide an emergency out-of-hours service to respond to reports of:

- dog attacks on people and animals;

- dogs at large that are causing a traffic hazard on a major road;
- where a dog at large has been restrained within a property, arrange for collection or delivery to the Pound the next business day.

5.4 Complaints Management

Complaints will be managed in accordance with this Policy. Council Officers maintain the right to ask for the complainant's name, address and telephone number. It is essential that Council Officers have access to this information so that they may clarify details and seek further information. The information provided is strictly confidential and can only be used for Council business or subject to disclosure or as required by law.

5.5 Formal Notice of Complaint Process

On receipt of an initial complaint Council Officers will, where necessary, make a personal visit to the property with the intent to:

- Inform the dog owner/s of the nature of the complaint;
- Assess the validity of the complaint;
- Determine the extent of any nuisance;
- Advise the dog owner/s of their legal responsibilities;
- Provide recommendations and advice to modify/prevent nuisance behaviour;
- Advise the dog owner/s of subsequent action should any nuisance not be abated.

5.6 Nuisance Complaints

Those wishing to lodge a formal complaint in accordance with Section 47 of the Act are required to pay the applicable fee and complete the nuisance complaint form stating the nature of the nuisance. If a complainant is not prepared to lodge a Nuisance Complaint and/or not prepared to appear as a witness in court, Council may determine that no further action can be taken in regard to the complaint.

5.7 Municipal Dog Pound

Council will operate a Pound. The pound will be operated in accordance with the Act. Council Officers have the power to seize and impound any dog, including but not limited to the following:

- A dog that has strayed or is at large in a public place;
- A dog that is not under effective control;
- A dog that has committed an offence under the Act including attacking a person or animal;
- A dog that is unregistered; and,
- A dog that has not been microchipped.

Impounded dogs that are currently registered will be held for a minimum period of 5 working days before any further action.

Dogs that are not registered will be kept for a minimum period of 3 working days. All reasonable steps will be made to identify the owner of the dog. The dog that is seized

may be implanted in an approved manner with an approved microchip. The owner of the dog is liable for the costs associated with the implanting.

Dogs will be released from the Pound in accordance with the Act.

5.8 Re-Homing Dogs – Dogs’ Homes of Tasmania

The Council will make every effort to secure an alternative home for detained dogs, including keeping dogs for longer than the statutory period.

Council has a partnership with Dogs’ Homes of Tasmania which enables the Council to transfer dogs and thus, provide the Huon Valley Community with a broader range of services in relation to dog management in the municipal area. Dogs’ Homes of Tasmania is a registered not for profit organisation dedicated to rehoming homeless and unwanted dogs and has facilities and resources available to provide for their care and where necessary the humane euthanasia of animals. Dogs will be euthanised as a last resort when necessary.

Exceptions where dogs may not be transferred to Dogs’ Homes of Tasmania include the following:-

- Dogs’ Homes of Tasmania do not have capacity or ability to take the dog (under their “Licence to Keep Dogs”) and Council’s Pound does not have capacity to retain the dog.
- Council cannot make contact with Dogs’ Homes of Tasmania for urgent dog transfer.
- Behaviour of a dog is assessed as too dangerous to transport.
- The dog has been injured and requires immediate euthanasia or transportation to a qualified veterinarian.
- Court order requires Council authorised person only to euthanise dog as laid out in Section 62 of the Act.

6. Review

This policy is to be reviewed at least every five years in accordance with Section 7 of the Act.



Email: huondogwalkers@gmail.com

3 December 2024

Matthew Grimsey - legal.pa@huonvalley.tas.gov.au
Huon Valley Council

Re Dog Management Policy Update.

Dear Mr. Grimsey,

On behalf of the Huon Valley Dog Walking Association I would like to comment on the above mentioned document.

This is a very important document in a rural community where there are over 3,000 registered dogs to a relatively small population of people and we agree with most of the content.

We appreciate the detail which is included in the policy and the empathy which is expressed for dog owners. This includes the references to human health and wellbeing which dog ownership can enhance.

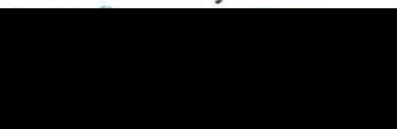
One of the important points made, but seldom discussed, is the selection of an appropriate breed of dog for an individual owner. While this isn't always possible, especially with a rescue dog, it is certainly important to ensure that dogs will fit into an owner's environment and lifestyle.

Speaking of rescue dogs, we were pleased to see that you are in partnership with Dogs' Homes of Tasmania and are able to transfer dogs which cannot be re-homed directly from the municipal dog pound. As we all appreciate the Dogs' Homes does an amazing job.

One suggestion we would like to make in relation to the cleaning up of faeces in public spaces is that Council provide more dog waste collection bags together with nearby bins around the Valley. We would be happy to discuss that matter with you relating to location.

We note that you are also intending to train Council Officers to ensure that they can develop and maintain a high skill level in relation to dogs so we assume that we are to contact them if we encounter a problem. However, we are pleased to hear that you have now appointed Richard Tomlin in a permanent position as the relevant Compliance Officer.

Yours Sincerely



Vice President

Huon Valley Dog Walking Association

From: [REDACTED]
To: [HVC Legal PA](#)
Subject: RE: Review of the Huon Valley Council's Dog Management Policy
Date: Friday, 6 December 2024 2:38:46 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi HVC

Thanks for the opportunity to be a part of this review process. We welcome the opportunity to engage again during the formal process, as outlined.

Whilst I feel the policy as provided is excellent and covers many important aspects of dog management, I can provide some initial comments that I hope are worthwhile considering. I have tried to align my comments with the relevant sections of the existing policy.

2.3.2

Emphasize the importance of socialization and behavioural training as part of responsible dog ownership. Include specific guidance and resources for owners to address common behavioural challenges.

As an additional dot point I would consider adding something to the effect of “Avoid taking young puppies into off leash dog areas until at least 6 months” – A large factor in dog reactivity is taking small puppies to uncontrolled off leash environments for “socialisation” where larger, often uncontrolled dogs are running around. For many young dogs the chances of many older dogs being overwhelming for young dogs can often develop fear and the need for the younger dogs to defend themselves.

The references to Training Organisations being found in a telephone directory etc. could be updated to online searches maybe.

2.5.3

While the policy identifies several exercise areas, expanding and enhancing these facilities can significantly benefit community members and dogs. Consider adding fully fenced off-lead areas with facilities such as water stations, waste disposal bins, shaded seating, and signage. Additional beached areas where dogs may currently exercise could be considered and added.

2.5.4

A point of feedback from the community is a lack of controlled, fenced and safe areas where dog trainers and owners can book or hire at a reasonable cost and convenience. Spaces where people can train dogs who may be in training to reduce behavioural problems.

2.6

Enhance community education on responsible dog ownership by collaborating with local shelters and veterinarians. Programs could include free or low-cost training sessions, desexing campaigns, and microchipping drives.

4

Include a definition of ‘effective control’ as per the Dog Control Act 2000.

5.7

Strengthen partnerships with animal shelters to increase rehoming rates. Introduce foster care programs and behavioural assessments for impounded dogs. Rehoming should be prioritised over euthanasia, in alignment with community values and animal welfare standards.

I hope this is helpful and logical!

We look forward to the opportunity to engage further through the formal consultation process.

Kind Regards

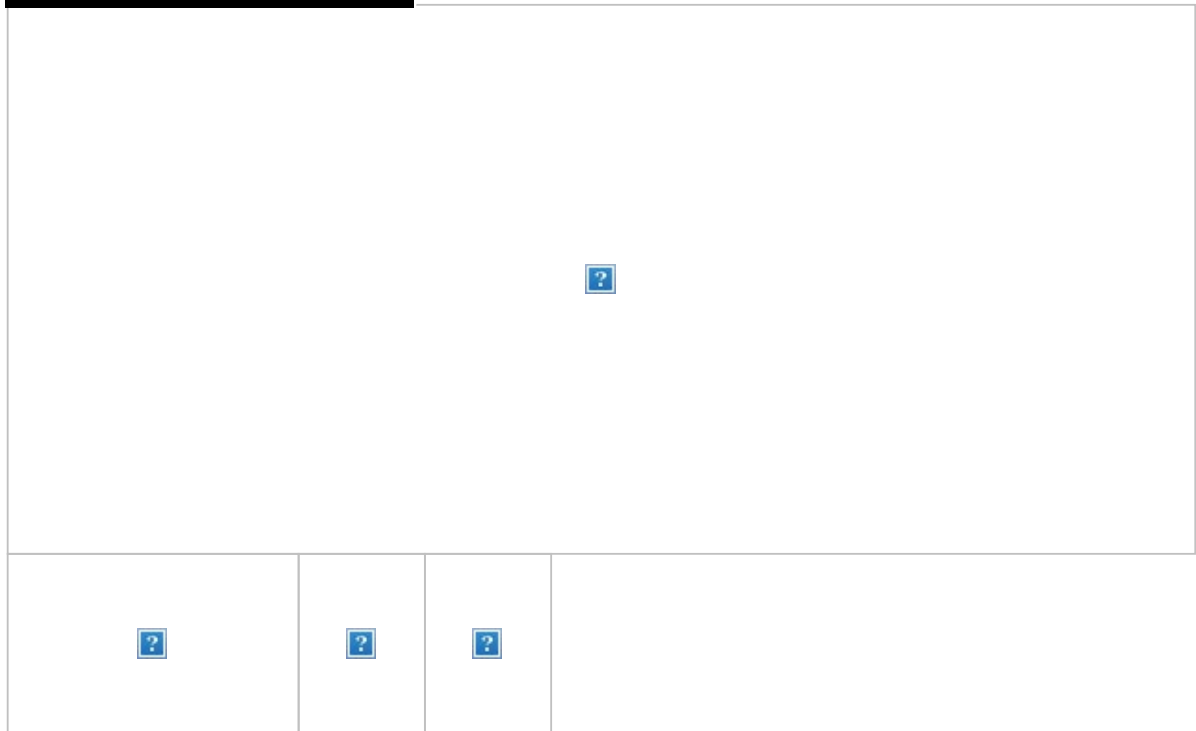
[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Chief Executive Officer

Dogs' Homes of Tasmania

[Redacted]



From: HVC Legal PA <legal.pa@huonvalley.tas.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 14 November 2024 8:47 AM

To: [Redacted]

Subject: Review of the Huon Valley Council's Dog Management Policy

Dear Dogs Home Tasmania,

In accordance with the requirements of the *Dog Control Act 2000* the Huon Valley Council is reviewing its Dog Management Policy adopted under the Act.

I enclose a copy of the Policy for your reference.

Following a preliminary review the Council is not intending to make any significant changes to the Policy other than:

- A slight restructure of the Policy to be consistent with the Council's Policy Template
- To seek to adopt a contemporary Code of Responsible Dog Ownership if there is indeed one that is generally accepted. The current Code is however considered to reflect current standards in the event there is no contemporary document. The Code will be moved to be an Appendix to the Policy to make the Policy easier to read and the Code can be a stand alone document referenced for Council's website.
- A review of the fee structure.
- Updating Declared areas, particularly it is noted that the Geeveston Exercise Area was relocated a number of years ago to Heritage Park and this is not reflected in the Policy.
- Checks will also be undertaken to ensure that all legislative references are up to date.

Prior to developing the reviewed Policy for Council consideration prior to formal engagement the Council is undertaking some informal engagement at this time with relevant stakeholders.

Your organisation has been identified as a relevant stakeholder and we would appreciate your consideration and early feedback on the Policy that can be considered as part of the review for development of the draft policy.

I do note that once a draft is approved by Council then formal engagement will occur and you will be contacted further to make any submissions on the draft document.

We would appreciate if you could review the current Policy and provide any feedback or comments your organisation may have with it, or wish the Council to consider, so that this can be taken into account early in the review.

We understand that you may consult your members however Council is not seeking individual submissions at this time so please make this clear to your members. Formal consultation on a reviewed document is expected to occur in the first half of next year.

Please correspond only with this email address.

Should you have any questions or like to discuss any issue please forward a request through to this email address so that we can arrange for the appropriate person to contact you.

We look forward to any comments that your organisation may have to please be received by COB Friday 6 December 2025.

Kind Regards



HVC Legal PA

Email: legal.pa@huonvalley.tas.gov.au

Huon Valley Council

www.huonvalley.tas.gov.au

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the South East Nation, the Melukerdee people of the Huon River and the Lylequonny people of the Far South. We recognise their continuing connection to land, water and culture, and pay respects to the Elders past, present and emerging.

This email is strictly confidential and intended only for the person or persons to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient you are warned that any disclosure or copying of the information is unauthorised. If this message has been received in error please delete it along with any attachments and notify the sender.

RESPONSE TO PRELIMINARY CONSULTATION

ISSUE	RESPONSE
<p>2.3.2</p> <p>Emphasize the importance of socialization and behavioural training as part of responsible dog ownership. Include specific guidance and resources for owners to address common behavioural challenges.</p> <p>As an additional dot point I would consider adding something to the effect of “Avoid taking young puppies into off leash dog areas until at least 6 months” – A large factor in dog reactivity is taking small puppies to uncontrolled off leash environments for “socialisation” where larger, often uncontrolled dogs are running around. For many young dogs the chances of many older dogs being overwhelming for young dogs can often develop fear and the need for the younger dogs to defend themselves.</p> <p>The references to Training Organisations being found in a telephone directory etc. could be updated to online searches maybe.</p>	<p>The importance of socialisation of a dog and avoidance of taking young puppies into off leash dog areas until 6 months has been included in the Code of Responsible Dog Ownership in Appendix 3 to the Policy under “selection of dog”.</p>
<p>2.5.3</p> <p>While the policy identifies several exercise areas, expanding and enhancing these facilities can significantly benefit community members and dogs. Consider adding fully fenced off-lead areas with facilities such as water stations, waste disposal bins, shaded seating, and signage. Additional</p>	<p>The Policy discusses basic expectations for Dog Exercise Areas.</p> <p>Inclusion of the suggested facilities is a matter for Council to consider in relation to budget and allocation of resources and sits outside of any changes to the Policy.</p>

<p>beached areas where dogs may currently exercise could be considered and added.</p>	<p>This request will be considered by the Property and Recreation Services Area for future budget allocations.</p> <p>In relation to beached areas this will need to be a discussion with the Parks and Wildlife Service. The current expectation is that where Council declares areas that the Council holds a licence for that area and assume maintenance and liability responsibility. This is a matter that Council has not been prepared to accept to date and alternative options for declaration of dog exercise areas on beaches would need to be considered whereby the Crown retains responsibility for their land.</p>
<p>2.5.4 A point of feedback from the community is a lack of controlled, fenced and safe areas where dog trainers and owners can book or hire at a reasonable cost and convenience. Spaces where people can train dogs who may be in training to reduce behavioural problems.</p>	<p>Training areas have not been included for declaration in this Policy.</p> <p>The matter will be considered by the Council's Property and Recreation Services Area as to options for dog trainers can operate in the municipal area.</p>
<p>2.6 Enhance community education on responsible dog ownership by collaborating with local shelters and veterinarians. Programs could include free or low-cost training sessions, desexing campaigns, and microchipping drives.</p>	<p>See clause 3.4 – This section discusses education and referral to expert and relevant professions and agencies.</p> <p>Specific activities such as desexing campaigns and microchipping drives operate outside of the Policy subject to Council's future budget allocations.</p>
<p>4 Include a definition of 'effective control' as per the Dog Control Act 2000.</p>	<p>Effective Control has now been defined in the Policy, See section 2.</p>

<p>5.7 Strengthen partnerships with animal shelters to increase rehoming rates. Introduce foster care programs and behavioural assessments for impounded dogs. Rehoming should be prioritised over euthanasia, in alignment with community values and animal welfare standards.</p>	<p>As part of the review process the Council has renewed its agreement with Dogs Home Tasmania. Rehoming is a primary focus of the Council where possible.</p>
<p>One of the important points made, but seldom discussed, is the selection of an appropriate breed of dog for an individual owner. While this isn't always possible, especially with a rescue dog, it is certainly important to ensure that dogs will fit into an owner's environment and lifestyle.</p>	<p>Fitting into an owner's environment and lifestyle has been included in the Code of Responsible Dog Ownership in Appendix 3 to the Policy under "selection of dog"</p>
<p>One suggestion we would like to make in relation to the cleaning up of faeces in public spaces is that Council provide more dog waste collection bags together with nearby bins around the Valley. We would be happy to discuss that matter with you relating to location.</p>	<p>This is a matter for Council to consider in relation to budget and allocation of resources and sits outside of any changes to the Policy. This request will be considered by the Property and Recreation Services Area for future budget allocations.</p>



HUON VALLEY COUNCIL

HUON VALLEY DOG MANAGEMENT POLICY

GOV-DEV 009

Version Number	Approval Date
1	25 February 2015
2	22 May 2019
3	21 May 2025

Authority and Other Information	
Date of approval	25 February 2015
Reviewed	22 May, 2019 21 May 2025
Source of approval	Resolution of Council No.16015/14* Resolution of Council 17.014/19* Resolution of Council 15.xxx/25*
Date of commencement	25 February 2015
Source of authority	<i>Dog Control Act 2000</i> <i>Dog Control Regulations 2021</i>
Legislative Reference	Section 7 of the <i>Dog Control Act 2000</i>
Delegations	<i>Dog Control Act 2000</i>
Strategic Plan Reference	1. An empowered, healthy and connected community 2. Vibrant Towns and Villages 5. A transparent and Trusted Council
Date of review	To be reviewed at least once every five years or as required as a result of any legislative change or change in community needs or circumstances
Previous policies withdrawn or amended	<i>Huon Valley Dog Management Policy</i> developed September 2001 and reviewed in March 2008
Department responsible for implementation	Infrastructure and Assets / People and Corporate Services
Department responsible for policy	Infrastructure and Assets
Publication of policy	On the Council Website and for inspection at and free from the Council Customer Service Centre

1. PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

1.1 Background

Dog ownership is an established and constructive part of life for many people in the Huon Valley community, whether for assistance, companionship or business.

1.2 Legislative Context

The *Dog Control Act 2000* (“the Act”) statutorily appoints a Council as the principal body with authority to administer the Act.

The Act provides a regulatory basis for balancing the rights and responsibilities of dog owners against the rights and expectations of the community at large to feel free from likely risk of threat, harm and nuisance caused by dogs.

The Act holds a dog owner responsible for the actions and behaviour of their dog, and creates a number of obligations on the owner to register and control that dog.

Section 7 of the Act requires a Council to develop and implement a Dog Management Policy for the Municipal area. The Policy must include the following matters:

- A Code relating to responsible ownership of dogs.
- The provision of declared areas.
- A fee structure.
- Any other relevant matter.

1.3 Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to provide a Dog Management Policy in accordance with the Act relating to dog management in the Huon Valley Municipal Area.

This Policy does not set out or reproduce all the detail in the Act of the Regulations and therefore it should be noted that the Act and Regulations will be the determining basis of any specific matter. The Policy may however, where applicable, guide those considerations and determinations and define declared areas as per Division 2 of the Act.

1.4 Objectives

The objectives of this Policy are to:

- provide an operational framework for the actions necessary to meet the Council’s statutory obligations and responsibilities to ensure dog ownership within the municipal area;
- minimise likely risk of threat or harm to the amenity and safety of the community;
- facilitates the pleasures and benefits of dog ownership in a responsible and harmonious manner;
- actively support and promote responsible dog ownership through the development of a Code relating to responsible ownership of dogs;
- ensure that owners of dogs comply with their obligations under the Act to prevent the danger caused by dogs to the public and to other dogs and animals;
- provide, and review, those areas where dogs are permitted, both on-lead and off-lead, and areas where dogs are prohibited or restricted;

- reduce the risk to the community from anti-social and straying dogs through education, routine patrols, and the prompt investigation of concerns and complaints of dog-related issues. Where appropriate enforcement provisions of the Act and the *Local Government Act 1993* will be utilised to penalise breaches of those statutes.

2. DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Policy the following words shall have the following meanings:

“Act” means the *Dog Control Act 2000*;

“Assistance Dog” means a dog as defined as an assistance animal by Section 9(2) of the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth)*;

As at the date of this Policy “Assistance Dog” is defined under section 9(2) as a dog:

- (a) accredited under a law of a State or Territory that provides for the accreditation of animals trained to assist a persons with a disability to alleviate the effect of the disability; or
- (b) accredited by an animal training organisation prescribed by the regulations for the purposes of this paragraph; or
- (c) trained:
 - (i) to assist a person with a disability to alleviate the effect of the disability; and
 - (ii) to meet standards of hygiene and behaviour that are appropriate for an animal in a public place.

“Authorised Person” means - as per section 3 of the Act;

As at the date of this Policy “Authorised Person” is defined under section 3 as: means :

- (a) a police officer; or
- (b) a general manager; or
- (c) a person appointed by a general manager to be an authorised person; or
- (d) a person who is a ranger under the [Nature Conservation Act 2002](#) ; or
- (da) a person who is a ranger under the [National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002](#) ; or
- (e) a person appointed as a bailiff of Crown lands under the [Crown Lands Act 1976](#) ;

“Council” means Huon Valley Council;

“Council Officer” means a person employed by the Council for the purpose of the Act and includes an Authorised Person

“Guard Dog” has the meaning for a Guard Dog in section 3 of the Act;

As at the date of this Policy “Guard Dog” is defined under section 3 as: means a dog used to guard premises that are not residential premises.

“Guide Dog” has the meaning for a Guide Dog in section 3 of the Act;

As at the date of this Policy “Guard Dog” is defined under section 3 as: means:

- (a) a guide dog as defined by the [Guide Dogs and Hearing Dogs Act 1967](#) ; or
- (b) a dog training to be a guide dog;

“Hearing Dog” has the meaning for a Hearing Dog in section 3 of the Act;

As at the date of this Policy “Hearing Dog” is defined under section 3 as: means:

- (a) a hearing dog as defined by the [Guide Dogs and Hearing Dogs Act 1967](#) ; and
- (b) a dog training to be a hearing dog;

“Greyhound” has the meaning for a greyhound in section 3 of the *Racing Regulation and Integrity Act 2024*;

As at the date of this Policy “Greyhound” is defined under section 3 as: means: a greyhound dog bred for the purposes of racing

“Hunting Dog” has the meaning for a Hearing Dog in section 3 of the Act;

As at the date of this Policy “Hunting Dog” is defined under section 3 as: means a dog used principally for hunting.

“Non Sterilised Dog” means a male or female domestic dog that has not been neutered or spayed;

“Pensioner’s Dog” means a dog owned by person as referred to in the *Local Government (Rates and Charges) Remission Act 1991*;

“Pure Breed Dog” means a pure breed dog kept for breeding purposes and registered with the Tasmanian Canine Association (TCA);

“Regulations” means the *Dog Control Regulations 2021*;

“Restricted Breed Dog” means a dog declared to be a restricted breed dog under section 29A of the Act;

As at the date of this Policy “Restricted Breed Dog” is declared under section 29A of the Act as:

(1) An authorised person, by notice served on the owner of a dog, may declare that dog to be a restricted breed dog if the authorised person, having regard to any approved guidelines relating to restricted breeds, is satisfied that the dog is a dog of a restricted breed.

(2) A notice under [subsection \(1\)](#) is to –

(a) state the reasons for the declaration; and

(b) advise the owner of the right of appeal under [section 31](#).

(3) For the purposes of [subsection \(1\)](#), the following breeds of dog are restricted breeds:

(a) dogo Argentino;

(b) fila Brasileiro;

(c) Japanese tosa;

(d) American pit bull terrier or pit bull terrier;

(e) Perro de Presa Canario or Presa Canario;

(f) any other breed, kind or description of dog whose importation into Australia is prohibited by or under the [Customs Act 1901](#) of the Commonwealth.

“Sterilised Dog” means a male or female domestic dog that has been surgically sterilised by a Veterinary Surgeon, or a male or female domestic dog that is totally and permanently incapable of reproducing due to age or medical condition;

“Working Dog” has the meaning for a Working Dog in section 3 of the Act;

As at the date of this Policy “Working Dog” is defined under section 3 as: means means a dog used principally for –

(a) droving or tending livestock; or

(b) detecting illegal substances; or

(c) searching, tracking or rescuing; or

(d) working with police officers.

3 POLICY STATEMENT

3.1 Policy statement:

Huon Valley Council recognises that dog ownership is a lifestyle choice of a significant proportion of the community, and is committed to facilitating a harmonious relationship between dog and non-dog owners, by providing appropriate facilities and guidelines to ensure the quality of life for residents, and for the dogs themselves.

The Council is committed to maintaining standards by being outcome focused and by means of positive education wherever possible. In the event that education avenues are not effective in addressing infringing behaviours with regard to dog management, enforcement and compliance action is available and will be undertaken where necessary or appropriate.

The Council will exercise its responsibilities in relation to dog control in accordance with the Act, the Regulations, the *Local Government Act 1993* and any relevant legislation or by-laws.

3.2 Dog Registration Fee Structure

In determining fees for dog registration, Council adopts principles of fairness and equity in recognising responsible ownership, limited income opportunities, working dog classification and restricted breed or declared dog classification where appropriate.

Council will set fees for the following categories annually. A late fee will be applied if renewal is not paid by due date.

Fee or Charge by Type of Dog	Proof Required	Fee
Sterilised Dog	Certificate of sterilisation, or other acceptable evidence.	An amount as affordable as possible as determined by Council from year to year
Non-Sterilised Dog	Dog is entire/not sterilised	Will be required to pay a higher level of fee
Pensioner's Dog	Person is in receipt of a current Federal Government Pension Concession Card (PCC) or Repatriation Health Care (TPI or DVA Gold Card)	Pensioners will be provided with an opportunity to register their first dog (only) at a discounted rate.
Guide Dog/Hearing Dog and Assistance Dog.	Owner must satisfy Council that the dog meets the definition of Guide Dog, Hearing Dog or Assistance Dog	No Charge
Pure Breed Dog	Current Stud Prefix issued from the Tasmanian Canine Association Incorporated	Levied a fee that recognises the purpose for which the animal is kept. Discounted Rate.
Working Dog	Owner must satisfy Council that the dog is a <i>bona fide</i> working dog	Discounted Rate
Dangerous Dog/ Restricted Breed Dog	Relevant declaration under the Act	Will be required to pay a substantially higher level of fee considering the risk of the keeping of the dog to the community
Guard Dog	Relevant notification and declaration under the Act	To pay the same rate as an unsterilised dog
Hunting Dog	Owner must satisfy Council that the dog is a <i>bona fide</i> hunting dog – Current membership to a hunting club	To pay the same rate as an unsterilised dog

3.3 Declared Areas

The Act defines specific classes of declared areas under Division 2 of the Act.

Council is given the authority to declare areas within the Huon Valley Municipal Area, with the exception of prohibited public areas which are specified by the Act.

Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS), Property Services manages Crown reserved land, under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002*. Most land management functions undertaken by PWS are governed by the *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002* and the *National Parks and Reserved Land Regulations 2019*. The remainder of Crown land is managed in accordance with the *Crown Lands Act 1976*.

3.3.1 Dog Exercise Areas

3.3.1.1 Declared Areas

:

The Council may declare an area to be an area where dogs may be exercised subject to any specified conditions.

To ensure residents and their dogs have access to exercise areas Council has declared dog exercise areas in the close proximity to each major population centre.

Declared exercise areas do not, as a matter of course come with specific improvements other than the placement of a bin for the disposal of dog faeces.

It is acknowledged that, where possible, exercise areas need to be easily identified, accessible and usable for dog owners and it is important to plan public open space areas to consider accommodation of dog owners. To facilitate this, subject to budget and asset management considerations, Council may consider the installation or provision of directional signage and items for the safety and convenience of dogs and users including but not limited to fencing, seating and shading as well as opportunities for interactive and educational exercise equipment for dogs.

Off-lead exercise areas are provided as a fun area for you to exercise with your dog. When using an off-lead exercise area do not allow your dog to approach another dog without the owner's permission. Do not allow your dog to harass, annoy, inconvenience or act aggressively towards other dogs or people. If your dog becomes aggressive, scared or distressed, immediately put them on a lead and remove them from the area until they are calm.

Declared exercise areas in the Huon Valley are described in Appendix 1.

3.3.1.2 Dog Exercise Areas Conditions of Use

Owners can exercise up to four dogs (that are not a dangerous dog, restricted breed dog or a Greyhound), off lead in a dog exercise area.

Dogs must be under effective control at all times whilst in an exercise area.

For your dog to be under effective control while in an off-lead area it must remain in close proximity to you, be insight of you at all times and be immediately responsive to

your commands. If you cannot confidently ensure you have your dog under effective control when off-lead you must keep your dog on a lead.

3.3.2 Restricted areas

Council may declare an area to be an area where dogs, other than guide dogs or hearing dogs, are restricted from entering;

- (a) During Specified hours, days or season; or
- (b) During Specified hours, days or seasons unless they are on a lead; or
- (c) At all times.

Council has not declared any restricted areas as at the date of this Policy and any future declarations will be considered on its merit.

3.3.3 Prohibited areas:

Council may declare an area containing sensitive habitat for native wildlife to be an area where dogs are prohibited from entering, unless the dog is a guide dog or a hearing dog or assistance dog and is accompanying the owner.

In addition to the public areas defined under Section 28 of the Act, Declared Prohibited Areas in the Huon Valley are described in Appendix 2.

Section 28 of the Act defines the following as prohibited public areas that dogs are prohibited from entering and is not discretion to Council:

- a) Any grounds of a school, preschool, kindergarten, creche or other place for the reception of children without the permission of a person in charge of the place; or
- b) Any shopping centre or any shop; or
- c) The grounds of a public swimming pool; or
- d) Any playing area of a sportsground on which sport is being played; or
- e) Any area within 10 metres of a children's playground.

There are exceptions for prohibited public areas under section 28(2) of the Act to allow dogs into veterinary, pet shop, pet grooming premises and other places related to the care and management of dogs.

3.3.4 Declared Training Areas

The Council may declare an area where dogs can be trained either on or off lead subject to specified conditions. The Council has not declared any training areas as at the date of this Policy and any future declaration will be considered on the particular circumstances of the case.

The Council has not declared any training areas as at the date of this Policy and any future declarations will be considered on the particular circumstances of the case.

3.4 Education

Council will endeavour to provide education to the community regarding responsible dog ownership and compliance with the Act by collaborating with experts such as vets, animal behaviorists, or organisations such as the Dogs Home, local shelters or RSPCA for specialist advice.

New dog owners are also referred to the Huon Valley Code of Responsible Dog Ownership. See Clause 3.6.

3.5 Enforcement Principles

3.5.1 Enforcement Policy

Enforcement will be undertaken in accordance with the Council's Policy relating to Enforcement as adopted from time to time.

3.5.2 Dangerous Dogs

Section 29 of the Act provides that the Chief Executive Officer may declare that a dog be a dangerous dog if:

- the dog has caused serious injury to a person or another animal; or
- there is reasonable cause to believe that the dog is likely to cause serious injury to a person or another animal

When considering the exercise of discretion to declare that a dog is a dangerous dog pursuant to section 29 of the Act the Chief Executive Officer will consider:

- The severity of any injury/incident
- Previous history/pattern of behaviour
- The circumstances of the incident.
- Whether the behaviour was provoked
- Steps taken by the owner to prevent incidents
- Public safety factors
- Expert Evidence
- Alternative measures available

The following matters are irrelevant considerations:

- Personal views about an individual dog or dog breeds;
- Unrelated complaints about the owner/person in charge of the dog;
- Political/public pressure
- Financial implications.

As a matter of Council Policy, the location of the incident of the dog being in a public place and/or at large will be a factor in favour of issuing a declaration.

3.6 Huon Valley Code of Responsible Dog Ownership

3.6.1 Background to the Code

Dog ownership satisfies many human needs, they fulfil a working role, a recreational role, a protective role and a companionship role. Dog ownership can improve the quality of human lives on both a psychological and physical level. However if not managed responsibly they can exhibit behaviours that may have a negative impact on individuals or the broader community. In order to achieve the objective of this Policy it is considered necessary to have in place a code of responsible dog ownership.

3.6.2 Purpose of the Code

The purpose of the Code is to foster and promote understanding of the importance of being a responsible dog owner and to provide dog owners or prospective dog owners with guidelines to assist in providing a caring and safe environment for their dog/s. The desired outcome is a healthy, happy, contented suitably-trained dog that does not negatively impact on its surrounding community.

Whilst the Code of responsible dog ownership is not mandatory it does set out best practices principles and acceptable community expectations as to what responsible dog ownership means.

3.6.2 The Code

The Code is contained in Appendix 3.

4. APPLICATION

This Policy applies to the Council in implementing the requirements of the Act in relation to dog control and all dog owners within the Municipal Area.

5. PROCEDURES

5.1 Council Officers

The Chief Executive Officer will appoint Council Officers for the purposes of administering the Act.

The role of Council Officers will include the administration and enforcement of the Act. The Officers will be consultative in their approach and will work with community members to endeavour to achieve the best outcome for dogs and their owners. Council Officers will patrol the Huon Valley, attend to complaints and requests appropriately made by members of the community.

5.2 Hours of Operation

Council Officers will be on duty during standard office hours, subject to resource and availability, and will conduct regular patrols and respond as soon as practicable to:

- reports of dogs attacking people or animals;
- formal complaints regarding dog nuisance;
- reports of dogs at large.

5.3 After Hours

Outside of Council's standard business hours Council is endeavour to provide an emergency out-of-hours service to respond to reports of:

- dog attacks on people and animals;
- dogs at large that are causing a traffic hazard on a major road;
- where a dog at large has been restrained within a property, arrange for collection or delivery to the Pound the next business day.

5.4 Complaints

5.4.1 Making of Complaints

Complaints may be made appropriately in the following manner:

- Via HVC's online complaints form (www.huonvalley.tas.gov.au/requests-and-feedback/customer-complaints-form/).
- Via email to hvc@huonvalley.tas.gov.au. In person, at the Council Chambers, via Customer Service Officers.
- Via telephone to Council's Customer Service Officers (6264 0300).
- Via the Snap Send Solve, mobile application (snapsendsolve.com).

5.4.2 Nuisance Complaints

Those wishing to lodge a formal complaint in accordance with Section 47 of the Act are required by the Act to;

- Pay the applicable fee, and
- Complete a nuisance complaint form, and
- State the nature of the nuisance.

If a complainant is not prepared to lodge a Nuisance Complaint and/or not prepared to appear as a witness in court, Council may determine that no further action can be taken in regard to the complaint.

5.4.3 Confidentiality

Council Officers maintain the right to ask for the complainant's name, address, dates of birth, telephone number or email. It is essential that Council Officers have access to this information so that they may clarify details, seek further information and respond to complaints.

Information provided is strictly confidential and can only be used for Council business or subject to disclosure as required by law and considering any applicable Council Policy.

5.5 Municipal Dog Pound

Council will operate a Pound. The pound will be operated in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and the *Animal Welfare (Dogs) Regulations 2016*

Council Officers have the power to seize and impound any dog, including but not limited to the following:

- A dog that is at large;
- If the Officer has a reasonable belief that the owner or person in charge of a dog has committed an offence under the Act.
If the Officer has reasonable belief a dog that been involved in an attack, as per section 19, Dogs Attacking Persons or Animals, of the Act;,
- If the Officer has reasonable belief a dangerous dog or a restricted breed dog is not under effective control, as per section 32, Effective control of dangerous dogs and restricted breed dogs, of the Act.

Impounded dogs that are currently registered will be held for a minimum period of 5 working days before any further action.

A dog that has been seized under sections 19 and 32 of the Act may be held for up to 7 working days or if proceedings are commenced until proceedings are completed.

Dogs that are not registered will be kept for a minimum period of 3 working days. All reasonable steps will be made to identify the owner of the dog. The dog that is seized may be implanted in an approved manner with an approved microchip. The owner of the dog is liable for the costs associated with the implanting.

Dogs will be released from the Pound in accordance with the Act.

5.6 Re-Homing Dogs – Dogs' Homes of Tasmania

The Council will make every effort to secure an alternative home for detained dogs, including keeping dogs for longer than the statutory period.

Council has a partnership with Dogs' Homes of Tasmania which enables the Council to transfer dogs and thus, provide the Huon Valley Community with a broader range of services in relation to dog management in the municipal area. Dogs' Homes of Tasmania is a registered not for profit organisation dedicated to rehoming homeless and unwanted dogs and has facilities and resources available to provide for their care and where necessary the humane euthanasia of animals. Dogs will be euthanised as a last resort when necessary.

Exceptions where dogs may not be transferred to Dogs' Homes of Tasmania include the following:-

- Dogs' Homes of Tasmania do not have capacity or ability to take the dog (under their "Licence to Keep Dogs") and Council's Pound does not have capacity to retain the dog.
- Council cannot make contact with Dogs' Homes of Tasmania for urgent dog transfer.
- Behaviour of a dog is assessed as too dangerous to transport.
- The dog has been injured and requires immediate euthanasia or transportation to a qualified veterinarian.
- Court order requires Council authorised person only to euthanise dog as laid out in Section 62 of the Act.

APPENDIX 1

DECLARED DOG EXERCISE AREAS

See Clause 3.3.1 of the Policy

Ranelagh Showground



That area west of the unmade section of Elizabeth Street to the western boundary excluding the area utilised by the Huon and Channel Kennel Club as dog shown areas.

Franklin Foreshore



The area South of the Franklin Bowls Club to the southern-most toilet block excluding the RV Site.

Geeveston



The fenced area of land on Heritage Park in Arve Road between the CMCA caravan Park and the Children's playground.

Huonville



The fenced area in Heron Street, Huonville between the Huonville Scout Hall and the Huonville Swimming Pool Car Park.

Shipwrights Point Regatta Ground



The Shipwrights Regatta Ground at Huon Highway, Port Huon excluding the children's playground.

Kent Beach Road Dover



The Dover Beach Foreshore area from the slipway south to Knobby Point.

Cygnets



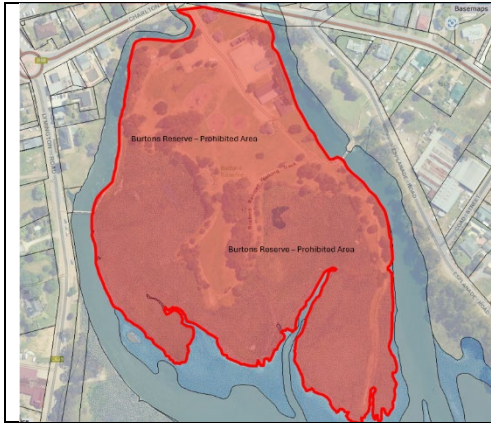
The area at the North Eastern Corner of the Ground bounded by the wood chopping area and Agnes Rivulet of the Cygnets Recreation Ground (Certificate of Title 35309/1) subject to the following conditions:

- (i) Use of the Exercise Area is prohibited when the Cygnets Recreation Ground is being exclusively used for an event;
- (ii) Dogs are not permitted on the Cygnets Oval.

APPENDIX 2

PROHIBITED AREAS

See Clause 3.6 of the Policy



The entire Burtons Reserve land at Charlton Street Cygnet

APPENDIX 3

CODE OF RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP

See Clause 3.6 of the Policy

The Code of responsible dog ownership is a common sense approach to establishing a foundation of easily followed guidelines based on the principles of practical selection, humane keeping, regulatory compliance and respect set out as follows:

(a) Select the Appropriate Dog

- Select a pet that best suits your circumstances i.e. lifestyle, family, budget and property. It may be that a dog is not the best choice of pet in the first place;
- Select a dog breed that best suits your circumstances. Remember you are committing to a long-term companion animal relationship, different breeds of dogs will vary from an 8 year to a possible 20 year lifespan;
- Research/investigate the original purpose of your choice of dog breed because underlying instincts may remain even after generations of cross breeding (ie. herding, guarding, hunting, household companion).
- Research the type of dogs that will fit into an owners' environment and lifestyle, such as find out how big your choice of dog will grow and decide if you yard/house will suit it at full growth.
- The more suited your dog is to your circumstances the easier and more enjoyable it will become for you, your dog, your neighbours and the community in general.

(b) Health and Well-Being

- Ensure that the dog receives proper care and attention;
- Learn about grooming requirements needed to achieve the desired breed look. Some breeds need lots while others need little.
- Provide adequate shelter for your dog/s, warm covered protection in winter and shade in summer. Ensure it is ventilated, dry and the entrance is away from prevailing winds/rain.
- Provide for an adequate and appropriate diet. Some foods are simply not good for dogs.
- Ensure there is ample fresh water for your dog/s.
- Ensure your dog/s receive regular exercise and sensory stimulation.
- Maintain the health of your dog(s) health with regular vaccinations, worming, de-fleeing and veterinarian checks;
- Dogs should be regularly exercised. Not all breeds of dogs are the same and some require more exercise than others. It is important to understand your dog's needs for exercise so you are able to provide adequate exercise to fit in with the owners fitness, health and lifestyle.. A well exercised dog is a satisfied dog.
- Avoid taking young puppies into off leash dog areas until at least 6 months.
- Consider taking your dog to education programmes including socialisation and behavioural training. Stimulation of a dog's mind is important and will be rewarding for you as the owner and for future socialisation with other dogs.
- Provide suitable toys/raw bones for entertainment and mental stimulation, which can assist to alleviate boredom.
- Do not leave dogs unattended in motor vehicles during periods of warmer temperatures.

(c) Social Responsibility

- Ensure your dog/s receive early and ongoing socialisation and exposure to the community in which it lives in order to create a balance of confidence and

contentment i.e. appropriately socialise your dog/s with other animals and people in various surroundings, and exercise your dog/s regularly, varying the route, thereby introducing your dog/s to new sights, sounds, odours and experiences. Appropriately socialised well-adjusted dogs are less likely to develop unwanted behavioural traits.

- Take your dog/s to obedience training. Poor manners in dogs are the predominant reason why people dispose of them, or the cause of complaints about them. Training organisations can be found in telephone directories or by contacting the Tasmanian Canine Association.
- Ensure your dog/s does not create a nuisance by barking excessively or unreasonably which may interfere with the amenity of others in the community.
- Clean up and appropriately dispose of your dog's faeces, both in a public place and on your own private property.
- Always ensure your dog/s remain under effective control when in public i.e. on a lead where required, and responsive to command at all times.
- Maintain your property to ensure your dog/s remains secure at all times and cannot roam.
- De-sexing will eliminate unwanted litters and generally improve the dog's health and life-span.
- Do not permit your dog/s to act aggressively toward people or other animals. Adopt all necessary precautions if you are aware that your dog may become aggressive.
- Take all reasonable steps to ensure that the dog does not injure, endanger, or cause distress to any stock, poultry, domestic animals or wildlife.

(d) Identification and legislative compliance

- All dogs over six months of age must be registered and microchipped;
- A lifetime dog tag will be provided by Council on Registration and must be attached to the Collar of the Dog;
- Apply for a licence to keep dogs if more than two dogs (over the age of six months) are kept on the property.
- Ensure you advise Council of any change in circumstances, such as, change of ownership, change of address, new telephone contact numbers etc.

(e) Regulatory and Compliance

- Responsible dog owners are aware of and prepared to comply with the requirements of laws and regulations as set by governing bodies, and accept that Councils are required to enforce these provisions.

*Once you have committed to the decision of owning a dog you must remember, its-
'Your Dog Your Responsibility'*