

1 Policy History

Revision No.	Council Meeting Date	Minute No.	Adoption Date
1	11/05/2010	0142	11/05/2010
2	09/06/2015	15/161	09/06/2015
3	10/03/2020	20/065	17/04/2020
4	09/07/2024	24/182	09/08/2024

2 Policy Objective

To provide clear protocol for the management of infant and feral animals which come into Council's care at the Griffith Pound and Rehoming Centre ("the Centre").

3 Policy Statement

Pursuant to Section 64(2) of the *Companion Animals Act 1998* (the Act), council may adopt a policy in relation to the management of feral or infant companion animals. Section 64(2) of the Act requires the policy give direction on how seized or surrendered feral or infant animals are dealt with before the end of any such period referred to in Section 64(1).

Feral Companion Animals

Feral animals, usually cats, may be humanely trapped and transported to the Centre. Feral animals suffer stress when caged and in response become aggressive. They are difficult to handle and pose a safety risk to Council Compliance staff.

Animals suspected of being feral must be assessed by Council Compliance staff or a veterinarian to validate the animal as 'feral'.

After reasonable investigations into its identification have been made, should the animal be deemed as feral, is unsuitable or unlikely to be re-homed, would be considered cruel to keep caged for the statutory holding period, or poses a safety risk to Council Compliance staff, the animal may be humanely euthanised prior to the standard statutory holding period.

Infant Companion Animals

Infant animals are in the first stage of existence and unable to support their own life. Animals suspected of being infant must be assessed by Council Compliance staff.

Section 64(5) of the Act requires that, before humanely euthanising a seized animal, Council considers whether there is a possible alternative and, if practicable, adopt this alternative.

Should the infant animal be of such a size and age that survival is possible through intensive care external of the Centre, or it is in the best interest of the infant animal to warrant early

release, infant animals may be subject to early release. This process will be in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding between Council and approved welfare organisations and/or approved foster carers that reside within NSW.

If suitable alternatives to euthanasia are not available at the time then Council authorises the humane euthanasia of the infant/feral companion animal.

Conclusion

In accordance with Section 64(2) of the Act, Council authorises the humane euthanasia of feral and infant animals following any advice provided by Council Compliance staff or a veterinarian. Euthanasia of any animals will be administered by a veterinarian.

4 Definitions

Companion Animal: Means either a dog, or a cat, or any other animal that is prescribed by the regulations as a companion animal.

Feral Companion Animal: Means a dog or cat whose owner is unidentified and has been living as a wild animal in undomesticated circumstances, and demonstrates such wild behaviour that handling the animal would pose a risk to staff and be seen as cruel to keep the animal caged for any length of time than deemed necessary.

Infant Companion Animal: Means a dog or cat in the first period of existence and refers to an animal that is not able to feed and fend for itself or is of such age that keeping it within a pound facility would place the animal's welfare at risk.

5 Exceptions

None

6 Legislation

Companion Animals Act 1998
Companion Animals Regulations 2018

7 Related Documents

Council Policy (CO-CP-702) Rehoming and Adoption of Animals from the Griffith Pound and Rehoming Centre

8 Directorate

Sustainable Development