

DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN 2025-29

WHAT WE HEARD – ROUND TWO

Animal management in Hobsons Bay is shaped by the Domestic Animal Management Plan, which is updated every four years in accordance with state government legislation. This plan supports responsible pet ownership, ensures the safety and welfare of animals, minimises disruptions caused by cats and dogs, and guides Council officers in enforcement practices.

Based on the feedback received during round one of community consultation, some proposed changes were developed and incorporated into the Draft 2025-29 Domestic Animal Management Plan. The community was asked for their feedback on these changes. Below is a summary of what we heard.

The community engagement process

From 4th August to 1st September 2025, we sought feedback from residents to capture community feedback on our Draft 2025-29 Domestic Animal Management Plan.

Using an online survey on Participate Hobsons Bay, residents were asked to provide feedback on proposed key changes to the plan.

The project was advertised on our social media platforms as posts on our Facebook and Instagram pages.

What we heard

We received 91 responses to our online survey.

As this was the second round of community consultation, focusing on specific details of the draft plan, no demographic information was collected. Overall, most respondents support each of the proposed initiatives. Further insights are below.

Barking and Nuisance Dogs

Excessive barking and nuisance behaviour were frequently mentioned. Respondents support the proposed new resources and called for improved council processes to address complaints, including faster response times and clearer enforcement mechanisms. Some noted that barking often reflects deeper welfare issues, such as neglect or lack of stimulation.

Cat Containment and Management

Many respondents expressed strong support for cat containment measures, including curfews and restrictions on roaming. Concerns were raised about the impact of stray and roaming cats on native wildlife, property damage, and public health. Some participants advocated for mandatory desexing and better enforcement, while others questioned the practicality of curfews for older or feral cats.

Registration and Microchipping

Feedback on pet registration was mixed. Some respondents felt that incentives like free registration for young pets were helpful, while others believed responsible owners would register regardless. Concerns were raised about the cost and accessibility of registration and microchipping services.

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Dog Waste and Public Cleanliness

Dog waste management was a recurring theme. Respondents highlighted the need for more bins and bag dispensers in public areas, particularly parks and walking paths. While most supported the idea of free poo pouches, others felt it was unnecessary or that dog owners should take personal responsibility.

Desexing and Population Control

There was strong advocacy for low-cost or free desexing programs, especially for cats. Respondents viewed desexing as essential to controlling stray populations and reducing shelter intake. Suggestions included community outreach and desexing events at accessible locations, such as shopping centres.

Council Responsiveness and Enforcement

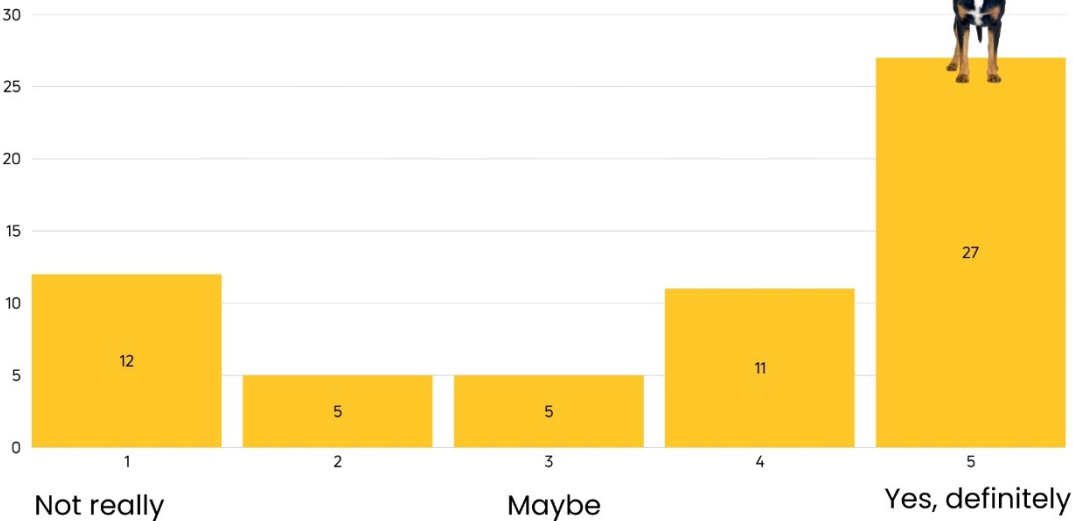
Many contributors expressed frustration with council responsiveness, citing long wait times for services like trap loans or ranger callouts. There were calls for more active patrols, better enforcement of leash laws, and transparency around how registration fees are used.

Survey results

New resources and processes for dealing with barking dogs

We'll make a helpful booklet to explain why dogs bark and how neighbours, dog owners and animal management officers can work together to fix barking problems.

Would you find this useful?



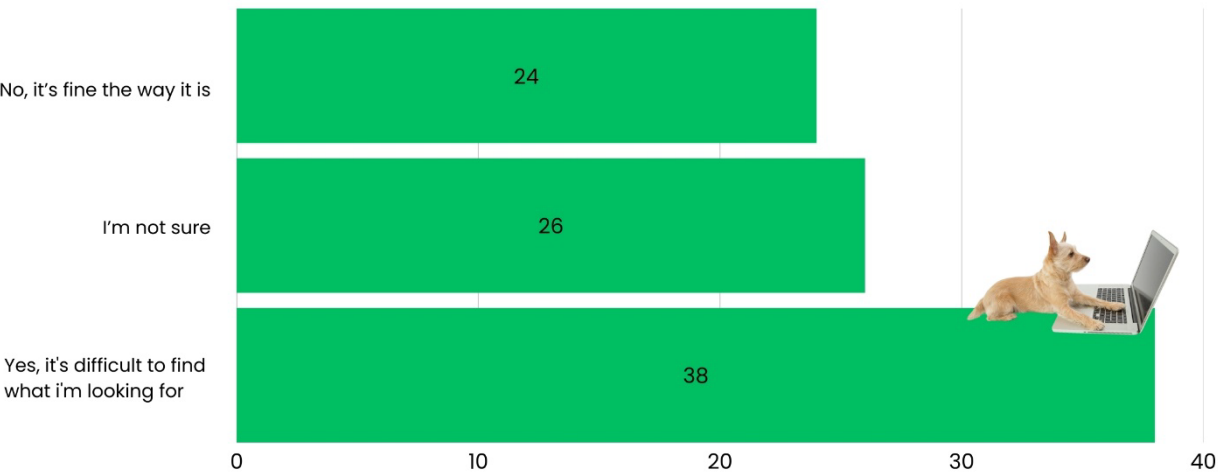
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Update and expand pet related advice on our website

We are proposing to improve our website so people can easily find the information they need.

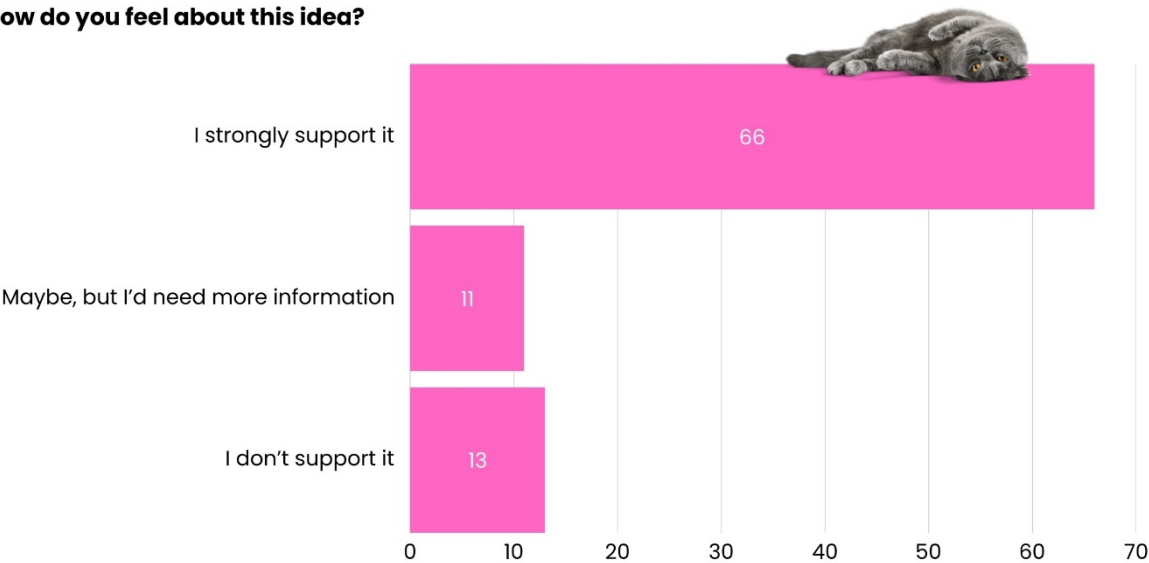
Should Council improve its website to make it easier for people to find answers to their questions?



Cat Containment Initiative

We're exploring a cat curfew or containment order to keep cats safe and protect wildlife.

How do you feel about this idea?



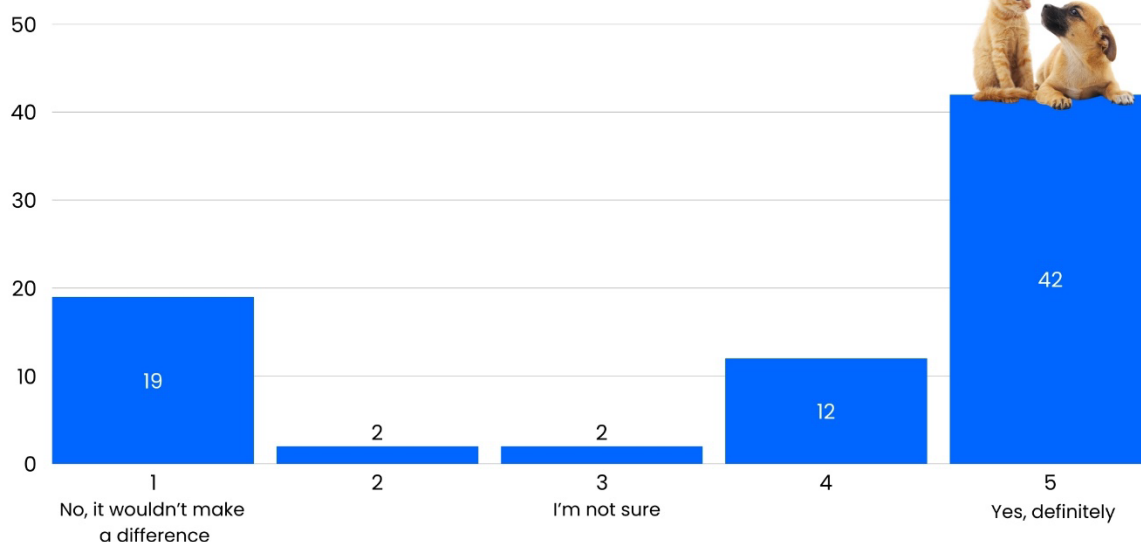
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Free Registration for Puppies and Kittens

We're proposing free first registration for puppies and kittens under three months old.

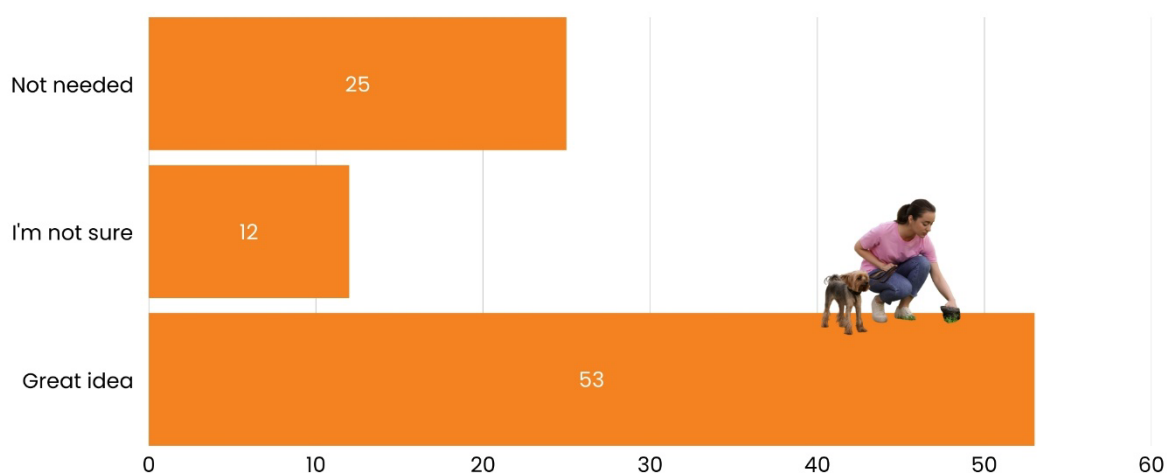
Would this encourage you to register your pet earlier?



Poo pouch initiative

If we get funding we would like to give out small pouches that clip onto your dog's leash and hold plastic bags to help clean up after your dog.

What do you think about giving dog owners free Poo Pouches?



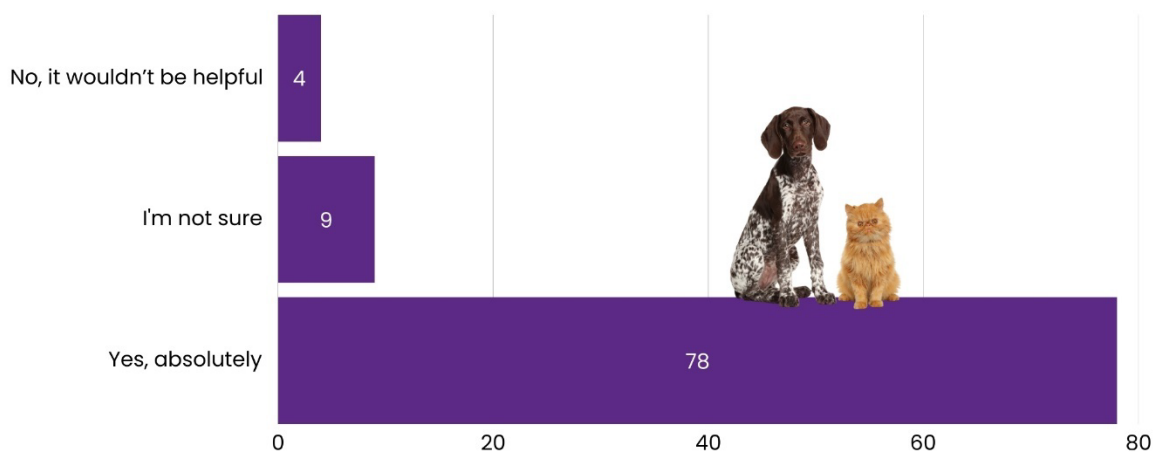
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Low-Cost Desexing Programs

We want to partner with the Pound to offer things like cheaper desexing, free microchipping and easy pet education.

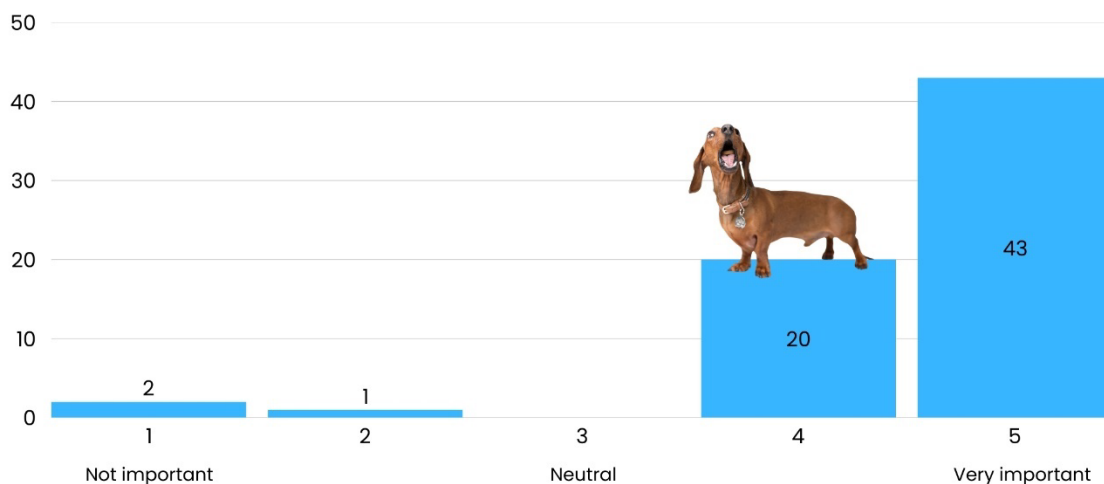
Would this be helpful to you or someone you know?



Better plan updates

We'll do a better job of telling the community how our animal plan is going

How important is it to you for us to update the community about how it's animal plan is going each year?



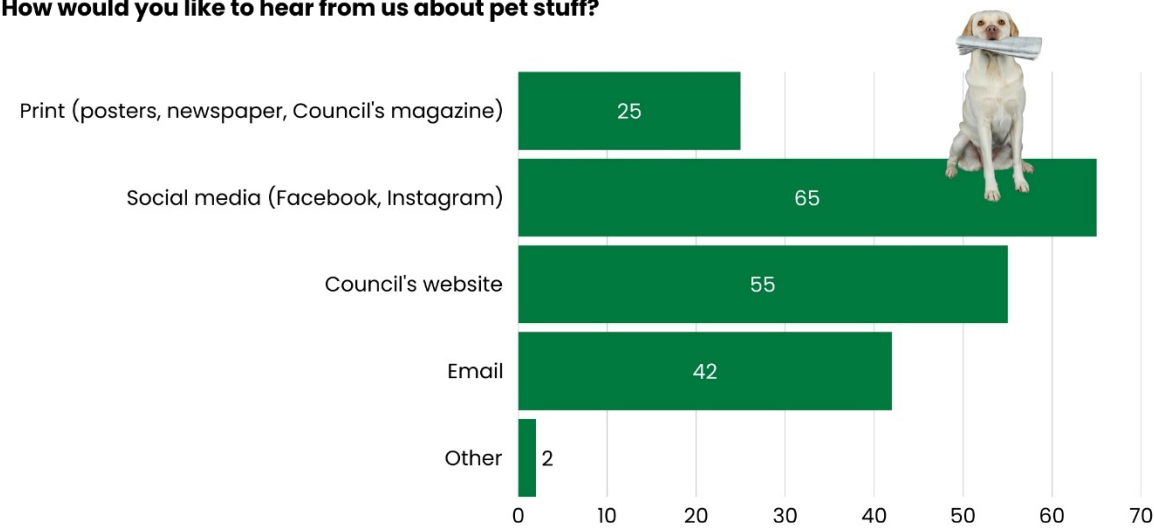
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Communication

We want to share important messages to help people look after their pets

How would you like to hear from us about pet stuff?



Next steps

Finalisation of the plan	September - October 2025
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