

POLICY NAME

Feral, Pest and infant Animal's Policy

POLICY NUMBER

EH 007

DATE ADOPTED

18 September 2010

COUNCIL MINUTE NUMBER

PRC 96

POLICY TYPE

Council

REVIEW DATE

30 June 2026

RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT

Environmental Health & Compliance

Purpose

Feral and Pest animal species within a region can negatively impact biodiversity, agricultural production, the economy and the community. Feral and Pest animals can be considered any species (other than native species) that present a biosecurity threat.

It is the responsibility of individuals to ensure they discharge their general biosecurity duty to manage the biosecurity risks posed by Feral and Pest. Landholders and community members should work with other stakeholders identified in the Greater Sydney Regional Strategic Pest Animal Plan 2018 – 2023 to ensure ongoing implementation of effective Feral and Pest animal management practices. NSW Local Land Services supports the delivery of Feral and Pest management activities and have a regulatory role under the NSW Biosecurity Act 2015.

This policy aims to:

- Assist the community to reduce the impact of Feral and Pest animals and promote Council's responsible domestic animal management practices.
- Cover animals impounded by Council's Animal Services Team.
- Comply with Section 64 and 64A of the Companion Animals Act 1998.
- Comply with Section 12 of the Impounding Act 1993.

Feral and Pest animals that are seized or captured by an authorised Council Officer or members of the public are transported to an authorised facility.

Feral and Pest animals are usually received at authorised facilities in poor condition. They are difficult to handle and are not suitable to be re-homed. Caging pest/feral animals cause stress on the animal. Infant animals require vast amounts of resources to raise and have a low resistance to diseases.

Policy Statement

Council acknowledges the pest/feral animals (such as cats & goats) inhabit areas of the Penrith Local Government Area. These animals cause environmental, social and economic impacts within the community.

Scope

This policy applies to Council and local residents.

1. Feral Animal Management Strategies

Council will assist with the implementation of strategies to reduce the environmental, social and economic impacts of pest/feral animals in the Local Government Area. Council will work cooperatively with other agencies and land owners.

2. Environmental Impacts

Council will participate in measures designed to protect the flora and fauna habitats from the threat of pest/feral animals. Control programs should be targeted in areas of greatest conservation value, such as where threatened species are affected. Council will support the most appropriate techniques and act to control pest/feral animals on land it manages.

3. Economic and Social Impacts

Council will participate in active measures to reduce the economic and social cost of Feral and Pest animals to the community. Joint control programs should be developed to manage pest/feral animal populations in areas where damage to both public and private property is occurring

4. Public Safety

Council will take actions to reduce the danger and health risks to the community associated with Feral and Pest animals on roadways, public places and Council managed land.

5. Community Education

Council will continue to research and gather information on the impact of Feral and Pest animals and their control through active involvement with other agencies. Council will promote a better understanding of pest/feral issues among the community through Councils website, presentations and providing information for media releases where applicable.

6. Collection and Management of Data

Council will keep a record of customer requests. Council will collect information through surveys and the Information Management System on the number, distribution and impacts of Feral and Pest animals in the community and utilise the data to make informed decisions on feral animal management.

7. Customer Response

Council will provide a consistent response to customer requests regarding pest/feral animals. Council will liaise with other agencies including the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Rural Lands Protection Board, Local Land Services, NSW Police and Department of Primary Industries to ensure unified and up-to-date information is provided.

Definitions

- a. Companion Animal – means dog or cat.
- b. Feral – means wild, or existing in a state of nature and showing no signs of domestication.
- c. Pest animal – any species (other than native species) that presents a biosecurity threat.
- d. Companion Animals that are wearing a collar, identification tag or micro chipped **MUST NOT** be deemed Feral.
- e. Infant - means in the first period of existence and refers to an animal that is not able to feed and fend for itself.

Procedures

1. Observe and assess the behavior of the animal or companion animal captured or received from the public to determine if they potentially pest/feral or infant.
2. Follow the procedure set out below:
 - a. **Procedure for companion animal deemed pest/feral**
 - Receive the animal noting the animal was deemed pest/feral
 - b. **Procedure for companion animal deemed Infant**
 - Receive the animal noting the animal was an Infant
3. Pest/feral or Infant animals be euthanased prior to the end of any required holding period as determined by the Companion Animals Act 1998.

History

Pest/feral animals are generally received at the Animal Holding Facility in a poor condition, are difficult to handle and accommodate and are not suitable to be rehomed. Caging pest/feral animals causes stress on the animal. Infant animals require vast amounts of resources and time to raise and have a low resistance to diseases.

POLICY HISTORY	DATE
Version 1 – Adopted by Council	18 September 2010
Version 2 – Review by Environmental Health and Compliance Manager – Minor updates.	16 July 2021