

knox
your city



Knox City Council

Domestic Animal Management Plan

Engagement Summary Report
Phase 1 - August 2021



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Executive summary

Preparing a Domestic Animal Management Plan

The Victorian *Domestic Animal Act 1994* requires every Victorian Council to prepare a Domestic Animal Management Plan, outlining how it will manage dogs and cats within its municipal boundaries. This Plan is renewed every four years.

The Knox City Council Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) details Council's strategies for the management of dogs and cats, including providing education to the community, promoting responsible pet ownership, and protection of the community and environment from nuisance dogs and cats. The DAMP also outlines how Council will enforce all legislative requirements and compliance with our local laws.

Community engagement approach

The community engagement approach for the development of Council's DAMP includes two rounds of community engagement:

- Phase 1 – consultation to gather feedback from a broad range of stakeholders on their feedback on the current 2017-2021 DAMP, and ideas for the next DAMP (August 2021); and
- Phase 2 – consultation to gather feedback on the draft DAMP (scheduled for November 2021).

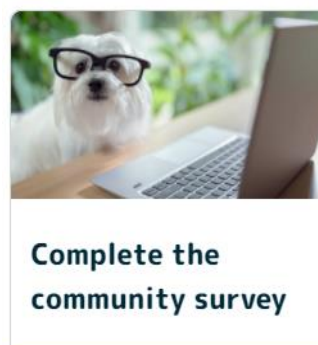
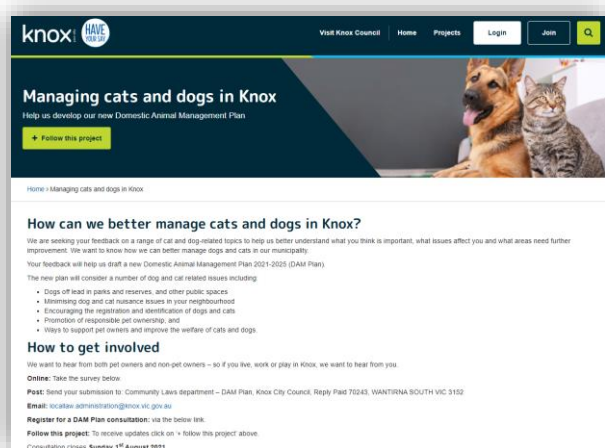
During the Phase 1 of engagement, we wanted to hear from our community their feedback on how dogs and cats are managed in the Knox municipality, including feedback on Council's animal management services and suggestions on what could be improved. The feedback from this community consultation, together with feedback from other stakeholders and benchmarking of how other Council's manage cats and dogs, will inform the preparation of the draft 2021-2025 DAMP.

The Phase 1 of engagement ran from 2nd July to 1 August 2021 (31 days), and offered the following ways to engage primarily via Council's *Have Your Say* website, by:

- Survey – for community members/ residents (Appendix 1)
- Survey – for businesses who work with cats and dogs, including animal welfare organisations

For those unable to access Council's online options, consultation was offered to receive feedback via:

- Request a one-on-one consultation (in lieu of drop-in sessions or community meetings – due to COVID)
- Provide a submission/ feedback – via email, mail (postage paid) or to Council's customer service centre.



The audience for Phase 1 of the engagement was:

- Registered cat and dog owners (approximately 7,000 registered cats and 19,000 registered dogs in Knox, which is around 1/3 of Knox households)
- Unregistered cat and dog owners
- People interested in animal welfare
- People concerned about animal nuisance / people who have made complaints in the past 12 months
- Users of our public spaces which includes off-lead parks and reserves
- Non-pet owner residents
- People that engaged in the previous Domestic Animal Management Plan Consultation
- Business owners of domestic animal businesses (e.g. animal boarding) and veterinary clinics; and
- Local community groups (e.g. Knox Obedience Dog Club).

The engagement was promoted via a range of Council's communication channels, including:

- News articles (2) on Council's website home-page
- A flyer distributed to over 53,000 homes in the municipality (pictured)
- SMS message sent to over 95% of registered cat and dog owners in the municipality, being over 18,600 pet owners (that have provided Council with a mobile phone contact number)
- A3-sized coreflute signs installed in 50 key parks across the municipality (pictured)
- Digital screens in Council's Civic Centre and libraries
- News article in Knox's e-Newsletter in July 2021
- Facebook advertisement
- Direct emails to a range of stakeholders including:
 - Council's domestic animal businesses, veterinary clinics, animal pound, animal welfare and animal training organisations/ groups
 - Previous participants who followed the previous DAMP consultation
 - Residents that have lodged a cat/dog issue to Council in the previous 12 months.

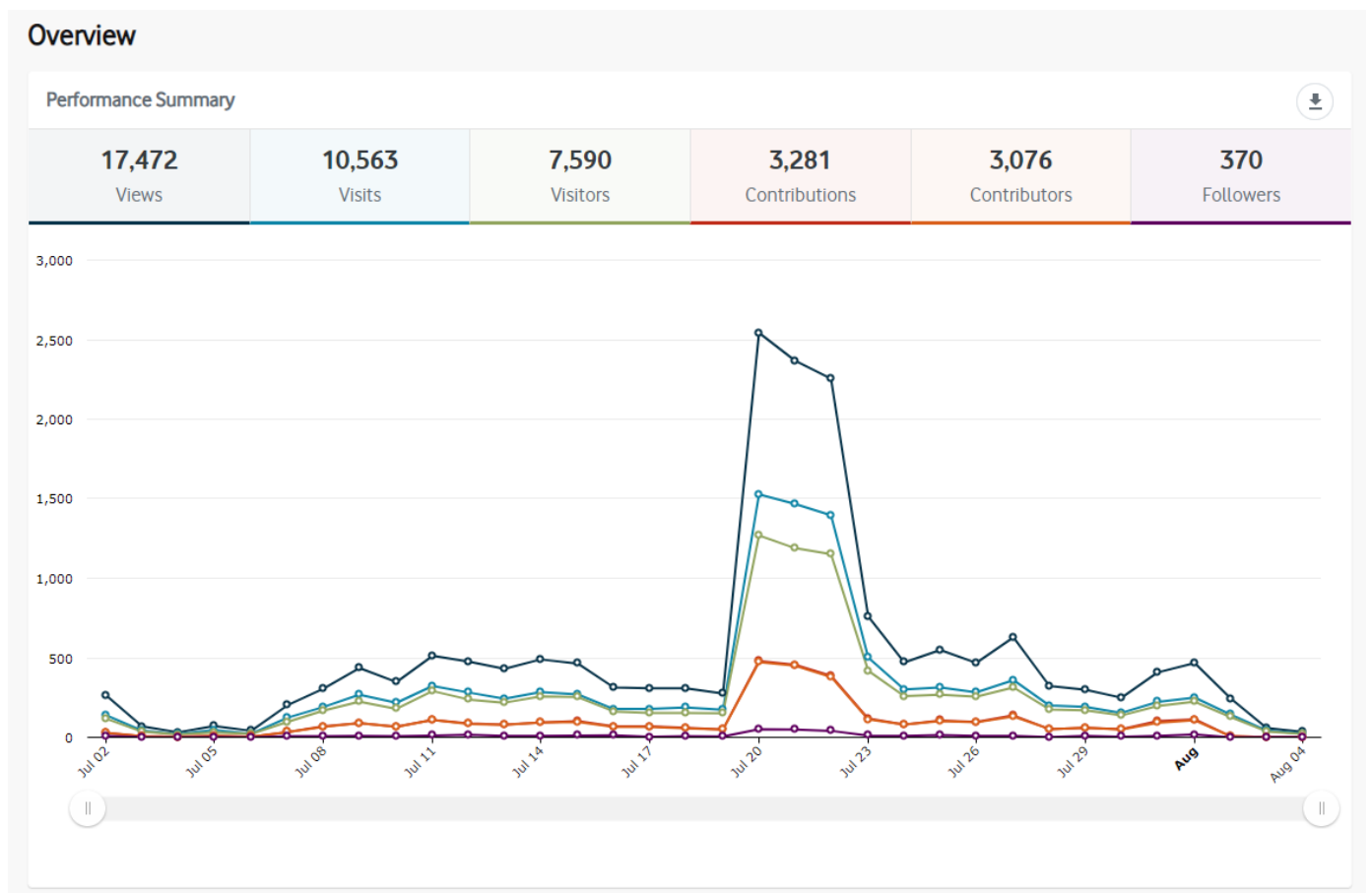


Summary of engagement findings

In July 2021, Knox City Council undertook a consultation with the local community and domestic animal businesses to inform the development of the next Domestic Animal Management Plan. A total of 3,317 responses were received from the community and businesses, through the following channels:

Engagement activity	Responses
Community survey	3,256
Email responses	32
One-on-one consultations (on request)	25
Domestic animal business survey	4

The following graph shows the number of visits/ views and contributions made on the dedicated **“Managing Cats and Dogs in Knox”** webpage on Council’s Have You Say community engagement website haveyoursay.knox.vic.gov.au/dogs-and-cats Note the peak submission spike shown in the graph corresponds with the sending of SMS messages to registered cat and dog owners – inviting their participation in this consultation.

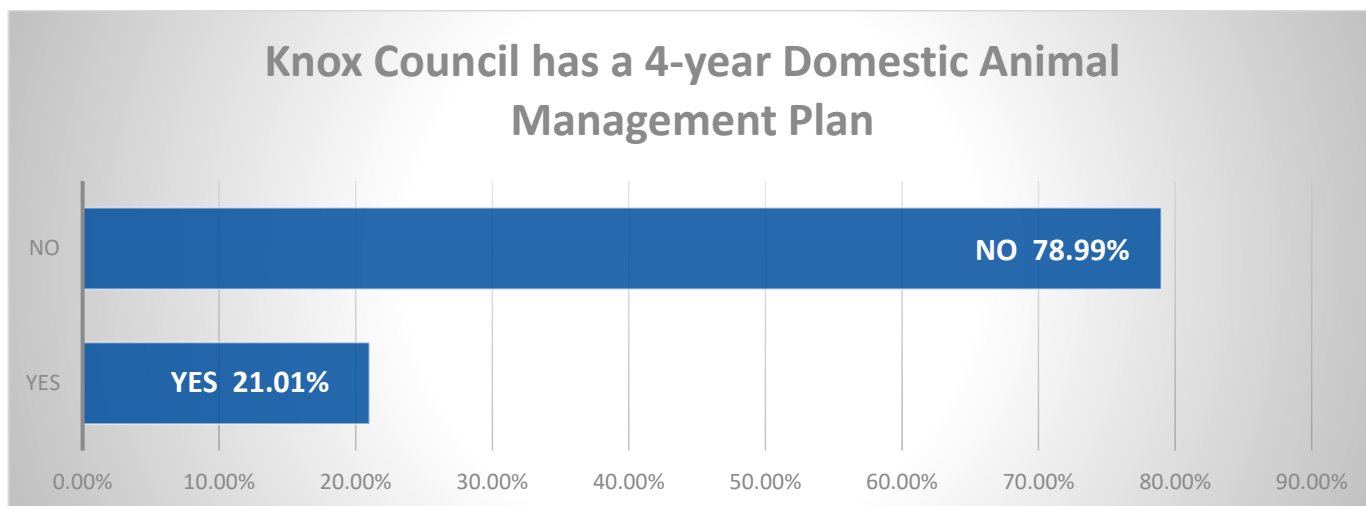


The consultation results have identified a number of key themes – regarding how our community feels about cats and dogs, and how Knox City Council can better support both pet and non-pet owners.

Some of the key findings of the engagement were:

- High engagement in the survey from dog or cat owners (90%) demonstrates a high level of interest in animal management and a commitment to responsible pet ownership in Knox.
- Many community members supported that the animal management services are either very important or important.
- The need for a review of and/or increased compliance and community education regarding dog off leash rules and areas.
- Consideration of the range of support requested by the community, to assist with the introduction of the 24 hour cat curfew in April 2022.
- A need for solutions to address the problem of dog waste (poo) not being collected and disposed of properly.
- Provision of public education and communication campaigns to increase the community awareness of their responsibilities (including registration & microchipping, having your dog under effective control, etc) when owning a cat or dog in Knox.

The survey also identified that 79% of respondents did not know that Council has a 4-year Domestic Animal Management Plan, with over 88% of respondents saying they had not read Council’s 2017-2021 DAM Plan.

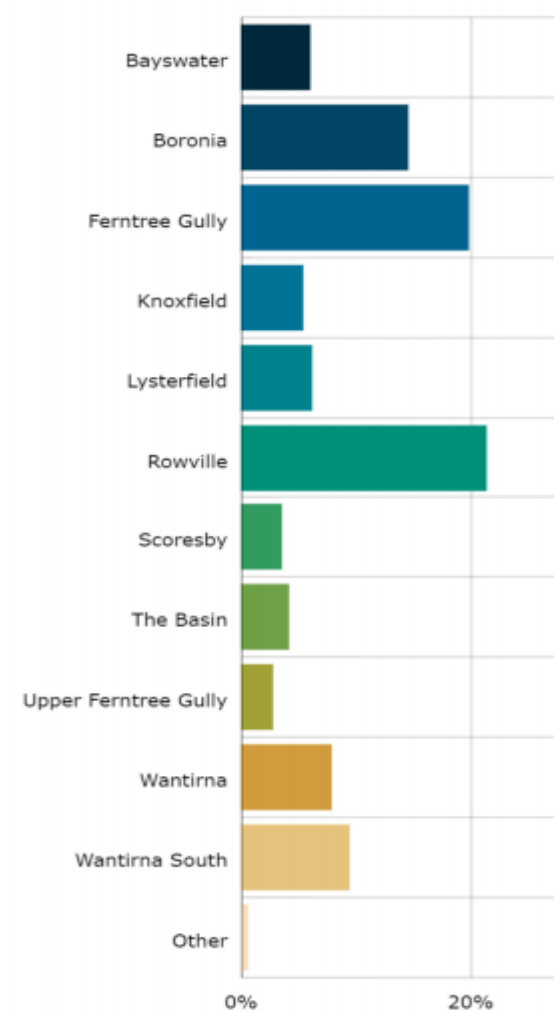


Engagement findings

Who we heard from

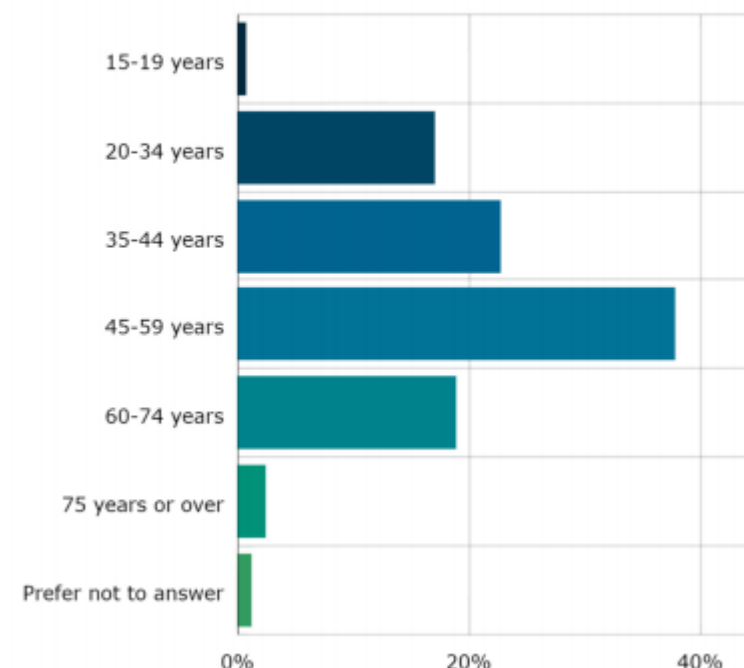
24. Which suburb do you live?

Select Box | Skipped: 94 | Answered: 3,162 (97.1%)



25. What is your age bracket?

Select Box | Skipped: 99 | Answered: 3,157 (97%)



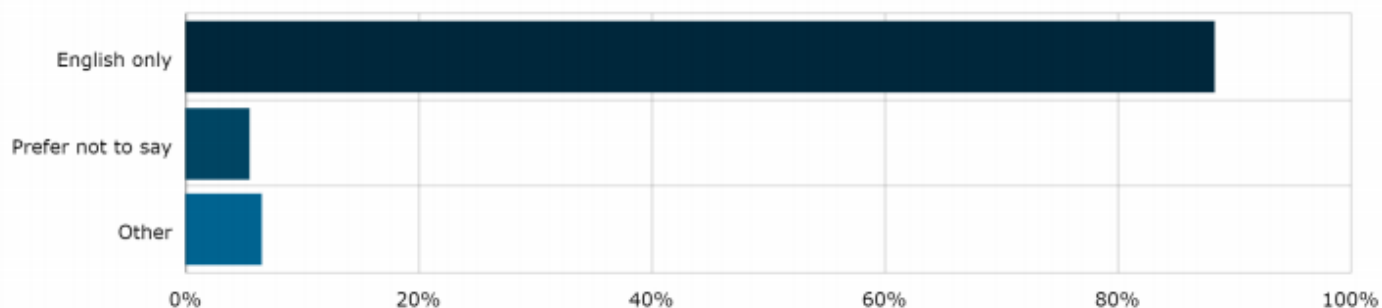
26. What best describes your household?

Select Box | Skipped: 119 | Answered: 3,137 (96.3%)

I live on my own	10.68%	335
I live with another adult, no children at home	33.25%	1,043
I live with another adult, with children in the home	46.19%	1,449
I am a single parent, with children in the home	5.93%	186
Other	3.95%	125
TOTAL	100%	3,137

27. Do any members of your household speak a language other than English at home?

Select Box | Skipped: 187 | Answered: 3,069 (94.3%)

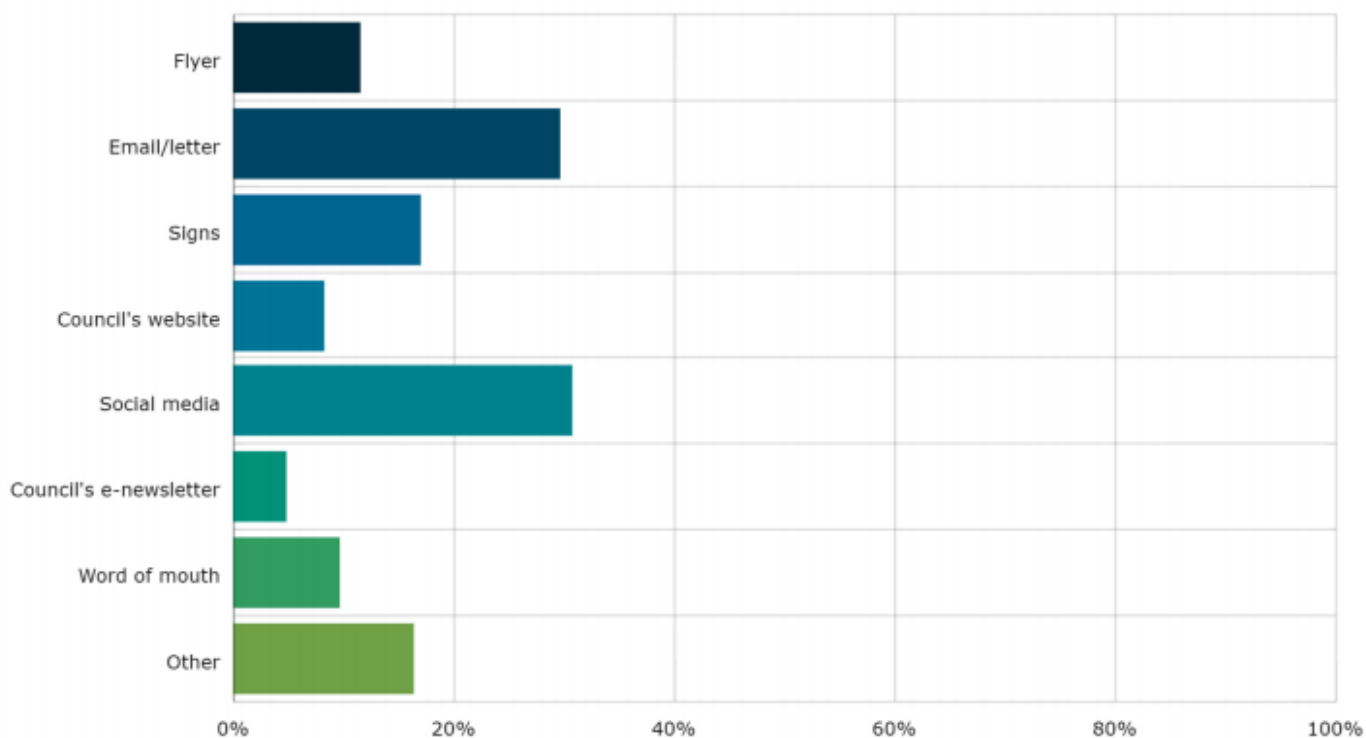


The respondents who chose “Other” identified over 30 languages other than English spoken in their home. The most common other languages were identified as Chinese (including Mandarin, Cantonese & Hokkien), Spanish, German, Greek, Polish, Sinhalese, Italian, Russian, French, Dutch and Hungarian.

How survey respondents heard about the consultation

28. How did you find out about Knox Council's Domestic Animal Management Plan review and consultation?

Multi Choice | Skipped: 138 | Answered: 3,118 (95.8%)



The majority of respondents who answered “Other” identified receiving an SMS/ text on their mobile phone from Council – which was sent to registered animal owners. The inclusion of a QR code on the signs and flyers, together with a link in the SMS’ message that took respondents directly to the consultation webpage – enabled 72% of respondents to complete the survey from a mobile device. 23% of respondents completed the survey from a desktop device, and the remainder from a tablet.

29. Would you like to be kept informed on the progress of the 2021-2025 Plan?

Multi Choice | Skipped: 93 | Answered: 3,163 (97.1%)



Nearly 53% of respondents to the survey have asked to be kept informed on the progress of the next DAM Plan, and have provided their email addresses for this purpose.

Summary of key results

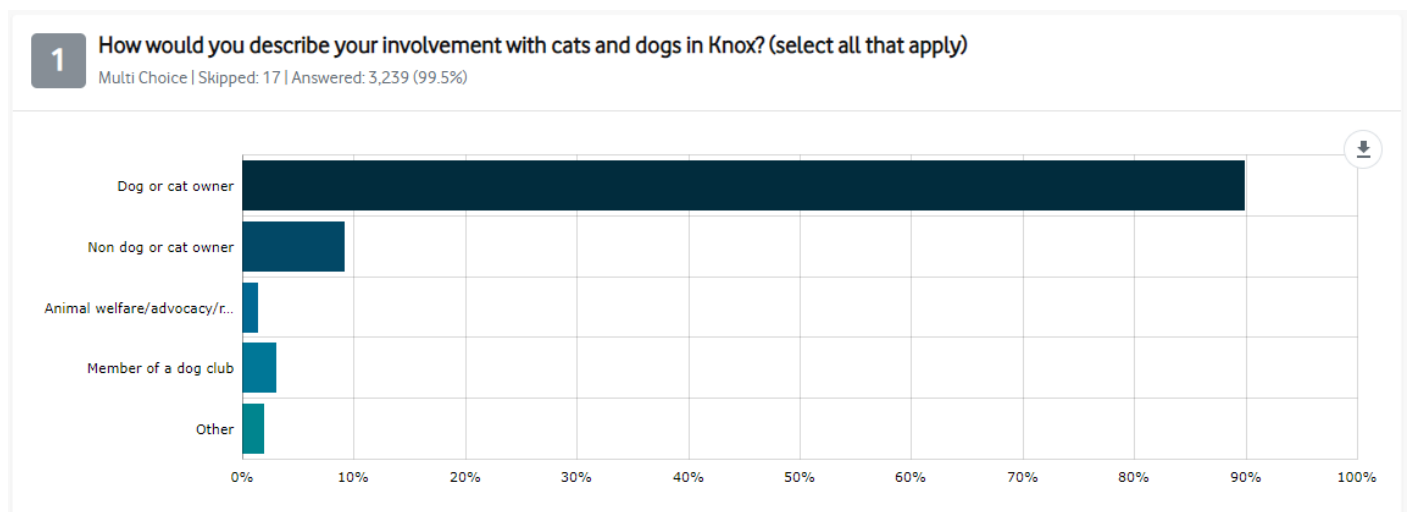
The table below presents the questions we asked, and the total number of responses received. The results for each question are presented as a proportion of responses (percent). Note that no questions in the survey were mandatory – however the high participation rate shows very few respondents skipped questions, showing a high level of engagement.

We asked	You said
Relationship with dogs and cats in Knox (3,239 responses)	89.87% are a dog/ cat owner 9.05% does not own a cat or dog 2.93% are a member of a dog club 1.27% are a member of an animal welfare/ advocacy/ rescue group
Desexed status of pets (2,268 responses)	85.76% of dogs are desexed 80.31% of cats are desexed
Registration status of pets (2,306 responses)	89.55% of dogs are registered 75.48% of cats are registered
Microchipping status of pets (2,287 responses)	91.47% of dogs are microchipped 78.77% of cats are microchipped
New cat or dog during the COVID-19 pandemic (2,786 responses)	19.35% welcomed a new cat or dog during the COVID pandemic

We asked	You said
Supporting the community with the introduction of the cat curfew (2,513 responses)	<p>Top suggestions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Free or subsidised cat enclosures or fencing 2. Clear communication with cat owners and the community 3. Guidance or help with sourcing, installing or building cat enclosures or fencing
Dogs off lead (3,224 responses)	<p>65.55% say dogs should be required to be on-leash in all public areas unless otherwise signed</p> <p>Dogs should be restricted from being off-leash around children's playgrounds (83.39% agree); sporting and recreation reserves during organised event (82.33%) and environmentally sensitive areas (75.6%)</p>
Issues related to dogs (3,226 responses)	<p>Most frequent issues:</p> <p>50.59% reported owners not picking up after their dog</p> <p>20.24% reported dogs barking 'always' or 'often'</p>
Issues related to cats (3,145 responses)	<p>Most frequent issues:</p> <p>24.93% say cats enter their property at night 'always' or 'often', with a further 20.6% 'sometimes'</p> <p>13-15% reported cats causing a nuisance to their property or garden 'always' or 'often'</p>
Awareness of State Government requirements about owning a cat or dog in Victoria (3,167 responses)	<p>94.5% knew that cats and dogs over 3 months are required to be registered with your local Council</p> <p>91.92% knew that cats and dogs must be microchipped</p> <p>14.82% knew that you are deemed the legal owner of a cat if you feed a stray cat</p>
Awareness of Knox Council's requirements about owning a cat or dog in this municipality (3,180 responses)	<p>31.27% knew that Council provides a free cat trap loan service to address cat nuisances</p> <p>19.9% knew that all parks and reserves in Knox are off-leash areas for dogs, except for 9 designated parks</p> <p>61.82% knew that all cats must be desexed before being able to be registered with Council in Knox</p> <p>16.56% knew what animal management services are funded by pet registration fees</p> <p>62.44% knew what to do if you find/ lose a pet in Knox</p> <p>37.44% knew what to do if a dog rushes at or attacks you in Knox</p>
Improving animal management services – suggestions (3,081 responses)	<p>Top suggestions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 83.38% want photos of lost and found pets on Council's website/ social media 2. 77.41% want registration incentives or discounts 3. 67.02% want better signage about relevant dog restrictions in public spaces 4. 56.73% want support for companion pet ownership by seniors in our community

Relationship with dogs and cats in the Knox municipality

Survey respondents were asked about their association with cats and dogs and the Knox municipality, to gain an insight into the different groups interested in Council’s Domestic Animal Management Plan. As the plan specific relates to the keeping of cats and dogs, the majority of survey respondents (89.87% or 2,911) identified as being a dog or cat owner. Those who identified as “Other” involvement with cats and dogs primarily identified as (i) previously owning a cat or dog; (ii) a family or household member where they reside owns a cat or dog; or (iii) they work with cats or dogs, in a veterinary clinic or as an animal trainer.

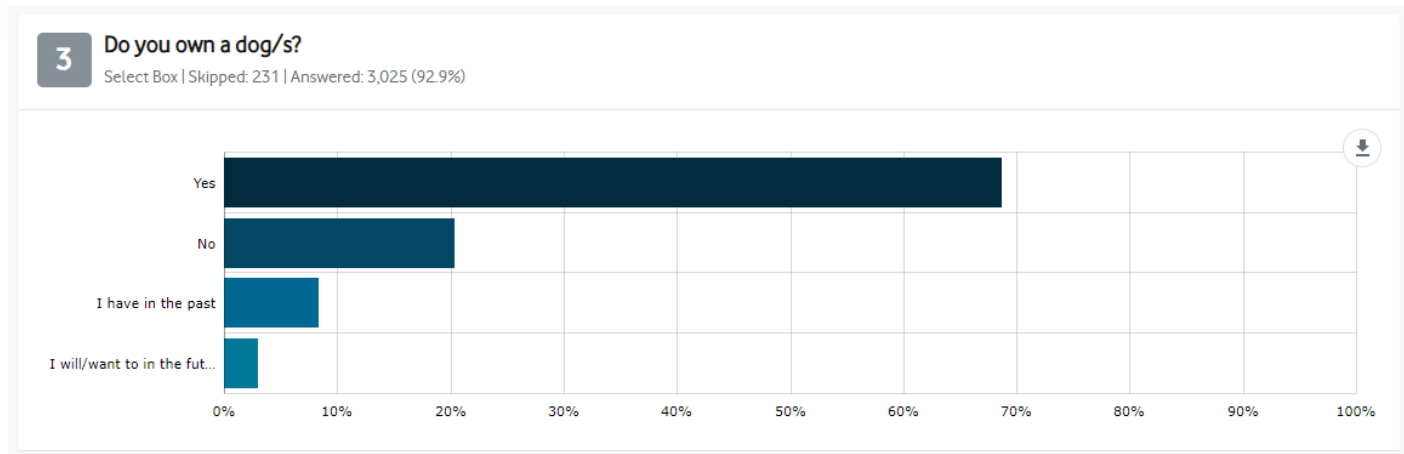


Question 2 asked survey respondents to provide the name of any cat or dog organisation that you are part of. A range of dog and cat breeder clubs, training organisation/ clubs and animal welfare organisations were identified in the responses with the most number of responses identified as being members of the following:

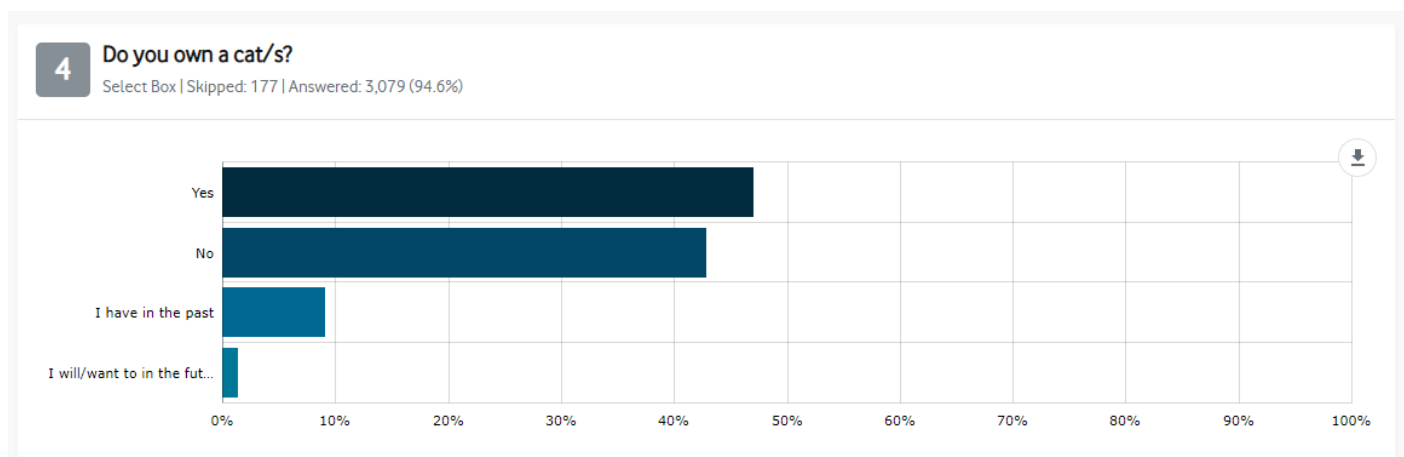
2. Please tell us the name of any cat or dog organisations that you are part of:
Short Text | Skipped: 2,562 | Answered: 694 (21.3%)

Knox Dog Obedience Club	61
Dogs Victoria	24
RSPCA	23
Alpha Dog training	22
SOS Dog Obedience Club	10
German Shepherd Dog Club	10

Dog and/or cat ownership in Knox



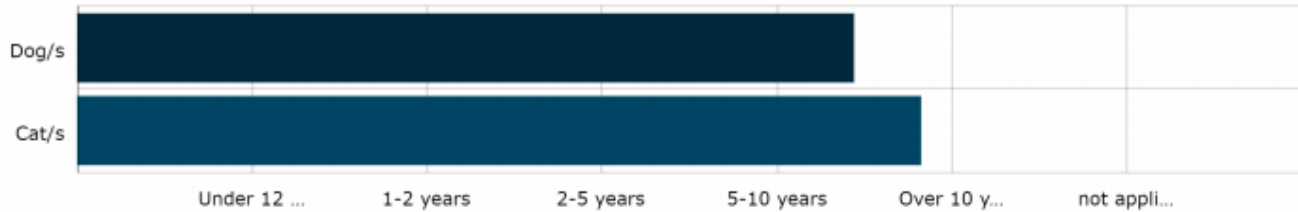
68.6% or 2,075 of survey respondents identified as owning a dog, with a further 8.3% (251) having owned a dog in the past. 86 respondents (2.84%) said they will or want to own a dog in the future – whilst 20.26% or 613 respondents identified as not owning a dog.



47% or 1,446 of survey respondents identified as owning a cat, with a further 9% (277) having owned a cat in the past. 40 respondents (1.3%) said they will or want to own a cat in the future – whilst 42.7% or 1,316 respondents identified as not owning a cat.

5. How long have you owned dog/s or cat/s?

Matrix | Skipped: 444 | Answered: 2,812 (86.4%)

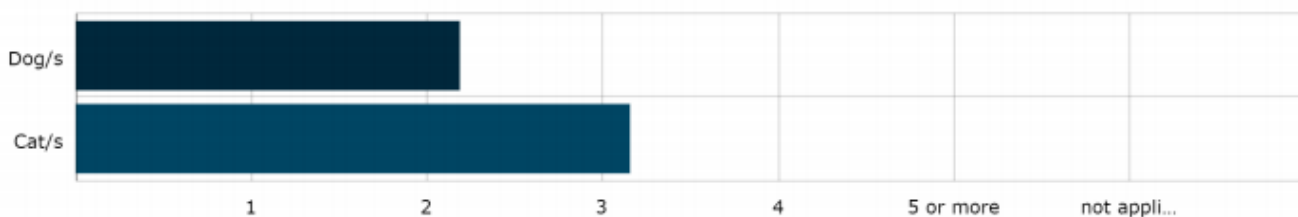


	Under 12 months	1-2 years	2-5 years	5-10 years	Over 10 years	not applicable	Count	Score
Dog/s	3.89% 103	5.33% 141	12.02% 318	14.85% 393	49.47% 1,309	14.44% 382	2,646	4.44
Cat/s	1.76% 41	3.82% 89	9.06% 211	13.05% 304	40.88% 952	31.43% 732	2,329	4.82

When it comes to owning cats or dogs, the higher proportion of respondents have owned animals for over 10 years (49.47% for dogs and 40.88% for cats). This supports a high level of interest in this engagement from a community passionate about their cat and/or dog.

6. How many cats and dogs live in your household?

Matrix | Skipped: 450 | Answered: 2,806 (86.2%)



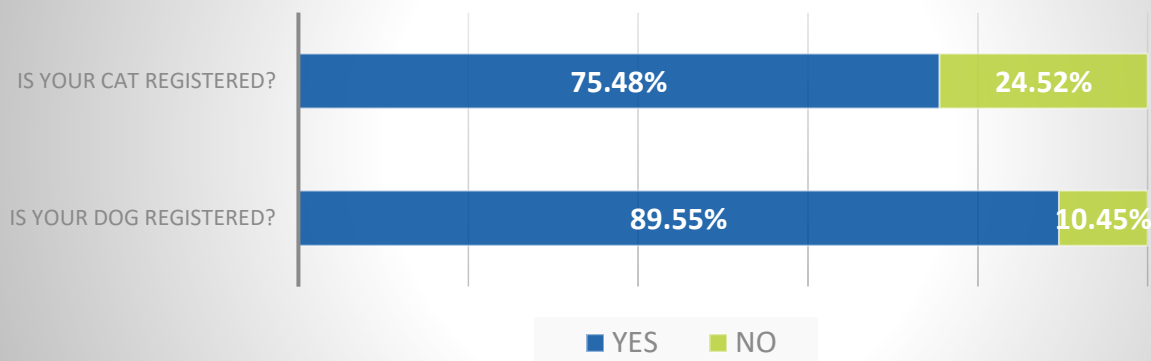
	1	2	3	4	5 or more	not applicable	Count	Score
Dog/s	58.02% 1,476	21.58% 549	1.45% 37	0.28% 7	0.24% 6	18.44% 469	2,544	2.18
Cat/s	38.35% 889	21.31% 494	2.24% 52	0.30% 7	0.22% 5	37.58% 871	2,318	3.15

When it comes to the number of cats or dogs in your household, the majority of dog (58%) and cat (38.35%) owners only own one dog or cat respectively, with a further 21.58% owning two dogs, or 21.31% owning two cats. Only a very small proportion of respondents (4%) identified as owning 3 or more cats or dogs – which would require an excess animal permit in accordance with *Council's Amenity Local Law*.

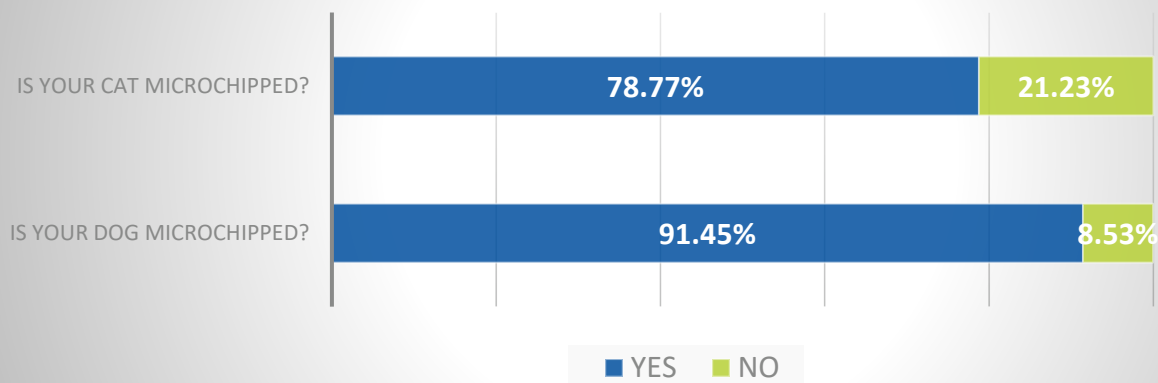
Question 7 asked survey respondents about whether:

- You welcomed a new cat or dog during the COVID pandemic
- The registration status of your cat or dog
- The microchip status of your cat or dog; and
- The desexing status of your cat or dog.

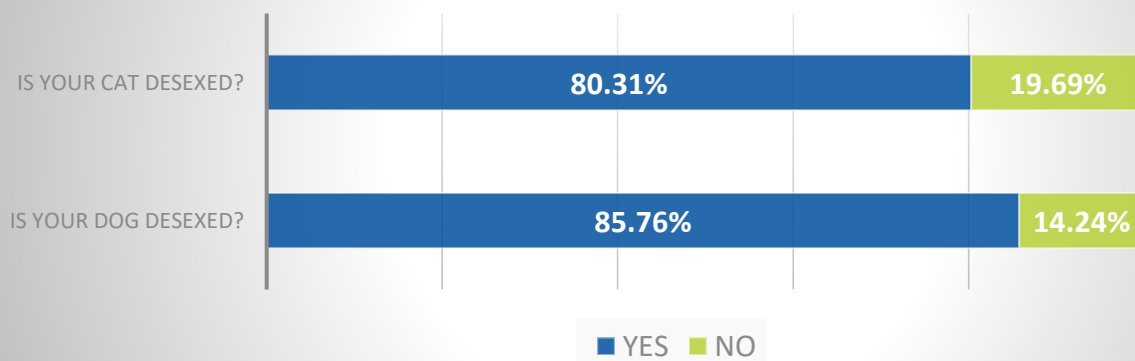
Registration of dogs and cats in Knox



Microchipping of dogs and cats in Knox



Desexing of dogs and cats in Knox



	Yes	No	Count
Have you welcomed a new cat or dog during the COVID-19 pandemic?	19.35% 539	80.65% 2,247	2,786
Is your dog/s registered?	89.55% 2,065	10.45% 241	2,306
Is your cat/s registered?	75.48% 1,413	24.52% 459	1,872
Is your dog/s microchipped?	91.47% 2,092	8.53% 195	2,287
Is your cat/s microchipped?	78.77% 1,443	21.23% 389	1,832
Is your dog/s desexed?	85.76% 1,945	14.24% 323	2,268
Is your cat/s desexed?	80.31% 1,452	19.69% 356	1,808

Despite the State Government requirement that all cats and dogs over 3 months of age be registered with their local Council, 700 survey respondents stated that their cat or dog was not registered – with nearly 1 in 4 cat owners (24.52%) admitting that their cat is not registered. 584 survey respondents also stated that their cat or dog was not microchipped – with over 21% of cat owners admitting that their cat is not microchipped. These results unfortunately support the distressing statistics provided by Council’s Animal Pound provider (Animal Aid) regarding the very low levels of reuniting of lost cats, due to not being able to identify their owner – and subsequent higher rates of euthanasia of cats who are unable to be rehomed or adopted. Both the current and next DAM Plan have dedicated chapters regarding Council’s initiatives to encourage animal registration, identification (including microchipping) and ways to reduce high euthanasia of cats and dogs.

The 75%-91% of pet owners who identified as having registered and microchipped their dogs and cats clearly show that the majority of pet owners in Knox are responsible – when it comes to these important ways to identify their animals to enable them to be reunited if they became lost, and to comply with the registration requirements required on all cat and dog owners in Victoria.

Over 19% or 539 of the survey respondents also said that they welcomed a new cat or dog during the COVID-19 pandemic. This highlights the importance that cats and dogs have to our community – and the companionship and support that having a pet provides people in challenging times.

What your pet means to you...

Question 8 provided respondents with a free-text field to write (in their own words) “*what your pet means to you*”. 81.2% or 2,644 of respondents provided their personal and heart-felt statements of what their cat and/ or dog means to them and their family. The draft DAM Plan intend to include a word diagram to showcase a range of these responses – to share with our community. Some of the common answers reference pets as a companion; friend; family member; and many responses reflect on the importance their pet is to their mental and physical wellbeing. A sample of the responses provided to this question are included below:

A companion, who gives comfort and love. An opportunity for my children to provide care to.

A great mate, entertainer and my personal fitness trainer.

A house is only a home when it has a dog in it.

A loyal and loving friend. I feel more secure knowing she's around.

A valuable part of the family, companion, helps with stress, depression & anxiety.

We consider them our children as we have not yet had any human children of our own.

Additional support and company for my mother as she gets older.

After 17 years of looking after me, he is still going strong – my buddy and companion especially since my wife passed away.

All 3 pets play a large role in the emotional development of our children. They add responsibility to our children and are great companions to all of us.

Almost the most precious thing in my life, my constant companion.

All my pets mean the world to me, they go everywhere – if it's too wet to walk, they go for a ride in the car.

Agatha (my cat) is my best friend and great companion. She helps to keep my blood pressure and anxiety under control.

Pets break down barriers, give unconditional love and help relieve feeling lonely.

Angus and Archie mean the world to me. I live by myself and they are my family and constant companions. Especially during the covid lockdowns they give me a sense of belonging and purpose. I talk with them during the day and Angus loves to sit on my lap in the evenings while I'm watching TV.

As we aren't having kids we are those people that probably spoil their dog a bit much!

Best friend, companion, unconditional love.

Both our pets are our fur babies. A very big part of our family, we have no children.

Comfort companionship friendship loyalty. Animals give back more than they receive from us and don't question our motivations.

Companionship and a reason to get up in the morning!!

Company - I'm now living alone since my wife died 3 years ago and it's been good to have some/one/thing to talk to and care for

Essential to my emotional and social well-being

My sanity as a single mid 30's male.

Love, happiness and joy!

My cat is my constant companion. I never feel lonely since I got her 3 years ago.

My pets are my life, I'm a recluse so all I have in this world are my pets...

She is part of our family so very important, especially helping us get through all the lockdowns

Cat Curfew – how can Council support the community to implement this

Survey participants were asked the question “Ahead of a cat curfew commencing, what support do you believe Council can offer to assist the community with this new initiative?”. 77.2% or 2,513 responses were provided to this question – with responses ranging from comments about the curfew, through to a range of ideas about how Council can assist the community.

A high number of respondents utilised this free-text field to provide their opinion about the introduction of the 24 hour cat curfew, as resolved by Council at the June 2021 Ordinary Meeting of Council. The sentiment of the responses provided were mixed – with a range of negative (opposition to the 24 curfew); positive (supporting the 24 hour curfew); and those in support of an alternate curfew model (ie. 12 hour or night-time curfew).

The community provided a range of suggestions of ways Council can assist with this new initiative, which include:

- Free or subsidised cat enclosures or fencing
- Clear communication with cat owners and the community
- Guidance or help with sourcing, installing or building cat enclosures or fencing
- Advice on how to manage cats indoors
- Reasonable approach to enforcement (ie. official warnings rather than fines)
- Explain the reasons and benefits of a curfew
- Reduced cat registration fees
- Assistance to residents to capture or report roaming cats
- Education/ reassurance/ stimulation for cats to be happy indoors
- Advice on how to stop cats escaping their property
- Financial assistance for other costs to owners to contain their cat (ie. Increased litter costs, vet bills)
- Animal behaviourist or pet psychology sessions
- Ways to support renters/ tenants who can not make modifications to the fencing/ property
- Assistance to those rely on their cat for their mental health (suffers of depression/ mental health)
- Provide advice on cat-friendly and cat-deterrent plants in your yard
- Provide education/ resources that show how far cats roam from home
- Invest in buying additional cat traps to support the cat trap program
- Translate the education materials about the curfew into other languages
- Ways to reduce behavioural issues with cats (ie. Cat spraying, cat meowing, etc)
- Encourage ownership of cat breeds that are more docile, better indoors, etc.

An education and communication campaign is being developed to assist cat owners with the introduction of the curfew in April 2022.

What our Domestic Animal Businesses had to say

A dedicated survey was sent to the veterinary clinics, dog boarding facilities, catteries, registered animal trainers as well as animal pounds and other animal welfare organisations as part of this consultation – to ask their views on a range of questions regarding the management of cats and dogs in Knox. 4 responses were provided to this specific survey (primarily by local veterinary clinics), however additional responses were provided in the community survey by respondents who identified themselves as working in Knox’s animal businesses as a veterinary nurse, dog trainer, business owner, etc.

The feedback and suggestions provided by the respondents to were as follows:

- Concerns about the process whereby the public can take uninjured lost animals to the veterinary clinic. This causes resourcing issues and possible legal issues once they are brought into their care.
- Community education about responsible pet ownership (ie. How to control your dog off lead, reactive dogs, management of stray cat populations ie. *“If you feed it – it’s yours”* programs)
- Allow veterinarians to scan animal microchips and reunite a lost animal with their owner.
- More timely collection arrangements (especially after business hours) of animals from the clinic by Council, to make the animal reuniting process more efficient.
- Tightening of Council’s ‘effective control’ requirements for dogs off lead, due to seeing many dogs that have been attacked both off lead and on lead – with comments including:
 - *“in practice, people have limited recall over their animals”*
 - *“Dog parks are great places but can also be scary and dangerous places for both dogs and their owners. They rely on people not only having control over the dog but also understanding their own dogs limitations when socialising. This is where most people fall short.”*
- Mixed views were provided about the cat curfew – identifying the benefits of keeping cats inside, whilst also sharing the concerns that some cats will experience anxiety if kept indoors (ie. Urine spraying indoors).
- Development of resources to help owners transition their cats to living indoors (in collaboration with vets).
- Cross-checking Council’s registration database with the microchip databases to identify dogs and cats that have not been registered.
- More Council ranger patrols to provide enforcement for dogs off lead.

Dogs in Knox – what behaviours have you seen...

Survey participants were asked a range of questions below to rate the frequency of common nuisance issues that relate to dogs in Knox. The responses below are shaded to represent the majority of responses (ie. 75% or more):

	Always	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Dog poo left on the ground	22.36%	28.23%	31.68%	15.19%	2.55%
Dogs wandering at large (loose, or without an owner present)	2.8%	7.28%	17.39%	44.95%	27.59%
Dogs annoying/ intimidating other dogs	2.49%	6.81%	23.34%	42.75%	24.61%
Dogs annoying/ intimidating other people	1.93%	5.11%	15.84%	38.15%	38.97%
Dogs chasing/ attacking wildlife	0.97%	2.21%	7.82%	24.0%	65.0%
Dogs in playgrounds	5.02%	15.18%	31.95%	27.78%	20.07%
Dogs barking causing a nuisance	6.81%	13.43%	27.74%	37.61%	12.40%
Dog owners picking up their dog's poo	10.56%	50.93%	28.85%	8.01%	1.65%
Dog owner unable to control their dog	1.46%	8.75%	25.92%	41.93%	21.93%
Dogs in public spaces who are friendly and well behaved	19.01%	63.66%	15.12%	1.74%	0.47%

Dog waste

Dog waste (poo) that is not cleaned up by the owner was identified as a common issue (noticed 'always' or 'often') by over 50% of respondents. It was also an issue identified through the one-on-one consultations and internal stakeholder conversations throughout this consultation. A range of suggestions were offered as to how the issue might be reduced, including increased provision of dog waste bags/ bins, public awareness campaign, and greater enforcement by Council staff.

Dogs barking causing a nuisance

Dog barking causing a nuisance was identified as a common issue (noticed 'always' or 'often') by over 20% of respondents. Response to barking dog complaints is an initiative in the current Knox DAMP, and will carry-forward into the next DAMP – to address nuisances caused by dogs barking in the municipality.

Dogs annoying/ intimidating/ attacking others

The survey asked a range of questions to assess the impact of dogs displaying behavior that risks the safety of others (people, animals and wildlife). A very low number of respondents (3.18%) identified dogs chasing/ attacking wildlife as a common issue (noticed 'always' or 'often'). A small number of respondents (7.04% & 9.3%) said they had seen dogs in Knox annoying/ intimidating other people or other dogs respectively.

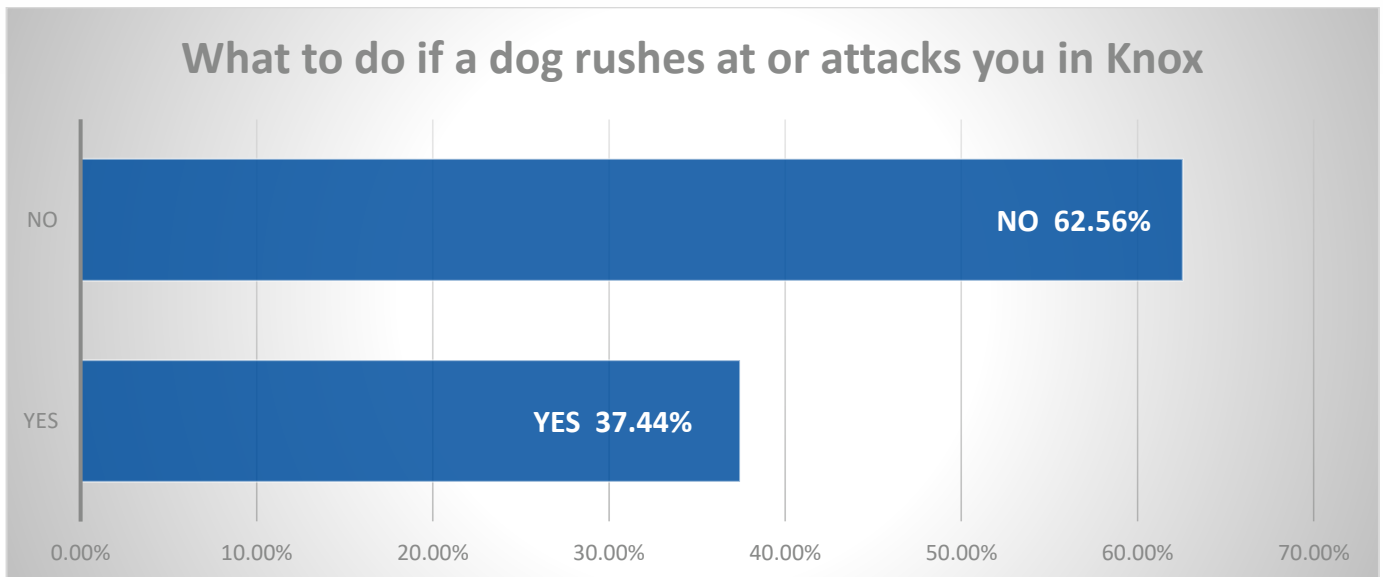
Dogs in playgrounds

Over 20% of respondents identified that they had seen dogs in playgrounds 'always' or 'often', with a further 31.95% seeing dogs in playgrounds 'sometimes'. Council currently has an Order made under the *Domestic Animals Act* that requires dogs to be on-leash in a playground. This order will be considered as part of the greater review of dog off leash provisions as part of the review of the next DAMP.

Behaviour of dogs in public spaces

Over 82% of respondents identified that they observed dogs in public spaces who are friendly and well behaved 'always' or 'often', with only a very small proportion (2.2%) rarely or never observing this behavior in Knox.

About Dogs in Knox – do you know...



Dogs off-leash in Knox

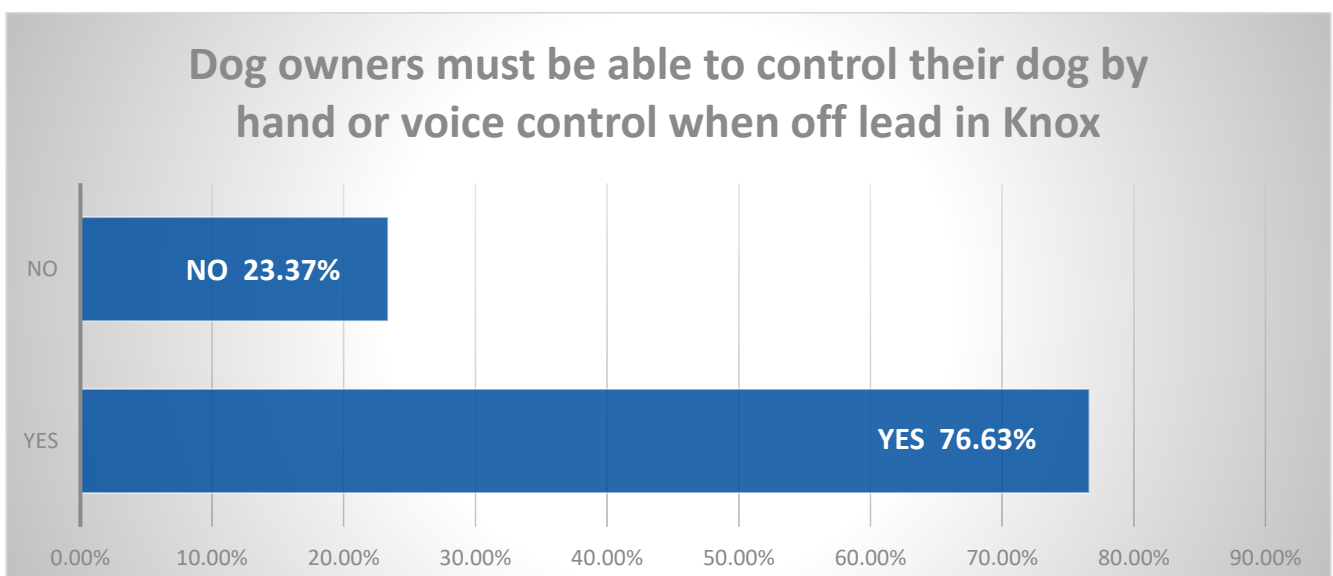
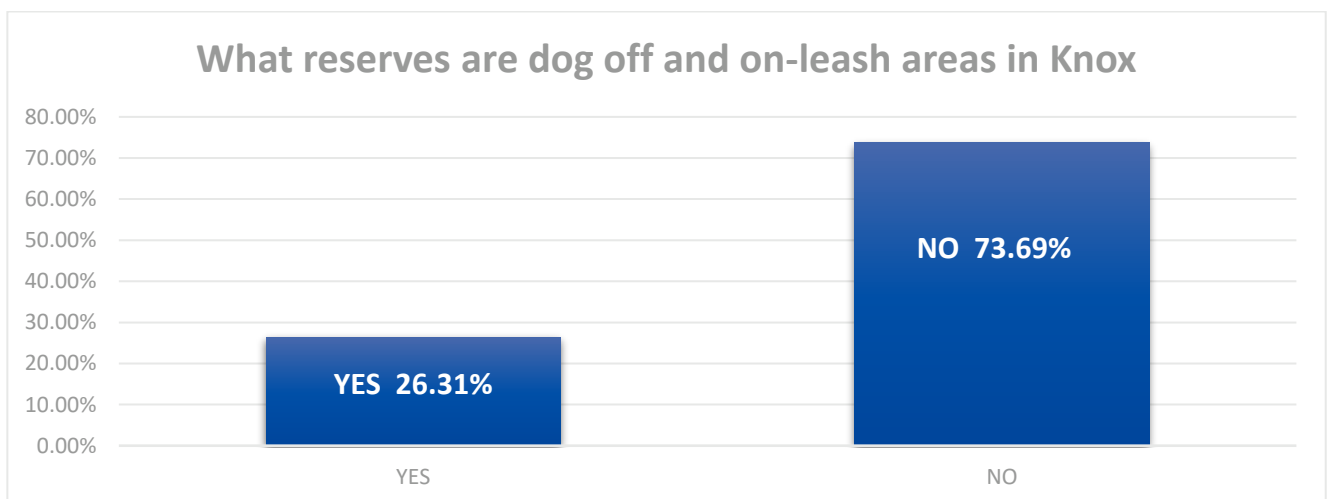
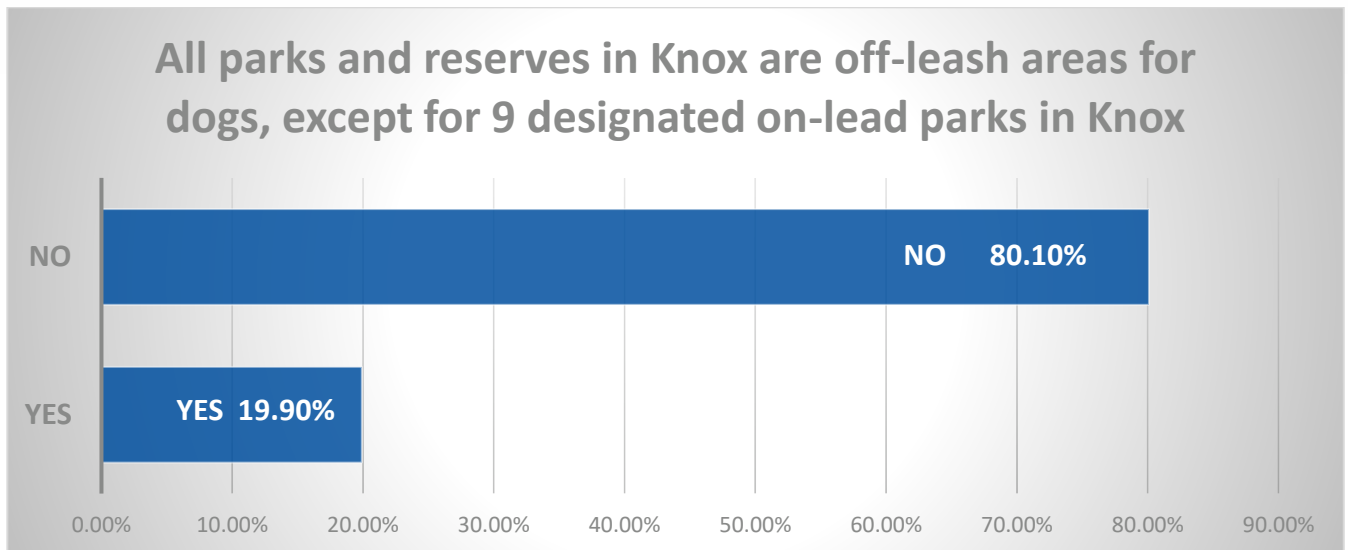
Survey participants were asked a range of questions below to get their views to the following statements about dogs off-leash in Knox. The responses below are shaded to represent the majority of responses (ie. >60% or more):

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know/ not relevant
I have had a negative experience with a dog off-leash in Knox	13.68%	19.41%	22.22%	29.67%	15.02%
I support more areas where dogs can exercise off-leash in Knox	38.57%	34.81%	12.27%	6.38%	7.97%
I don't think dogs should be off-leash in any public place	17.37%	17.53%	30.04%	30.79%	4.27%
Dogs should be restricted from being off-leash on/ around:					
• Children's playgrounds	44.95%	38.44%	9.70%	3.73%	3.17%
• Sporting and recreation reserves (during organised sporting events)	41.10%	41.23%	9.13%	4.08%	4.46%
• Sporting and recreation reserves (anytime)	18.37%	19.93%	34.52%	21.96%	5.22%
• Barbeques and picnic areas	27.61%	36.26%	23.33%	8.74%	4.06%
• Council buildings	24.10%	35.30%	16.25%	6.34%	18.01%
• Environmentally sensitive areas	38.66%	39.94%	11.84%	4.14%	5.42%
Dogs in Knox should be required to be on-leash in all public areas unless otherwise signed	34.91%	30.64%	18.13%	12.99%	3.33%
Off-leash areas allow my dog and I to socialise and meet new friends	30.56%	31.25%	7.95%	3.76%	26.49%
I have concerns for the welfare of native wildlife due to dogs off-leash in Knox	10.66%	17.69%	35.76%	25.53%	10.35%
I exercise more because I can do this with my dog off-leash in Knox	18.62%	16.46%	19.63%	9.23%	36.06%
I am concerned for my pet and/or my own safety when dogs are off-leash in Knox	20.30%	24.75%	26.69%	17.26%	11.00%

A greater proportion of the respondents to the survey questions regarding dogs off-leash in Knox support the provision of more dog-off leash areas in Knox, whilst supporting that dogs should be restricted from being off-leash on/ around children's playgrounds, sporting and recreation reserves (during organized sporting events), barbeque and picnic areas, Council buildings and environmentally sensitive areas.

Survey respondents were mixed in their views on the restriction of dogs off lead from sporting and recreation reserves (anytime); exercising more with your dog off-leash; and regarding concern for their pet or their own safety when dogs are off-leash in Knox.

Dog off-leash areas in Knox – did you know...



Feedback about dogs off leash in Knox

Survey respondents were asked to “Please provide any comments or feedback you have regarding dogs off-leash in Knox”. 52.2% or 1,700 responses were provided to this request – which raised the following issues:

A range of negative issues caused by dogs off lead were included in the feedback, primarily relating to:

- Dog Attacks and dog rush incidents
- Dog owners not picking up after their dog while off leash
- Dogs not under effective control
- Dog owners being distracted/ ignoring what their dog is doing off lead
- Training and obedience requirements on dogs off lead
- Issues of safety in dog off lead parks
- Anxiety, stress and fear some community members have of dogs off lead
- Dogs going into the lake/ water/ creek – disturbing the wildlife
- Concerns regarding dogs off lead in/ around:
 - Playgrounds and children
 - Schools
 - Walking and bike paths
 - Open areas and sports grounds
- Behaviour of owners of dogs off lead (including aggression).

A range of positive feedback was also provided about the benefits created by dogs off lead in Knox, including:

- The socialisation and community interaction through exercising dogs with other owners
- Dogs that are well trained behave appropriately off lead.
- Benefits/ requirements of obedience training for dogs and their owners.
- Mental and physical wellbeing provided through exercising your dog – especially during COVID.
- Request for more fenced dog parks, to keep dogs contained.

Respondents also provided a range of comments about some community members preference for dogs being on-lead in Knox, for many of the reasons (safety, anxiety, etc) raised above.

In addition to the community feedback, internal stakeholder engagement sessions were held with departments across Council – where dogs off lead interact with the services/ programs being delivered. The feedback identified that dogs being able to exercise/ be off lead on Knox’s sportsgrounds/ fields is causing a range of issues including:

- Damage caused to the playing surface by dogs (including an example of one park in Knox having to have damage repaired 17 times in the last cricket season)
- Dog poo on the ground – that needs to be picked up by parents/ players/ volunteers prior to training sessions and sporting events commencing on the ground
- Issues with the ground surface after being top-dressed with sand (as dogs dig in the sand)
- Possible poisoning issues to dogs accessing the sportsgrounds after chemical spraying has occurred
- Issues with diseases (ie. Dog gastro) transmitted/ contracted by public area water-bowls for dogs at some parks and grounds.

It is acknowledged that there is a large number of responsible dog owners who are doing the right thing regarding their dog in these public areas, but a small number of dog owners not doing the right thing are contributing to the problems identified above. The ability for Council to patrol all the off-lead dog areas in Knox (in excess of 300 parks and reserves) is limited with the current resourcing levels.

Dogs Parks in Knox

Survey participants were asked the questions below to get their views to the following statements about their experiences in using Knox's dog parks. The responses below are shaded to represent the majority of responses (ie. >60% or more):

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know/ not relevant
I have had a negative experience with a dog in a fenced off-leash park in Knox	7.01%	12.01%	21.23%	18.99%	40.75%
Fenced off-leash areas (dog parks) give me peace of mind	19.63%	38.01%	12.64%	6.21%	23.51%
There should be more parks that are designed primarily for use by dogs	28.57%	41.35%	10.71%	4.35%	15.02%
I prefer to exercise my dog in a larger open area non-fenced off-leash area	16.08%	17.67%	18.27%	10.09%	37.90%

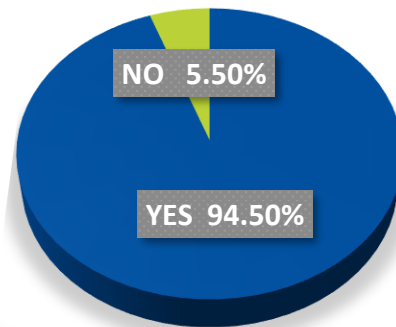
A greater proportion of the respondents to the survey questions regarding dog parks in Knox answered that they 'don't know/ not relevant to me' to several of the questions – which may suggest that they are not users of the two dedicated dog parks in Knox.

Those who are users of Knox's dog parks, more respondents indicated that they had not had a negative experience with a dog at a Knox dog park, and there was greater support for more parks that are designed primarily for the use of dogs.

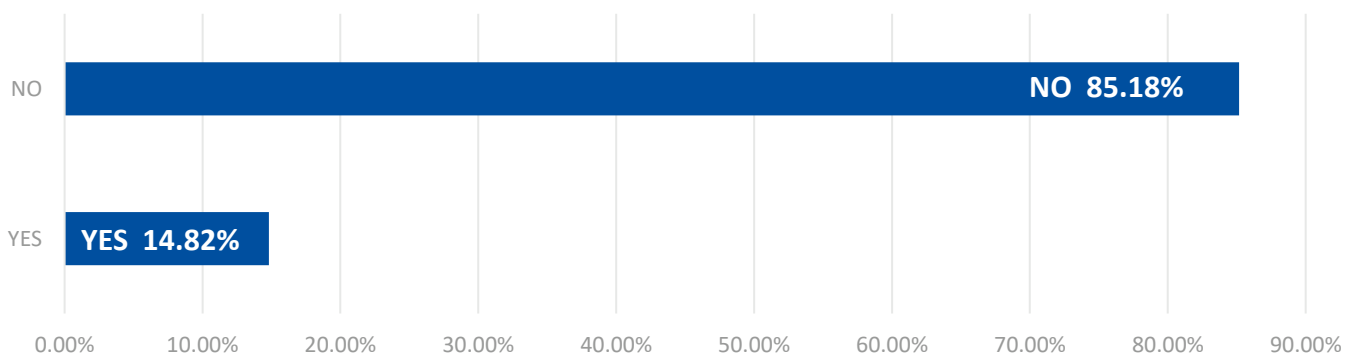
Responses were divided regarding the preference to exercise their dog is a larger open area (non fenced) off leash area, whilst nearly 58% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that a fenced off-leash area (dog park) gives them peace of mind.

State Government laws about cats and dogs – did you know...

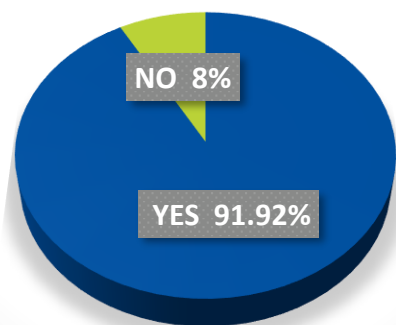
Victorian State law requires all cats and dogs over 3 months of age be registered with your local Council



Victorian State law deems you the legal owner of a cat if you feed a stray cat



Victorian State law requires all cats and dogs be microchipped before being able to be registered with your local Council



Cats in Knox – what behaviours have you seen...

Survey participants were asked a range of questions below to rate the frequency of common nuisance issues that relate to cats in Knox. The responses below are shaded to represent the majority of responses (ie. 75% or more):

	Always	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Cats entering your property at night	10.67%	14.26%	20.60%	23.72%	30.75%
Cats entering your property during the day	8.35%	12.27%	22.43%	29.47%	27.49%
Cats preying on wildlife	4.32%	7.99%	15.79%	26.37%	45.52%
Cats that appear unowned	3.68%	5.98%	14.74%	24.11%	51.49%
Cats fighting or making loud noises	3.26%	6.80%	18.65%	34.62%	36.67%
Cats causing nuisance to your property	5.83%	7.55%	12.29%	18.44%	55.89%
Disturbed garden beds due to cat activity	5.66%	7.81%	11.62%	18.02%	56.90%
Cats in sensitive environmental areas or reserves	2.96%	5.22%	9.82%	16.93%	65.07%

Despite that only 47% (or 1,446) of the overall survey respondents identified as being cat owners, over 3,100 survey responses were provided each of the cat behavior questions in the table above. Therefore over 50% of the survey respondents to these questions are people who do not own a cat.

The majority of responses (shaded in blue) indicated that the respondents either only 'rarely' or 'never' experienced the cat nuisance issues that include preying on wildlife (71.89%), appear being unowned (75.6%), causing nuisance to your property (74.33%), disturbed garden beds due to cat activity (74.92%), or cats in sensitive environmental areas or reserves (82%).

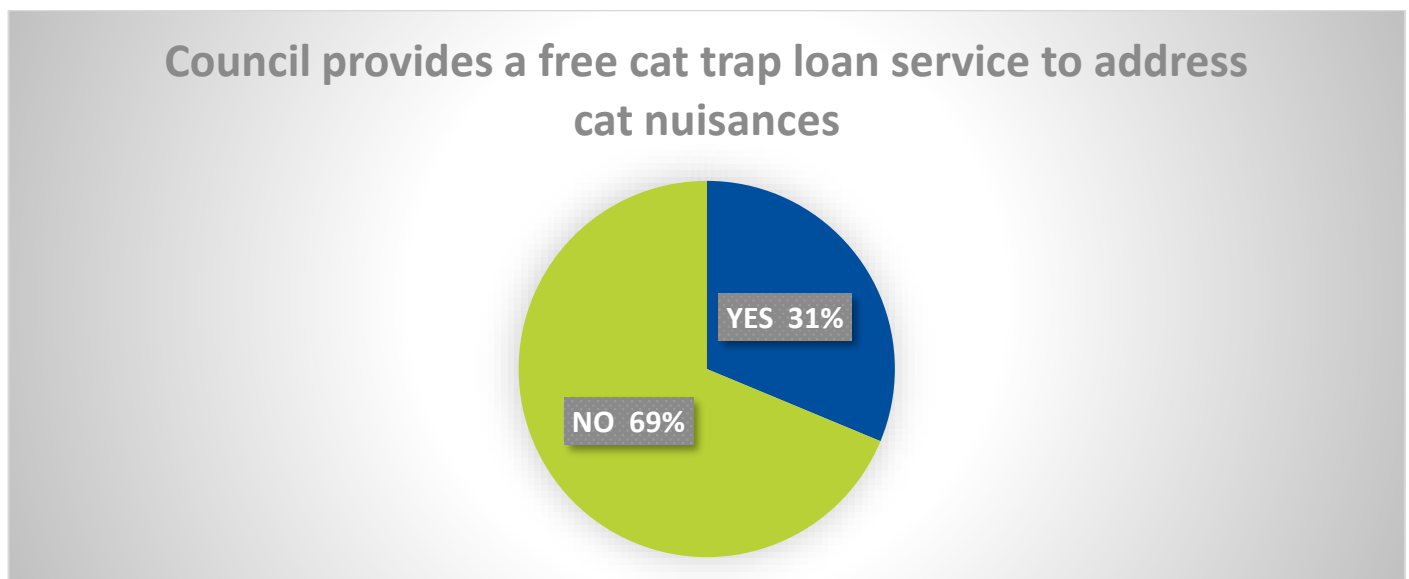
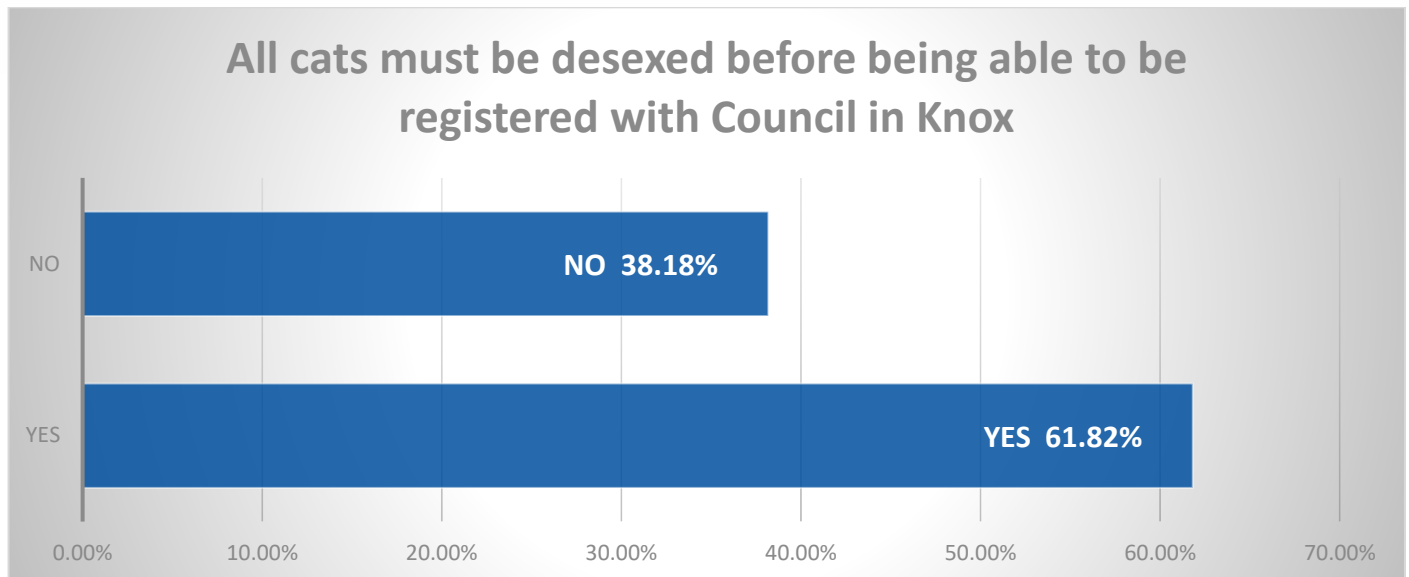
Cats entering your property

Cats entering your property (at night or during the day) was identified as an issue (noticed 'always' or 'often') by between 20-25% of respondents, with a further 20-22% experiencing this issue 'sometimes'. Therefore between 43-45% of survey respondents identified cats entering their property (either during the day or night). Conversely, 55-57% of respondents identified as having 'rarely' or 'never' experienced cats entering their property (day or night).

Cats fighting or making loud noises

Cats fighting or making loud noises was identified as an issue (noticed 'always' or 'often') by 10% of respondents, with a further 18.65% experiencing this issue 'sometimes'. The greater proportion of respondents (72%) identified as having 'rarely' or 'never' experienced cats fighting or making loud noises.

Cats in Knox... did you know?



Feedback on the management of cats in Knox

Survey respondents were provided with a free-text field to provide their comments to the question “Do you have any other suggestions that may improve the management of cats in Knox?” 44.7 or 1,455 responses were provided to this question, with the main themes being:

- Feedback on the cat curfew – positive, negative and mixed responses
- Cat ownership issues including compulsory desexing
- Containment of cats to their property
- Education on responsible cat ownership,
- Option of cats being walked on leashes
- Impact of feral and unowned cats in Knox
- Cats and their impact on wildlife and the environment; and
- Issues of cat poo in resident’s gardens.

Council's Animal Management Services

Survey participants were asked a range of questions to indicate what animal management services are important to the community. The responses below are shaded to represent the majority of responses (ie. 75% or more):

	Very Important	Important	Neutral	Not very important	Not at all important
Respond to reports of nuisance dogs/ cats	47.35%	37.81%	10.94%	2.54%	1.36%
Education about responsible pet ownership	54.48%	33.11%	9.21%	2.03%	1.17%
Collect/ return stray dogs/ cats to their owners	64.95%	27.52%	5.84%	0.98%	0.70%
Protect/ enforce dog-free nature reserves or environmentally sensitive areas	48.44%	32.78%	13.84%	3.41%	1.53%
Discounted dog/cat desexing for pensioners	56.10%	27.50%	12.62%	2.07%	1.72%
Patrols of public spaces to ensure compliance with rules	31.67%	32.37%	22.45%	8.33%	5.18%
Checking dog/ cat registration via patrols or door-knocks	15.51%	20.88%	30.96%	17.64%	15.00%
Cat trap hire for resident's use	16.09%	22.94%	33.85%	12.67%	14.46%
Annual Pets in the Park event	15.46%	22.87%	38.49%	11.31%	11.88%
Investigation and enforcement of dog attacks on people or other animals	70.14%	25.37%	3.47%	0.60%	0.41%
Investigation of animal cruelty matters	85.64%	12.48%	1.33%	0.22%	0.32%
Reduce the rate of cat and dog euthanasia through increased rehoming/ animal adoptions	64.40%	25.10%	8.05%	1.34%	1.11%
Investigation of illegal dog and cat breeders (ie. Puppy farms)	80.37%	15.98%	2.73%	0.38%	0.54%
Welfare of animals in domestic violence situations	69.99%	23.64%	5.03%	0.83%	0.51%
Welfare of animals owned by people who are homeless/ rough sleepers	54.89%	31.81%	10.60%	1.62%	1.08%

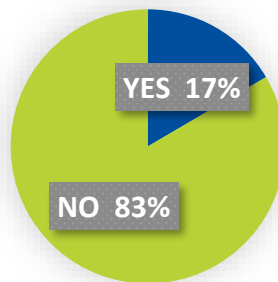
The results above support that the majority of Animal Management Service activities undertaken by Council for the community – are deemed 'very important' or 'important'.

These results will be reviewed to inform the activities and priorities in the next Domestic Animal Management Plan.

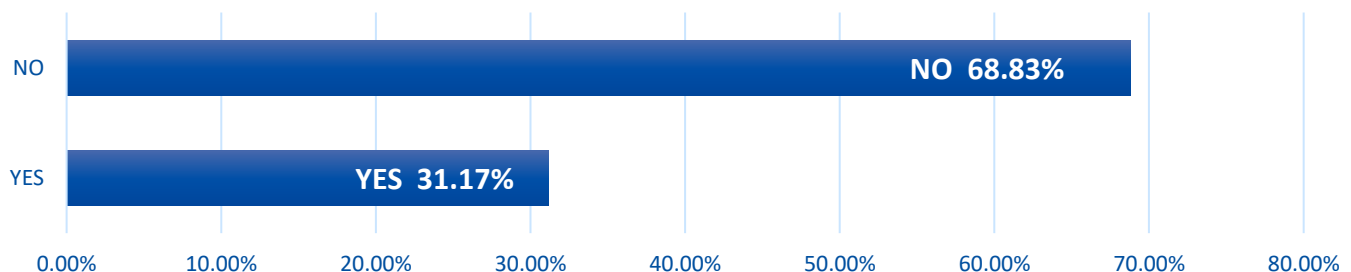
Council's animal management services – did you know...

Survey participants were asked a range of questions below to determine their understanding of the range of Council's animal management services, as well as a range of laws/ rules regarding the keeping of cats and dogs.

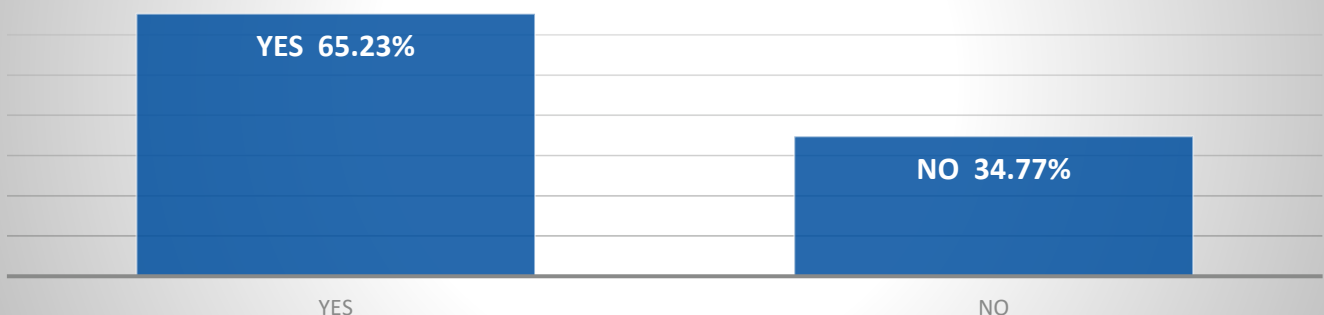
What animal management services are funded by pet registration fees



Knox's Community Laws officers inspect all Domestic Animal Businesses throughout the municipality every year (ie. Kennels, catteries, training facilities, pet stores)



Knox's Community Laws officers investigate and prosecute animal cruelty matters



Over 97.7% or 3,180 survey respondents answered the questions below that asked “Before today, were you aware that...” to a range of questions regarding:

- The requirements for the keeping of cats and dogs in Knox
- The State Government laws regarding owning a cat or dog in Victoria; and
- Awareness of the animal management services provided by Knox City Council.

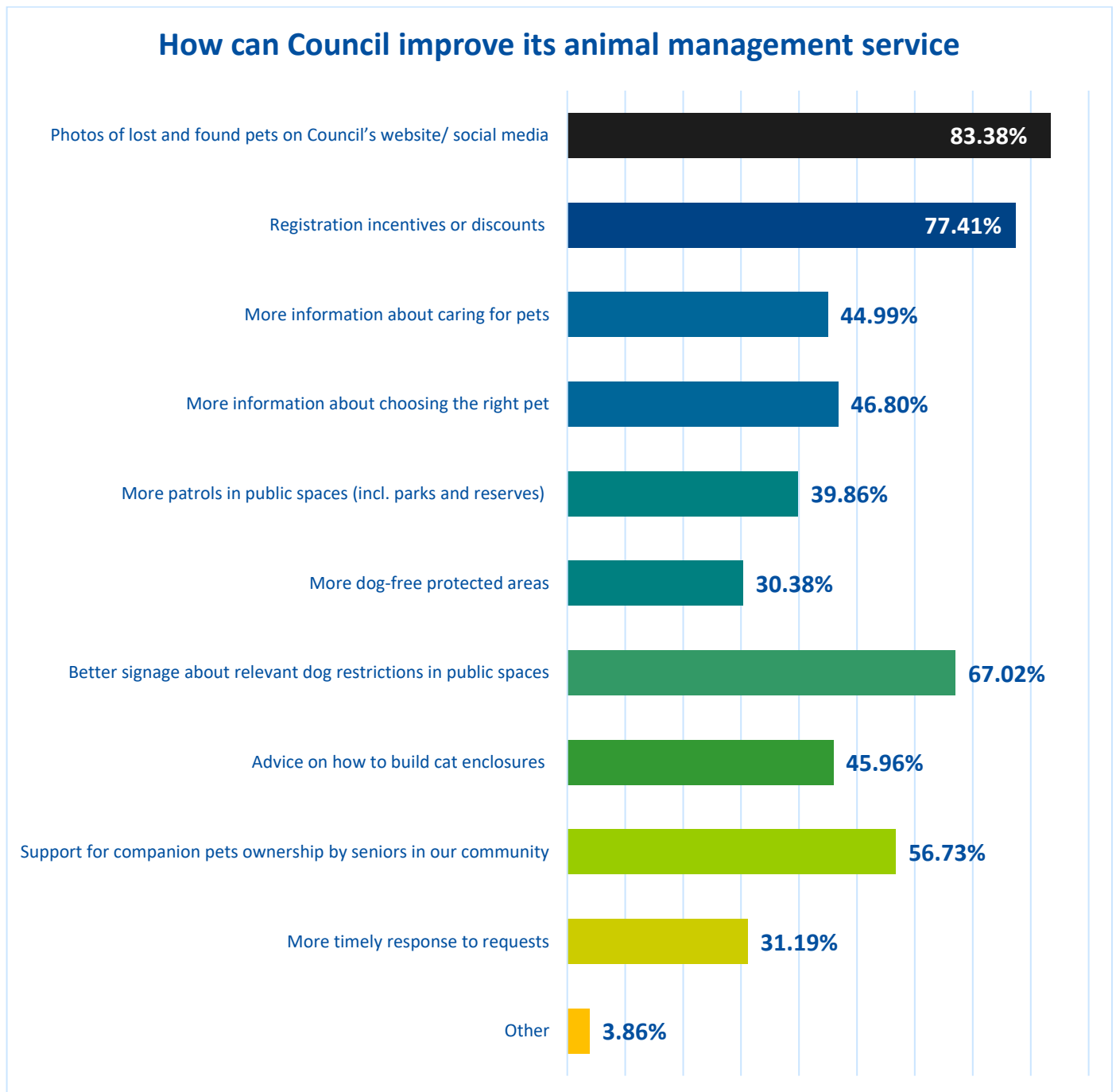
The responses to these questions are in the table below. Note: The responses below are shaded to represent the majority of responses (ie. 60% or more):

	YES	NO
Knox Council has a 4-year Domestic Animal Management Plan	21.01%	78.99%
If yes, have you read the Knox Council 2017-2021 Plan?	11.83%	88.17%
Victorian State law requires all cats and dogs over 3 months of age be registered with your local Council	94.50%	5.5%
Victorian State law requires all cats and dogs be microchipped before being able to be registered with your local Council	91.92%	8.08%
Victorian State law deems you the legal owner of a cat if you feed a stray cat	14.82%	85.18%
Council provides a free cat trap loan service to address cat nuisances	31.27%	68.73%
All parks and reserves in Knox are off-leash areas for dogs, except for 9 designated on-lead parks in Knox	19.90%	80.10%
All cats must be desexed before being able to be registered with Council in Knox	61.82%	38.18%
What animal management services are funded by pet registration fees	16.56%	83.44%
Knox’s Community Laws officers inspect all Domestic Animal Businesses throughout the municipality every year (ie. Kennels, catteries, training facilities, pet stores)	31.17%	68.83%
Knox’s Community Laws officers investigate and prosecute animal cruelty matters	65.23%	34.77%
What reserves are dog off and on-leash areas in Knox	26.31%	73.69%
Dog owners must be able to control their dog by hand or voice control when off lead in Knox	76.63%	23.37%
The requirement to carry a poo bag when walking a dog in Knox	90.65%	9.35%
What to do if you find or lose a pet in Knox	62.44%	37.56%
What to do if a dog rushes at or attacks you in Knox	37.44%	62.56%

The results highlight some areas where improved education and community messaging would assist to increase the awareness of the rules regarding owning a cat or dog, and opportunities to better promote how Council can assist the community regarding the animal management services available.

Improvements to Council’s animal management service

Survey respondents were provided with the listing below of a range of options – to select any or all that you believe Council should do more of – to improve its animal management service in Knox. 94.6% or 3,081 respondents provided their views on this response, and the results were as shown below:

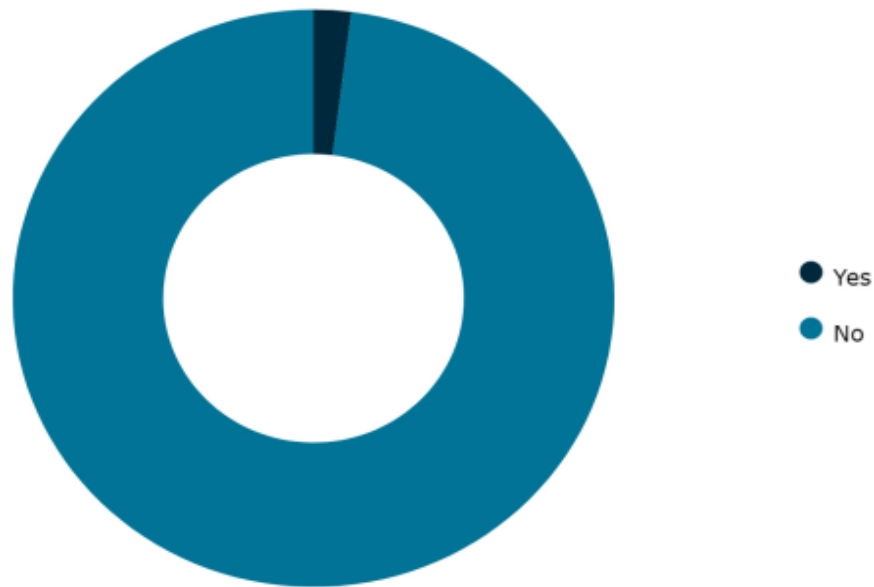


These results will be considered for new or amended activities in the next Domestic Animal Management Plan.

Council's Animal Pound service

21. Have you had your dog or cat taken to this pound in the past two years?

Multi Choice | Skipped: 110 | Answered: 3,146 (96.6%)



Survey participants were asked to provide any comments or feedback on Council's animal pound service, provided by Animal Aid at Coldstream. 14.1% or 460 respondents provided feedback on Council's animal pound services, which were (in order of most common comments):

- It is a great service
- Animal Aid Coldstream is too far away from Knox
- It is too expensive to retrieve your animal (note: this is a fee set by Council)
- The importance to locate owners or rehome animals (not euthanasia)
- Not aware of this service
- We have used the service to adopt our animal
- Council will need a bigger pound due to the cat curfew.

Appendix 1: Community survey

Open

Thank you for taking the time to provide valuable insight to help shape the way Council provides animal management services in Knox – both now and for the next four years.

You don't need to be a pet owner to participate – we value input from all members of the community.

The full survey should take 10-15 minutes to complete – but you can choose to answer only those questions you want. Thank you in advance.

1. How would you describe your involvement with cats and dogs in Knox? (select all that apply)

- ☐ Dog or cat owner
- ☐ Non dog or cat owner
- ☐ Animal welfare/advocacy/rescue group
- ☐ Member of a dog club
- ☐ Other (please specify)

2. Please tell us the name of any cat or dog organisations that you are part of:

Your pet ownership

Step 2 of 8

3. Do you own a dog/s?

4. Do you own a cat/s?

5. Please tell us what your pet means to you:

Cat curfew in Knox - Update

Following the evaluation of a cat curfew trial in 2020, Council has recently decided that from 1 October 2021, all cats in the municipality will be required to be confined to their property at all times (24 hours a day). All registered pet owners will receive a letter outlining the new curfew requirements, and resources available to assist cat owners with this new requirement.

6. Ahead of the cat curfew commencing, what support do you believe Council can offer to assist the community with this new initiative?

Dogs and your neighbourhood

Step 3 of 8

Knox Council is home to more than 18,000 registered dogs. We would like your input on what services and initiatives we can put in place to ensure the keeping of dogs does not pose a risk to the community or present a nuisance – whilst promoting good welfare outcomes for dogs.

7. In the last year, have you seen any of the following things about dogs when in Knox?

	Always	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Dog poo left on the ground	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dogs wandering at large (loose, or without an owner present)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dogs annoying/intimidating other dogs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dogs annoying/intimidating other people	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dogs chasing/attacking wildlife	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dogs in playgrounds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dogs barking causing a nuisance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dog owners picking up their dog's poo	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dog owner unable to control their dog	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dogs in public spaces who are friendly and well behaved	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Dog off-leash and public spaces

Step 4 of 8

Knox currently has a Council Order that allows for dogs to be off-leash (but under effective control) in all public parks or recreation reserves – with the exception of the following Conservation bushland areas: Egan Lee Reserve; Flamingo Road Reserve; Gilmore Park Retarding Basin; J W Manson Reserve; Koolunga Native Reserve (except the lawn areas); Lakewood Reserve; Wicks Reserve (east and west); W G Morris Reserve; and the Tim Neville Arboretum. Dogs in Knox must also be on-leash on footpaths, at shopping centres, car parks, walking tracks and bike tracks.

8. Please tell us your views to the following statements about dogs off-leash in Knox

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know / not relevant to me
I have had a negative experience with a dog off-leash in Knox	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I support more areas where dogs can exercise off-leash in Knox	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I don't think dogs should be off-leash in any public place	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dogs should be restricted from being off-leash on/ around: - Children's playgrounds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

- Sporting and recreation reserves (during organised sporting events)

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

- Sporting and recreation reserves (anytime)

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

- Barbeques and picnic areas

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

- Council buildings

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

- Environmentally sensitive areas

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Dogs in Knox should be required to be on-leash in all public areas unless otherwise signed

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Off-leash areas allow my dog and I to socialise and meet new friends

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

I have concerns for the welfare of native wildlife due to dogs off-leash in Knox

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

I exercise more because I can do this with my dog off-leash in Knox

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

I am concerned for my pet and/or my own safety when dogs are off-leash in Knox

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

9. Please provide any comments or feedback you have regarding dogs off-leash in Knox

Dog parks in Knox

Knox has two fenced off-leash dog parks at the Knox Park Reserve (Knoxfield) and a new park at Emerson Place Reserve (Rowville).

10. Please tell us your views on the following statements:

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know/not relevant to me
I have had a negative experience with a dog in a fenced off-leash park in Knox	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fenced off-leash areas (dog parks) give me peace of mind	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
There should be more parks that are designed primarily for use by dogs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I prefer to exercise my dog in a larger open area non-fenced off-leash area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

11. Do you have any other suggestions that may improve the management of dogs in Knox?

Cats and your neighbourhood

Step 5 of 8

Knox Council is home to more than 7,000 registered cats. We would like your input on what services and initiatives we can put in place to ensure the keeping of cats does not pose a risk to the environment or present a nuisance – whilst promoting good welfare outcomes for cats.

12. In the last year, have you noticed any of the following things about cats when in Knox?

	Always	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Cats entering your property at night	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cats entering your property during the day	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cats preying on wildlife	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cats that appear unowned	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cats fighting or making loud noises	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cats causing nuisance to your property	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Disturbed garden beds due to cat activity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cats in sensitive environmental areas or reserves	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

13. Do you have any other suggestions that may improve the management of cats in Knox?

Knox Council's Animal Management Services

Step 6 of 8

14. Before today were you aware that:

	Yes	No
Knox Council has a 4 year Domestic Animal Management Plan	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
If yes, have you read the Knox Council 2017-2021 Plan?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Victorian State law requires all cats and dogs over 3 months of age be registered with your local Council	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Victorian State law requires all cats and dogs be microchipped before being able to be registered with your local Council	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Victorian State law deems you the legal owner of a cat if you feed a stray cat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Council provides a free cat trap loan service to address cat nuisances	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
All parks and reserves in Knox are off-leash areas for dogs, except for 9 designated on-lead parks in Knox	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
All cats must be desexed before being able to be registered with Council in Knox	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

What animal management services are funded by pet registration fees

☐
☐

Knox's Community Laws officers inspect all Domestic Animal Businesses throughout the municipality every year (i.e. Kennels, catteries, training facilities, pet stores)

☐
☐

Knox's Community Laws officers investigate and prosecute animal cruelty matters

☐
☐

What reserves are dog off and on-leash areas in Knox

☐
☐

Dog owners must be able to control their dog by hand or voice control when off lead in Knox

☐
☐

The requirement to carry a poo bag when walking a dog in Knox

☐
☐

What to do if you find or lose a pet in Knox

☐
☐

What to do if a dog rushes at or attacks you in Knox

☐
☐

15. How important do you think it is for Council to provide the following services for the community?

	Very important	Important	Neutral	Not very important	Not at all important
Respond to reports of nuisance dogs/ cats	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Education about responsible pet ownership	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Collect/return stray dogs/cats to their owners	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Protect/ enforce dog-free nature reserves or environmentally sensitive areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Discounted dog/ cat desexing for pensioners	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Patrols of public spaces to ensure compliance with rules	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Checking dog/cat registration via patrols or door-knocks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cat trap hire for resident's use	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Annual Pets in the
Park event

☐
☐
☐
☐
☐

Investigation and
enforcement of dog
attacks on people or
other animals

☐
☐
☐
☐
☐

Investigation of
animal cruelty
matters

☐
☐
☐
☐
☐

Reduce the rate of
cat and dog
euthanasia through
increased rehoming
/animal adoptions

☐
☐
☐
☐
☐

Investigation of
illegal dog and cat
breeders (i.e. puppy
farms)

☐
☐
☐
☐
☐

Welfare of animals in
domestic violence
situations

☐
☐
☐
☐
☐

Welfare of animals
owned by people
who are
homeless/rough
sleepers

☐
☐
☐
☐
☐

16. How can Council improve its animal management services for pet owners? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Photos of lost and found pets on Council's website/ social media
- ☐ Registration incentives or discounts
- ☐ More information about caring for pets
- ☐ More information about choosing the right pet
- ☐ More patrols in public spaces (incl. parks and reserves)
- ☐ More dog-free protected areas
- ☐ Better signage about relevant dog restrictions in public spaces
- ☐ Advice on how to build cat enclosures
- ☐ Support for companion pets ownership by seniors in our community
- ☐ More timely response to requests
- ☐ Other (please specify)

17. Do you have any feedback you would like to provide that will assist Council in delivering Knox's Animal Management Services?

Animal Pound Services

Knox Council contracts Animal Aid in Coldstream to provide animal pound services for the municipality.

18. Have you had your dog or cat taken to this pound in the past two years?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

19. Do you have any comments or feedback regarding the Animal Aid pound service?

Any further comments

Step 7 of 8

20. Do you have any further comments or suggestions of how Knox Council can improve how cats and dogs are managed in our municipality – or other considerations for inclusion in the 2021-2025 Domestic Animal Management Plan?

About you

Step 8 of 8

21. Which suburb do you live?

22. What is your age bracket?

23. What best describes your household?

24. Do any members of your household speak a language other than English at home?

Keeping you informed

25. How did you find out about Knox Council's Domestic Animal Management Plan review and consultation?

- ☐ Flyer
- ☐ Email/letter
- ☐ Signs
- ☐ Council's website
- ☐ Social media
- ☐ Council's e-newsletter
- ☐ Word of mouth
- ☐ Other (please specify)

26. Would you like to be kept informed on the progress of the 2021-2025 Plan?

- ☐ Yes please
- ☐ No thanks