

29th January 2025
The Chief Executive Officer,
Shellharbour City Council
Email: council@shellharbour.nsw.gov.au

(Draft) Keeping of Animals in Residential Areas Policy

Animal Care Australia (ACA) is a national incorporated association established to lobby for real animal welfare by those who keep, breed and care for animals. Our goal is to promote and encourage high standards in all interactions with the animals in our care.

Animal Care Australia is currently recognised by the NSW Department of Primary Industries and the NSW Office of Local Government as a key stakeholder in the review of the NSW Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals Act and the review of the Companion Animals Pet Registry. Animal Care Australia is directly consulting and advising during these reviews, including the future revision of Regulations and Codes of Practice for the keeping of all pets.

Animal Care Australia encourages continued development of animal welfare standards and Codes of Practice for animal husbandry, breeding, training, sale, and sporting exhibitions for a wide range of animal species, including pets, companion animals, animals used for educational or entertainment purposes or kept for conservation.

Animal Care Australia is engaged with state governments to develop more appropriate model Local Laws and model Subordinate Local Laws governing the keeping of animals in each state. Nationally, Animal Care Australia is finding Local Councils placing restrictions and permit requirements on their residents which do nothing to improve animal welfare and tend to lead to greater non-compliance.

To this end, Animal Care Australia would like to recommend that the following statement be included in the objective of your Policy:

” Shellharbour City Council acknowledges the importance animals play in the wellbeing of our residents. Council’s default position is to encourage and promote the keeping of animals within the Local Government Area.”

In reviewing the proposed Policy Animal Care Australia would like to raise the following points of concern:

- The numbers proposed are ridiculous, are contradictory to the animal welfare needs of the species and will therefore lead to animal welfare issues which leads us to believe they have simply been ‘made up’ – likely based on personal bias rather than facts.
- Animal Care Australia acknowledges Council’s intent to implement this Policy as ‘guidelines’ with a grandfathering clause: *“The Policy will provide Council staff with a regulatory pathway to address complaints as well as provide animal owners with clear guidelines and expectations.”*

This is totally unnecessary as any circumstance of nuisance, noise or odour can be dealt with by existing measures without the need to restrict animal numbers.

Further to the grandfathering clause, Animal Care Australia strongly recommends Council invest in and implement extensive education of its residents prior to permitting its enforcement/compliance officers to commence regulating.

This should include extensive communication and consultation with residents and other stakeholders in order to ensure support and ongoing compliance.

- The numbers proposed for dogs and cats contradicts those permitted by State laws which allow up to 20 fertile female dogs on a property.

- The policy introduction states: “Written support from neighbouring properties will be beneficial in supporting the application for a variation.” The Policy, your Local Laws and Forms pages do not show such an ‘application for variation.’

Why not? What are the requirements for variation to the restricted numbers? Are breeders registered with a breeding or keeping association provided with any exemptions, as this is not included in the Regulation and Information column of Table 1?

- The inclusion of Strata in Table 1 requires review as Strata and Residential Tenancy legislation has been amended. This either should be reflected correctly in the Table or removed.
- There is considerable concern with the following statement:

“Minimum distance - unless stated otherwise within any other policy document, minimum distance means the distance/s indicated in the third column of the table are to be measured in metres perpendicular from all sides of the animal shelter or enclosure to the nearest dwelling ...”

Furthermore, Animal Care Australia notes the recognised definition of a dwelling in NSW ¹ is:

“Council Planning Schemes define a dwelling as a building used as a self-contained residence which must include:

- a) a kitchen sink.*
- b) food preparation facilities.*
- c) a bath or shower; and*
- d) a closet pan and wash basin.*

The definition contains two limbs to be considered; firstly, the inclusion of all of the four types of facilities above; and secondly the ‘use of the building as a self-contained residence’

Table 1 requires a minimum distance for enclosures and structures from a dwelling to be 3 metres for: birds, rabbits, ferrets, pet rabbits, mice and guinea pigs, with the very clear instruction that rats and mice can only be kept indoors.

This means a child living in a block of units cannot have a bird cage or other pet enclosure in their bedroom against a bedroom wall as that wall may be shared with the dwelling next door. As written, the enclosure would likely need to be situated in the centre of the room in order to comply.

Equally requiring outdoor enclosures to be 3 metres from the nearest dwelling will restrict enclosures on balconies, or in the small ‘verandah-sized’ yards of townhouses etc. A one-metre rule would likely correct most of these outdoors concerns, however, would still make keeping an enclosed pet in a bedroom technically impossible.

- Sections 129-135 of the Local Government Act 1993 details procedures that must be observed before giving orders, in this case, breach of this Policy. These sections have not been given due attention to the Draft Policy. Accordingly, Animal Care Australia recommends an additional clause to read as:

“On receipt of a complaint, prior to orders being made Shellharbour City Council will advise the owner or occupier of the details of the complaint and advise their rights to respond, to be represented and have their case heard under Sections 132-135 of the Local Government Act 1993.”

Currently, this policy allows for enforcement actions even in the absence of complaints, creating uncertainty and potential stress for responsible pet owners who already comply with existing regulations.

Species Specific comments:

Restrictions on the number of animals on a property is not supported by Animal Care Australia without full consideration of the animal welfare impacts on the individual species, particularly where key stakeholders have not been consulted – as apparent by the proposed restrictions in this Policy.

Animal Care Australia questions the validity of the proposed number restrictions and the method of ascertaining specific numbers for each species. There appears to be no logic to the methodology in this circumstance and this applies throughout a number of species.

¹ Dwelling definition in NSW – [Reference 1](#) and [Reference 2](#)

Birds – Aviary, and others

For birds other than poultry – *The NSW Code of Practice No 4 - Keeping and Trading of Birds* is not designed to be a set of enforceable standards, rather it is intended as a set of recommendations - general guidance for bird keepers. It is a specified Code for animal trades classified as Pet Shops in Schedule 1 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulation 2012, for other legal purposes, compliance with the code can be used as a defence to charges.

‘Keepers of more than 50 birds should be members of official Agricultural Societies’

It should be noted that the keepers of some poultry may be members of Agricultural Societies, the keepers of avian birds would be members of Avicultural Societies.

There are hundreds of avian species routinely kept in NSW and every species has its own specialised management, husbandry, enclosure size and welfare requirements. Placing a limit of 50 avian birds is simply ill-founded and contradictory to the limit of 60 pairs of domestic pigeon ie: 120 birds. Finches are far smaller and much quieter than pigeons. Therefore, we recommend the removal of the restriction of 50 and keep the inclusion of: *‘As appropriate to species, size of cage/aviary or bird room’*.

Council could include a recommendation that advises keepers of avian birds to consider becoming members of an Avicultural Society.

Cats:

Restrictions to just 3 cats is not supported by Animal Care Australia, particularly if they must be contained to the property. Unlike some other States/territories, there is no current legislation restricting the number of cats permitted without Council approval.

Dogs:

Restrictions to just 4 dogs for residential is not supported by Animal Care Australia. Unlike some other States/territories, current legislation restricting the number of dogs permitted is set at 20 fertile females in NSW.

Furthermore, the Table indicates: ‘Dogs should be kept in numbers and breeds appropriate to the size of the property’. This is contradictory to placing an actual limit of 4 dogs to non-units and just 2 to units. 4 Great Danes versus 4 Chihuahua certainly requires different circumstances and each species and owner should be assessed individually where/when an issue arises.

As highlighted in the Table, noise and odour concerns are to be dealt with under POEO Act and also the CA Acts. So why the need for limiting numbers?

For both **cats and dogs** Council is making numbers up as you go. Can Council provide any evidence to justify how you came to these numbers? There is also no reference to an exemption for members of breeding associations or for them to apply for greater numbers than those tabled.

Small Mammals:

Rabbits, ferrets, guinea pigs, rats and mice are considered as house pets and have been for some time now.

Now that housing cost forces people into smaller unit dwellings, indoor pets such as rabbits, ferrets, rats, mice and guinea pigs are becoming the norm.

We repeat, this is where the three-metre minimum distance will not work for anyone with these pets. Units are separated by a mere wall. In many new housing estates being developed even houses are barely separated by a couple of metres. This is an unrealistic expectation.

Owners of these smaller pet’s work to improve the quality of the animal in health and temperament and animal related clubs and societies have policies for registered breeders who are bound by their published Code Of Ethics and Code Of Practice along with provisions provided with the current Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

There are many Societies for rabbits, guinea pigs, rats and mice.

Ferrets

“The keeping of ferrets is not recommended”

It is legal to keep ferrets in NSW and there are no supported reasons from Council (based on amenity or animal welfare concerns) as to why Council does not recommend their keeping. This appears to be based on bias or an uneducated opinion.

“Hobs that are not desexed should be caged outdoors during the months of October-February when females are on heat.”

Absolute rubbish! Why would you place an animal outside during the hottest months of the year? A quick Google search highlights the issues with that statement. Separate rooms or areas would suffice but do not have to be outside.

Ferrets in general must be kept in a cool shaded place or indoor area as ferrets are sensitive to heat and can easily overheat. Especially when temperatures are in excess of 28 degrees Celsius. Australian summers are regularly in excess of such temperatures even in the shade when outdoors. Keeping these animals indoors is much better for their welfare. If you need to keep ferrets separated it is as easy as moving one to another room of the house or unit and ensuring that they are in a secure enclosure.

The above two statements MUST BE removed from your Policy.

Ferrets have become much loved companion pets and while they do require some care, maintenance and ensuring that they are kept very entertained and occupied when awake, they in fact do not require a lot of space which makes them perfect as ‘indoor’ pets.

Ferrets are far more secure indoors and escapes into the environment are far less likely to occur with an indoor kept pet than an animal out in a cage.

Ferrets are also social animals and should be kept at a minimum as pairs or in groups, therefore Council’s restriction of only 2 ferrets is impractical, uneducated and therefore ill-advised.

Rats, Mice and Guinea Pigs

These animals are colony animals, and it is important for their health and well-being to be kept in larger numbers than what Council’s policy imposes. As companion animals allowing more appropriate colony sizes poses no threat to community, health, or animal welfare. ²

Rats, mice, and guinea pigs are primarily indoor pets and invariably kept in small enclosures. These animals do not exhibit extreme noise, are not intrusive and are free of the diseases and pathogens that often plague their wild counterparts. In fact, they pose no health problem for their owners and are renowned for keeping themselves well groomed.

For the Club registered breeding community, the proposed limitations are also unrealistic, especially given the average litter size for some of these species is larger than the proposed limit suggesting that these proposals have not considered the biology and needs of these species. Additionally, due to their short lifespans it is vital that several adult pairs be kept at any given time to ensure that the quality of the gene pool is maintained – without allowing owners to keep ‘breeders’ the health of the species will invariably suffer.

Rabbits

The Policy restricts to 2 animals. Animal Care Australia again questions the basis of any animal welfare concern behind such a restriction.

Many people that keep rabbits in any residential situation keep them as pets and the majority of pet rabbits are kept as indoor pets for their health and safety. Vaccines do not provide protection against all of the government released rabbit haemorrhagic viruses that are designed to eradicate feral rabbits.

Responsible pet owners will have their rabbits desexed should THEY NOT wish to breed. Council imposing restrictions is an extreme overreach of power, and highlights how out of touch with animal keeping this draft policy is.

² [Short Communication: Rats Demand for Group Size - Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science 7 \(4\) 267-272 – 2004](#)

In closing:

Failure to Address Actual Issues: The policies do little to improve animal welfare, to prevent aggressive dog attacks, or to protect wildlife habitats. Instead, they impose blanket restrictions that do not address specific problems.

Animal Care Australia strongly encourages all councils to promote and encourage the keeping of animals as pets as they provide extraordinary mental health benefits for all of us. All restrictions only serve as a detriment to pets and those wishing to keep them.

Animal Care Australia does not agree with imposing blanket limits on numbers of animals that can be kept especially when based solely on ideological theories as these theories are animal rights based. Animal restrictions for many species create animal welfare concerns.

Animal welfare is NOT about numbers – it is about the conditions, behavior, cleanliness, housing, and husbandry that each animal is kept under by the owners – your residents.

Policies that restrict the keeping of animals based on preventing noise, odour or other issues for neighbours are strongly discouraged. Restrictions including permit requirements inflict an unnecessary compliance burden on residents and staff which only discourages animal keeping needlessly. Laws are already in place to deal with neighbourhood nuisance issues including matters due to poor animal practices. Council should seek consultation with real animal experts to provide a policy that not only works for the council and its community but also ensures good welfare outcomes for the animals.

Animal Care Australia's primary objective is 'education over regulation' and always commend Councils wherever they seek to further the education of their residents.

Animal Care Australia has references to support our submission and will be happy to supply them on request. We recommend viewing our online document: [Council Animal Management Plans](#)

Animal Care Australia would like to thank the Councillors who met with our representative to provide a more concise position and look forward to the promised further collaboration to ensure a policy that aligns with the needs of your pet keeping residents.

Please do not hesitate to contact if we can assist further.

Kind regards,



Michael Donnelly
President
0400 323 843

About Animal Care Australia

As a nationally recognised animal welfare organisation, Animal Care Australia encourages continued development of animal welfare standards and Codes of Practice for animal husbandry, breeding, training, sale, and sporting exhibitions for a wide range of animal species, including pets, animals used for educational or entertainment purposes or kept for conservation, and in particular native birds, reptiles, and mammals.

Animal Care Australia was founded in early 2018 to establish an organisation run solely by volunteers to lobby for real animal welfare. With extreme animal rights and animal liberationist ideologies influencing government legislation, regulation, and policy at our expense and to the detriment of our animals and pets, it has become necessary to provide government with a balancing voice.

By uniting the broad spectrum of animal groups, collectively we offer an experienced, sensible approach to animal welfare.

By educating our members and the public about the importance of treating animals with kindness and respect for their needs and promoting the humane treatment of animals to improve animal welfare outcomes, Animal Care Australia is in the unique position of lobbying and advocating for all animals within our care.

Animal Care Australia provides priority to the following:

- advocating for stronger welfare outcomes
- advocating to increase education of the public in animal welfare and best care techniques
- educate the public on handling their animals with kindness & respect and the importance of their needs
- educate the public in the differences between animal welfare and animal rights

[DRAFT] Keeping of Animals in Residential Areas

Policy Owner: Executive Manager Statutory Planning and Certification	
Date Last Adopted/Amended: [Date Adopted or last amended]	Review Date: [Date for next Review]

1. Policy Statement/Objective(s)

Shellharbour City Council is committed to promoting best practice by establishing clear guidelines and standards for the community in relation to keeping animals within the Shellharbour Local Government area. The principles by which the Council will regulate the number of animals kept on premises is primarily guided by the *Local Government Act 1993* and *Companion Animals Act 1998*.

The objectives of the policy are to:

- Ensure residents' amenity is not impacted adversely by the keeping of animals;
- Safeguard wildlife and the environment;
- Promote responsible animal ownership; and
- Establish guidelines to ensure appropriate animals are kept in residential areas.

This policy provides relevant information and aims to:

- Inform the community of the acceptable limits which apply to the keeping of certain animals for domestic purposes;
- Give guidance and advice to persons inquiring as to the keeping of animals for domestic purposes;
- Minimise local nuisance and maximise residential amenity;
- Ensure the keeping of animals does not compromise minimum standards of public health, safety and convenience;
- Establish local standards, acceptable to the Community, for the keeping of animals.

2. Scope

This Policy provides information for all internal and external stakeholders and interested parties about the requirements around animals kept within Shellharbour City Council's Local Government Area.

3. References

Companion Animals Act 1998 ("CA Act")
Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act 2021 ("PSUP Act")
Local Government Act 1993 ("LG Act")
Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 ("POEO Act")
 State Environment Planning Policies ("SEPP")
 Shellharbour – Development Control Plan ("DCP")
 Shellharbour – Local Environment Plan 2013 ("SLEP")

*NB: Reference to Acts includes references to associated Regulations

External/Internal Consultations

nil

4. Definitions

Residential zones as listed in the SLEP, including:

- R2 Low Density Residential
- R3 Medium Density Residential
- R5 Large Lot Residential

Rural zones as listed in the SLEP, including:

- RU1 Primary Production
- RU2 Rural Landscape
- RU6 Transition

5. Land to which this Policy Applies

This Policy applies to private property on land that is located within Residential Zones

Note: There are some instances across the Shellharbour LGA where land abuts or contains both residential and rural zones. The application of this Policy will relate to the property zoned residential and will be considered on its merits, including amenity and environmental impact.

6. Variation and Review

The Council reserves the right to review, vary or revoke this policy.

Review History

Date Policy first adopted – version 1	

7. Policy

7.1 Keeping of Animals

Animal numbers should be kept in accordance with the requirements detailed in **Attachment 1**.

The type and number of animals that are suitable to be kept at any premises will be determined by having regard for the size of the available yard area and the distance to the nearest dwelling or other prescribed building. Animals should be kept in a manner which does not:

- Create unclean or unhealthy conditions for people or animals,
- Attract or provide a harbourage for vermin,
- Create offensive noise or odours,
- Cause a dust or drainage nuisance,
- Create waste disposal problems or pollution problems,
- Create an unreasonable annoyance to neighbouring residents or fear for safety,
- Cause nuisance due to proliferation of flies, lice, fleas or other parasites,

- Cause harm to wildlife,
- Cause any ill health or distress to the animals.

7.2 Transitional Phase

Where the number of animals owned by a person (before the coming into force of this Policy) exceeds the number shown in **Attachment 1**, no further or replacement animals should be acquired or bred, with the number to be reduced over time to no more than the maximum allowed at the time that some of the animals die, are given away or sold.

This allowance does not prevent the Council from issuing Orders or taking other regulatory action to reduce numbers where the circumstances make it appropriate.

7.3 Animal facilities and shelters

All animals should be provided with suitable facilities and shelter. They should also be contained to prevent escape and, in some cases, predation by suitable fencing or caging, depending on the species.

Certain animal habitats, shelters, and facilities should not be erected or installed without the council's prior approval. Residents should refer to the Shellharbour Local Environment Plan 2013 and the State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008 to determine which structures require development approval.

Various animal welfare organisations produce design guidelines for the size, layout, and construction of animal shelters.

Development Consent must be obtained from the Council for any commercial activity involving keeping of animals.

7.4 Certain animals prohibited within residential zones

The following animals are not permitted to be kept in residential areas due to likely impact on the amenity of residential areas:

- Roosters
- Pigs
- Goats
- Sheep
- Horses
- Cattle
- Peacocks
- Llamas
- Alpacas

7.8 Compliance, monitoring and review

Council may take compliance or enforcement action to address any impact resulting from the keeping of any animals, regardless of the number being kept or the distance from a dwelling. An impact may include matters pertained in clause 7.1 as well as the following:

- a) noise
- b) odour
- c) effluent discharge

- d) dust
- e) insect or pest generation
- f) safety risk.

Where the Council decides to take action to address any impact, such action will be undertaken in accordance with Council's Compliance and Enforcement Policy

8. Related Forms

Nil

Note: Related forms can be located Online under "Forms"

9. Attachments

Attachment 1: Requirements for the keeping of Animals in Residential Areas

Policy Authorised by:

Name: [Title of person authorising OR ELT OR Council Resolution Number]

Date: [Date adopted by ELT or Council Resolution]

DRAFT

Shellharbour City Council
Requirements for the Keeping of Animals in
Residential Areas

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Note:

Minimum distance - unless stated otherwise within any other policy document, minimum distance means the distance/s indicated in the third column of the table are to be measured in metres perpendicular from all sides of the animal shelter or enclosure to the nearest dwelling, public hall, school, hospital, shop or premises used for the manufacture, preparation, sale or storage of food.

State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008 (“SEPP Codes”) - shall be referred to for requirements on animal-related structures as well as the keeping of certain animals in residential areas such as fowls and poultry. Any animal-related structures beyond the allowable requirements of this Policy will require Development Consent.

Animal Species	Maximum number in residential zones	Minimum distance	Regulations and advisory information
			Refer to Subdivision 4 "Aviaries" - SEPP Codes Refer to Subdivision 21 "Fowl and poultry houses" – SEPP Codes
All birds other than poultry, cockatoos, Corellas and domestic pigeons	As appropriate to species, size of cage/aviary or bird room. Keepers of more than 50 birds should be members of official Agricultural Societies.	3 metres	<p>Certain sized aviaries are permitted without consent.</p> <p>Aviaries must be of an appropriate size and regularly cleaned in accordance with relevant code of practice or guidelines</p> <p>Compliance with the NSW Animal Welfare Code of Practice No. 4 – Keeping and Trading of Birds is required.</p> <p>Aviaries must have an impervious floor and must be constructed or installed so that roof water is disposed of without causing a nuisance to adjoining properties. There must not be more than two aviaries per property.</p> <p>If the aviaries they are located on bushfire-prone land and less than 5m from a dwelling, they must be constructed of non-combustible material.</p> <p>In residential areas, aviaries must not have a floor area of more than 10m², be located in the rear yard at least 900mm for each side and rear boundary, metal components must be low reflective, coloured and not be higher than 2.4m. Metal components must be low-reflective, factory-pre-coloured materials.</p>

Animal Species	Maximum number in residential zones	Minimum distance	Regulations and advisory information
			Refer to Subdivision 4 "Aviaries" – SEPP Codes
Cockatoos (including Corellas)	2	3 metres	<p>Cockatoos and corellas are generally not appropriate as domestic pets as they often present a significant noise nuisance.</p> <p>Owners should remain aware any noise nuisance created by the cockatoos as they are subject to noise restrictions under the <i>Protection of the Environment and Operations Act 1997</i></p> <p>Conditions for aviaries as included above.</p>

Animal Species	Maximum number in residential zones	Minimum distance	Regulations and advisory information
		Refer to Subdivision 21 "Fowl and poultry houses" – SEPP Codes	
Poultry, domestic and guinea fowl	5	30 metres	Keeping poultry must not create a nuisance or be dangerous or injurious to health. Poultry houses must be kept clean and free of offensive odours. Excess seed must not be allowed to accumulate in or around the structure.
Poultry, other than fowls, including peafowl and other pheasants	5		Yards must be kept free from mice and rats.
Geese, ducks and turkeys	2	30 metres	
Roosters	0		Roosters are not permitted in residential areas.

Animal Species	Maximum number in residential zones	Minimum distance	Regulations and advisory information
			Refer to Subdivision 4 "Aviaries" - SEPP Codes Refer to Subdivision 21 "Fowl and poultry houses" – SEPP Codes
Domestic pigeons	<p>10 pairs – Non registered owners</p> <p>60 pairs – registered racing pigeon owners</p> <p>Keeping of pigeons is not permitted in multi and high-density residential developments</p>	4.5 metres	<p>Certain sized aviaries are permitted without consent.</p> <p>Larger aviaries will require Council approval with plans detailing, but not limited to information on ventilation, waterproofing and drainage.</p> <p>Cladding on the loft should be unobtrusive in colour.</p> <p>Lofts should be kept clean and insect free. Excess seed must not be allowed to accumulate in or around the structure. No feathers or droppings to escape from the subject land.</p> <p>Open lofts are not permitted. Food must be stored in vermin proof containers.</p> <p>Owners should remain aware any noise nuisance created by the pigeons as they are subject to noise restrictions under the <i>Protection of the Environment and Operations Act 1997</i>.</p>

Animal Species	Maximum number in residential zones	Minimum distance	Regulations and advisory information
			Refer to CA Act
Dogs - (excluding dogs under 3 months of age)	4		Dogs should be kept in numbers and breeds appropriate to the size of the property.
Residential Properties (excluding townhouses units or land area 400m ² or less)			Dog owners must be responsible for ensuring that yards are kept in healthy condition and faeces are suitably disposed of at all times.
Units, townhouses & small land holdings	2		Owners should remain aware any noise nuisance created by barking dogs as they are subject to noise restrictions under the <i>POEO Act</i> and also the <i>CA Act</i> .
Strata Buildings			The <i>CA Act</i> requires all dogs to be micro chipped and registered by 12 weeks of age. Dogs must wear a collar with tag displaying the dog's name and the owner's phone number. Council encourages all dog owners to de-sex their pets. Approval is required from the Body Corporate for Strata Buildings.

Animal Species	Maximum number in residential zones	Minimum distance	Regulations and advisory information
			Refer to CA Act
Cats – (excluding cats under 3 months of age)	3		Council encourages owners to keep their cat inside particularly at night. The <i>Companion Animals Act 1998</i> requires all cats born after 1 July 1999 to be micro chipped and registered by 12 weeks of age . Cats born before 1 July 1999 should wear a collar with a tag displaying the cat's name and the owner's phone number. The council encourages all cat owners to de-sex their pets.

Animal Species	Maximum number in residential zones	Minimum distance	Regulations and advisory information
Rabbits	2	3 metres	<p>A licence is not required to keep domestic rabbits in NSW. It remains illegal to keep wild rabbits in captivity without the approval of the Rural Lands Protection Board.</p> <p>Rabbits must be kept in a rabbit-proof enclosure and cannot be 'free-range'.</p> <p>Rabbits must not be released, abandoned, or left in any situation that would allow them to roam outside of their enclosure.</p> <p>Rabbit enclosures should be fly meshed to prevent spread of Myxomatosis and Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease Virus (RHDV).</p> <p>Council recommends vaccination of pet rabbits against RHDV.</p> <p>Rabbits must not be vaccinated with the fibroma (myxomatosis) vaccine. It is illegal to possess fibroma vaccine.</p> <p>Rabbit farming is not permitted without approval and must comply with NSW Department of Primary Industries guidelines.</p>

Animal Species	Maximum number in residential zones	Minimum distance	Regulations and advisory information
Ferrets	2	3 metres	<p>The keeping of ferrets is not recommended. However, where adequate care, including secure caging, is provided, the keeping of ferrets may be conducted, provided no nuisance is created.</p> <p>Cages must be adequate to prevent escape.</p> <p>Compliance with de-sexing, proper care, and provision of secure enclosures of adequate size will be relevant factors in assessing requests to keep more than two ferrets.</p> <p>If ferrets are exercised outdoors, adequate fencing to prevent escape is essential.</p> <p>Hobs that are not desexed should be caged outdoors during the months of October-February when females are on heat.</p>

Animal Species	Maximum number in residential zones	Minimum distance	Regulations and advisory information
Pet rats, mice and guinea pigs	4	3 metres	<p>Rats and mice are to be kept indoors only in appropriate cages, which are to be odour-free.</p> <p>Care should be taken to prevent excessive breeding and release into the environment.</p> <p>Guinea Pigs kept outside need to be in a secure enclosure to prevent escape and also protect the secure enclosures to prevent escape and also protect enclosures to prevent escape and avoid escape and protect themselves from dogs and foxes.</p>

Animal Species	Maximum number in residential zones	Minimum distance	Regulations and advisory information
Livestock including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pigs • Goats • Sheep • Horses • Cattle • Peacocks • Llamas • Alpacas 	0	n/a	Not permitted in residential zones.

Animal Species	Maximum number in residential zones	Minimum distance	Regulations and advisory information
Reptiles and Frogs	As appropriate in the circumstances with the appropriate licenses as required by law and any Code of Practices.	Appropriate distance to avoid nuisance to adjoining premises.	<p>All lizards, snakes, frogs and turtles are protected under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i>, and it is against the law to take them from the wild.</p> <p>You can get a licence from the National Parks and Wildlife Service to keep captive-bred reptiles and frogs as pets.</p> <p>All species must be adequately housed to prevent escape.</p>

Animal Species	Maximum number in residential zones	Minimum distance	Regulations and advisory information
Bees	2 hives	As far as practicable from doors or windows of dwellings, paths or outdoor resting areas.	<p>Bee flight paths to and from the hive should be kept distant from outdoor areas frequently used by humans.</p> <p>Hives should not be located in view of the public.</p> <p>Hives should not be located within the vicinity of schools, childcare centres, hospitals or other public facilities.</p> <p>Registration must be undertaken with the NSW Department of Primary Industries.</p> <p>Beekeepers must comply with the Beekeeping Code of Practice for NSW produced by the NSW Department of Primary Industries.</p>

Animal Species	Maximum number in residential zones	Minimum distance	Regulations and advisory information
Fish, aquarium and pond	As appropriate in the circumstances	As appropriate in the circumstances	<p>Water is to be maintained clean and at sufficient levels.</p> <p>Unwanted pet fish must not be released into waterways.</p> <p>Aquarium weeds must not enter waterways.</p>