



News from your local councillor

Cr Rowanne McKenzie

Division 7: Capalaba/Alexandra Hills/Thornlands/Cleveland



Summer 2022

Dear resident,

Christmas can be a time of mixed emotions for many of us. Celebration and joy can be co-mingled with grief and sadness. I reflect on my own year of personal loss and know that, for many of us, this festive season will be the first without our loved one.

Please take the time for self-care over the Christmas/New Year period and relax, reflect and rejuvenate for the start of 2023. For those full of joy and celebration, show it to those around you and brighten their day.

I'd like to thank Division 7 residents for the great conversations we've had at The Hills

IGA, Alexandra Hills Shopping Centre and Muma'z Café during my community catch ups. These have been times of connection, ideas and problem solving. I truly appreciate these conversations with you.

During the holiday period, Council offices will close from 4.30pm on Friday 23 December 2022 and will reopen at 8.30am on Tuesday 3rd January 2023. This includes our Customer Service Centres and libraries. If you need urgent assistance for an issue that may pose an immediate risk to Council's services and significantly impact residents' amenity or capacity to access

services, then please call our main number 3829 8999 and you will be redirected as we will have crews on call.

I wish you and your family a safe and blessed Christmas and I look forward to continuing to build community with you in 2023.

Rowanne McKenzie

Cr Rowanne McKenzie
Division 7

Connect with me on Facebook
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Animal shelter spreading the love ... and cuddles

Our wonderful animal shelter has a lot of love to share.

In one feel-good story recently, the crew at the shelter worked with a local school to raise money for charity while ensuring a bunch of lively shelter residents received plenty of welcome cuddles.

It came about thanks to the persistence of one young Redlands College Year 6 student and her class. The shelter received a phone call from the student, Abbi, asking whether it could "donate" some of its residents' time to help raise money for the Eagles Wings charity, which helps children in Zambia.

The shelter's team members worked with Abbi and her classmates to come up with an adorable plan. Six kittens at the shelter that desperately needed some loving cuddles to get them ready for adoption were soon headed to the college where Abbi and her classmates charged \$1 for kitten cuddles and \$1.50 for a photograph. I understand the line-up for kitten cuddling was up to 100 children, with many lining

up and paying again for extra cuddles in what was a very successful fundraiser.

What a great idea by Abbi and what better way to introduce the kittens to the world than with a willing group of school children ready to shower them with affection.

This is among many heart-warming stories to come from our animal shelter.

On another inspiring occasion, a beautiful three-legged cat named Lacey found a forever home thanks to the generosity of a father and son. During a visit to the shelter "just for a look", they fell for Lacey but weren't in a position to adopt her themselves. Instead they paid her adoption fee for someone else and Lacey was soon on her way to a loving home.

If you want to create your own feel-good story, check out the furry friends available at Council's animal shelter by going to Facebook to see the most current list of animals available for adoption. Since July 1 alone, the shelter has



found new homes for 38 cats, 16 dogs and an assortment of birds and guinea pigs.

The shelter is always appreciative of donations, such as toys and towels, which

are preferred over blankets however all donations are appreciated (please no pillows or feather doonas). You will find more information on pet care and responsibilities on the back of this newsletter.



Pet care over Christmas

The excitement and stresses of the Christmas holiday season can rub off on your furry family members, so here are some tips from Council's animal management team to help keep your pets safe:

- If your pet is likely to be overwhelmed with lots of people visiting, put them in another room or area where it will be quiet.
- Look out for signs of stress and protect them from any unwanted attention.
- Do not allow children to hug or kiss your dog. Even a dog which usually tolerates this may not do so in a high-stress situation with lots of noise and people.
- If your dog licks his lips, shows the whites of his eyes or turns his head away when a child or adult is patting him, intervene immediately as they are signals of stress.
- Other signs that your dog does not welcome attention is when they try to walk away or hide, growls or raises the fur on its back.
- Don't feed your pets table scraps as some Christmas fare can be toxic or just unhealthy for them.
- Always ensure pets have access to shade and plenty of water, especially if you are away during the day.
- If you take your dog in the car with you, ensure they are properly restrained, have plenty of ventilation and that you regularly stop for water breaks.
- Don't leave your pet in the car.

Cat owners must take responsibility

While cats can be much-loved family members, owners have certain requirements and responsibilities to ensure their pets do not become a nuisance to others or kill native wildlife. Redland City Council requires cat owners to register their pet by the time it is 12 weeks old or within 14 days of gaining ownership and that registration must be renewed every 12 months.

While de-sexing is not mandatory, it is encouraged by way of discounted registration fees. It is, however, mandatory to microchip all cats unless they were born or came into your ownership before 1 July 2009.

Cat owners also have a responsibility to adequately contain their cat to

their property at all times under Council's local laws, as wandering cats poses a risk to native wildlife. Putting your cat out day or night to let it roam the neighbourhood or nearby bush contravenes local laws. Besides, wandering cats are also more susceptible to injury, disease and ticks and can land you with hefty veterinary bills as well as a fine.

If you have a problem with a wandering cat, contact Redland City Council on 3829 8999 and lodge a complaint, which will be investigated by the Animal Management Team. Council also has a cat trap service which may be considered for use to assist and control cat wandering issues.



Keeping dogs under control

I would like to remind dog owners that, in the interests of public safety and community wellbeing, they are obliged at all times to keep their dogs restrained unless in a designated off-leash area.

Dogs being walked off-leash are a constant source of complaints. While many owners may believe their dog is well trained and

friendly, others can become concerned or uncomfortable by even a small dog when they are off leash.

It is the obligation of owners to ensure their dogs do not attack or frighten people or other animals. And please carry a bag or container and pick up your doggie do

when in a public place. On-the-spot fines apply in all instances.

Council's animal management team is happy to help both pet owners and other residents with advice.

For more information, check out Council's website at www.redland.qld.gov.au for advice. It's under "animals and pets".

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