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**Circuses Policy**

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**Policy Owner:** Community Development  
**Contact Person:** Manager Community Programs and Services  
**Date of Approval:** 4 May 2010 – CS05-05/10

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**POLICY OBJECTIVE**

To provide guidance regarding the approval of circuses within the City of Wanneroo.

**POLICY STATEMENT**

To provide:

- *Guidelines for circus entertainment, events and activities.*
- *Guidelines for the use of animals in circus entertainment, events and activities.*
- *Guidelines for the location of circus entertainment, events and activities.*

**SCOPE**

This policy applies only to circuses and does not apply to such activities as farms, school farms, displays for educational purposes approved by the Curriculum Council or the Education Department of WA, including traveling displays arranged through the Perth Zoological Board and private zoos.

**BACKGROUND**

Council recognises the importance of a range of community based entertainment events within the City, including circuses. However, Council is cognizant of growing community concern at the use of animals for performance or display, together with the need for the locations of such itinerant entertainment to be appropriate to both the event and the adjacent natural and built environment.

**CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS**

Amendments of the policy were conducted through internal consultation with Community Development staff members as well as correspondence with external stakeholders through the evaluation period.

**IMPLICATIONS****Laws and Guidelines**

In the case of any approval provided for circuses or similar entertainment or events, the following laws, guidelines and conditions are required to be adhered to:

- City of Wanneroo local laws.

- Current Western Australian legislation relevant to the welfare of animals, health and public buildings.
- The Animal Welfare Act – Code of Practice for the conduct of circuses in Western Australia (March 2003) and should there be any breaches or claims of breaches brought to the attention of the City the matter will be referred to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals WA Inc.
- The circus is required to demonstrate full compliance with all requirements of Public Liability Insurance and to have in place emergency procedures.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

### **Locations**

Council supports the provision of circus-type entertainment occurring within the City only at locations where, in the opinion of the Chief Executive Officer, adequate space, parking and ancillary facilities are provided and the facility/location is within ready access of sufficient public transport to cater for the expected attendees. Such locations will only be approved for use by circuses or similar entertainment once per annum, except by resolution for Council. This policy also applies to any event approved for circuses in privately owned locations. The Chief Executive Officer may forward the proposal to Council for consideration on the basis that the landowner has approved the circus.

### **Performing And/Or Caged Animals**

Approval will only be considered for circus events, acts or activities where the use of **wild animals** as either performers or in cages is specifically excluded, both from the proposed event or performance and from the general repertoire of the organisation seeking approval from such an event or performance.

Circuses that include the use of **domesticated animals** e.g. dogs and horses, will be considered on an individual basis by the Chief Executive Officer on application to the City.

## **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Manager Community Programs and Services.

## **WHO NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT THIS POLICY?**

- Chief Executive Officer
- City of Wanneroo Councilors
- All Community Facility Staff
- Infrastructure Maintenance Staff

## **EVALUATION AND REVIEW PROVISIONS**

This policy is to be reviewed every two years by the Community Facility sector.

## DEFINITIONS

DEFINITIONS: Any definitions listed in the following table apply to this document only.	
Circuses	Defined as the occasional and itinerant performances and events held solely for the purpose of providing entertainment including displays of agility, illusion and clowning and which may utilize public open space.
Performing animals	Defined as any animal trained and exploited solely for the purpose of entertaining.
Display animals	Defined as any animal caged for the purpose of judging/inspection/sightseeing by visitors.
Wild animals	Defined as any animals normally found in the wild and are not under normal circumstances domesticated by man.
Domesticated animals	Defined as any of the various animals which have been domesticated by man, so as to commonly live and breed in a tame condition.

## REFERENCES

*Circuses Code of Practice for the conduct of circuses in Western Australia, Department of Local Government and Regional Development, Western Australia, 2003, p.4*

## RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Manager Community Programs and Services

Versions	Next Review	Record No:
6 April 2005 (CD08-04/05)	March 2010	
4 May 2010 – CS05-05/10	March 2012	887606 TRIM: 10/964