

CIRCUSES AND PERFORMING ANIMALS POLICY

Responsible Directorate:	Community and Place
Responsible Service Unit:	Place Management
Contact Person:	Manager Place Management
Date of Approval:	7 April 2025
Council Resolution No:	Policy Review Committee 5.6

1. POLICY STATEMENT

The City of Wanneroo ('City') is committed to ensuring that circuses or events involving animals comply with relevant legislation, regulations and best practice in all aspects of health and safety and minimise the risk of improper care of animals.

2. PURPOSE

Purpose

To provide:

- guidance on the operation of **circuses** and use of animals at events within the City;
- guidance for the appropriate location of circuses which minimises impact on the City's natural and built environment; and
- clarification that the use of **wild animals** for entertainment or display purposes is not supported by the City.

3. KEY DEFINITIONS

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 utilise public open space.
Domestic Animals	Defined as any of the various animals that have been domesticated by humans, so as to commonly live and breed in a tame condition (including but not limited to dogs, horses and farm animals).
Performing Animals	Defined as any animal trained and displayed solely for the purpose of entertaining.
Wild Animals	Defined as any animals normally found in the wild and not under normal circumstances domesticated by humans (including but not limited to big cats, elephants, bears, giraffes).

4. SCOPE

This policy applies to organisations operating circuses or using **performing animals** within the City of Wanneroo.

This policy does not apply to farms, school farms, displays approved by the Curriculum Council or the Education Department of WA, or petting zoos featuring only **domestic animals**.

5. IMPLICATIONS

Any event held in the City must comply with the relevant terms and conditions contained with the City's Public Community Event process including obtaining relevant approvals for required licenses and permits.

6. IMPLEMENTATION

6.1 Locations

The City supports the provision of circus-type entertainment occurring within the City only at locations where, in the opinion of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or nominee, 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 of Council.

6.2 Performing and/or Caged Animals

Approval will only be considered for circuses or events 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 for such an event or performance.

Circuses that include the use of domestic animals will be considered on an individual basis on application to the City via the Public Community Event Application process.

7. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Manager Place Management is responsible for the application of this Policy.

8. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Disputes in regard to this policy will be referred to the Director Community and Place in the first instance. In the event that an agreement cannot be reached, the matter will be submitted to the CEO for a ruling.

9. EVALUATION AND REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed every three years.

10. RELATED DOCUMENTS

[Public Community Events Policy](#)

11. REFERENCES

[The Animal Welfare Act 2002](#)

[Animal Welfare \(General\) Regulations 2003](#)

[RSPCA Policy – C02 Performing Animals](#)

12. RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Manager Place Management

REVISION HISTORY

Version	Next Review	Record No.
April 2005	March 2010	
May 2010	March 2012	887606 10/964
August 2012	August 2014	12/88567
November 2014	November 2016	12/88567
November 2016	November 2018	16/256344[V1]
July 2019	June 2022	16/256344[V2]
July 2022	July 2025	16/256344[V3]
March 2025	March 2028	16/256344[V4]