



SEND A LETTER TO YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL

Instructions – please read carefully

Step 1. Check your local council's statistics on the **PRAA Local Council Pound Ratings handout**. (available here: <http://www.scribd.com/doc/209700300/Victorian-Local-Council-Pound-Ratings>). If your council rates a black, red or orange star, then proceed to Step 2.

Step 2. Go to your local council website to find email addresses for all your local councillors.

Step 3. Check on the **PRAA Local Council Pound Ratings handout** to see whether your local council out-sources or run their own pound, then select the appropriate template from the two below.

Step 4. Rewrite the template letter in your own words for maximum impact. Don't forget to fill in or edit the bits highlighted. Check **the PRAA Council Pound Ratings handout** for the relevant percentage of pets killed for each council.

Step 5. Send your email to each councillor individually, one at a time. (Don't put all their addresses in the "to" field at once). Don't forget to add your name and street address so they know you are actually live in their municipality.

1. TEMPLATE LETTER FOR COUNCILS WHO OUTSOURCE & HAVE A BLACK, RED OR ORANGE-STAR RATING

Dear Councillor [redacted],

Homeless pets in our local community

I have recently become aware of how homeless pets are treated in our community. I understand that [redacted] is the pound service provider for our municipality and that they kill [redacted] % of our unclaimed homeless cats and dogs annually. I believe this poor performance is unacceptable, particularly as there are many pounds and shelters around Australia that have slashed their kill rates to less than 10%. As a **resident / ratepayer** *[delete which is not appropriate]* I want to see council act to improve outcomes for our homeless pets.

I would also like to see the following in our area:

- Targets for our pound service provider to substantially reduce the number of healthy or treatable pets it kills
- More financial and practical assistance to residents in desexing their pets, especially cats
- More efforts to return lost pets to owners before impounding
- More humane management of cats, including less trapping
- Programs to help the elderly, sick and disadvantaged keep their pets
- More transparency with statistical reporting so the public can assess the performance of the pound provider.

I am looking forward to hearing your thoughts on these issues.

Yours sincerely,

[Your name]

[Your address]

2. TEMPLATE LETTER FOR COUNCILS WHO RUN THEIR OWN POUND & HAVE A BLACK, RED OR ORANGE STAR RATING

Dear Councillor _____,

Homeless pets in our local community

I have recently become aware of how homeless pets are treated in our community. I understand that Council runs its own pound and that they kill _____% of unclaimed homeless cats and dogs from our municipality annually. I believe this poor performance is unacceptable, particularly as there are many pounds and shelters around Australia that have slashed their kill rates to less than 10%. As a **resident / ratepayer** *[delete which is not appropriate]* I want to see council act to improve outcomes for our homeless pets.

I would also like to see the following in our area:

- Targets for our pound service provider to substantially reduce the number of healthy or treatable pets it kills
- More financial and practical assistance to residents in desexing their pets, especially cats
- More efforts to return lost pets to owners before impounding
- More humane management of cats, including less trapping
- Programs to help the elderly, sick and disadvantaged keep their pets
- More transparency with statistical reporting so the public can assess the performance of the pound provider.

I am looking forward to hearing your thoughts on these issues.

Yours sincerely,

[Your name]

[Your address]