



FACTSHEET

You And Your Dog

Dogs are a great family pet and are often treated like a member of the family. However, there are certain requirements of responsible dog ownership. By following these requirements dogs and humans can live in safety and harmony.

Identification of Dogs

All dogs three (3) months of age need to be registered with their Local Council and while not effectively confined to premises wear a collar around its neck with the last issued registration disc for that dog attached.

Significant changes to the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 in 2016 have seen the legislation of mandatory microchipping and desexing. All dogs must be microchipped by 1 July 2018, after this date, all dogs must be microchipped:

- By three (3) months of age; or
- Within twenty eight (28) days of the owner taking possession; or
- At the end of an extension period.

From 1 July 2018, all dogs must be desexed:

- By six (6) months of age; or
- Within twenty eight (28) days of acquirement.

The new laws will not apply to dogs owned before 1 July 2018.

Dogs on leads

All dogs are required to be kept on a leash no longer than 2 metres in length whilst they are in a public place. An exception to this rule exists in parks and reserves, where dogs can exercise off leash, unless signs indicate otherwise.

Where dogs are being exercised in off leash areas they must be kept under 'effective' control at all times by command, meaning that the dog is in close proximity to the person and the person is able to see the dog at all times.

Picking up after your dog

Dog droppings are a health risk and a source of annoyance to other users of footpaths, parks and recreation areas. If your dog defecates in a public place the faeces must be removed immediately and adequately disposed of. If this is not done, owners face an expiation fee of \$210, with a maximum penalty of \$1250.

Please don't let your dog pollute our streets, parks or waterways.

Dogs in Utes

Dogs travelling in the back of utes, trucks or similar vehicles must be harnessed so as not to allow any part of the dog to extend itself beyond the tray. Working dogs are exempted if they are specifically being used for the purpose of droving stock and are going to or from a property where they are droving stock.

Limit of dogs on premises

Did you know that there is a limit on the number of dogs that can be kept on your premises? Two dogs are allowed to be kept in all township premises. Rural property owners are allowed to keep three dogs. If you want to keep more dogs than the limit allows then you must apply for a permit.

Barking Dogs

Barking is a perfectly natural behavior in dogs. However; excessive, prolonged or repetitive barking needs to be addressed.

Dog owners are responsible for making sure that the barking of their dog does not become a problem.

If the dog creates a noise which persistently occurs unreasonably which interferes with a peace, comfort or convenience of a person, the owner may be fined or have a Control (Barking Dog) Order placed on the dog.

Control Orders that Council may make are:

- Control (Destruction) Order
- Control (Dangerous Dog) Order
- Control (Menacing Dog) Order
- Control (Nuisance Dog) Order
- Control (Barking Dog) Order

Other offences

The Dog & Cat Management Act 1995 sets out a number of offences for which the owner or person responsible for control of the dog can be fined. These include the dog:

- unregistered (expiation fee \$170);
- wandering at large (expiation fee \$210);
- attacking, harassing or chasing a person or animal (\$315);
- being in a school, kindergarten or child care center without permission (\$315);
- being in a shop or a place where food and drink is sold or prepared (does not apply to accredited assistance dog) (expiation fee \$315).
- chasing a vehicle (expiation fee \$315).

Impounded Dogs

Dogs are impounded to ensure that they are safely contained until their owner can take possession of them. If an Authorised Officer collects a dog that is wandering at large and not under the control of its owner, then the officer's first concern is for the dog's safety. Often dogs in this situation are frightened and react negatively to traffic and strangers, this places themselves and the safety of the general public at risk.

If Council can identify the dog, every effort will be made to return the dog to its owner. So ensure your dog is registered with up to date details, is wearing a collar with disc attached and is microchipped. This will enable Councils Authorised Officers to identify the dog.

If a dog is impounded, it may be disposed of after 72 hours if not claimed.

For further information visit <http://www.gooddogsa.com/> or contact the Council Office on 08 8768 2003. This is a 24/7 monitored number.

