

# Responsible dog ownership

Dogs provide unconditional love and companionship. Owners are responsible for keeping their dog healthy and safe. However, they are also responsible for ensuring their dog is well behaved, does not create a nuisance or endanger others.

## Top tips for being a responsible dog owner:

### 1. Register your dog every year

All puppies must be registered from three months of age. Registration is free for pets less than six months old and discounts to the fee apply if:

- Your dog is de-sexed
- You are a pensioner (applies to some pension holders only)

Don't forget to update your details with council when they change, including if your beloved dog might have passed away.

### 2. Provide a suitable enclosure

Dogs need a clean, comfortable and safe environment. Where dogs have access to an outdoor backyard area this must be escape-proof and include sheltered areas to protect the dog against wind, rain, cold, heat and sun, while providing an appropriate amount of space.

### 3. Exercise your dog

Dogs need an outlet for their energy and this is best channelled into exercise and play. Ideally take your dog for a daily walk and to help ensure a safe and enjoyable environment for all, visit one of the region's recreational areas especially signed for either on-leash or off-leash play.

### 4. Dogs on Leash

It is a requirement under Local Law No2 *Animal Management* to have your dog under effective control at all times, when in a public place. This means on a leash held by a person who is physically able to control it. The only exceptions are when your dog is in a signed exercise area and is under your verbal control (off leash).

### 5. Do Not Allow your Dogs to Roam

Dogs cannot roam from your property without being under effective control by way of cord or leash

## 6. Microchip your dog and keep the details current

It is a requirement under the *Animal Management Act 2008* to microchip your pet once it reaches 12 weeks of age or if the owner changes. A microchip is about the size of a grain of rice and electronically imprinted with a unique and unalterable code containing the dog owner's details. See your vet for more information.

If your contact details change don't fur-get to provide an update to your microchip register. Visit [www.petaddress.com.au](http://www.petaddress.com.au)

## 7. Do the right thing – Do it. Bag it. Bin it.

Dog owners should always carry and use a bag to pick up their dog waste. Council provides dog tidy bins and bag dispensers for the removal of dog waste; they are located in parks and near beach accesses where dogs are permitted.

Penalties apply if you do not pick up and dispose of the waste in a bin.

## 8. Keep your dog quiet

Dogs can become a nuisance and cause serious distress to neighbours and other residents by continually barking. There are ways to reduce barking see the [Barking Dogs fact sheet](#). Excessive barking may result in a fine.

## 9. No dogs between the flags

There is no time where a dog is allowed between the red and yellow flags at the beach or within any designated bathing reserve. These areas are off limits to all animals and may result in a fine.

## 10. Train your dog

A well trained dog is a happy dog. Mental health and stimulation are just as important as physical health care, so early socialisation and training are important. See your vet for further information with training your dog.

## 11. Check signage

Council has installed signage throughout the region to regulate dog activities. Please make yourself familiar with this signage and ensure you comply with them. That way everyone gets to enjoy the public space as intended.

If you are unable to locate any dog signage your dog must be on a lead at all times.