

Responsible Dog Ownership

My Pet My Responsibility My Maranoa



Owning a dog can provide great companionship, however deciding to become a dog owner also means you take on responsibilities not only towards your animal, but to your community members as well.

Your Responsibilities

Key responsibilities of a dog owner include:

- If your dog is 12 weeks or older; it must be registered and microchipped
- Identify your dog with a collar and registration tag
- Walking your dog on a lead when in a public place
- Always clean up after your dog and dispose of the waste in a sanitary manner
- Prevent your dog from wandering - you must keep your dog in an adequate enclosure to prevent it from escaping your property
- Provide your dog with sufficient food & water
- Exercise and play with your dog and provide adequate toys and stimulation
- Your dog is not to create a nuisance to others (i.e. barking or behaviour that may cause fear or injury to another person or animal)
- Only keep the required number of dogs per household (See section *how many dogs can I keep?*)

Microchipping your dog

Microchipping your dog is the best way to ensure it is easily returned to you if lost.

All dogs must be microchipped before:

- Reaching 12 weeks of age
- Being sold
- Being given away

If your dog becomes detained at the vet or Council Pound and isn't microchipped, Council is unable to notify you of your dog's whereabouts.

Once microchipped, ensure your address and contact details are current with both Council and the company in which your microchip was provided.

Fines apply if your dog is not registered or microchipped.

Dog registration

Dog registration makes it easier for lost dogs to be identified and reunited with their owners. Registration aims to reduce the number of stray animals within the region, consequently lowering operating costs associated with animal control and the number of unclaimed animals euthanised each year.

- If your dog is 12 weeks or older it must be registered.
- Dog registration applies to all dogs being kept within the Maranoa Region – both in and out of town areas.
- Reduced rates apply to dogs located in non-designated town (rural) areas and exemptions exist for both working and assistance dogs.
- If you have recently moved into the area or have just become the owner of a dog, you must register your pet within 14 days of moving to the area or taking ownership.
- The registration period runs from 1 July until 30 June each year, with renewals issued during June of each year.
- Registration discounts are offered for desexed dogs
- Pensioner concessions available.
- If your dog is not registered or microchipped it is possible that it may be rehomed or as a last resort euthanised.

Council's Adoption Program

If you are looking to add a dog to your family, why not adopt through Council's Adoption Program. By adopting a dog from Council, you are saving a life and gaining a loyal friend.

There is a cost to adopt which assists to cover the costs of responsible dog ownership and includes: desexing, microchipping and registration.

To view the dogs available for adoption visit our website and Facebook page.



For more information, please contact our Community Safety Team on 1300 007 662.

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Regulated Dogs

Under the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008*, there are requirements that apply to regulated dogs. Regulated dogs include dogs that have been declared dangerous, menacing or restricted.

Council may declare a dog dangerous/menacing if it:

- Has bitten or attacked a person or animal
- Has acted in a way that caused fear to a person or another animal
- Was declared dangerous by another local government

If your dog is declared as a regulated dog, there are specific requirements that you must follow. Be sure to contact Council for more information.

Dog attacks

Many dog attacks could be prevented by dog owners taking simple steps to ensure their dog stays safe and doesn't hurt another dog or person such as:

- Regularly check your enclosure
- Pick the right dog for your lifestyle
- Train and socialise your dog, over its whole life
- When you identify your dog displaying aggressive behaviour take early intervention
- Control and monitor your dog when it is meeting new people or animals

Containing your dog

Dogs that escape their yard can find themselves in situations which cause a danger to them or their community including being a traffic hazard or being involved in an attack.

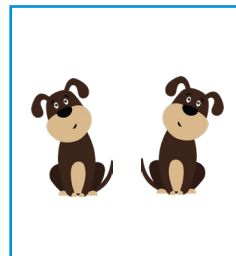
Keep a regular check on your fencing or dog enclosures to ensure that your dog cannot escape. The enclosure should prevent your dog from going under, over or through it. If your dog is found wandering from your property you may receive a fine or if your dog is impounded, you will be required to pay an impound release fee and other relevant fees prior to your dog being released.

How many dogs can I keep?

Council Local Laws stipulate the type and number of animals that can be kept on an allotment. The number of dogs you may keep without approval is dependent on block size or if you live in a multi-residential premises. This applies to dogs over the age of 3 months old except working dogs.

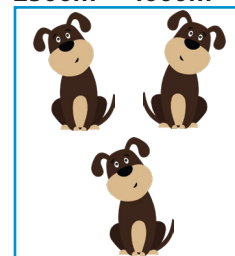
On allotments with an area of:

less than 2500m²



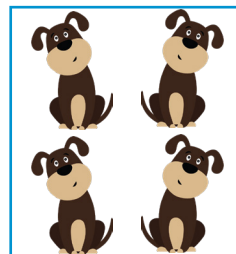
two dogs

2500m² - 4000m²



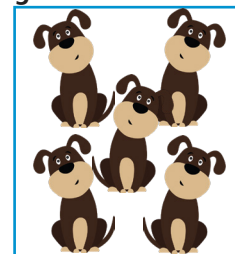
three dogs

4001m² - 40000m²



four dogs

greater than 40000m²



five dogs

On multi-residential dwelling/s – 1 (one) dog only may be kept without approval.

You may make an application to Council for keeping of excess dogs which will be considered on a case by case basis. Council will take into account the individual circumstances of the pet, pet owner and property. An application fee applies.

Desexing your dog

Desexing your dog can not only help reduce unwanted pet population but also reduces your registration fee and offers lifelong health benefits. Spaying or neutering your dog can generally reduce your animals urge to roam and can result in improved behaviour.

For more information, please contact our Community Safety Team on 1300 007 662.