



FACT SHEET 1 - RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP

RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP IT'S UP TO YOU

Keeping a dog is a big responsibility. Western Downs Regional Council has prepared this information to help dog owners understand their responsibilities under State and Local Laws. The requirements are generally common sense, and relatively simple to comply with and all of the requirements are designed to keep the community and your pet safe.

Who is a responsible person for a dog?

- The person that has immediate control or custody of the dog;
- The parent or guardian of a minor; or
- A person who occupies a place where a dog is usually kept

Who is the owner of a dog?

- The registered owner;
- The person who owns it, i.e. a person's personal property;
- A person who usually keeps the dog; or
- A parent or guardian of a minor.

Registration & Micro-chipping

- Dogs must be registered once they turn 12 weeks of age.
- Suppliers or owners of dogs must ensure that dogs are either micro-chipped before they are sold, or by 12 weeks of age.

When is registration due?

The registration licensing period for dogs opens on the 1st July each year.

Does my dog need to be de-sexed?

De-sexing of dogs is not a mandatory requirement under the *Animal management (Cats & Dogs) Act 2008*, however it is recommended because of the benefits for your dog's temperament. De-sexing further prevents unwanted litters that could cause a nuisance, or even need to be destroyed. As an incentive to dog owners to have their dogs de-sexed, council offers reduced registration costs for de-sexed dogs.



Minimum standards

Persons keeping dogs must:

- Ensure that waste waters from any enclosures drain in a manner that does not cause a nuisance, or enter adjoining properties;
- Dispose of excreta & food waste daily;
- Ensure that enclosures are clean, sanitary and in an aesthetically acceptable condition;
- Ensure that noise or other disturbances do not impact on adjoining premises;
- Areas where dogs are kept must be appropriately sized, and be effectively and comfortably kept; and
- If animals are kept in an enclosure at a density greater than one animal per 100m², enclosures must be at least:
 - 15m from a residence on adjoining premises;
 - 6m from a road;
 - 1m from any boundary; or
 - 15m from a watercourse.

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For further information,
contact Council:

Customer Service

1300 COUNCIL
www.wdrc.qld.gov.au





Duty to provide proper enclosure to prevent wandering

Persons keeping dogs must ensure that:

- Areas where dogs are kept must be suitably fenced, ensuring that at all times dogs are kept on the land at all times
- Fencing must be:
 - Constructed of materials which are of sufficient strength to prevent dogs escaping over, under or through the fence;
 - Of a height that is sufficient to prevent dogs jumping over the fence;
 - Fitted with a barrier installed directly under the fence where dogs have the ability to dig; and
 - Gates are kept closed and latched, except when in immediate use by persons entering or exiting the land.

REMEMBER - responsible pet ownership means keeping your dog properly contained in your yard.

If your dog cannot wander, it cannot act aggressively or attack.

Animals in public places

Dog owners or responsible persons must ensure that dogs are **not** in a public place unless they are:

- Under effective control by someone; and
- If the dog is a declared dangerous dog, unless that dog is securely restrained to prevent it from:
 - Attacking a persons or another animal;
 - Acting in a way that causes fear to a person or animal; or
 - Causing damage to property.
- Dogs that are on heat are **not permitted** in a public place



When is a dog under effective control?

A dog is under effective control of someone only if a person is able to control the animal and is:

- Holding it by an appropriate leash or halter;
- Tethered to a fixed object that cannot be moved by the animal and is under continuous supervision; and is corralled in a temporary enclosure that is adequate to contain the animal while still being under continuous supervision, e.g. a dog off leash area.

Animal faeces

A person that has control of a dog in a public place must immediately remove or dispose of faeces in a sanitary way.

For further information relating to your responsibilities as a dog owner, please call council on 1300 COUNCIL or visit your nearest customer Service centre.

Chinchilla: 80-86 Heeney Street

Dalby: 30 Marble Street

Miles: 29 Dawson Street

Tara: 19 Fry Street

Wandoan: 6 Henderson Road
Jandowae: 22 George Street

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