

Minimum standards for keeping animals

Pets can be a great addition to any family. Besides offering companionship and affection, pets can help you and your children to appreciate loyalty, responsibility, friendship and respect. They can also improve your health and reduce stress. But getting a pet means you have certain responsibilities.

Thinking about becoming a pet owner?

Choosing a pet is something you and your family should consider carefully—do you like smaller, easy to care for house pets or larger animals that might live outside?

If you are considering adding a dog or puppy to your family, make sure you get it from a responsible owner or breeder. Breeders must now meet new laws when breeding dogs and they must also give you a supply number when you take ownership of the dog or puppy.

What are your responsibilities as a pet owner?

There are a number of responsibilities pet owners need to meet including:

- caring for the animal properly and providing for its needs
- identification (i.e. microchipping) and registration
- responsible ownership (e.g. desexing)
- effective control of regulated dogs (i.e. dangerous, menacing or restricted dogs).

If your dog becomes pregnant and has a litter you need to meet new dog breeding laws and register as a dog breeder.

What are the minimum standards for keeping animals?

As a pet owner you are responsible for providing an adequate

enclosure to contain your pet to ensure the safety of other people, animals and wildlife. The community has the right to walk in public places without fear of being attacked.

The enclosure must be appropriately sized and suitably fenced to keep the animal on your property and prevent them from wandering, escaping or encroaching on to a public place. There must be adequate space for your pet, appropriate to the species and breed of the animal.

Your fence should be designed and constructed of materials which are hole proof and strong enough to prevent your pet from escaping over, under or through the fence, and leaving the property to wander at large. This may include buildings or structures (other than fences) which effectively contain the animal. These enclosures must also be kept clean and odour free.

You must also ensure all gates are kept closed and latched except when your are entering or leaving your home.

Council can, under our Local Laws, ask you to alter he enclosure in which you keep your pet to prevent it from wandering or escaping.

A standard fine issued by Council to pet owners who do not ensure their pets have an adequate enclosure or allow their animal to wander at large is \$266.

If you have any questions about your fence or registration, please call our Compliance Officers on 07 4620 8888.

