

Responsible Dog Ownership

Helpful hints for dog owners in the Whitsunday Region

Owning a dog should be a rewarding and enjoyable experience. Your dog depends on you for its care and control, and this brochure will help you be a responsible dog owner.

Dog Management Laws

Whitsunday Regional Council has Local Laws to regulate the keeping of dogs. The object of the Local Laws aims to:

- Protect the community against the risk of injury and damage.
- Ensure dogs do not create a nuisance or hazard to health and safety.
- Ensure that dogs are kept and used in a way that is consistent with the rights and expectations of the community.
- Prevent pollution and other environmental damage resulting from keeping a dog and to protect the amenity of the local environment.

Dog Registration/Microchipping



In accordance with the *Animal Management (Cats & Dogs) Act 2008* all dogs must be registered with Whitsunday Regional Council from 8 weeks of age. Registrations are effective from 1 July to 30 June each year. Discounts apply for desexed dogs, desexed and microchipped dogs, pensioners and Dogs Queensland members. Remember to notify Council should your dog ownership or address details change. Registering your dog will assist Council Officers to notify you if your dog is impounded or in case of an accident.

If you buy or are given a dog, you must ensure the animal is microchipped if over the age of eight (8) weeks. Don't forget to update your contact details linked to your dog's microchip with the licensed microchip registry company. It is a fineable offence for not having your new dog microchipped and registered within the Whitsunday Regional Council area and on-the-spot fines may be issued.

Registering as a dog breeder

Anyone who breeds a dog needs to register as a dog breeder, unless they are a breeder of genuine working dogs. You have to register as a dog breeder, even if:

- You only want your dog to have one litter.
- Your puppies are well looked after and in a safe environment.
- You don't sell the puppies but give them away to family and friends.
- Your dog has had an unplanned litter.

People are encouraged to only buy dogs that have a Supply Number. There are penalties if you breed a dog and do not register. You will not be able to sell, advertise or give away a dog legally if you do not have a supply number. Further information is available by following the link to the Queensland Dog Breeders Web Site - <https://qdbr.daf.qld.gov.au/>

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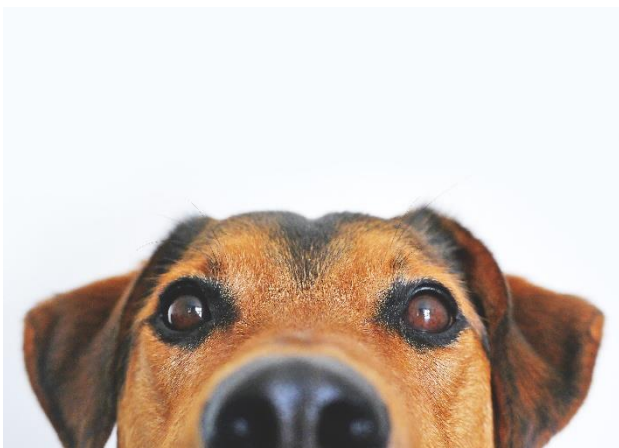
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Wandering/Enclosures/Impounded Dogs

Your dog should not be allowed to wander, as it may become lost, stolen, hit by a car, or attack and harm a person or another animal. Ensure you have adequate fencing or a suitable enclosure to contain your dog on your property. Dogs which have been located wandering at large may be placed in Council's Pound. Impoundment fees apply to cover the cost of the animal rescue/recovery and transport to the Pound. Please contact Council for current release fees.

Further Information

For further information on caring for your dog, please contact Council by calling 1300 WRC QLD, visiting our website at www.whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au, or emailing Council at info@whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au



Tips to be a responsible dog owner

Do:

- Ask about Council Local Laws.
- Register your dog from 3 months of age, and ensure it wears its registration tag at all times.
- Desex your dog. Don't contribute to indiscriminate breeding.
- Microchip your dog.
- Buy your dog a good leash & collar and keep your dog on the leash when out in public.
- Teach your children to be responsible with their dog and supervise them when they are playing.
- Ensure your dog has regular healthy meals and plenty of fresh drinking water.
- Advise Council of change of ownership details and address.
- Report (immediately) to Council if attacked.
- Bath and brush your dog regularly.
- Walk and exercise your dog daily and ensure you are not walking your dog in a prohibited area
- Adhere to dog etiquette when using dog off-leash and on-leash locations
- Seek veterinary advice if your dog gets sick.
- Take your dog to obedience training and ensure it is well socialised.
- Vaccinate your dog and treat for heartworm.
- Keep your dog warm in winter and cool in summer.
- Treat your dog for ticks.
- Ensure your dog is properly cared for when you go on holidays.
- Always clean up after your dog if it defecates in a public place.

Don't:

- Obtain a dog unless you have an adequate enclosure.
- Tease your dog or let children torment it.
- Allow your dog to wander at large.
- Allow your dog to create a nuisance by barking incessantly.
- Obtain a dog unless you are willing to train and look after it.