

Roaming dogs in Ballina Shire



All dogs must be under effective control when outside their property.

It is an offence against the *Companion Animals Act 1998* (the Act) for any dog to be outside its own property at any time, unless it is under the effective control of a competent person by means of an adequate chain, cord or leash, that is attached to the dog and is being held by (or secured to) the person.

A person who owns a dog or is in charge of a dog, is guilty of an offence if a dog rushes at, attacks, bites, harasses, or chases any person or animal (other than vermin), whether or not any injury is caused to the person or animal. If a dog is allowed to roam, you do not know what it is up to and it could be involved in a dog attack.

PREVENT YOUR DOG FROM ROAMING

For your dog's safety, ensure that you have secure fencing so that your dog cannot roam the streets. Roaming pets are also at risk of being stolen, injured, hit by a vehicle, attacked by other animals, and may be more exposed to disease, parasites or poisons. All pets must wear a collar around their neck with a tag attached that shows the name of the animal and address or telephone number of the owner.

Dogs can get scared during fireworks displays and thunderstorms, please make sure your pets are confined securely to prevent them from running away or injuring themselves.

Don't forget

Fees and charges apply to all owners of animals that have been seized and collected by a Council Ranger



SEIZED AND COLLECTED ANIMALS

If your animal is seized, your pet will be cared for at Council's animal shelter. However it is an unfamiliar environment for your pet; so preventing it from being handed to or seized by a Ranger is the best action. Fees and charges apply to all owners of animals that have been seized.

All pets in NSW must be microchipped and registered. When owner's details are up to date on the NSW Pet Registry, Rangers can find the owner and return roaming pets as quickly as possible, reducing stress for the pet and the owner. If your pet has been impounded, it will be microchipped and lifetime registered prior to its release from the animal shelter to you.

Rangers conduct patrols of local areas and any unattended dogs are likely to be impounded. In addition to this the owner of any dog may be issued with a fine exceeding \$330 for allowing their dog to be in the street and not on a leash.

WHERE ARE DOGS PROHIBITED?

Dogs are not permitted in certain public areas. As a dog owner, or a person in charge of a dog, it is your responsibility to make sure your dog doesn't go into these areas:

- within 10m of children's play areas
- food preparation and consumption areas
- school grounds and childcare centres
- shopping areas
- wildlife protection areas.

RULES FOR DOGS IN OTHER PUBLIC PLACES

Dogs in public places must always be kept on a lead and under effective control.

Dogs on a lead must be controlled by a competent person and no one person should have more than four dogs under their control at any one time.

Even in an off-leash area your dog must still be under the effective control of a competent person. In an off-leash area no one person should have more than four dogs under their control at any one time.

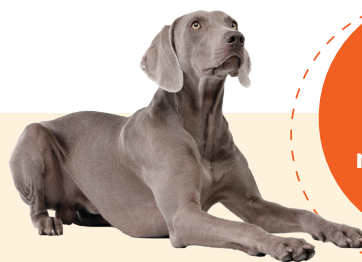
RESTRICTED OR DECLARED DANGEROUS DOGS

If your dog has been declared dangerous or is a restricted breed, you have additional responsibilities when your dog is out in public.

Restricted dogs:

- are required to wear a prescribed collar
- must be on a lead and muzzled at all times under control of a competent person whenever they are in public
- must not, at any time, be left in the sole charge of a person under the age of 18 years.

If your dog attacks or chases another animal or a person in a public place you could end up liable for criminal charges.



10 essential tips for good dog management

1. Avoid unwanted puppies and have your dog desexed at an early age.
2. Ensure your dog is microchipped and registered with Council by 12 weeks of age.
3. Never console a frightened, aggressive or barking dog. Reprimand undesirable behaviour and only praise good behaviour.
4. Do not allow your dog to bark at things that are not a threat to your security, such as passing pedestrians, the postman, neighbours, stray dogs, birds etc.
5. Be a responsible dog owner and remember a good watchdog makes for a happy neighbourhood.
6. Seek professional help if your dog is too difficult for you to handle, and if so, don't feel like you have failed. Humans are naturally human trainers and it takes special skills to be able to train dogs successfully.
7. Do not allow your dog to roam. Always walk your dog on a leash. It is an offence against the Companion Animals Act for any dog to be outside its own property at any time, unless it is under the effective control of a competent person by means of an adequate chain, cord or leash, that is attached to the dog and that is being held by (or secured to) the person.
8. Always carry a bag with you to pick up any dog poo.
9. Wherever possible confine your dog at night to reduce any annoyance to your neighbours.
10. Keep your dog healthy and happy.