



# roaming dogs in the ballina shire

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 that must be 16 years and older.

Under Section 16 of the Act, 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.

## 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 name of 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.

## IMPOUNDED ANIMALS

If your animal is impounded, 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 impounded.

Additionally, if your pet has been impounded, it will need to 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.



**WARNING**  
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