



Policy 37 – Dog Management

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OBJECTIVE

To promote responsible dog ownership and management.

POLICY

This Policy represents Council's position upon dog management service in its municipal area.

Terms provided in the Policy have the same meaning as the definition provided for the same term under the *Dog Control Act 2000*.

Responsible Dog Ownership

Council is committed to encouraging responsible dog ownership. Amongst other matters, responsible dog owners will:

- ensure that their dog is kept under effective control at all times;
- ensure that their dog is registered in accordance with the *Dog Control Act 2000*;
- ensure that their dog receives necessary care, exercise and attention in accordance with good veterinary practice, and is supplied with adequate food, water and shelter;
- ensure that the welfare of their dog is protected as required by the *Animal Welfare Act 1993*;
- take all reasonable steps to ensure that their dog does not cause a nuisance to any person, whether by persistent and barking/howling or by other means;
- take all reasonable steps to ensure that their dog does not injure, endanger, intimidate, or cause distress to any person;
- take all reasonable steps to ensure that their dog does not injure, endanger, or cause distress to any livestock, poultry, domestic animal(s) or protected wildlife;
- take all reasonable steps to ensure that their dog does not damage or endanger any property belonging to any other person; and
- comply with all relevant requirements under the *Dog Control Act 2000*, including the requirement for the person in charge of a dog to immediately remove and dispose of faeces left by the dog in a public place or in a place not owned by the person.

Education

Council will provide education to the community regarding the following:

- the requirements of the *Dog Control Act 2000*;
- matters relating to responsible dog ownership, including services available to assist community members to be responsible dog owners; and
- the role and function of Council and its responsibilities to the community regarding dog management.

Council officers will undertake ongoing professional development to ensure they maintain a high level of aptitude in the undertaking and provision of dog management services.

Council officers will, upon request, visit local schools to make presentations to students on dog ownership issues and responsibilities.

Complaints and Nuisance Management/Mitigation

Council will consider each complaint objectively. Issues raised will be investigated in a manner that ensures all facts are considered to avoid vexatious and false complaints being supported. Where considered necessary, Council will institute proceedings against a dog owner, or person in charge of a dog, that creates a nuisance (e.g. via excessive and unreasonable barking activity, or behaves in a manner that is injurious or dangerous to the health of any person).

Council will provide rubbish receptacles for deposit of dog faeces in appropriate public locations. Where considered necessary, Council will institute proceedings against a person in charge of a dog that fails to immediately remove and dispose of faeces left by the dog in a public place or a place not legally occupied by the person.

Council will make available for hire anti-barking collars. The collars will be available to dog owners at an appropriate cost and are to be used where barking/howling difficulties are being experienced.

Municipal Dog Pound

Council will operate a municipal dog pound in accordance with the requirements of the *Dog Control Act 2000* and the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Every reasonable effort will be made to secure an alternative home for dogs admitted to the pound and not claimed.

Information will be provided to advise community members to contact the Council in the event of losing their dog; which will duly assist Council officers in seeking to reunite impounded dogs with their owners.

Licences

A licence is required for any person who wishes to keep on any premises (i) more than 2 dogs over the age of 6 months or (ii) more than 4 working dogs over the age of 6 months. An application for a licence must be on the prescribed form and accompanied by payment of the prescribed fee.

If the applicant wishes to operate commercially from a premises a planning permit will be required in addition to the requirement for a licence. A kennel to house dogs for commercial

purposes (such as a boarding kennel or breeding kennels) will be required to be constructed to the applicable standards.

Fees

Council endeavours to set dog registration fees that are affordable for dog owners whilst enabling recovery of costs associated with the delivery of dog management services. In developing registration fees each year, Council will apply the following principles:

- Registrations for de-sexed dogs will be discounted.
- Registrations non-desexed dogs will attract a higher fee.
- Registrations for dogs owned by pensioners will be discounted to alleviate cost pressures.
- Owners with an I.D card from an approved Training Institute who keep guide dogs or hearing dogs will not be charged a registration fee.

Owners seeking concessional registration (e.g. pensioners, owners of sterilised dogs) may need to produce written evidence of eligibility as prescribed in the Act.

Lifetime registration for dogs involves a once off payment of the prescribed fee. In the event of the registered dog dying within the first three (3) years of lifetime registration, 50% of the registration fee paid at the time of registration commencement will be returned to the owner.

Council will set its dog fees at an Ordinary Council Meeting. Fees will be advertised and standard renewal notices will be provided to all persons who have a dog registered under an annual registration.

Declared Areas

To ensure residents have areas to walk their dogs without conflict with non-dog owners, some areas will be declared restricted to dogs (excluding guide dogs or hearing dogs) during certain hours and periods of the year, or will be prohibited to dogs (excluding guide dogs or hearing dogs accompanying their owner) entering altogether. Other areas will be open to exercise dogs year-round. Council will consider the provision of further exercise areas along with training areas, prohibited areas and restricted areas as needs are established. Importantly, dogs must be under the effective control of a person at all times in public places.

The municipal area will be actively patrolled by Council staff and infringement notices may be issued where a dog is observed being active in a declared area that is in contravention of this Policy. Special care must be taken to ensure that dogs are not at large in coastal areas during the breeding times of native birds and animals.

Exercise Areas:

The following areas are areas where dogs can be exercised:

- Adams Beach – BRIDPORT
Dogs permitted off-lead all year round.
- Foreshore Walking Track – BRIDPORT
Dogs only permitted on a lead all year round.

- Trent Water – BRIDPORT
Dogs permitted:
(i) on a lead from the boat ramp southward to the Bridport Port and Marine Area, including the beach area east of the walking track; and
(ii) off-lead in the beach area east of the walking track, from the boat ramp southward to the Bridport Port and Marine Area.
- Council Land – Lot 1 Main Street, LEGERWOOD
Dogs only permitted on a lead all year round.
- Council Land – 18 Christopher Street, SCOTTSDALE
Dogs permitted off-lead all year round.

Restricted Areas:

The following areas are areas where the activities of dogs (other than guide dogs or hearing dogs) need to be restricted:

- All Council Owned or Maintained Cemeteries
Dogs are restricted from entering all year round.
- Branxholm Recreation Ground – 4 Frederick Street, BRANXHOLM
Dogs must be on a lead and are not permitted to enter the premises on days where a sport is being played upon the oval until at least two (2) hours after the sport has ceased.
- Branxholm Recreation Reserve – 1-7 Scott Street, BRANXHOLM
Dogs only permitted on a lead within the designated campground area.
- Bridport Hall – BRIDPORT
Dogs are restricted from entering the hall building all year round.
- Bridport Football Club – Henry Street, BRIDPORT
Dogs must be on a lead and are not permitted to enter the premises on days where a sport is being played upon the oval until at least two (2) hours after the sport has ceased.
- Bridport Foreshore – BRIDPORT
Dogs permitted off-lead from 1st April to 1st November at the beach areas of Eastmans Beach and Goftons Beach. Dogs only permitted on a lead from 1st April to 1st November in the area situated between the Bridport Foreshore Walking Track and the beach areas of Eastmans Beach and Goftons Beach, inclusive. Dogs are restricted from entering the above areas outside of designated times.
- Bridport Seaside Caravan Park – BRIDPORT
With approval from the Caravan Park Manager, dogs are only permitted on a lead from 1st April to 1st November at campsites south of Eastmans Beach.
- Wildflower Reserve (Granite Point Conservation Area) – BRIDPORT
Dogs only permitted on a lead between 6:00 am to 7:00 pm within:
(i) the Wildflower Reserve Walk, including all area to the east of the formed walking track; and

- (ii) the track leading to Adams Beach from the formed walking track near the northern end of Bentley Street.

Dogs are restricted from entering the area outside of this time.

- Derby Park – Main Street, DERBY
Dogs only permitted on a lead all year round.
- Gladstone Hall – 1 Carr Street, GLADSTONE
Dogs are restricted from entering the site all year round.
- Ringarooma Recreation Ground – East Maurice Road, RINGAROOMA
Dogs must be on a lead and are not permitted to enter the premises on days where a sport is being played upon the oval until at least two (2) hours after the sport has ceased.
- Children’s Reserve & Memorial Park – SCOTTSDALE
Dogs are restricted from entering the site all year round.
- Northeast Park – Ringarooma Road, SCOTTSDALE
Dogs only permitted on a lead:
 - (i) within the designated campground area; or
 - (ii) on the Ring Road.
- Recreation Ground / Showgrounds area – SCOTTSDALE
Dogs must be on a lead and are not permitted to enter the premises on days where a sport is being played upon the oval/field until at least two (2) hours after the sport has ceased.
- Winnaleah Sports Ground – 1 Winnaleah Road, WINNALEAH
Dogs must be on a lead and are not permitted to enter the premises on days where a sport is being played upon the oval until at least two (2) hours after the sport has ceased.

Prohibited Areas:

The following areas are areas where dogs (other than a guide dog or a hearing dog that is accompanying the owner) are prohibited due to the presence of sensitive habitat for native wildlife:

- Bridport Foreshore - BRIDPORT
All area eastward of the Bridport Foreshore Walking Track, from Granite Point (at the turnaround area at the northern end of Bentley Street) to the Trent Water inlet to Anderson Bay (excluding the area eastward of the Bridport Foreshore Walking Track from Eastmans Beach to Goftons Beach, inclusive).

Prohibited Public Areas:

Under Section 28 of the *Dog Control Act 2000*, a person must not take a dog into the following:

- (a) any grounds of a school, preschool, kindergarten, creche or other place for the reception of children without the permission of a person in charge of the place;
- (b) any shopping centre or any shop;

- (c) the grounds of a public swimming pool;
- (d) any playing area of a sportsground on which sport is being played; or
- (e) any area within 10 metres of a children's playground.

This requirement does not apply to:

- (a) a guide dog that is accompanying a wholly or partially blind person or is in training for that purpose;
- (b) a hearing dog that is accompanying a wholly or partially deaf person or is in training for that purpose; or
- (c) a pet shop; or
- (d) the premises of a veterinary surgeon; or
- (e) a pet grooming shop; or
- (f) any other premises related to the care and management of dogs.