



Responsible Dog Ownership



ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

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WHAT ARE MY RESPONSIBILITIES WHEN MY DOG IS IN A PUBLIC PLACE?

Dog must be under the effective control of a competent person.

Your dog must be under the effective control of a competent person at all times when out in public. This means that it must be on a leash and under the control of someone capable of restraining it. A small child, for example, may not be able to control a large dog. Under these circumstances, an adult capable of restraining the dog, should walk the dog.

A dog is not considered to be under the effective control of a competent person if the person has more than 4 dogs under their control.

If you fail to comply with this requirement, you, or if you are not present, the person in control of your dog, if they are aged 16 or over, may be liable for a maximum penalty of \$1,100 or \$11,000 in the case of a restricted or declared dangerous dog.

Areas from which dogs are prohibited

Dogs are banned from:

- within 10 metres of a children's play area
- within 10 metres of food preparation or consumption areas, except cafés or restaurants whose owners permit dogs (not restricted dogs or declared dangerous dogs) in their outdoor dining areas (see Dogs in outdoor dining areas)
- recreation areas where dogs are prohibited
- public bathing areas where dogs are prohibited
- school grounds
- child care centres
- shopping centres where dogs are prohibited
- wildlife protection areas.

Cleaning up after your dog

If your dog defecates in a public place or on someone else's property, you must remove the faeces immediately and dispose of them properly.

If you fail to pick up after your dog, you or the person in charge of the dog at the time may be liable for a maximum penalty of \$880.

WHAT ARE MY RESPONSIBILITIES WHEN MY DOG IS NOT IN A PUBLIC PLACE?

You or the person in charge of the dog at the time, must take all reasonable precautions to prevent your dog from escaping from the property on which it is being kept.

As a responsible pet owner it is important to ensure that your fence or enclosure is:

- High enough that your dog cannot jump over it
- Low enough so that your dog cannot dig under it.
- Strong enough that your dog cannot push through it
- Hole proof so that your dog cannot escape through it

If you choose to keep dogs as a security measure, it is important that people passing by your property are not harassed or endangered by your animals. Proper fencing is essential.

Nuisance Noise

You or the person in charge of the dog have a responsibility to prevent the dog from making a noise, by howling/barking or otherwise that persistently occurs or continues to such a degree or extent that it is unreasonably interfering with the peace, comfort or convenience of your neighbours. Council can issue Nuisance or Noise abatement orders to dog owners who don't address noise issues

CARING FOR YOUR DOG

When and why should my dog be microchipped?

In NSW, all dogs, must be microchipped by 12 weeks of age or before being sold or given away, whichever happens first.

Should your dog be lost or impounded having a microchip allows them to be scanned, identified and returned to you.

If you buy a dog in NSW that is not micro-chipped, you should report this to Council for investigation and further action, if appropriate.

If you sell or give your dog away or your contact details change, you must notify Council within 14 days.

Registration

All dogs must be registered by six months of age. The registration fee is a once only payment, which covers the cat or dog for its lifetime in NSW, regardless of any changes in ownership. You are encouraged to have your dog desexed before registering it.

Contact your local council for lifetime registration fees.

The fees are for the lifetime of the animal anywhere in NSW.

Do I have to have my dog desexed?

Although you do not have to have to have your cat or dog desexed, unless it is a restricted dog or a declared dangerous dog, hundreds of thousands of dogs are euthanized every year because they are unable to find homes, should you not desex your dog you too could be contributing to the problem. There are benefits in doing so for you and your animal:

- A greatly reduced lifetime registration fee applies for a dog that has been desexed,
- Your dog is less likely to stray, be aggressive, fight or spray to mark its territory.

There is no scientific evidence to show that it is better to allow an animal to have one litter before being desexed.

Desexing before 6 months of age is recommended. If you cannot afford to have your cat or dog desexed, speak to your vet or an animal welfare organisation as they may be able to help.