

Responsible pet ownership

Know the rules and avoid a fine



Understanding your legal responsibilities as a pet owner is crucial for the safety and wellbeing of your animal and the community.

The laws for dog and cat owners

- **Microchip and register:** All dogs and cats must be microchipped and registered with the [NSW Pet Registry](#) by 12 weeks of age.
- **Collar and tag:** All dogs and cats must wear a collar with a tag showing their name and the owner's contact details.
- **Noise nuisance:** Owners must prevent their dogs and cats from making persistent and excessive noise that disturbs their neighbours.
- **Report changes:** Owners must notify Council of any changes to their pet's information, such as a change of address or ownership.

Responsible dog ownership

- Owners must keep their dog/s under control and on a lead in public.
- One person can have a maximum of four dogs on a lead under their control in public.
- Owners must clean up after their dog's poo in a public place.
- Owners must stop their dog/s from entering certain public places, such as school yards, shopping centres, and national parks.
- Dogs must stay 10 metres away from children's play equipment.
- Dogs may be permitted on-lead in outdoor dining areas if the business owner allows it.

Dangerous dogs

When a dog is declared dangerous, menacing or a restricted breed, owners must comply with control requirements like muzzling in public and keeping the dog in a secure enclosure when at home.

Barking dogs

As a dog owner, you are responsible for making sure your dog doesn't create a nuisance by barking excessively.

If a barking dog is affecting you, there are steps you can take to help resolve the issue.

Talk to your neighbour first, they may be unaware of the extent of the problem. Visit our [website](#) for more detailed information.

Why do dogs bark excessively?

It's a sign that a dog is frustrated, suffering anxiety, under-exercised, under-socialised, hungry, thirsty or sick.

Regular walks will help, but if excessive barking continues, we recommend calling a recognised animal trainer, animal behaviourist or your vet.

Responsible cat ownership

You are responsible for your cat's health, safety, and wellbeing. You must ensure your cat doesn't harm wildlife, the environment, and that it doesn't cause a nuisance to others.

- Keep your cat within your property boundaries, day and night
- Desex your cat. A permit is required for cat's that aren't desexed.
- Vaccinate your cat and schedule regular vet check-ups.

Visit our [website](#) for more about your responsibilities.

On-the-spot fines

If you are found to be in breach of the Companion Animal Legislation, you will be fined. Examples of the fines are listed below.

- Failure to microchip a dog/cat: \$180
- Dogs without a collar and tag in public: \$180
- Failure to register a dog/cat: \$330
- Cat not desexed and without a permit: \$400
- Breaching a noise nuisance order: \$275
- Failing to report changes: \$180
- Dog off leash in a public place: \$330
- Not cleaning up dog poo in public area: \$275
- Dog attacking a person or animal: \$1,320
- Dangerous dog escaping enclosure: \$5,500

More information

Registration

You can register your pet with the [NSW Pet Registry online](#) or with Council.

Microchipping, lost pets, dog-friendly beaches, nuisance behaviour, and more

Contact Council's rangers:

- **Phone** 4474 1019
- **Email** rangers@esc.nsw.gov.au
- **Online** www.esc.nsw.gov.au/pets