

Fact Sheet: Responsible Dog Ownership

Helpful hints for dog owners

Owning a dog should be a rewarding and enjoyable experience, however there are many responsibilities that come with the job. Your dog depends on you for its care and control.

Dog Management Laws

Winton Shire Council has Local Laws to regulate the keeping of dogs (Keeping and Control of Animals) Local Law No.2 (Local Laws can be accessed [here](#)). The object of the Local Laws aims to:

- Balance community expectations with the rights of individuals; and
- Protects the community against the risk to health and safety; and
- Prevents pollution and other environmental damage; and
- Protects the amenity of the local community and environment.



There are a number of requirements for keeping of animals provided in local laws, which are in addition to Queensland State laws which are in effect. The local laws provide for fines for offences for not abiding by requirements. The fines are determined in penalty points. One penalty point is worth \$166.90.

Part 2 – Keeping of animals

Division 1: Prohibition of keeping animals in prescribed circumstances and Division 2: Animals for which approval is required.

These divisions provide for limits on the keeping of animals in prescribed circumstances, for example, may limit the number of dogs able to be kept on a property. They also prescribe prohibited dog breeds. For example, breeds, and crossbreeds of American pit bull or pit bull terrier, dogo Argentino, fila Brasileiro, Japanese tosa, Perro de Presa Canario or Presa Canario are prohibited in the Winton Shire. Maximum fine 50 penalty points.

Division 4 – Minimum standards for keeping animals.

This division requires minimum standards for housing animals. Maximum penalty 20 penalty units.

Part 3 – Control of animals

This part has several divisions that deal with the expectations regarding control of animals including in public places. This includes ensuring the animal is appropriately restrained. You are also required to clean up faeces. Maximum penalty of 20 penalty units.

Other divisions in this part also deals with wandering animals. If an animal is found wandering at large the owner of the animal is taken to have committed an offence. Maximum penalty of 20 penalty units.

Queensland State legislation (*Animal Care & Protection Act 2001*) also deals with nuisances caused by animals. For dogs, barking includes cry, howl, and yelp. Nuisance means interference with the reasonable comfort, peace, or privacy of anyone. Council can issue an abatement notice requesting the owner that they cease the noise. If the owner doesn't comply with the notice they can be fined.



Number of Dogs

There are restrictions on the number of dogs you can keep on your property. The Winton Shire Council allows you to keep no more than 2 dogs. If you have more, or would like more dogs than the restricted amount, you will need to contact Council to obtain a permit.



Dog Registration

In accordance with the *Animal Management (Cats & Dogs) Act 2008* all dogs must be registered with Council. Registrations are effective from 1 July to 30 June each year. Discounts apply for desexed dogs, first dog and pensioners.

Microchipping

In accordance with the *Animal Management (Cats & Dogs) Act 2008* all dogs and cats must be microchipped before it is 12 weeks old. Maximum penalty – 20 penalty units.

What if my dog is impounded?

If your dog has been wandering it may have been collected or handed in to Council. Straying dogs are impounded and can be released upon payment of fees. See Council's fees and charges.

Tips to be a responsible dog owner:

- Microchip and register your dog before 3 months.
- Keep your dog on a lead if in public.
- Vaccinate your dog and treat for heartworm.
- Keep your dog cool in summer.
- Provide an adequate enclosure.
- Don't let your dog wander at large.
- Don't allow your dog to create a nuisance by barking incessantly.

Registering as a Dog Breeder

Anyone who breeds a dog needs to register as a dog breeder, unless they are a breeder of genuine working dogs. You have to register as a dog breeder, even if:

- You only want your dog to have one litter.
- Your puppies are well looked after and in a safe environment.
- You don't sell the puppies but give them away to family and friends.
- Your dog has had an unplanned litter.

People are encouraged to only buy dogs that have a Supply Number. There are penalties if you breed a dog and do not register. You will not be able to sell, advertise or give away a dog legally if you do not have a supply number.

Further information is available by following the link to the Queensland Dog Breeders Web Site - <https://qdbdr.daf.qld.gov.au/>.

Dog Attacks

A dog attack is a very serious matter. If your dog attacks a person, or another animal, you will be held responsible even if you are not present at the time. The only exemption is where the dog was provoked to attack. A dog attack includes a dog aggressively rushing at or attempting to attack a person or animal, as well as tearing clothing, biting or causing physical injury.

