

Fact Sheet

Keeping dogs in Ipswich

As a dog owner in Ipswich, it is important that you understand dog owner obligations. Through local laws, environmental health requirements, permits, registration and animal programs; Ipswich City Council assists owners to protect and enjoy their pet, while minimising any disruption to the community and local environment.

Dog owner obligations include:

- Registering your dog with Ipswich City Council.
- Dogs must be confined to the owner's property at all times - dogs are not allowed to roam. It is your responsibility to ensure your dog is adequately contained and supervised. For handy DIY videos and instruction sheets on helping keep your dog in the yard visit ipswich.qld.gov.au/diy.
- Owners must not allow their dogs to become a nuisance to others or the environment.
- Keep your dog on a leash in public at all times, unless in a designated off leash dog park. This keeps your dog and everyone comfortable and safe.
- Dog owners must dispose of dog faeces on both private and public land, avoiding odour and fly nuisances, and ensuring we keep our city clean.

Number of dogs per property

The number of dogs you are allowed on your property depends on your property size. A puppy is considered a dog at 12 weeks of age. If you require or have more than allowable, you will require a non-standard permit. If you do not have a permit, you are in breach of Council's Local Laws which may result in a penalty.

Allowable limits are:

- up to 2 dogs per property where the land is less than 2,000m²
- up to 4 dogs per property where the land is greater than 2,000m².

A non-standard permit:

- **Special permit** – keeping up to 4 dogs on land less than 2,000m²
- **Kennel permit** – keeping more than 4 dogs on land 2,000m² or more
- **Guard dog permit** – keeping guard dogs on commercial property

Registration

It is mandatory for all dogs to be registered with Ipswich City Council. In accordance with the State Government's *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008*, dogs in Ipswich must be registered with Council within 14 days of:

- the dog reaching 12 weeks of age
- the dog moving into the Ipswich City Council area
- an owner acquiring a new dog.

Dog registration is annual and the period runs from 1 July to 30 June each year. Every registered dog will receive a registration rewards program booklet which features great discounts and offers across a variety of providers and businesses in Ipswich. For more information visit ipswich.qld.gov.au/regorewards.

First year introductory fees

Ipswich City Council offers a first year introductory rate for new registrations. To be eligible, the following criteria applies:

- puppies (less than 3 ½ months)
- new dogs (acquired in the last 14 days)
- moved to the City of Ipswich in the last 14 days
- dogs not previously registered (note, reciprocal registration may apply if previously registered with another Local Authority).

Reduced registration fees

Council offers reduced dog registration fees for pensioners, desexed dogs and obedience trained dogs.

Proof of pension card, desexing or training must be provided when requesting a discount for the first time. If mailing your payment, please include a photocopy of proof with your application form.

Microchipping

Under the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008*, you must ensure your dog is implanted with a microchip before it is 12 weeks of age. It is also a requirement that all dogs must be microchipped before they are sold or given away. Council offers free microchipping when registering your dog for the first time at microchipping and registration events. For more information visit ipswich.qld.gov.au/petevents.

Barking Dogs

All dogs bark, howl or whinge; but in some cases it may become a real neighbourhood nuisance - greatly reducing the quality of life for neighbours and increasing neighbourhood tensions. It is a breach of Council's Local Laws to allow dogs to display nuisance behaviour. The following tips may assist you to ensure your dog doesn't become a neighbourhood nuisance.

Do's

- If leaving your dog alone for extended periods of time, ensure they are comfortable and happy by providing them with a dog bed and plenty of drinking water.
- Keep them occupied with fun, time-consuming toys with treats hidden inside.
- Talk with your neighbour about making sure your dog does not engage in nuisance behaviour.
- Keep your dog inside (or provide a suitable outdoor kennel) during the night.
- Give your dog plenty of exercise with walks and games.
- Where possible, restrict dog's visibility through the fence.
- Consider training sessions, obedience classes and/or puppy pre-school.
- Take your dog to the vet for a health check to rule out a health issue.
- Have your dog desexed.
- Reward your dog for good behaviour.
- Consult other information sources such as libraries, vet surgeries, behaviourists and specialist websites.

Don'ts

- Resort to shouting at your dog or smacking the animal for excessive barking; speak with a behaviourist first to come up with a more constructive, long-term solution to the problem.
- Ignore the issue; if the reasons for the barking are not addressed, the dog will continue to be a noise nuisance.
- Leave your dog unattended when going on holidays. This will make the dog distressed and increase the chances of nuisance barking.

For more information and handy hints to keep your neighbours and dog happy visit Barkup.dog

Lost and Injured Animals

If your dog has been lost, or you have found a lost or injured animal, quick action is key to finding your animal or reuniting an animal with its owner.

Lost animal

- Review the impounded animal register online at ipswich.qld.gov.au to see if your dog has been found.
- If not on the register, you can register them on the RSPCA Lost and Found Pet Portal at Rspcaqld.org.au
- Visit the Ipswich Pound and Management Centre at 6 Hooper Street, West Ipswich

Found Animal

- Register the animal on the RSPCA Lost and Found Pet Portal or phone RSPCA on 1300 363 736.

Injured Animal

- Contact the RSPCA on 1300 264 625 or take to a local veterinarian.

For more information on owning dogs in Ipswich please visit ipswich.qld.gov.au/residents/animals



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