

Fact Sheet

Roaming Dogs

How to prevent dogs from roaming

If your dog is escaping from your property, try to ascertain the escape route. Often neighbours may witness the dog escaping your property so it's a good idea to discuss the situation with your neighbours.

Fences

Important fencing considerations include:

- Check all boundary fences and gates. Dogs can jump over, tunnel under, push over or break through fences and gates to escape your property. You must ensure that your fence is capable of keeping your dog on the property.
- If your dog jumps, you can add a strong extension to the fence to add height, or alternatively, add an inward sloping extension to discourage jumping.
- Tunnelling can be hindered by placing a concrete trench around the bottom of the fence or alternatively attaching a strip of chicken wire to the bottom of the fence and burying it effectively. The type of wire you use, of course, depends on the strength of your dog. For example, chicken wire may stop a Maltese Terrier but may do little to hinder a Rottweiler escaping.
- If you have a wooden fence, check the condition of the palings and other structural elements to ensure they are strong. Secure so your dog cannot push them over and walk through the fence. For wire fences, check that the wire is firmly secured to the structural elements of the fence.



Enclosures

Important considerations include:

- If you don't have a fence or if you rent a property and are not able to pay for a fence, you may erect a suitable enclosure for your dog. The RSPCA can assist you in determining the correct size of enclosure for your dog.
- **Size** - the dog must be able to move about freely and exercise within the enclosure.
- **Shelter** - the enclosure must have a sheltered area for the dog to escape the elements and to eat and sleep comfortably.
- **Position** - the enclosure should be in a quiet spot where the dog won't become over stimulated by people or other animals passing by.
- **Building materials** - the enclosure should be built from materials that match the strength of your dog and should be constructed such that the dog cannot escape by jumping over or tunnelling under the enclosure.
- **Floor** - your dog will benefit from a concrete floor in its enclosure as it is easier to keep clean and disease free. Ensure you provide some easy to clean bedding for comfort.
- **Water** - ensure your dog has access to clean water. Provide a large bowl in its enclosure and refill every day.
- A dog that is permanently kept in an enclosure should be exercised regularly, such as a long walk or run on a lead at least once a day.
- Note that running wires and tethering is not permitted under Council's Local Laws - dogs may become entangled or injured.

Problems with confinement

- Like humans, dogs don't like to be confined - dogs become bored and try to find something to fill their time.
- When bored, dogs can cause a nuisance and may bark, damage property or injure themselves trying to break free.
- To help prevent them causing a nuisance due to confinement, gradually introduce your dog to being confined by keeping it inside the enclosure for short periods of time on its own.
- Start when you are at home and then go out for increasingly longer periods of time until the dog is used to being inside its enclosure whilst you are gone.
- Ask your neighbours how the dog behaved when you were out.
- Feed and play with the dog inside the enclosure so it doesn't think the enclosure is punishment.
- Make sure the enclosure is secure, safe and placed in a quiet area of the property with limited visual stimulus.
- Your dog should also have water, food, toys and be comfortable.



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More information

For more information contact Council on (07) 3810 6666 or RSPCA on (07) 3426 9999.

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