



Your dog and the law

Be a Responsible Dog Owner

Responsible dog owners have few problems with their dogs—or their neighbours! Their dogs are happy, healthy and well cared for and make wonderful companions. However, dog owners must be aware of the laws and legal responsibilities of dog ownership.

Registration

Dog registration in Darwin is compulsory for all dogs once they reach three months of age. Dogs that have been in the Municipality for a month or longer need to be registered.

Registration is for 12 months from the original payment date. Initial or follow-up registration can be established at any post office within the Darwin Municipality or at the Civic Centre. When registering your dog for the first time, where applicable, you need proof of de-sexing (eg a certificate or letter from the vet).

A refund is available if desexed within 6 months of registration date and proof provided.

More Than Two Dogs

To keep more than two dogs at a premises a special licence must be obtained.

This licence allows for the keeping of pets but not the operation of a kennel as defined under the Darwin Town Plan. That definition reads: 'Kennel means an establishment used as a commercial enterprise for the accommodation, breeding or training of more than two dogs'.

Application forms for a special licence are available from the Civic Centre and the Council's four Public Libraries.

Once the application has been received by Council an appointment is arranged to inspect the premises.

This inspection is to ensure that the premises are suitably fenced for the breed of dog. Neighbours are also canvassed for their comments regarding the dogs' behaviour.

Fees (reviewed each year)

Entire Dog	\$60.00
Desexed Dog	\$20.00
Guide Dog	\$3.00
Special Licence	\$100.00

Concessions

Pensioner (Age/Disability only) or Current Final Level Obedience Certificate, Racing and Gaming, NACA member	\$30.00
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Menace or Attack

Dogs attacking or menacing people or animals can result in fines ranging from \$100 to \$150 and entry onto the Prescribed Dog Register.

Barking Dogs

Lonely, bored dogs are usually the worst barking offenders. An information package to assist a barking problem is available from Council PH: 8930 0606.

Dogs at Large

Make sure that you keep your dog in your yard. Dogs wandering the streets attract an \$80 fine, even if you or someone else simply become absent minded and leave the front gate open! It is a condition of all registrations that the fencing be adequate to contain the dog on the premises at all times. For advice on suitable fencing for your dog contact Council's Petcare Helpline.

Remember to exercise your dog on a lead. Your dog should be on a lead whenever in a public place, except in Council-designated off-lead areas. These are detailed in the Exercise Areas Information Sheet. The fine for not complying is \$80.

Registration Tags

If the dog is lost or impounded, wearing a registration tag enables the owner to be notified and the dog returned as soon as practical. If your dog's registration tag is lost, a replacement tag is available from Council at a cost of \$3.

Working Together

Advice is available to help solve the above and other problems. Council prefers to work with owners to solve problems rather than force owners to part with their pets. Each complaint is considered as an opportunity for Council to provide assistance to the community, the dog and the owner. You are welcome to contact Council's **Petcare Helpline PH: 8930 0606** for assistance with solutions, training advice and for help in selecting the dog most suitable for your needs.