

## Dog's in public places

Dog owners have a responsibility to manage their pet's behaviour when in public places, and be understanding of the fact that not everyone likes dogs. It's easy to be a great canine ambassador with some basic dog etiquette.

## Bag it, Bin it

Cleaning up after your dog is quick and easy plus it's the law. Keep your poo bags with your leash as a reminder to take them with you when you go out for a walk with your furry friend.

## Leash your dog on walks

Not everyone is comfortable around dogs. Even if your dog is friendly, it's not polite behaviour to allow your dog to rush up to other people. Allowing your dog to do so may get you into trouble with Council. Owners must keep their dog on a leash at all times while on or within 10 metres of a footpath, BBQ or playground. Your leash should be short enough to prevent your dog from disturbing a passer-by.

## Off-leash areas

All City of Darwin ovals are off-leash dog exercise areas with the exception of Nightcliff Oval and Gardens Oval 1. When in an off-leash area make sure your dog is obedient enough to immediately come when called. It may be good to practise this at home by calling your dog to you within your yard, reward the behaviour and gradually extend the distance. Bring training treats with you to off-leash areas and use the opportunity to teach and praise your dog for polite greetings.



## Need more information?

For more information or advice please contact the Pet Care Helpline on 8930 0606 or visit our website [www.darwin.nt.gov.au](http://www.darwin.nt.gov.au).



## The Do's & Don't for your Dog

When working with your dog doing obedience training, remember to be consistent, patient and understanding.



Great pets  
start with  
**YOU**



## Socialising in Public

Walks at the park or beach inevitably mean socialising with other dogs and people. The younger you start socialising your dog the better. Daily dog walks are a great way to see and meet other people and practise socially acceptable dog behaviour. Using a leash and muzzle can help when learning new social activities. Make your dog an observer at first, don't rush things; expose them slowly to outside spaces by letting them observe how other dogs and people have fun. Maintain calm assertive energy, if they are too excited or react aggressively to other dogs, move further away until they relax.



## Dog training

Obedience training is important for all dogs, regardless of breed, size or age. It will not only benefit your dog but will teach you how to correctly interact with your dog. Learning good dog manners, appropriate behaviour and correcting behavioural problems before they become bad habits are among the great benefits that can be achieved with home training or an obedience classes.

### Better control

All dogs should know basic obedience commands; sit, drop, no, stay, quiet. These commands enable you to manage your dog more easily, especially when in different situations. Basic commands help your dog understand what it has done right and wrong, and can provide your pet with an understanding on how to behave in public, how to greet people and how to stay calm.

### Greater bonding

Dogs that have obedience training pay more attention to their owners, which then reduces stress on both sides and creates a closer relationship. Establishing a strong connection is essential, and training your dog with positive techniques is a great way to build trust and mutual respect while bonding.

## Safety

A well-trained dog, under supervision, is safer to have around family and friends and is at a lower risk to itself and other people than an uncontrollable dog. Trained dogs have a lower risk of getting hit by a car, attacked by another dog or being given up for adoption pet. Training promotes simple things like a dog returning to you when called or sitting calmly next to you when a bigger or more anxious dog walks past. Training has undeniable safety benefits.

## Learning

Obedience training exercises are engaging and fun for both you and your dog. If you participate in obedience classes it gives you an opportunity to talk to other dog owners and to consult with your trainer to help resolve any difficulties.

## Social skills

Socialising your dog helps stop aggression, reduces fear, anxiety and the risk of running away. Social skills allow your dog to behave properly in different situations and ensures your pet won't bark at a passers-by, panic or jump up. Dog obedience classes are a great way to socialise your dog with other dogs and people in a safe controlled environment.

When working with your dog doing obedience training, remember to be consistent, patient and understanding. Give it a shot and you'll definitely not regret the time and effort you put in.

City of Darwin encourages all dog owners to seek professional advice and support when training dogs, and offers free behavioural workshops.

Please go to [www.darwin.nt.gov.au/live/pets-wildlife/great-pets-start-with-you/overview](http://www.darwin.nt.gov.au/live/pets-wildlife/great-pets-start-with-you/overview) or call the Pet Care Helpline on 8930 0606. To easily locate some of the pet services providers in your area there is a pet services directory listed at [darwin.nt.gov.au/pets](http://darwin.nt.gov.au/pets).