

Having a pet dog can be very rewarding and lead to great companionship, however becoming a dog owner means taking on responsibilities. Being a responsible pet owner not only requires minimum standards of animal care, but also extends to consideration towards your neighbours and community members, and complying with legislation and Council's Local Laws.

## Registration

All dogs within the Longreach Regional Council must be registered by the time they are 12 weeks old, and within 14 days of being in the region.

To register your dog, please attend a Council office in your town. Once the application form has been submitted and registration fee is paid, you will be issued with a tag for your dog to wear at all times. Replacement tags are available at no cost.

Fines apply if your dog is not registered, or the registration details are not up to date, in accordance with the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008 (AMCDA)*.

## Microchipping

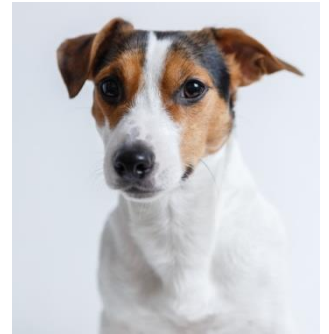
It is the law for **all dogs and cats** to be microchipped from 12 weeks of age (with limited exemptions). A microchip (or *Prescribed Permanent Identification Device – PPID*) is the best way to ensure that your pet is returned home if they are lost or wandering.

A microchip is a unique 15-digit identification number, which is implanted under your pet's skin between the shoulders. Microchips can only be implanted by a vet or other authorised person. It is your responsibility to ensure that the pet owner information is always up to date.

If your dog or cat is not microchipped fines may apply, in accordance with the *AMCDA*. All dogs and cats born after 10 April 2009 must be microchipped before they are sold or given away. All regulated dogs must be microchipped regardless of when they were born.

## How many dogs can I keep?

A maximum of two (2) dogs over 12 weeks of age can be kept on a property in the Council region. Approval is required for additional dogs.



## Desexing

There are many benefits of desexing or sterilising your pets. Desexing assists in the prevention of unwanted puppies and kittens that often become stray or unclaimed in pounds and shelters. There are also many health and behavioural benefits for your pet. Council's registration fee is also lower for pets that are desexed.

## Containment

Cat and dog owners are responsible for containing pets within an adequate enclosure, to ensure the safety of your pet, other animals, wildlife and people in the community. An adequate enclosure will be constructed from sturdy fencing materials, and gates must be securely latched. You should regularly check the enclosure to make sure there are no holes or low sections that would allow your pet to escape.

## Minimum Standards

Pets must be provided with the following, as a minimum:

- Constant access to clean drinking water
- Adequate provisions of food
- Physical activity and social interaction
- Shelter with shade and bedding
- Daily removal of faeces and food scraps
- Removal of waste water from enclosure cleaning, not allowing it to run into neighbouring properties.





## Working Dogs

Working dogs are exempt from registration only if they meet all of the specific criteria below.

Under the AMCDA, a working dog means:

- (a) A dog usually kept or proposed to be kept –
  - (i) On rural land; and
  - (ii) By an owner who is a primary producer, or a person engaged or employed by a primary producer; and
  - (iii) Primarily for the purpose of;
    - (a) Droving, protecting, tending or working stock; or
    - (b) Being trained in droving, protecting, tending or working stock; and
- (b) Does not include a class of dog prescribed under a regulation.

## Barking

All dogs bark, however the frequency and duration of barking can become a neighbourhood nuisance. Each member of the community has a right to peaceful enjoyment within their own property. If you find that a dog near you is barking excessively, you may contact Council's Local Laws department to investigate the barking.

For Council to take action, you must provide the correct address where the dog resides, a description of the dog, a detailed list of dates, times, and possible causes of the dog's barking (e.g. when people walk past, other dogs barking), and how the barking is affecting you. This information assists our Officers in carrying out a thorough and fair investigation, and will help to achieve a desirable outcome for all involved.

## Dogs on Vehicles

Dogs must not be transported in a way that is inappropriate for the animal's welfare. A dog must be restrained while on the back of a ute, allowing enough length for the dog to stand, sit or lay down, but short enough to prevent it from jumping or falling from the vehicle. Swivel latches should be used to prevent chains from tangling, and the restraint should be anchored near the centre of the vehicle.

Do not drive with your dog on the back of a ute in severe weather conditions. Ute trays can get very hot in the sun and dogs can burn their footpads, so please take precautions to protect your pet, including providing shade and water.

## What to do if you see a stray dog

**Contact Council on (07) 4658 4111 (24hrs) with details about the wandering dog/s, address or proximity, and any other important details.**

Dogs that stray or wander at large may be a risk to the community. The safety of our community members and their pets is most important to our Local Law Officers. When a wandering dog is reported, our On-Call Local Laws Officer will respond, patrolling the area and impounding the dog for collection by owner.

## What to do if your dog is missing

**Contact Council on (07) 4658 4111 (24hrs) with details about your missing dog/s.**

If your dog is registered and microchip contact details are up to date, we will let you know if your dog has been impounded and when the dog may be collected, or our Officers will keep an eye out for your dog whilst on patrol.

## Dog Attacks & Regulated Dogs

Under the AMCDA, there are specific requirements that apply to dogs that have been declared Dangerous, Menacing or Restricted. Dog attacks are investigated very seriously, as a matter of public safety.

***Please report all dog attacks, even if the attack does not result in serious harm.***

**For more information, please contact our Local Laws Team on (07) 4658 4111**

