



Frequently Asked Questions - Dog Owners

Council is committed to promoting responsible dog ownership and educating dog owners on their rights and responsibilities.

What are my responsibilities as a dog owner?

As the owner or person in charge of a dog, you have certain responsibilities and legal requirements. These include:

- registering a dog that is over six months of age
- microchipping a dog that is over six months of age
- keeping your dog on a lead at all times unless it is in a specified off-lead exercise area
- ensuring that the dog does not roam and that it is under your effective control at all times
- restricting your dog sufficiently whilst it is in or on a vehicle so that it is unable to leave the vehicle or attack any person or animal outside the vehicle
- cleaning up after your dog
- preventing your dog from rushing at or chasing a moving vehicle or bicycle whilst in a public place
- making sure that a bitch on heat is confined away from public places

Do I have to clean up after my dog?

When exercising your dog in a public place you are always required to clean up after them. Dog faeces are unpleasant and damage the environment. Cleaning up after your dog can be done simply with the aid of a scooper and a plastic bag. Poop bag dispensers and rubbish bins are conveniently located throughout popular dog exercise locations for disposal of the waste.

This does not apply to a guide dog that is accompanying a wholly or partially blind person.

Locations of poop bag dispensers can be found in the Dog Management Policy, on Council's website.

Failure to clean up after your dog can result in a fine.

Does my dog have to be on a lead in a public place?

The Dog Management Policy has strict requirements for when a dog is on or off lead. In most cases your dog **MUST** be on a lead and under effective control when in a public place.

A dog is said to be under effective control only if the lead is less than 2m long, and if the person is of sufficient age and strength to control the dog.

If a dog is tethered to a stationary object, it must be on a lead which is less than 2m long and for a period not exceeding 30 minutes.

Does my dog have to wear a collar?

Under the *Dog Control Act 2000* the owner or person in charge of a dog, other than a guide dog or hearing dog, must ensure that the dog is wearing a collar whilst in public.

The dog's current registration tag is to be attached to the collar. It is an offence for anyone, without good reason, to remove a collar from a dog that is in a public place.

This provision does not apply to dogs engaged in:

- working
- hunting
- racing
- showing
- obedience or agility trials
- training for any of the above





Frequently Asked Questions - Dog Owners (continued)

Where can I exercise my dog?

Council has two designated areas to exercise your dog off-lead at any time of the year, and two areas that have restricted access.

The Dog Exercise Park (located at 260 Steele Street) and Back Beach (west of Bluff Beach) can be accessed at any time of the year.

Coles Beach and the East Devonport Beach (end of Wright Street) only permits exercising of dogs from 1 April to 31 October each year and all dogs must be on a lead.

Dogs not permitted on the beach between 9.00 a.m. and 8.00 p.m. from 1 November to 31 March.

Can my dog be removed from my property?

If an authorised council employee has reason to believe that a dog owner has breached a provision of the *Dog Control Act 2000* or the Dog Management Policy, then he or she is legally able to:

- enter onto land owned or occupied by the dog owner, but not any dwelling on that land; and
- search for and seize any dog on that land.

If the authorised person wishes to enter a dwelling on that land, he or she is able to do so by warrant issued by a magistrate.

How many dogs can I keep?

Under the *Dog Control Act 2000* you are required to apply for a kennel licence if you intend to keep:

- more than two dogs over the age of 6 months; or
- more than four working dogs over the age of 6 months

Lost your dog?

Dogs which are picked up by the Council's Animal Control Officers will be taken back to their place of residence, as long as they have a current registration and there is a person home at the premises. If your dog is missing, in the first instance contact Devonport City Council on **03 6424 0511**.

You can help our Animal Control Officers unite you with your lost dog by ensuring it is micro-chipped and registered.

Unregistered dogs or dogs belonging to a residence where there is no-one present will be taken to the Dogs Home of Tasmania. You can contact them on 03 6427 2178

Found a lost animal?

Should you find a lost animal please contact either Devonport City Council on **03 6424 0511** or the Dogs Home of Tasmania at Spreyton Racecourse on **03 6427 2178**. If the animal is injured you can contact the RSPCA on **03 6427 2566** during business hours.

After hours, if you have a concern regarding a lost, wandering or barking dog, please contact Council on the next working day and the matter will be referred to Council's Animal Control Officer. If you have been involved in a dog attack in which a person has been injured, please record the details, take photos if at all possible and contact Council the next working day.

If you have a concern regarding a dangerous dog on the loose please ring **Council's After Hours Service** on **03 6423 3074**.

More information about dog ownership can be found at www.devonport.tas.gov.au