



# Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter

## Health and Safety tips for people and pets

### You CAN live happily with your pets and avoid catching diseases from them by:

- Not letting them lick your face.
- Washing your face and hands after handling a pet, especially before you eat.
- Keeping your pets away from the food you eat.
- Not letting them lick your food dishes or utensils.
- Cleaning up your pet's droppings every day and washing your hands afterwards.
- Regular worming of your dog or cat.

### You CAN avoid dog bites by:

- Leaving dogs alone if they are eating or near their food.
- Not surprising a sleeping dog - remember the old saying 'let sleeping dogs lie!'
- Don't enter a strange dog's yard unless the owner is present.
- Don't play with a litter of puppies, particularly if the mother is still feeding them.
- Don't grab or cuddle a dog around the neck.
- Always check with the owner before you pat their dog.
- Don't play with any dog unless the owner is watching.
- Don't get dogs over-excited when playing with them.

### If a strange dog starts barking at you:

- Don't try to pat it.
- Stand still and wait for the dog to stop barking at you.
- Don't hit it or kick it to make it go away.
- Lower your head and don't look at or make eye contact with the dog.
- Keep your hands by your sides and slowly back away.

Having a well behaved and well adjusted family pet should be the goal of every dog owner. Teaching your dog or puppy manners and a few simple ground rules of your household will make for a long and happy relationship.

### A healthy dog should:

- Be alert and respond quickly to sounds and calls.
- Move freely and have good stamina especially when young and show no signs of lameness.
- Have a good appetite, be enthusiastic for food and eat efficiently, not vomit.
- Have a clean, glossy coat which is free from parasites and dirt.
- Have good hearing, alert to the slightest sound and no discharge from the ears.
- Have clear eyes with no sign of discharge or inflammation.
- Have a cold damp nose when outdoors and a dry warm nose when indoors and no persistent discharge.

Consult with your vet if your dog appears to be unwell with loss of appetite or is unresponsive and lacking in energy.

### Vaccination

Vaccination is recommended against canine distemper, canine infectious hepatitis and canine parvovirus - all three are viral diseases which are potentially fatal.

Temporary vaccinations are given from age 6-10 weeks, but further booster vaccinations are required.

Council advises that you have your dog vaccinated against kennel cough, which is an upper respiratory tract infection specific for dogs.

Consult with your vet on the proper vaccination schedule and whether other vaccines may be advisable for your dog.

## Worming

Worming is essential to keep your dog healthy. Puppies should be wormed regularly throughout the first year of life. **Remember, roundworms in puppies can infect humans.**

Tapeworms, hookworms and whipworms can also infect dogs. Heartworm is a major mosquito borne disease affecting dogs in many areas of Australia and is preventable.

Consult with your vet before commencing treatment as medication can be fatal to dogs already infected.

## Fleas

Fleas are a common external dog parasite, which cause severe itching and skin inflammation which can lead to dermatitis and are the intermediate host for the tapeworm most common in dogs.

Fleas can be controlled with internal and external medication, insecticidal sprays, powders or washes or the use of a flea collar.

Ask your Vet for the most suitable method of flea control for your dog.

## Paralysis ticks

Paralysis ticks occur in some parts of Australia (including the Hawkesbury) and can be fatal to dogs, especially puppies. If you live in a paralysis tick infected area you must check your dog daily and remove any ticks. Consult with your vet if you find a tick.

## Training

As a basis for training, a puppy should learn to obey the 'sit' command before being petted or fed. As the puppy grows it is advisable to seek more formal training through local dog obedience clubs, listed below.

Puppies should be taught **not** to bite or chew humans, even during play and that unnecessary barking is not allowed. Excessive barking disturbs the neighbourhood and almost guarantees neighbours will be unlikely to investigate a disturbance should something be amiss.

## Exercising your dog

When your dog is out in public, it must be on a lead and with a person who is capable of restraining it and in control of it. The Act requires Councils to provide 'off-leash' areas for the exercise of dogs.

In the Hawkesbury City Council area, there are three off-leash areas located at Pool Park on the corner of Ham and Cox Street South Windsor, Yarramundi Reserve, Yarramundi and Peel Park, North Richmond. These areas contain bins for the disposal of dog faeces.

## Constant barking can be a sign of boredom

Barking is something you can change by taking your dog for regular walks which give it both physical and mental stimulation.

Your dog should be kept on a leash when out and about with you, except when in a designated off-leash fenced area. There is one such place in the Hawkesbury City Council area at Pool Park on the corner of Ham and Cox Streets at South Windsor.

## Obedience classes

Macquarie Towns Dog Training Club at Deerubbin Park, Windsor on Wednesday nights and are contactable on (02) 4572 8509.

**Remember, your dog really does want to please you so be patient when you are training it; reward it for appropriate behaviour and use a firm 'no' when you need to correct behaviour.**



This document contains important information.  
If you do not understand it, contact the  
Telephone Interpreter Service on 131 450.



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2pm-4:30pm  
Saturday 9:30am-11:30am  
Sunday 7am-9am  
Public Holidays 7am-9am