



# Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter

## Council regulations relating to dogs and cats

The Companion Animals Act, 1998 enshrines the rights and responsibilities of pet ownership in NSW and covers the following.

### Microchipping

All dogs and cats born or who have changed owners since 1 July 1999 are required to be microchipped by 12 weeks of age.

Cats that are born before 1 July 1999 who leave the owner's property at any time must be identified either by a microchip or a tag worn on their collar with their name and the owner's phone number on it.

When a dog is not on the property it usually occupies, it must wear a collar and tag with its name and the owner's telephone number on it.

### Registration

Most dogs and cats require lifetime registration by six months of age. The fees are a one-off payment for the life of the animal. A change of details or ownership attracts no additional fee.

### Rights and Responsibilities

While you are responsible for providing proper care for your cat or dog to ensure it is healthy, well nourished, groomed, vaccinated, exercised and socialised, you are also responsible for ensuring that it does not harm or threaten any other person or animal.

As an owner of either a dog or cat you must make sure that your animal is not causing a nuisance - either persistent noise, straying or interfering with other people's property.

### Cats

Owners of cats are encouraged to teach them to stay inside at night to reduce the chances of them fighting or hunting other animals. Studies have shown the overwhelming majority of car accidents and fights which result in injury to cats occur at night. You are also required to ensure your cat stays out of restricted areas including food preparation and wildlife protection areas. A cat may be declared a nuisance cat if it persistently makes noise or interferes with neighbours' wellbeing or damages other people's property.

### Dogs

For dog owners, this means containing your dog on your property. When you are in public with your dog, keep it on a leash, except in specially designated areas. Dog owners are also required to promptly dispose of any faeces left by the dog anywhere outside your property.

### 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.

### Barking Dogs

Persistent barking is antisocial behaviour. Under the Act a nuisance dog order can be issued which requires the owner to stop the dog's persistent barking. If the problem continues, the owner may be liable for a maximum penalty of **\$880** for a first offence and **\$1500** for further offences.

### Dangerous Dogs

Council can declare a dog dangerous if it has, without provocation attacked or killed a person or animal, or repeatedly threatened to do so. There are strict conditions for the control and restraint of dangerous dogs. Five breeds of dogs have also been declared restricted breeds. Contact Council for more information about dangerous dogs and restricted breeds.



### Hawkesbury City Council

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