

Dogs are the largest single cause of complaint to council and it is important your dog is taught social behaviors at the earliest possible opportunity so it does not interfere with the quality of life of your neighbours or other members of the public.

At council we believe it is better to educate dog owners about the responsibilities of having a dog than impose fines.

Wandering dogs

Dogs allowed to roam are a danger to themselves and the public. They can expect a short lifespan as they can be hit by cars, baited, shot or stolen and never seen again.

You can keep your dog home by building a secure fence or a pen. The style of fence is important – it is possible for a dog to catch its paws in the tip of a poorly designed picket fence.

Some dogs are excellent jumpers and a tall fence is no barrier. It could be worth building a section on the top of your fence that leans inwards to keep in these sort of dogs – similar in shape to security fences around factory yards.

For dogs that prefer to dig their way out, a concrete seam under the fence in combination with a tension wire a few centimetres above the ground is effective.

If you build a pen for the dog it must include shelter from sun and rain as well as water and feeding facilities.

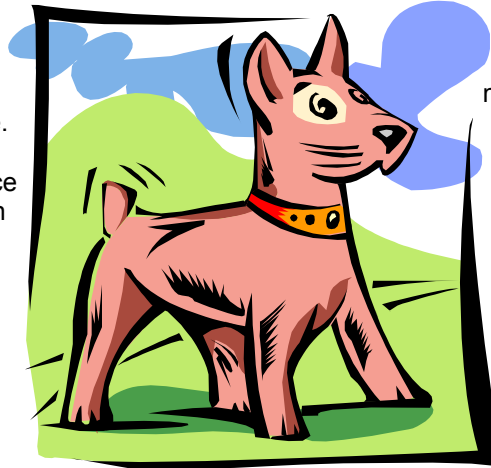
A running lead is a less ideal method of restraint. Secure a strong length of wire a metre or so above the ground between two posts and attach a lead that can slip easily along. A stop is needed at each end to stop the dog getting tangled around the posts.

Barking dogs

Dogs bark because they are bored, lonely, seeking attention, anxious or protecting their property.

It is natural for a dog to bark but it can be very annoying for neighbours. You can train your dog not to bark by rewarding it for being quiet.

A puppy can be trained by placing it in a room and when it barks, tell it from outside the door to be quiet. Don't open the door. After half a minute if it has not barked again, open the door and praise and pat the dog for being quiet. Continue this pattern by being stern when you see the dog is about to bark and rewarding good behaviour.



When you are out for long periods the dog may bark because it is bored and lonely.

You can change this by helping your dog feel happy and relaxed by providing it with a den. A small room like the laundry is fine. Provide soft bedding and provide water. Make this the only water available so it has to go to its den to drink.

Feed the dog in the den and lock it in the den for about 15 minutes when you do feed it so it associates the den with food and the happiness that brings. When you leave the dog locked in the den provide food to make it happy, such as a good bone that can keep it content for a good while.

Actions can be taken if a dog barks constantly. A nuisance order can be issued that can be followed with a \$275 fine if the barking continues.

The Law

The basic laws and rules of dog ownership are laid out in the Companion Animals Act. As a dog owner you must:

- * microchip and register your dog. Your vet will microchip the animal and you can get lifetime registration at the council. Attach a tag with your address to the dog's collar.
- *When outside your property keep your dog on a leash. The leash must be held by someone who can always control the dog.
- *Pick up after your dog when it defecates in a public place.
- *Make sure your dog does not enter schoolyards, shopping centres or get within 10 metres of children's playground equipment
- *Your dog must not be within 10 metres of food preparation or food consumption areas.

If you don't follow these rules you can be fined or taken to court. Your dog can be impounded and if not claimed can be sold or destroyed.

Dangerous Dogs

The council may declare your dog dangerous if it has attacked a person or animal or repeatedly threatened to attack. We will notify you before declaring your dog dangerous and give you the opportunity to make your views known.

Once a dog is declared dangerous you must:

- *restrain the dog on your land to prevent it attacking persons or animals and erect signs warning of the dangerous dog
- *leash and muzzle your dog at all times outside your property
- *desex the dog and follow certain other rules.

If you don't follow these requirements other controls can be ordered or the dog may be destroyed.

Dogs on beaches

The council has put some rules in place to make sure that dogs can be responsibly exercised on the beaches of the Eurobodalla Coast.

Most areas are available on a time share basis – between those with dogs and those who would rather be on the beach without dogs.

There are some very popular swimming beaches where dogs are prohibited.

The brochure 'Dogs on Beaches' that is available from council has detailed information.

Horses

Horses tethered on council land, such as a reserve can be impounded.

When tethered on private property they must not be within nine metres of a residence.



An on the spot penalty applies for leaving a horse in a public place.

More information is available from our Rangers at the Council by calling 4474 1019 or 4474 1335, or by visiting the Council website, www.esc.nsw.gov.au

On the Spot Fines

These offences are liable to on the spot fines:

Animal not permanently identified	\$165
Sell animal not permanently identified	\$165
Animal not registered	\$165
Not notify change in registration/identification	\$165
Give false or misleading information to register	\$165
Dog without collar and tags	\$165
Dog not under effective control	\$220
Dog in a prohibited place	\$330
Failure to remove dog faeces	\$275
Animal in public place not registered	\$165

Registration

All dogs over the age of six months must be microchipped and lifetime registered. Microchipping is done by the vet and registration is done by the council.

Lifetime registration fees are:

\$40 for a desexed animal
\$40 for a recognised breeder
\$15 for a pensioners desexed animal
\$150 for a non-desexed animal

Working dogs and registered racing Greyhounds are not required to be microchipped and registered but it is recommended for the protection of the dog.

Pound fees

Registered companion animals	
Seizure & release fee (1 st day)	\$39
Maintenance fee (each day thereafter)	\$29

Unregistered companion animals	
Seizure & release fee (1 st day)	\$76
Maintenance fee (each day thereafter)	\$29

Pensioner's companion animals	
Seizure & release fee (1 st day)	\$27
Maintenance fee (each day thereafter)	\$9



Dogs

Your responsibilities

in the Eurobodalla Shire

updated 1 July 2008



New signage 2007