

Fact Sheet | Your Dog Your Responsibility

Produced in conjunction with NSW Governments Responsible Pet Ownership Grants program (year 3)



There are a number of things you must do as a dog owner under the Companion Animals Act 1998

1. Microchip your dog

All dogs must be microchipped by the time they reach 12 weeks old. A microchip contains a unique identification number that allows councils / vets to identify the pet's owner through a central register.

2. Lifetime register your dog

All dogs must be lifetime registered. Registration in NSW is only required once, and ensures that your pet can be returned to you if it has been found away from your property.

You can register your dog at any council in NSW, or at the New England Regional Animal Shelter. If you are applying for pensioner / desexed / breeder or working dog registration, you will need to provide the appropriate documentation.

Registration forms can be found here:

<https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/Lifetime-registration-R2.pdf>

3. Change of address / Contact details

If you change your address or contact details, it is your responsibility to ensure these details are updated on your dog's microchip.

This will ensure that you can be notified if your pet is located.

Change of owner / details form can be found here:

<https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/Change-of-owner-C3A.pdf>

Completed forms can be forwarded to Council, or completed online (**www.petregistry.nsw.gov.au**).

On the spot fines may be issued to the owners of an unregistered dog.

4. A collar and tag must be worn

Your dog must wear a collar with an identification tag at all times when it is off your property.

5. Control of your dog

Dogs on leads may be exercised in public places (except for prohibited places) subject to the person in charge of the dog cleaning up after the dog.

An unrestrained or unsupervised dog can be a danger to other animals and people.

Penalties can apply to the dog owner or person in charge of a dog who attacks, bites, harasses, chases or rushes at another person or animal.

Dogs are allowed off leash in specified off leash areas only.

6. Cleaning up after your dog

If your dog defecates in a public place or on someone else's property, you must remove the faeces immediately, and dispose of it properly.

Penalties may be issued to the owner or the person in charge of a dog who fails to pick up after the dog.

7. Where dogs are prohibited

- Within 10 metres of food preparation or food consumption areas
- Within 10 metres of children's playground equipment
- In public bathing areas
- Sporting fields
- In school or childcare grounds
- In National Parks

Impounded Dogs

The New England Regional Animal Shelter cares for stray/ wandering companion animals. Where a dog has been impounded, it will not be released to the owner or agent of the owner until all fees owing to Council are paid. Such fees are the Impounding fee, daily maintenance charges, microchip and registration fees.

www.armidaleregional.nsw.gov.au/living-here/animals-and-pets/ne-regional-companion-animal-shelter

More Information

For more information on responsible dog ownership, visit Office of Local Government Companion Animal Website

www.olg.nsw.gov.au/public/dogs-and-cats/responsible-pet-ownership-program

