

This brochure has been produced to help educate the animal keepers of Emerald. Emerald Shire Council believes that the education of dog owners about their responsibilities is valuable in reducing the number of "Nuisance" dog incidents.



Responsible dog owners are thanked for their continued support.

REGISTRATION

Dogs are welcome residents in Emerald. But, like all good residents, they must obey the rules that are in place for the benefit of the whole community and this includes the need to be registered.

What do you get for your registration fee?

- A full time Animal Control Officer
- Positive identification of your dog
- The reuniting of lost or injured dogs with owners
- Investigation and resolution of dog problems
- Maintenance of Council pound facilities
- Dog patrol services to help reduce the number of dogs loose in streets and public places
- Encouragement of de-sexing through discounted registration for de-sexed dogs
- No Impound fee for a first release from the pound*

*Conditions apply

PROBLEM DOGS

Council is receiving many complaints about wandering, barking and dangerous dogs. Council would like to remind dog owners of their responsibilities when it comes to owning a dog in Emerald.

BARKING DOGS

All dogs bark – it's natural. Unfortunately, continual barking is annoying for the surrounding community.

Most dogs bark because they are:

- Seeking attention
- Bored / lonely / anxious
- Protecting their territory

Most causes of nuisance barking can, and should be eliminated. Contact 4982 8348 for information about hiring an anti-barking collar. "On-the-spot" fines apply.

DANGEROUS DOGS

Please ensure that your dog does not frighten or attack people or other animals.

Emerald Shire Council view dog attacks seriously, with harsh conditions/penalties being placed on owners of the culprit dog. If you are bitten, attacked or placed in fear by a dog on public land, please contact the Animal Control Officer on 4982 8348 at once. Please note that Council may enter private land and seize a dog which has attacked a person or animal. "On-the-spot" fines apply.

WANDERING DOGS

Your dog should **never** be allowed to wander. The consequences of allowing your dog to wander are severe. Your dog may become lost, stolen, hit by a car or may even bite or place fear in a person or other animal. The easiest way to prevent your dog from wandering is to construct a fence that is secure enough to keep your dog in your own yard. "On-the-spot" fines apply.

RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP

To maintain healthy human / dog relationships, here are some basic guidelines you should follow:

Register your dog at 3 months.



Walk your dog on a lead.



Keep your dog quiet.



Keep your dog in your yard.



Don't let your dog frighten people or animals.



GENERAL OFFENCES AND FINES*

Because of the nuisance nature of dog offences it is necessary to issue Fines to ensure compliance. It is important to remember that warnings do not have to be given.

Fines:

Failing to Register your dog = \$150

Register your dog as soon as it turns 3 months old. All dogs over 3 months are required to be registered.

Dog not on leash = \$150

Always keep your dog on leash whilst walking it. Dogs need to be under control at all times.

Allowing a dog to bark excessively = \$300+

Dog keepers have an obligation to the community to ensure that their dog does not cause a nuisance. Prevent your dog from barking excessively.

Inadequate Fencing / Wandering Dog = \$150

Ensure your fencing is able to prevent your dog escaping from your property. Most dog problems are reduced by this one step. Make sure your dog cannot jump/dig or push through your fence. If you have a good fence then make sure you remember to shut the gates.

**For a full list of all Animal offences and penalties please refer to Local Law No. 4 (Keeping and Control of Animals) 2002.*

DO YOU REQUIRE A LICENCE?

Under local law, persons must generally apply for and hold a licence* if they intend to :

- Keep more than 2 dogs and/or 4 cats in a residential area; or,
- Keep dogs/cats in units, duplexes, flats or on land less than 600M² in size; or,
- Keep more animals than is permitted for example poultry, birds, and horses.

***(Note: 3rd Dog registration fee applies.)**

DOG IMPOUNDMENT STATISTICS

During the 2006/2007 financial year approximately 235 dogs were impounded in Emerald:

- 10% dogs were wearing a current tag;
- 52% of dog were returned to their owners; and,
- **40% of dogs were not claimed and were destroyed.**

Family Pets shouldn't become statistics, register your dog and make sure it wears its tag. Remember, your dog relies on you.

USEFUL INFORMATION

General enquires / complaints 4982 8348

The Council Pound is situated at Emerald Shire Council Depot on Batts Street and is open between the hours 4.30pm and 5.30pm each week day. The pound phone number is 4982 0534.

The Animal Control Officer can be contacted on 4982 8348 from 8.30am to 4:00pm, Monday to Friday for any enquiries or complaints. Anonymous complaints cannot be accepted.



**Emerald Shire Council
Environmental Services Department
Presents**

**PawPrints
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