



CITY OF
MITCHAM

Dog and Cat Ownership Responsibilities

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DOG OWNERSHIP owning a dog can be a wonderful, fulfilling experience for the whole family. Dogs can be great companions and lots of fun. However, owning a dog brings with it a responsibility not only to feed, care and exercise your dog, but to also ensure your dog is well behaved and controlled. As a dog owner you are required to:

- Register your dog with Dogs and Cats Online – dogsandcatsonline.com.au
- Ensure your dog is unable to escape from your yard
- Take responsibility for any damage that your dog causes
- When walking your dog, ensure your dog is physically restrained by a cord, chain or leash not exceeding two metres in length
- Microchip your dog
- All dogs born after 1 July 2018 must be desexed before 6 months of age

Person Legally Responsible for a dog Either the actual owner of the dog or a person responsible for the control of the dog can be charged with various offences under the Dog and Cat Management Act.

Registration All dogs are required to be registered at Dogs and Cats Online (DACO). It is compulsory to register your dog with DACO by the age of three (3) months. Your dog must wear a collar and have its registration number attached to it at all times. New owners have fourteen days to register a dog after which they can be fined if the dog remains unregistered.

Current Registration Fees the new registration fees set by Council **effective 1 July 2018**

Description	Ordinary	Concession
Standard – Desexed, Micro-chipped	\$45.00	\$22.50
Non Standard	\$90.00	\$45.00
Working Dog or SAGR CB Greyhound Dogs	\$12.00	\$6.00
Assistance Dogs	Nil	Nil
Late Registration fee	\$12.00	\$12.00

Without special approval no more than two (2) dogs over the age of three (3) months are permitted to be kept at any property within the Council.

Barking Dogs The barking of dogs is one of the most common complaints received at Council. Whilst barking is a dog's natural way of communicating, and can be protection for the home owner, it is an offence if the dog creates a noise by barking (or anything else) which persistently occurs or continues to such a degree that it unreasonably interferes with the peace, comfort, or convenience of a person. Dog owners are responsible for making sure that their dog's barking does not become a problem. Some people are very sensitive to noise and unfortunately if a complaint is made, regardless of how trivial it may seem to you, it is the responsibility of the Authorised Officer to act.

Dogs 'Wandering at Large' It is an offence for a dog to be 'wandering at large' and the owner can be fined. A dog is considered to be 'wandering at large' if it is in a public place (other than a park) or a private place without the consent of the occupier and no one is exercising effective control over the dog, by means of a physical restraint or the dog is in a park and no person is exercising effective control of the dog.

Dog Attacks As a member of the public you have the right to use public land without fear of being attacked or harassed by any dog. Any person may injure or destroy a dog if that action is reasonable and necessary to protect life or property. This action should only be considered in the most extreme of circumstances or it may be treated as a criminal offence if an animal is killed or injured without just cause. Any dog attack on a person or animal should be reported to the Council as soon as possible so there can be an investigation and if appropriate, criminal charges laid.

Penalties If a complaint is received an Authorised Officer may issue a control order or may decide to issue an expiation notice or, if the offence is more serious or repeated you may be summonsed to appear in court to answer to a criminal charge. A Court may, instead of or in addition to any fine, make other orders including that the dog be destroyed, disposed of or controlled in a specified manner.

Dedicated Dog Park CC Hood Reserve Dedicated Dog Park is located at the northern portion of CC Hood Reserve, is fully enclosed by a 1.5 metre fence to allow dogs to be exercised freely off the leash in a safe environment under effective control.

Dog on Leash, Dog Free Areas and Dog on Leash within 10 metres of an unfenced playground and/or fitness equipment As of 1 July 2004 dogs must be on a leash, not more than two metres in length, in a public place (roads, streets, footpaths etc) except in a park or reserve. In a park or reserve a dog needs to be under effective control by voice command, in close proximity of the owner and in sight of the owner at all times. Council reviewed its dog controls on reserves in November 2015 and resolved on 8 December 2015 some park and reserve areas where your dog must be on a leash or where dogs are prohibited. Please visit: <http://www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/page.aspx?u=1990> for the list parks and reserves with restrictions applied.

Lost or Seized Dogs An Authorised Officer may seize and detain a dog if it is wandering at large, has attacked any person or animal, is unduly dangerous, or if the Officer believes it is necessary in the best interest of public safety. The dog may either be returned to the owner (traceable through the registration disc) or kept in a Council pound. It is in the dog's best interest that it be reunited with its owner as soon as possible.

The Authorised Officer also has the power to injure or destroy a dog under certain circumstances. If the dog is kept in the pound, notice of this must be displayed in public at a Council Office for at least **72 hours**, and the owner must be informed.

If the dog is seized to stop it attacking or because it is dangerous, the Council must complete a notice of intention to make an order in relation to the dog, and if no orders are made within seven days, the dog must be returned to the owner or person responsible for the dog. A dog will only be returned if satisfactory evidence of ownership or control of the dog is provided, and any costs of seizure and detention are paid. If the dog is unregistered, it will be necessary to register the dog before it will be released.

Authorised Officers Council must appoint an Authorised Officer to handle all matters relating to dogs. The Authorised Officer must carry and produce an identification card if requested. Officers have the power to:

- Require a person to produce a dog, or any certificate or records for inspection

- Require a person they suspect has committed or is about to commit an offence to give their full name and address and produce identification
- Seize and detain dogs under certain circumstances

Officers may also enter and inspect (and use such force as is reasonably necessary to gain entry) any place or vehicle, and a warrant may be obtained if permission is denied.

In urgent circumstances an Authorised Officer can take any steps he/she believes, on reasonable grounds, are necessary. It is an offence to hinder, obstruct, abuse or refuse to comply with a requirement of an Authorised Officer. Officers may also cross Council boundaries to carry out various duties.

Destruction and Control Orders Councils have been given the power to make orders for the destruction or control of dogs. This is so complaints and disputes concerning dog behaviour may be dealt with at a local level, without the need to take Court action in all instances. A Destruction Order must give at least one month's notice of the date the dog is to be destroyed, and may specify where the dog is to be kept until destroyed. There are a number of Control Orders the Council may make, they are:

Destruction Order

Control (Dangerous Dog) Order
Control (Nuisance Dog) Order

Control (Menacing Dog) Order
Control (Barking Dog) Order

These orders may make directions such as: the dog is to be kept indoors or enclosed or muzzled; that warning signs be displayed; or that steps be taken to stop any nuisance behaviour.

The Council must give seven (7) days written notice of any orders and must allow the owner the chance to have a say on the matter.

If no resolution is agreed, the owner may apply to South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (SACAT) to have the order reviewed. If a person does not comply with any order, a Authorised Officer may take any reasonable steps to make sure the order is carried out, and the owner can be billed for any expenses. The owner can also face a criminal charge or be expiated for not complying with an order.

Destruction or Disposal of Seized Dogs If a dog, found wandering at large, is not claimed within the 72 hour notice period, the dog may be destroyed, given away or sold. The dog can also be destroyed, sold or given away if the owner is notified but refuses to take the dog, or if any money owing is not paid within seven (7) days. Any proceeds from the sale may be kept by the pound or the Council. A dog may be destroyed by the pound if it is severely sick, infectious or injured.

This should be authorised by a Veterinary Surgeon but if the circumstances are urgent the dog may be destroyed without this authority. If this occurs, every effort must be made to notify the dog owner, who is then responsible for any costs associated.

Special Breeds of Dogs Special requirements are designed for what are called prescribed breeds of dogs. These are American Pit Bull Terriers, Fila Brasileiro, Japanese Tosa, Dogo Argentina and Presa Canario.

Any person who gives away or sells, or advertises to sell or give away such a dog is guilty of an offence under the Dog and Cat Management Act. Prescribed breeds must wear a muzzle and be physically restrained by a cord, chain or leash not more than two (2) metres in length, while not effectively confined to premises of which that person is the occupier. The dog must be desexed.



American Pit Bull Terrier



Fila Brasileiro



Japanese Tosa



Dogo Argentina



Pres Canario

CATS The City of Mitcham Cat By-law became operational on 1 August 2010

The aim of the By-law is to limit the number of cats that can be kept on premises and to provide for the control and management of cats within the Council area. This will be achieved by:

- A cat over the aged of 3 mths must be registered at an address to an owner over the aged of 16.
- Annual Registration fees will apply.
- Each cat must have a microchip for identification purposes.
- Only two cats may be kept at an address without Council approval unless conditions outlined in the By-law are met.

Council is committed to encouraging responsible cat ownership and working with cat owners and their neighbours to amicably resolve issues that may arise. If issues are not able to be resolved penalties can be applied for non compliance. These include:

Limits on cat numbers A person must not on any premises, without the Council's permission, keep more than two cats over three months in age unless they meet all the conditions stated in By-law No.6 Cats section 4.2 (there are no insanitary conditions, the cats are not causing a nuisance and each cat is desexed). Maximum penalty \$320, expiation fee \$80, continuing offence penalty for each 14 days the offence continues \$50.

Cats must be registered If a cat over three months in age is unregistered, any person who owns or is responsible for the control of the cat is guilty of an offence. Maximum penalty \$320, expiation fee \$80, continuing offence penalty for each 14 days that the offence continues \$50.

Cat Registration Fees - set by Council	2018
Non Standard – Micro-chipped only	\$90.00
Standard – Micro-chipped and de-sexed	\$30.00
Non Standard – Pensioner concession, Micro-chipped only	\$45.00
Standard – Pensioner concession, Micro-chipped and de-sexed	\$15.00

Non Compliance with requirements of a notice issued under By-law No. 6 Cats section 5 – Notice to Remedy

Any person to whom a notice is given pursuant to this By-law must comply with the requirements of the notice. Maximum penalty \$400, expiation fee \$100, continuing offence penalty for each 14 days the offence continues \$50.

CAT OWNERSHIP Owning a cat can be a wonderful and fulfilling experience for the whole family. Cats are excellent companion animals, being affectionate, intelligent, clean and easy to handle. Cats can live for 16 years or longer and a commitment to responsible cat ownership can be of benefit not only to you and your cat, but also to the community.

To obtain a pure-bred kitten contact the cat breeders association in your state. Alternatively, animal welfare societies will have healthy kittens, as well as older cats requiring new homes. Owning a cat brings with it many responsibilities. Not only will you have to feed and care for the cat, but prevent it from producing unwanted kittens and from annoying neighbours. By being a responsible cat owner you are providing your cat with the best opportunity for a long, healthy and happy life.

Bringing Your Cat Home – Whether your cat is a stray or a purebred it still requires the same care and attention. Before bringing your new cat home prepare its sleeping area. Your cat needs a warm, secure place to sleep. Cat beds and baskets are available commercially or a cardboard box arranged with an entrance hole and a blanket is equally suitable.

When you bring your cat or kitten home make sure the house is quiet and allow it to settle in and explore without too much interference. It is advisable to keep your new cat or kitten confined to the house. Once your cat or kitten has settled in to its new home it should be familiarised with all the normal household noises and activities and introduced to visitors to ensure that it becomes confident and well socialised. Other pets should be introduced to the new arrival slowly and under close supervision. Cats are naturally playful and will appreciate a few simple toys.

Dental Hygiene - Clean teeth are important for healthy gums and fresh breath. Some cats' teeth need more attention than others. Ask your veterinarian for the best approach for your cat. It may be a regular check up and cleaning or feeding raw chicken wings or necks.

Health Care - When you purchase your cat ask for its vaccination certificate which will be signed by a veterinarian. If your cat or kitten has no previous vaccinations, or if you are unsure whether it has been vaccinated, you should take it to your local veterinarian to receive a health check and vaccinations for Feline Enteritis, Cat Flu and Feline Leukaemia Virus. Kittens require the first vaccinations between 6-9 weeks with the second at 12-16 weeks old. All cats require a 'booster' vaccination every 12 months. Cats and kittens need to be wormed regularly to control roundworms, hookworms, and tapeworms which live in the intestine. This is easily done by using one of the many available preparations either as tablets, liquids, or pastes. Cats should be prevented from chewing plants as many common garden or indoor plants are poisonous. Aspirin and paracetamol are also poisonous to cats. Consult your veterinarian if you are concerned.

NEIGHBOURHOOD CAT PROBLEMS - Community concerns about cats, both owned ('pet' or domestic cats) and unowned (stray or feral) stems from a number of factors.

Neighbourhood Friendly Cats - It is your responsibility to control your cat and prevent it from annoying neighbours. If complaints are received from your neighbours, you must prevent your cat/s from entering onto their premises. Cats are active animals that love to run, jump, and climb and it can be difficult to confine them to your yard if you do not provide adequate facilities for them.

- Provide your cat/s with a well turned mulched area for use as an outside toilet
- Fencing can be adapted to discourage your cat/s from leaving your property
- Enclosed cat run provides outside activity and ensure your cat is kept safely on your property

Public Nuisance - Straying or wandering cats may cause a number of nuisance problems. These include property damage, pollution noise, odour, harassment of other pets and annoyance via intrusion

Health Nuisance - Stray or wandering cats have been implicated in a number of health issues. There is a risk to public health with the possibility of transmission of toxoplasmosis, ringworm and fleas. Stray cats can also transmit feline diseases to owned cats.

Environmental Nuisance - Both owned and unowned cats have been implicated in the predation of native wildlife. Whilst the impact on wildlife in the urban environment is considered to be only marginal, the City of Mitcham has designated environmentally sensitive areas where no cats are allowed eg Belair National Park. Owned and unowned cats may be removed from these areas.

Contain - Cats should be encouraged to stay indoors from dusk to dawn. Not only does this help to protect the wildlife, it protects your cat/s. Nocturnal cat fights can leave your pet requiring veterinary attention and cats are also more likely to be run over at night.

Identify - More cats end up losing their lives through lack of identification than through any other cause. Identify your cat/s with a collar, tag, microchip and tattoo to ensure this does not happen to your cat.

Desex - Desexing solves a large number of cat problems when coupled with responsible cat ownership. Desexing will reduce caterwauling, ‘tom-cat’ urine spraying, wandering and fighting over females. Desexing your cat also eliminates the possibility of unwanted kittens.

Maintain - Maintain your cat’s health with annual vet visits, a nutritionally balanced diet, protection against fleas and other parasites, and lots of love and attention.

VETS IN THE CITY OF MITCHAM

Adelaide Mobile Vet Service	8182 6630
Blackwood Veterinary Surgery - Main Road	8278 4173 178 www.blackwoodvets.com.au
Colonel Light Veterinary Clinic	8276 7711 www.colonellightvet.com.au
Coromandel Valley Veterinary Clinic - Main Rd	8370 3500 382 www.familypetvet.com.au
Goodwood Road Veterinary Clinic	8373 3837 446 www.adelaidevet.com.au
Hawthorn Veterinary Hospital	8272 6077 www.hawthornvethospital.com.au
Hills Veterinary Centre - Main Road Blackwood	8278 4147 www.hillsvet.com.au
Homecare Vet to Pet Mobile Vet Service	8370 7044 or 0427 707 044
My Vet - Bird & Smith Veterinary Surgeons	8373 1699 www.myvet.com.au
Unley Veterinary Surgery	8272 3400

DOG TRAINING IN THE CITY OF MITCHAM

Adelaide Pet Dog Training - Blackwood	8272 0018/040 999 1530 www.petdogtraining.com.au
Dogs etc Mitcham, Marion, Unley Councils	0404 464 793 www.dogsetc.com.au
Klever Kanine Dog Obedience School	8263 8516 or 0409 840 726 https://kleverkanine.com.au/

DOG TRAINING IN GREATER ADELAIDE

Adelaide Veterinary Behaviour Services	08 7480 0597 – www.avbs.net.au
Barkbusters Home Dog Training	1800 067 710 www.barkbusters.com.au
Dover Gardens Kennel and Obedience Club	8277 0803 www.doverdog.org.au
Newfoundland Club of SA Inc	8524 2264 jessbear.newfs@bigpond.com
RSPCA – Force Free Trainers	www.rspcasa.org.au/the-issues/force-free-dog-trainers/
SA Obedience Dog Club Sth Parkland Adelaide	8223 6626 www.sadogobedience.org.au
Sit Drop Stay	1300 306 887 www.sitdropstay.com.au
Unley Council Dog Obedience School	8295 5721 www.unley.sa.gov.au

DOG MINDING

Dog-Gone Walking & Minding - Torrens Park	0408 815 267 www.doggonewalking.com.au
Dog Play Care - Main Rd Blackwood	7099 3599 www.dogplaycare.com.au

GENERAL CONTACTS

All Pets Boarding Village	8379 1995 www.allpetsboardingvillage.com
Angel Ashes Pet Cremations and Memorials	1300 914919/0419 589229 www.angelashes.com.au
Animal Welfare League - Wingfield	8348 13001 www.animalwelfare.com.au
CatPad enclosures	0417 861 781/0418 852 951 www.catpadenclosures.com.au
Delta Society Australia	www.deltasociety.com.au
Dog and Cat Management Board of SA	8124 4962 www.dogandcatboard.com.au
Dog Play Care	7099 3599 www.dogplaycare.com.au
GoodDogSA	www.gooddogsa.com
Lost Pet Finders	www.lostpetfinders.com.au/pet-alert
RSPCA - Meyers Road Lonsdale	8329 6000 www.rspcasa.asn.au
RSPCA – reporting animal cruelty	1300 477 722

Every effort has been made to provide correct information at the time of printing. Please notify changes to communityinfo@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au You can update your club or group records on Connecting Up www.sacommunity.org
 For more Information click on www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au **Printed March 19**