

Behavioural problems

Barking dogs are a nuisance and are not conducive to good neighbourly relations.

Dogs bark for many reasons, these can include:

- Separation anxiety – dogs are pack animals and they can become stressed when their owner leaves without them.
- Fear – nervous or scared dogs will bark out of fear.
- Boredom – barking, digging and chewing are common signs of a bored dog.
- Territorial – some dogs are very protective of their territory and will bark to ward off intruders.
- Fence line distraction – some dogs kept behind a barrier such as a front or back fence may bark at passersby.

Neighbourhood communication

Neighbours can help each other to solve barking problems by communicating with each other their concerns.

The following points need to be considered:

- The dog's owner may not realise that the barking is causing annoyance to other people.
- The dog may only bark when the owner is not home.
- The owner may not hear the barking from areas within their home or may be a sound sleeper.

Please contact City Rangers for further advice or assistance on **9477 7224**.

Registration

All dogs over the age of three months must be registered. Registration assists lost dogs being reunited with their owners. It contributes to the maintenance of the animal care facility and supports City Rangers.

All dog registrations in the City of Belmont expire on the 31 October each year.

Microchipping

It is compulsory for any dogs registered on or after 1 November 2013 to be microchipped. Failure to microchip your dog may result in you being penalised.

Lost animals

If you have lost your dog please contact City Rangers on **9477 7224**, and check with local vets.

Dogs are also required to be registered and microchipped prior to being released if impounded.

Dog attacks

The City takes all reported dog attacks seriously. If you or your dog are involved in a dog attack seek appropriate Veterinary/Medical assistance, then contact the City immediately on **9477 7224**.

Keeping more than two dogs

You must have approval from the City to keep more than two dogs on your property. Contact the City for further information.

Non-Compliance

General infringement for non-compliance under the *Dog Act 1976* is \$200.00.

Responsible Dog Ownership



Before you purchase a dog

Speak to your local veterinarian and other dog owners, gather as much information as you can to aid your decision. Dogs can live to around 12 years of age and some dogs much longer. Owning a dog is a commitment which should be carefully considered.

Owner's basic responsibilities

- Your dog must wear a collar displaying council registration tag. It is also advisable to have a tag with your name and phone number as well.
- Dogs must be microchipped.
- Your property must have adequate fencing to confine your dog.
- Keep your dog on a leash in public areas and near play equipment.
- Pick up all dog waste when out with your dog.
- Adequately train your dog.
- Keep your dog under control at all times.
- Undertake obedience training.

Dogs in Public Places

When your dog is in a public places (other than in designated Dog Exercise areas), your dog must be on a leash. The person holding the leash must be able to control the dog in all situations.

This means:

- The dog will come straight back when called at all times
- The person can prevent the dog from rushing up to other dogs or people.

Dog Droppings in Public Places

When walking your dog in public areas you must pick up any droppings left by your dog. Fines do apply if you do not. Carry some plastic bags with you when walking your dog.

The City of Belmont have provided dog disposal bags and bins in some parks and reserves located around the City.

Exercise and play

Dogs need regular exercise, for most dogs this means at least once a day. Forms of exercise include walks, runs and structured play.

Places to exercise your dog

The City of Belmont is a dog friendly community with lots of excellent parks and reserves to exercise your dog.

Dogs are welcome in most of the City parks and dog waste facilities have been installed in most of them. Check the signage at your local park for any specific restrictions.

Main Dog Exercise Areas:

- Belmont Oval(between Tennis Club and Kew Street)
- Cracknell Park, Rivervale
- Forster Park, Cloverdale
- Middleton Park, Cloverdale
- Miles Park, Cloverdale
- Peachey Park, Kewdale
- Peet Park, Kewdale
- Redcliffe Park, Redcliffe
- Selby Park, Redcliffe
- Wilson Park, Rivervale

Dogs are not permitted at:

- Gerry Archer Athletic Park, Cloverdale
- Netball courts at Wilson Park, Rivervale
- Belmont Sports and Recreation Centre, Cloverdale

Dogs must be under effective control by their owner when in all public places. Your dog is considered not under control if they:

- Chase or disturb wildlife, other dogs or people.
- Act in a threatening or aggressive manner.
- Attack or injure another animal or person.
- Is a considerable distance away from their owners preventing response commands.

Legal responsibilities for dog owners

Dog control - Penalty: \$200 to \$5000

If you own a dog, you have a legal responsibility to keep the animal under control, either within a fenced area on your property or on a leash when in public.

Barking dogs - Penalty: \$200 to \$5000

While dogs are allowed to bark, they are not allowed to bark excessively in a way that causes a nuisance.

Dog droppings - Penalty: \$50 to \$5000

Dog droppings are a source of annoyance to the users of footpaths and public recreation areas.

The City requires a dog owner to remove their dog's droppings if the dog excretes in a public area.

Dog attacks - Penalty: \$3000 to \$20,000

A dog attack is a very serious matter. In addition to harming other animals, a violent dog can inflict serious injury on children or the elderly.

If your dog attacks a person or another animal, you can be held responsible even if you are not there at the time. If the dog causes serious injury to someone, you may even receive a jail sentence.

Dog registration - Penalty: \$200

A dog owner is legally required to register the dog with the appropriate local government once the dog is 3 months or older.

