



Wednesday 15 November 2006

Dogs to be leashed in parks

Exercise is a crucial and enjoyable part of responsible pet ownership but Council is reminding owners that all dogs must be properly restrained whenever in public places after the successful prosecution of a dog owner who did not have effective control of their dog.

The dog owner was convicted and fined in the Melbourne Magistrates' Court on Thursday 9 November for offences of two counts of not having the dog under effective control and one count of not having the identification marker issued by Council on the dog.

A fine of a total of \$80 was issued and they were ordered to pay costs of \$2,425.

The Council order made under *Domestic (Feral and Nuisance) Animal Act 1994*, requires that the owner of any dog must keep the dog in effective control by means of a leash, cord or chain. The length must not exceed 1.5 metres attached to the dog. This included roads, streets, footpaths or carparks unless the dog is in a specific off-leash area signed as such.

Glen Eira Mayor Cr David Feldman said the laws are in place for everyone's safety.

"Council's laws of on-leash and off-leash areas are in place to protect everyone in the community, including dog owners and their dogs," Cr Feldman said.

"By following the rules, dog owners not only ensure they and their dog are safe, but also the whole community."

To cater for the needs of all residents and their pets, many of Glen Eira parks have designated off-leash areas. Green off-leash signs are located in most parks in Glen Eira. Additionally, dogs are not to roam or be off-leash within 50 metres of playgrounds, barbecue areas, sporting events or organised public meetings.

Council's animal management officers regularly patrol parks and sportsgrounds and owners of unleashed dogs will be asked to leash their dog immediately if within on-leash areas. Owners without a leash, or who refuse to leash their dog, can face an on-the-spot fine.

For more information regarding responsible pet ownership, please visit Council's website at www.gleneira.vic.gov.au or contact Council's Service Centre on 9524 3333.

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