



## Who's for cats?

It's estimated there are half a million unowned cats in Victoria. These cats keep breeding more and more kittens into a life of disease and neglect.

This problem is made worse by people who feed stray cats. People feel sorry for the cats, and they think they are helping them. But they are actually feeding a bigger problem.

The solution is for people to stop feeding the stray cats and either:

- take full ownership of the cat — this means desexing, identifying and registering, as well as feeding the cat; or
- arrange to take the cat to their local council, pound or animal shelter.

## Confine your cat

You can protect your cat and our wildlife and avoid problems with neighbours, by confining your cat at night.

Confining your cat to the property is also the best way to avoid legal action.

Contrary to popular belief, cats don't have to roam. Providing their basic needs are met, cats can enjoy longer and healthier lives when confined at night or even 24 hours a day.

Around 80 per cent of accidents involving cats happen at night. Roaming cats can get hit by cars, injured in fights, catch fatal diseases (eg. feline AIDS) or become lost. Cats kept inside at night generally live at least three times longer than cats allowed to roam. Cats can annoy neighbours at night too, by spraying, fighting, yowling and digging in gardens. Other options include buying or building a cat enclosure for your yard or installing cat proof fencing. Look under pet shop suppliers in the Yellow Pages for companies that sell enclosures and netting.

## Legal requirements for cat owners

If your cat wanders onto another person's property, it can be seized. Details relating to identified cats will be recorded before cats are released. Unidentified cats will be taken to the pound. Council may issue an order to stop your cat trespassing, and if you do not comply you may be fined.

## Lost dogs and cats

The best way to avoid losing a pet is to make sure it is registered with Council and wears its registration tag at all times. If a pet is lost, check the lost dogs and cat register on Council's website at [www.gleneira.vic.gov.au](http://www.gleneira.vic.gov.au) to see if it has been picked-up by Council's animal management officers.

Check with councils surrounding the area where your pet was lost, in case your pet was picked up by their animal control officers. Unfortunately, some animals are killed on the roads and brought in by Council workers, so it may be wise to contact Council's Service Centre as well.

If your animal is not registered or wearing its Council tag, we cannot obtain your details through a microchip. As a result, your animal may be taken to the RSPCA in Burwood East. In the case that your animal is not registered, you must register the animal before it can be released to you. A fine may also be imposed.

If your animal is lost while Council offices are closed (after-hours or weekends) you can lodge your own missing report via Council's website at [www.gleneira.vic.gov.au](http://www.gleneira.vic.gov.au) under the Lost and Found Pets section.

## Registration

Under the provisions of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*, all dogs and cats aged three months or over must be registered with Council. Registration must be renewed annually by 10 April. Failure to register the dog or cat may incur a \$395 fine per animal.

## Penalties

| Infringement   | Penalty |
|--|---------|
| Registered dog or cat not wearing Council registration tag outside owner's premises. | \$99    |
| Dog at large or not securely confined to owner's premises during daytime.            | \$296   |
| Dog or cat creating a nuisance.  | \$99    |
| Dog off-leash in an on-leash area.   | \$198   |
| Allowing dog excrement to remain on any road, public reserve or Council land.        | \$200   |
| Failing to be in possession of a litter device to dispose of the animal's excrement. | \$200   |
| Dog at large or not securely confined to owner's premises during night time.         | \$395   |
| Failing to apply to register a dog or cat.   | \$395   |

## Glen Eira City Council Certificate of Registration

### Period to 9 April (new registrations only)

Under the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*, Council is required to issue a Certificate of Registration to the owners of all registered animals. Please copy the details completed on the application form in the space below and retain this section for your own records. When you receive your pet registration tag, write the tag number here for your own reference.

### Pet details

| D/C | Pet's name | Breed | Colour | Sex | Tag number |
|-----|------------|-------|--------|-----|------------|
|     |            |       |        |     |            |
|     |            |       |        |     |            |



## Lifetime animal registration tags

Glen Eira City Council has changed to lifetime registration tags.

### What does this mean?

- You will no longer receive a new registration tag each year with your renewal notice.
- You will still need to pay a fee to renew your pet's registration annually.
- To renew, simply make payment by 10 April each year.
- It is a requirement under the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* that all dogs and cats more than three months old must be microchipped and registered with their local council.

### If the registration tag is lost, how do I get a new one?

If your pet loses or misplaces its registration tag, it can be replaced for a small fee. If the tag is damaged, you can bring the tag to Council's Service Centre and it will be replaced free of charge.

### Does my pet have to wear its registration tag?

It is required under the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* that your pet wears its Council issued registration tag when outside the owners premises.

If your pet ever gets lost or escapes, a registration tag is its ticket home — so please make sure your pet is wearing the tag at all times.

## Legal requirements for dog owners

By law, the owner or occupier of property must ensure that a dog which is kept on the property cannot jump, get under or through the fence. The *Domestic Animals Act 1994* requires all dog owners to securely confine dogs to the property. The *Community Local Law 2019* requires that there is adequate fencing to prevent a dog's escape.

## How to prevent dog attacks in the community

### Dog owners:

- Confining dogs to the property would prevent 80 per cent of dog attacks.
- Your yard must have a closed gate, escape proof fencing and visitors must have safe access to the front door.
- All dogs can be territorial. Most dog attacks in public occur on the footpath or road in front of the dog's property.
- You can be fined if your dog isn't securely confined, or if it rushes at or attacks a person or animal.

### Know what to do if approached by an aggressive dog:

- Stand still — don't run.
- Keep your hands by your side.
- Stay quiet — try not to make any noise.
- Avoid eye contact with the dog — look at the ground.
- Once the dog has lost interest, slowly back away.

## Have a barking complaint?

Try talking to the dog's owner about the problem first.

They may not even be aware of the problem if the dog is only barking when they are out. You may be able to help them identify why the dog is barking.

Barking is a natural behaviour for dogs — it's the one way they communicate, but excessive barking is often a sign that something is 'wrong'. You can lodge a complaint with your local council.

Council may ask you to keep a diary for a few weeks, to record how often the dog is barking. This is so it can determine whether the barking is causing an unreasonable disturbance. You may also have to get support for your complaint from another neighbour who is affected by the barking dog.

Council may then issue a warning to the dog's owner, or a formal notice to comply to stop the barking. If this is not complied with, Council can issue an infringement notice. If the problem still persists, Council may proceed with legal action and seek a court order.

## Requirement to ensure that you have adequate fencing

By law, an owner or occupier of a property on which a dog is kept, who fails to ensure that the property is adequately fenced to prevent the dog's escape from the property is guilty of an offence.

## Restricted breed dogs

The State Government has made significant amendments to the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* regarding the keeping of restricted breed dogs. Restricted breed dogs are defined as dogs that fit the Victorian 'approved standard' for an American Pit Bull Terrier (or Pit Bull Terrier), Perro de Presa Canario (or Presa Canario), Dogo Argentino, Japanese Tosa, or Fila Brasileiro.

If you own a dog that fits the Victorian 'approved standard' for an American Pit Bull Terrier (or Pit Bull Terrier), Perro de Presa Canario (or Presa Canario), Dogo Argentino, Japanese Tosa, or Fila Brasileiro, you need to comply with Victorian legislation relating to the control of restricted breed dogs. Since 30 September 2011, crossbreeds of these restricted breeds are considered restricted breed dogs (if fitting the approved 'standard').

Within the 'approved standard', American Staffordshire Terriers are not considered restricted breed dogs, if the owner has one of the following certificates stating that the dog is an American Staffordshire Terrier:

- a Pedigree Certificate from the Australian National Kennel Council;
- a Pedigree Certificate from a member body of the Australian National Kennel Council;
- a Pedigree Certificate from a national breed council registered with the Australian National Kennel Council; or
- a certificate signed by a veterinary practitioner.

The Act requires that when a dog is registered, a declaration must be completed stating whether or not the dog is a restricted breed dog. By making payment of the Glen Eira City Council Pet Registration, the registered owner is declaring all details on the notice to be true, in particular, the accuracy of the description of the dog's breed. Failure to declare the correct breed of dog, if it is one of the restricted breeds, may result in a fine of up to \$1,849.

## Exercising dogs and off-leash areas

Dogs must be properly restrained on a leash whenever they are outside their owner's property, including roads, streets, footpaths, car parks or any parks or reserves which are on-leash areas.

To cater for all residents, many parks have designated off-leash areas. When off-leash, your dog must be in effective hand or voice control.

Dogs must not be off-leash within 20 metres of barbecue areas; playgrounds; the Duncan Mackinnon athletics track and netball courts; Packer Park Velodrome; sportsgrounds; and schools during training and match times.

Many parks have designated off-leash areas. Please look out for the signs below, which indicate which areas are on-leash and off-leash.



## Animal litter — cleaning up after your dog

By law, it is an offence if you do not remove your animal's litter from Council land or road. It is an offence not to carry a litter device or to produce a litter device on request from an authorised officer.

Cleaning up after your dog is easy. You can use plastic (or biodegradable) bags, towels or pooper scoopers. Products are available that attach to your dog's leash to store plastic bags for use during walks.

Glen Eira Community Local Law 2019 also requires dog walkers to have in their possession a litter device for that animal whilst on Council land or road which must be produced upon request from an authorised officer.