



DOG MANAGEMENT POLICY

**Endorsed for Public advertising by Council
(date):**

14 July 2011

Adopted by Council (date):

20 October 2011

Related Documents:

PURPOSE

To provide clear direction on the Community's expectations for responsible dog ownership in keeping with the following principles:

- 1. To value the contribution dogs can make to the community;*
- 2. To respect the rights of dog owners and non-dog owners alike;*
- 3. To minimise the risk of community conflict occurring due to the presence of dogs; and*
- 4. To minimise the risk of a dog threatening or attacking a person or an animal.*

POLICY STATEMENT

That Circular Head Council:

1. Will manage dogs within the municipality through the education of individual ownership responsibilities and where necessary undertake proactive enforcement in accordance with the principles of this policy;
2. Will provide routine patrols during normal working hours;
3. Will provide an emergency after hours dog management service if a dog attack occurs provided that the alleged offending dog has been secured or remains in the immediate area; and
4. Will continue to review community needs in relation to dog management.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND

Responsible Dog Ownership Code

Council recognises that pet ownership can enhance the quality of lives within our community and involves a number of responsibilities. It is when these obligations are ignored that pets begin to have a negative impact within our community.

Mindful of this, Council have developed a Responsible Dog Ownership Code to assist dog owners within Circular Head to understand and meet their statutory obligations.

The Circular Head Council acknowledges the significant contribution that well trained dogs can make within the community. As a dog owner, you are responsible for your pet and its behaviour and actions at all times regardless of whether you are with your dog or not.

All residents and visitors within the Circular Head Municipality who own dogs are required to abide by the Dog Control Act 2000 (TAS).

Unless exemptions apply any dog over the age of six (6) months residing within Circular Head must be micro chipped and registered with Council. Not only is this a State-wide legal requirement, it enables Council to return your dog to you quickly and safely if it is impounded.

It is your responsibility to ensure that your dog does not become a nuisance to other people within the community. The main nuisances that occur in Circular Head are:

- *Unreasonable Noise;*
- *Roaming Dogs; and*
- *Dog Faeces in public.*

The creation of noise through barking is a constant concern within the community and a difficult issue to resolve. Dogs can bark through boredom, seeking attention, to warn their owners, or any number of other reasons.

One strategy for reducing a dog's barking can be as simple as providing your dog with sufficient and regular exercise; remembering, some dog breeds require more exercise than others. You can also provide your dog with toys or bones to occupy them while you're not at home.

Either a veterinary service provider or Council can provide you with information on other options available.

When walking your dog on public streets in town; it must be on a lead to prevent it from becoming/creating a nuisance. If you want to walk your dog off-lead, take them to an appropriate Declared Area, one of our parks, beaches, or walkways away from our roads. When your dog is off-lead, it is your responsibility to ensure that your dog remains within your sight and be trained to respond immediately to your commands.

The community has increasingly expressed concerns regarding dog faeces in streets, parks, and other public places. Not only is this an unpleasant and preventable nuisance, it can also be detrimental to our health.

As a dog owner, you are responsible for cleaning up after your pet. If you fail to clean up after your dog in a public place, your reputation can suffer and you may also be fined.

Preventing your dogs faeces from becoming a nuisance and avoiding potential fines can be as simple as carrying a plastic bag when walking your dog. Please bag it, then bin it.

When your dog is at home, it is your responsibility to ensure that you provide your dog with a safe yard and take into consideration the health and welfare of your pet. As a dog owner, you will need to ensure that your dog's yard/enclosure is maintained in an escape proof condition. This is to prevent your dog escaping and becoming 'at large'.

If your dog becomes 'at large', there is an increased chance it will commit offences for which you are responsible. You may be fined for your dog being 'at large' and it does not need to be impounded by Council for these penalties to be applied.

Effective dog management within the community requires the cooperation co-operation of all of the community. Working together, we can all do our little bit to make our community safer, cleaner, and more accepting for both people and our dogs.

Declared Areas

Council's considered its declared areas in conjunction with the review of this policy. There was no community support for declared areas during this review process.

Therefore, there are currently no declared areas within the Circular Head Municipality. This will be reviewed in conjunction with a review of this policy.

Fees & Charges

Council determines dog control fees annually. A user-pays strategy has not historically been employed by Council when setting dog control fees. Instead, fee schedules have been structured to positively incentivise dog registration and penalise dogs impounded by Council.

A full fee structure can be obtained from the Council Offices located at 33 Goldie Street, Smithton, Tasmania, or on our website; www.circularhead.tas.gov.au.

Community Education

The Delta Dog Safe bite prevention program has been administered to primary schools throughout the Circular Head Community. Council supports the administration of safety and awareness education programs.

Where a need for community education has been identified, Council will take the necessary steps to ensure that appropriate information is provided to the community.

Review Process

A full review of this policy, including public consultation, will be conducted every five years. Council may review this policy more frequently should an issue be identified which needs to be addressed.

AMENDMENT RECORD

REVISION No.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	REFERENCE
1.	16.01.2003	Revised	Min. Ref 8.2
2.	17.12.2009	Revised	Min. Ref 11.3
3.	02.11.2011	Revised	Min. Ref 11.2