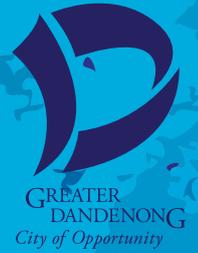


PET news 2020



A Pawsitive Off-Leash Experience

Walking your dog is a basic part of being a responsible pet owner as keeping your dog on your property without exercise and socialisation can lead to boredom, health issues or nuisance behaviours. Regular walks are not only enjoyable for the dog, but also for the owner. Just remember that dogs must always be on-leash in public, unless in a designated off-leash area.

Council recognises the importance of healthy and socialised dogs and provides several areas within the municipality where dogs can be exercised off-leash. Despite the opportunity to exercise your dog off-leash, it is important to note that these areas are not suitable for all dogs. It's recommended that you only visit an off-leash park if your dog is well-behaved, has all their vaccinations and is flea and tick protected. Council Rangers are receiving an increasing number of complaints about the behaviour of some owners and their dogs particularly in fully-fenced off-leash areas.

There are a few key rules in ensuring everyone's time at the off-leash park is safe and enjoyable:

- Dogs must be under effective control at all times and no more than 50 metres from their owner
- Your dog must not be allowed to chase people or other animals

To ensure the safety of yourself and others, please ensure you are constantly watching your dog and their behaviour towards other dogs and people. It is also important to make sure your dog is well trained, and you can recall your dog immediately at any time.

Keep your pets registered

The City of Greater Dandenong Animal Management Team welcomes a new addition to the team this year. With the additional resource, we will be targeting unregistered pets in our municipality through microchip data matching projects and targeted doorknocking with an aim to increasing the registration rates.

The biggest barrier preventing pets being reunited directly with the owner is the pet not being registered with Council.

If you do not have voice or hand signal control of your dog, please keep them on-leash.

- You must clean up and remove any droppings left by your dog

Dog poo left on the ground can contaminate the environment and spread diseases to other dogs, it's also not very pleasant to step in. Always carry a dog poo removal device with you and keep a close eye on your dog.

Remember that on the spot fines apply for not having dogs on-leash when in public places and for failing to carry a bag and picking up after your dog. Fines can also apply for not keeping your dog under effective control in an off-leash area.

Visit: greaterandenong.com/dogoffleash for more information on our 15 off-leash areas, the rules around using these areas and the City of Greater Dandenong dog off-leash strategy which outlines the method and process Council follows to create and maintain dog off-leash areas.



This means we don't know where the pet lives or the contact details of the owner. State legislation also prohibits the return of unregistered pets. Failing to register a pet over three months of age carries a penalty of more than \$300.

Council Rangers make every attempt to contact the owner of a pet and return it without the need for impounding. This is less stressful for the owner and the pet and speeds up the time taken to get the pet home.

Please help us to help you and your pets and keep them registered.



Benefits of desexing your cat

The number of stray/unwanted/semi wild and wild cats being impounded is continually increasing. The greater numbers of unvaccinated cats being taken into shelters and pounds and waiting to be claimed or adopted has meant highly infectious and often fatal diseases such as feline parvo can spread quickly. Last year Feline Parvo became such an enormous problem, pounds and shelters had to temporarily suspend cat intakes until the disease could be brought under control.

Of the many thousands of cats impounded across the state, only a small number of cats are claimed by their owner and a small number are re-homed. This results in a high number of impounded cats being euthanised.

Cats reproduce very efficiently. A female cat can produce five litters per year, with on average three to five kittens per litter and as many as ten. The kittens can start breeding from the age of around four months which means they are having a litter at six months and can have another litter every two months after that. This means that if the food supply is adequate, as many as 60 offspring can be born from one female in 12 months!

The greater the food supply available to the cats, the more frequent the litters can be, and the litter sizes will increase. Please do not leave food out for cats you assume are stray. You will be increasing the number of unwanted cats living a life of disease and injury as well as feeding vermin in the area.

Desexing your cats and dogs will reduce the registration rate by two thirds, will reduce the number of unwanted kittens, can reduce the risk of certain diseases and can result in positive behavioural changes in your cat.



Be a responsible pet owner

Dog poo in our streets and parks is smelly, unsightly, and very unpleasant to step in!

Cleaning up after your dog is part of being a responsible pet owner.

State legislation requires dog owners to remove and dispose of their dog's poo when in public places. Dog owners should carry an appropriate receptacle (e.g. bag or scoop) to remove dog poo, whenever they are walking their dog in a public place. You can be fined for not complying.

Why clean up after your dog?

- Some dog droppings contain harmful bacteria. They can be washed through the stormwater system into natural waterways which can contribute to excessive E. coli pollution readings following heavy rainfalls.
- Toxocara Canis is the roundworm that can be found in dog poo and can be passed onto humans. Children, people with compromised immune systems and field sports players are most at risk of infection.

How to clean up after your dog

- Cleaning up after your dog is easy. You can use biodegradable bags, trowels or pooper scoopers. Products are available that attach to your dog's leash to store bags for use during walks.
- Keep your bags/pouches/pooper scoop products with your leash, as a reminder to take them with you.
- If using the bag method, simply put your hand inside the bag, pick up the dog poo, turn the bag inside out, then seal. You can tie the bag to your leash or carry it until you get to an appropriate disposal site.
- Disposal methods include Council provided dog litter bins, or domestic landfill and waste collection, worm farms or composting units.



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