Cats & dogs

Dogs

There is no doubt dogs make wonderful companions and are highly valued as family pets.

The Gold Coast has over 60,000 registered dogs; a figure which indicates the popularity of dog ownership within our city.

As a dog owner, you must comply with our local laws and environmental health requirements, including the following:

- Register and microchip your dog. Under the Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008, microchipping and registration is compulsory if aged 12 weeks and over.
- A maximum of two (2) dogs can be kept on a property of any size - a permit is required for additional dogs.
- Ensure your pet is safely contained and not a nuisance.
- Walk your dog on a leash and make sure you scoop the poop.

Find a link to the Keeping of animals (excess animals) permit application form below.

Fines are in place for those who disregard the regulations. Find out more on our Pet owners – local laws, breaches and fines page.

Dog registration

Visit our Dog registration page to find out how to register your dog or update your dog registration details. This page includes information on fees, eligibility requirements for pension concessions and more.

Cats

Cats are wonderful companions and are a popular pet choice. Highly adaptable and flexible, cats fit into domestic life easily. You do not need to register your cat; however, as a responsible cat owner, you need to:

- Microchip your cat. Under the Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008, microchipping is compulsory if aged 12 weeks and over.
- A maximum of two (2) cats can be kept on a property of any size - a permit is required for additional cats.
- Ensure your pet is safely contained and not a nuisance.
- Desex your cat – early desexing is advised to help reduce unwanted kittens. Call 07 5509 9001 to find out about a cat desexing subsidy.

Fines are in place for those who disregard the regulations. Find out more on our Pet owners – local laws, breaches and fines page.

Learn more about keeping cats happy with useful information in our Keeping cats safe fact sheets.

Breeding cats and dogs

If you breed or intend to breed your cat or dog you must obtain a breeder permit from City of Gold Coast. You must also comply with the Breeder Code of Practice. Note: failure to meet the requirements may result in cancellation of the permit.

The following residents require a breeder permit:

- those who breed from their pet
- those who breed as hobby breeders, and
- those who have commercial breeding establishments.

Find the current application fee for this permit on the application form.

Find a link to the Animal breeder permit application form below.

Owner’s responsibilities

Find out about the local laws and state government legislation surrounding pet ownership. This includes the penalties that apply for those who disregard the regulations. Visit our Pet owners – local laws, breaches and fines page.

City of Gold Coast is committed to educating the community. Visit our Pet education page for school programs and events.

Find some useful tips on how to care for your pet and be a responsible pet owner.

Find answers to some frequently asked questions about dog ownership and registration below.
More information

For Animal Management enquiries, contact us on 07 5667 5990.

If you have a problem with a cat or dog in your area, you can contact us or visit our Report a problem – Animals page and complete an online form.

Related information

- Dog exercise areas
- Dog registration
- Lost and found animals
- Pet education
- Pet owners - local laws, breaches and fines
- Report a problem - Animals
- Animal permits

Key information

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External links

- Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2000
- Animal Care and Protection Act 2001
- Dogs Queensland
- Queensland Feline Association Inc

Local laws

- Local Law No.12 (Animal Management) 2013
- Subordinate Local Law No.12 (Animal Management) 2013

Forms & applications

Animal breeder permit

Use this form to apply for an animal breeder permit.

Downloads: Animal breeder permit (0.18mb)

Keeping of animals (excess animals) permit

Use this form to apply for a permit to keep more than the allowable number of animals.

Downloads: Keeping of animals (excess animals) permit (0.22mb)

Frequently asked questions

How must I take care of my dog under City of Gold Coast’s local laws?

- Have your dog microchipped by three (3) months old. Attach the registration tag to its collar.
- Keep your dog under control and on a leash in public. The City of Gold Coast has leash-free areas where your dog can be exercised, provided owners keep them under control.
- Pick up after your dog when it defecates in a public area.
Keep your dog safely contained on your property.

Ensure your pet is not a nuisance.

Penalties apply for breaches of these rules.

What happens if I don’t follow these rules?

You may be liable for an on-the-spot fine or alternatively you may face a court imposed penalty.

Your dog may be impounded if it’s found wandering or unleashed in a public place. Unidentified animals become the property of Animal Welfare League if not claimed within three days. Identified animals become the property of the Animal Welfare League if not claimed within five days.

Am I responsible if my dog attacks?

You may be liable for injury to a person or animal attacked by your dog. Fined or ordered to fence your property.

City of Gold Coast may declare your dog to be a dangerous dog, or your dog may be destroyed.

How many cats or dogs can I have?

Dogs

Council of the City of Gold Coast Local Law No.12 (Animal Management) 2012 allows a maximum of two dogs to be kept on a property.

Cats

Council of the City of Gold Coast Local Law No.12 (Animal Management) 2012 allows a maximum of two cats on a property.