



## Keeping your dog safely contained

**As a dog owner, it's your responsibility to ensure that your dog is safely contained on your property.**

### Ensure your dog doesn't roam

All dog owners have a duty to provide an enclosure or suitable fencing to prevent them from escaping. A roaming dog is in danger of becoming lost, injured or killed in a road accident and can annoy neighbours by damaging gardens, destroying private property or fouling footpaths and lawns. At worst you may be held legally and/or financially liable if they threaten or attack people, other pets and wildlife, get attacked themselves or pose a traffic hazard.

Dogs are not permitted to roam in a public place, except for designated dog off-leash exercise areas. If you bring your dog into a public place it must be on a suitable leash and under effective control so that it cannot cause nuisance or attack a person or another animal.

If your dog is found wandering in a public place or trespassing on private property, it may be impounded and you may also be issued with an on-the-spot fine.

### Lost your dog?

If your dog goes missing, it is important to act quickly and contact:

- the City Pound on 07 5581 7600
- local vets, RSPCA, Animal Welfare League of Queensland
- your neighbours.

The City of Gold Coast (City) lost and found service helps minimise the risk to our pets and any adverse impact on the community and the environment, by keeping lost animals off the streets.

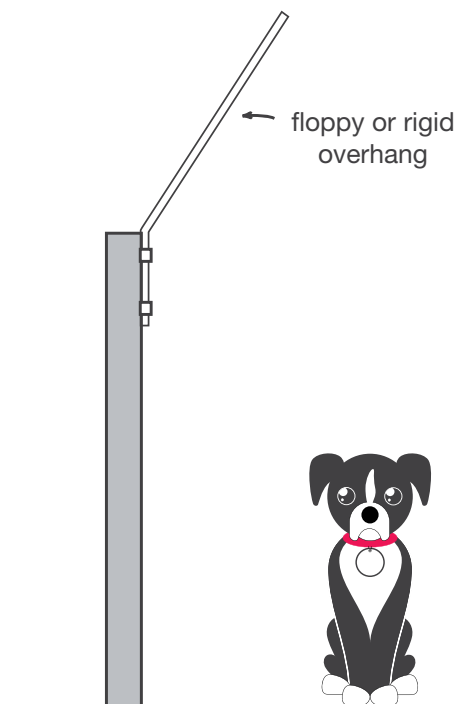
If a dog is registered with the City and wearing its registration tag, we can contact the owner. If the owner is unable to be contacted, the dog will be taken to the nearest pound.

Registered, microchipped and identified dogs will be held for a period of five working days. Unregistered dogs are held for a period of three working days.

If the dog's owner has not been located at the end of these periods, the animal may be re-homed by the Animal Welfare League of Queensland.

**Your fencing or other measures must be secure enough to contain your dog.**

## Do you have a 'Houdini' hound?



Some dogs, to the frustration of their owners and neighbours, are great escape artists; tunnelling, climbing or jumping their way to mischief. You can make improvements to your fence using the following methods:

- Constructing a lean-to section inclined inwards on top of the fence generally deters jumpers and climbers (be sure to check building compliance first).
- install a concrete seam under the fence in combination with tension wire a few centimetres above the ground. This is very effective in dealing with those dogs that prefer to excavate and tunnel. Alternatively, bury chicken wire horizontally at the base of the fence or construct a rock bed along the fence.

Regularly check all the fence panels to make sure there are no gaps between or under the fence that your dog might be able to wiggle through.

As well as addressing the security of your enclosure, it's recommended that you work out what is behind your dog's behaviour:

- A dog may be in season nearby – desexing may be the answer.
- Dogs who escape often are lonely or lack adequate outlets to expend their energy – make sure that your dog gets long walks, lots of playtime, and regular human interaction. Teach your dog commands and tricks to keep their mind occupied. Be sure that your dog has plenty of interesting toys and consider getting a dog walker or using dog daycare to provide extra stimulation.

## Do you have a 'Fence-Rusher'?

Many people keep dogs for companionship and protection. However, some dogs can become overly protective of their property, leading to aggressive barking and fence-rushing whenever someone approaches or goes past the property.

Such behaviour can be frightening to people, especially children, the elderly and the infirm. It is also an offence for a dog to rush at or approach a person in a manner as to cause or give cause for fear or alarm.

Fence aggression is a very common trait in dogs. It stems from their territorial nature and translates to your dog saying "Get out of my property". Of course, dogs do not know where their property exactly ends, so they will work on barking at anything over the fence, because either they think they own property over the fence or because simply they do not want anybody too close to their territory.

Some dogs can be so fence-aggressive that they eventually make it through the fence. It may happen suddenly, out of the blue, that dogs jump over the fence or squeeze through it or gradually, day after day, the fence may weaken in certain spots, until it eventually breaks up. For this reason owners of fence aggressive dogs should inspect their fencing routinely to identify some weakened spots.

Some ways to solve fence-rushing:

- Keep the dog contained to the back yard only.
- Erect an inner fence in the front yard to prevent the dog gaining access to the front fence.
- A privacy fence may help as it removes the dog's chance of seeing beyond the fence. Exercise, exercise, and more exercise! Often, dogs develop fence aggression because they're bored. They need stimulation, so they entertain themselves by barking at everything that passes.
- Give the dog the chance to meet passers-by.
- Seek advice from your local dog obedience club, veterinarian or professional dog trainer.

## For more information

**P** 07 5581 6664

**W** [cityofgoldcoast.com.au/animals](http://cityofgoldcoast.com.au/animals)