



Leashes & Exercising of Dogs

“It is now law that you must walk your dog on a leash on public streets”

Protect your dog, yourself and other people's pets by exercising your dog on a leash. Dogs that are regularly exercised and spend time with their family are usually well adjusted and happier dogs. Exercise is no guarantee to solve behavioural issues however it does go a long way to relieve boredom and anxiety in a frustrated dog.

Council maintains off-leash areas including parks and reserves. However, some parks and reserves will have signage that requests you to keep your dog on a lead. You must obey this signage at all times. However, if your dog is not very well disciplined, (doesn't come when you call it) or has a tendency to show aggression towards people or other dogs - you should not exercise your dog off a leash.

Even the well-trained dog will sometimes surprise its' owner by quickly chasing a cat – this can be horrifying if you cannot get your dog to respond when it decides to extend this chase over a busy road. Therefore, if in doubt – ***Use a leash!***

Courtesy

It is also of benefit to remember not all people like dogs. Some have had very bad experiences with dogs, and are absolutely terrified – even of the small breeds! Therefore, to show your understanding and respect of this, when others appear when you are walking your dog off-lead, call your dog back to you and put it on a leash. This will enable your dog to continue its' walk, and shows others that you are respectful of them to be able to use the same public space without being bothered by your dog.

Training

Training your dog to walk on a leash is not difficult. It is a very necessary part of a dog's life to have it leash trained in order to interact with humans. Visits to the Vet, interaction within the community and safety with other dogs are the main reasons to leash train your dog. Leash training is best started at puppy age. If you would like information on how to leash train your dog, contact any of the many agencies listed below for support.

Liability

As a dog owner, you are responsible for your pet's actions at all times. Using a leash will minimise the risk involved in owning a dog. Proper restraint of your dog shows respect for the safety of others and the safety of your pet.

There are laws enforced by Councils in relation to dog attacks. Serious penalties apply when your dog has attacked. However, Council is not the only person/body who can take action against you. A person who has been attacked/harassed by your dog, or has had their animal attacked/harassed by your dog can take civil action, including suing you for damages and stress caused. This can often be of a large amount. Be responsible for your dogs' actions at all times. Socialise your dog so these incidents are less likely to occur, and walk your dog on a leash at all times if you do not believe your dog is controllable at all times via voice command. Lastly; **you** are responsible for **your dogs'** actions at all times. Respect others in your environment and ensure your dog does not become a nuisance to them or their pets.



Dogs on the Beach

To provide equal accessibility for dogs, dog owners and non-dog owners to beaches under the Council's care, control and management, Council has approved the following conditions:

Daylight Savings (October to March)

- Before 10:00 am dogs must be under effective control;
- Between 10:00 am and 8:00 pm dogs must be on a leash not exceeding 2 metres in length.

Non Daylight Savings (April to September)

- Dogs must be under effective control at **all times**.

For further information contact Customer Services on telephone 8405 6600 or the agencies below will be only too happy to assist with any questions you may have on training etc.

Handy Phone Numbers

	Phone Number	Website Address
Animal Welfare League	8348 1300	www.animalwelfare.com.au (Animal Training & Advice)
RSPCA	8382 0888 8231 2120 – A/H Emergency	www.rspca.asn.au
Dr Robert Holmes World Wide Animal Behaviour Specialist	(03) 9882 6789	www.animalbehaviour.com.au