

Information for dog and cat owners



Merri-bek
City Council

The health benefits of owning a pet are well known.

It is the responsibility of pet owners to ensure they comply with regulations and legislation relevant to pet ownership.

Microchip your pet

Your cat and dog must be microchipped before it can be registered. Microchipping is a painless procedure undertaken by your local vet and is one of the most effective ways to reunite you with your pet in the unfortunate circumstance it becomes lost. Don't forget to update your details with your Microchip Registry if you have moved home. This will ensure we can reunite you with your pet if it is found www.petaddress.com.au.

Desexing

Desexing not only reduces the population of stray, unowned animals, but it also helps pets to live longer and healthier lives.

To help reduce the problem of stray cats and cat over-population, we have introduced compulsory desexing for new cat registration.

Health Care

Cats and dogs are wonderful pets and can make excellent companions. It is important to think carefully about the responsibility of being a pet owner, including providing your pet with adequate medical and health care.

Viral diseases can be fatal so keep your pets safe, healthy and help them live a long, happy life by having them regularly checked by a Vet and ensure they are vaccinated. Consult your local vet for advice.

Lost and found pets

Animals collected by Council are taken to the wat djerring Animal Welfare Facility located at **20 Companion Place, Epping**.
Phone **8401 6200**.

Hours of operation:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: 10am – 4pm

Wednesday: 12pm – 6.30pm

Weekends and public holidays: 10am – 2pm

Closed on Christmas Day, Good Friday and ANZAC Day

If you have lost your cat or dog visit
watdjerringlostandfound.shelterbuddy.com

Register your pet

All dogs and cats over three months of age must be microchipped and registered with Council.

Reduced registration fees apply if your pet is desexed, over 10 years of age or obedience trained. Cat owners receive the first year of pet registration free for cats that are desexed and microchipped. An exemption applies when a vet had advised against desexing for health reasons, or where a cat is being kept for recognised breeding purposes.

Renewal of dog and cat registrations are due by 10 April each year. It is an offence and you can be fined if your animal is not registered.

We will send you a reminder so you don't forget. Reminders may be sent via the post or email. If you receive it in the post but would prefer email, call us to let us know.

A special permit from Council is required if you have more than 2 dogs and 2 cats in a residential household, or 1 cat and 1 dog in a flat or apartment.



Unowned cats

Unowned cats often have infectious diseases and are wild, in most cases it is not appropriate for them to be rehomed. You can help reduce the number of unowned and stray cats by desexing your own cat and not feeding cats that do not belong to you.

If you have a problem with unowned and stray cats, please contact Council and ask about the cat trapping service.

Barking dogs

All dogs bark. It is when they are barking is excessive that this is unreasonable. The reasons a dog may bark excessively include:

- external stimuli (e.g. passers-by, other dogs barking, possums, cats)
- separation anxiety
- territoriality (visitors to the property)
- boredom
- neglect
- poor health
- lack of adequate space or exercise

Barking dog complaints can involve long periods of investigation and mediation. If a complaint about a barking dog is proven, the owner may be issued with an infringement or taken to Court.

Dangerous and restricted breed dogs

Owners of dangerous dogs and restricted breeds dogs must comply with a number of requirements. For further information on dangerous and restricted breed dogs visit: <http://agriculture.vic.gov.au>

Dog attacks

Any dog can attack, regardless of their size or breed. Keeping your dog securely confined to your property and following the rules of responsible pet ownership will minimise the chance of your dog attacking.

Visit <http://agriculture.vic.gov.au> for information on dog attacks.

If you have been the victim of a dog attack, you should contact Council immediately – 24 hours **03 9240 1111**.

Council investigate all dog attacks and pending of the outcome of a formal investigation, the owner of the offending dog may be held liable for the offence. The matter may proceed to Court and/or infringements issued pending the severity of the attack.

Walking your dog

When taking your dog for a walk, always ensure your dog wears its registration tag and is controlled on a leash. All dogs must be on a leash when in public streets or parks unless in a designated off leash area. Your dog must remain under effective control at all times.

Infringements are issued for dogs being off leash in on leash areas.

Clean up after your dog

As well as preventing pollution of our waterways through stormwater drains, cleaning up after your dog is a legal requirement and is your responsibility as a dog owner.

When walking your dog, make sure you carry with you a plastic bag or similar to remove and dispose of any droppings deposited by your dog. Failure to do so may result in a fine.

Make sure your cat naps when you do

Cats are valued pets in Australian households.

Highly adaptable and flexible, cats fit into domestic life and routines easily and comfortably.

The safest place for your cat is at home as there are dangers with allowing your cat to roam. Cats are likely to:

- Attack wildlife such as birds;
- Damage the environment;
- Get hit by passing traffic;
- Be injured, or injure another cat in a fight;
- Transmit diseases such as feline AIDS as a result of fighting; and
- Spray, howl and annoy neighbours, especially during mating season.

Council responsibilities

For information on Council's responsibilities refer to the Domestic Animal Management Plan which is available online at www.merri-bek.vic.gov.au or contact Council on **03 9240 1111** to request a hard copy.

Merri-bek Language Link

Italiano	Italian	9280 1911	Türkçe	Turkish	9280 1914	普通话	Chinese (Simplified)	9280 0750
Ελληνικά	Greek	9280 1912	Tiếng Việt	Vietnamese	9280 1915	National Relay Service: 13 36 77 or relayservice.com.au		
عربي	Arabic	9280 1913	पंजाबी	Nepali	9280 0751			