

CODE OF RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP

Owning a dog has great benefits to people's health, wellbeing and stress levels by exposing the owner to social interaction, companionship and cardiovascular exercise whilst out walking your dog enjoying what your local community has to offer. The following Code of Responsible Dog Ownership is provided to assist dog owners and their families to appreciate the value of owning a dog, while lessening any negative impacts on the broader community.

It is the responsibility of every dog owner whilst in the Municipal Area of Waratah-Wynyard to: -

- a) Ensure that the size, breed and activity level of the dog that you wish to select is appropriate to your current circumstances;
- b) Ensure that the dog receives proper care and attention and is provided with sufficient exercise, health care, food, water and shelter;
- c) Seek advice when necessary on any aspect of dog ownership and care from appropriate information sources and professional bodies, including Veterinarian Surgeons;
- d) Ensure that your dog is effectively socialized and receives adequate training from a young age;
- e) Ensure that your dog wears an appropriate collar with a current registration tag attached and is microchipped. In the case of a guide or hearing dog, that they wear the tag attached to the harness;
- f) Ensure that the dog is registered with Council when it reaches six (6) months of age;
- g) Notify the Council of any change of ownership details, including the loss or death of the dog;
- h) Ensure that the dog is kept under effective control at all times and is confined to your property in your absence;
- i) Ensure that your dog does not foul any public places, or if it does, that the faeces is collected and appropriately disposed of;
- j) Take all reasonable steps to ensure that the dog does not cause a nuisance to any other person, whether by persistent and loud barking or howling or by any other means;
- k) Take all reasonable steps to ensure that the dog does not injure, endanger, intimidate or otherwise cause distress to any person or animal;
- l) Take all reasonable steps to ensure that the dog does not damage or endanger any property belonging to any other person;
- m) Take all reasonable steps to ensure that your dog is not provoked or encouraged to attack, menace, intimidate, harass, cause stress or discomfort to any person or animal whether in a public place or any person attending business on your property;
- n) Ensure that your dog is not allowed in any prohibited area or in a restricted area during restricted time frames;
- o) If you have no intention to breed with your dog, it is highly recommended to have that animal de-sexed before 6 months of age;
- p) Apply for a kennel licence if more than two (2) dogs over the age of six months or four working dogs are housed on the property;
- q) All dogs subject to impoundment through being at large or pursuant to other action under the *Dog Control Act 2000* will be kept at the Burnie Dogs Home, 170 Stowport Road, Burnie - Phone 6431 6199 in accordance with the Act; and
- r) Comply with the *Dog Control Act 2000*.

As a Council we will strive to:

- (a) Acknowledge the significance that an obedient, healthy and well cared for dog can contribute to the community;
- (b) Actively encourage responsible dog ownership within the community;

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- (c) Ensure Council's dog policy, strategy and procedures balance the community expectations for both dog and non-dog owners;
- (d) Make available exercise and recreational areas that are as safe as possible and that meet the needs for both dog and non-dog owners alike;
- (e) Provide routine patrols of the Municipal area to engage with the Local Community, promote responsible dog ownership and use their professional judgement to enforce the *Dog Control Act 2000* in line with Councils *dog Management Policy*; and
- (f) Actively enforce the provisions of the *Dog Control Act* to achieve effective control of dogs.