

**DOG OFF LEASH AREAS, FENCED DOG EXERCISE AREAS AND PROHIBITION OF ANIMALS
IN PUBLIC PLACES POLICY**

- Intent** To provide Council with a framework for the establishment, provision and improvement of dog off leash areas, fenced dog exercise areas and prohibition of animals in public places areas to meet community needs and maintain public and animal safety.
- Scope** The policy applies to all existing and proposed dog off leash areas, fenced dog exercise areas and prohibition of animals in public places areas over land owned and/or controlled by Council.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this policy are to:

- Ensure that a sufficient number of dog off leash areas and fenced dog exercise areas are provided to meet the needs of the community.
- Ensure that dog off leash areas are distributed evenly across the Council area.
- Provide dog off leash areas with adequate size to allow dogs to exercise.
- Embellish dog off leash areas with suitable infrastructure to meet user needs.
- Provide standards to inform decision making with respect to requests for new dog off leash areas as well as reviewing existing dog off leash areas.
- Locate dog off leash areas in suitable areas that minimises adverse safety and amenity impacts caused by dogs to park users.
- Provide a framework to determine the location of fenced dog exercise areas and minimum standards for them.
- Provide requirements to inform decision making with respect to the location of areas for the prohibition of animals in public places.
- Ensure the safety of the public and dogs in public open spaces.

Standards

The standards required to meet this policy are set out in the document titled *Dog Off Leash Areas, Fenced Dog Exercise Areas and Prohibition of Animals in Public Places Definitions, Standards and Implementation Criteria*. The standards can be amended as required at the discretion of the Community Development Branch Manager.

Implementation

This policy will be implemented as stipulated in the *Dog Off Leash Areas, Fenced Dog Exercise Areas and Prohibition of Animals in Public Places Definitions, Standards and Implementation Criteria*.

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This policy is to remain in force until otherwise determined by Council.

General Manager Responsible for Review:

Community, Sport and Cultural Services

ADOPTED: 25/06/2014

DUE FOR REVISION: 25/06/2018

REVOKED/SUPERSEDED



**John Andrejic
Chief Executive Officer**

DOG OFF LEASH AREAS, FENCED DOG EXERCISE AREAS AND PROHIBITION OF ANIMALS IN PUBLIC PLACES DEFINITIONS, STANDARDS AND IMPLEMENTATION CRITERIA

The following document provides the framework and criteria to enable Council and the community to make decisions with respect to meeting the objectives of the dog off leash areas, fenced dog off leash areas and prohibition of animals in public places policy.

DEFINITIONS

Dog Off Leash Area – refers to a designated area where dogs are permitted to be off leash from a person that has effective control of the animal as stipulated by the relevant Local Law.

Fenced Dog Exercise Area – refers to a specialised area designed to enable activity and exercise for dogs that is fenced and is suitably embellished. Dogs are permitted off leash in these areas by a person that has effective control of the animal as stipulated by the relevant Local Law.

Prohibition of Animals in Public Places Area – refers to a designated area where certain animals, as specified in the relevant Local Law, are prohibited.

STANDARDS

Locational Requirements and Standards For New and Existing Dog Off Leash Areas

New dog off leash areas must not be located within 1km of another dog off leash area, unless warranted;

New dog off leash areas must be located within open spaces capable of providing a minimum of 5,000sqm solely for dog off leash purposes and sufficient area for other recreational purposes. The land must be largely cleared of vegetation (excepting grass);

Dog off leash areas must not be located:-

- On land leased or used for organised sporting purposes;
- Within 100m of an unfenced playground, youth space, skate park or other area that is likely to attract large numbers of adults and children (except where a significant barrier restricting access exists, such as a road, dwellings, fence, creek, railway, etc.). In circumstances where an existing dog off leash area is located within 100m of a play space or the like, and that space isn't fenced, new fencing is not required unless warranted;
- On land that contains important environmental values and wildlife habitat; and
- In any other area where people congregate in large numbers on a regular basis for events or other activities;

Suitable public consultation is required prior to approval of any proposed new or altered dog off leash area, excepting where there is a mapping error requiring rectification. The public must be notified of any decision to approve a new or altered dog off leash area; and

Council may remove a dog off leash area at its discretion in instances where:-

- There is an oversupply of dog off leash areas; or
- There are records of significant and repeated animal/human conflict; and
- Appropriate public consultation has occurred and the removal is supported by the community.

Locational Requirements and Standards for New Fenced Dog Exercise Areas

New fenced dog exercise areas must be located in or near areas with medium to high population density (i.e. medium density residential zones and above) that are located on preferably a higher order road (i.e. major collector road and above). The site must contain adequate off street car parking or adequate on street parking to cater for the parking requirements of users;

An adequate buffer (distance and/or landscaping) must be provided between any proposed new fenced dog off leash area and surrounding sensitive uses (such as residential areas) to ensure the use does not generate adverse amenity impacts to surrounding areas; and

Suitable public consultation is required prior to approval of any proposed new fenced dog exercise area. The public must be notified of any decision to approve a new fenced dog exercise area.

Provisions, Locational Requirements and Minimum Standards for Proposed Prohibition of Animals in Public Places

Prohibited animals are specified in the relevant Local Law;

Animals may be prohibited in cemeteries, adjacent to swimming enclosures (stinger nets) at beaches, recreation parks and sporting areas where large numbers of people may congregate, natural areas of high biodiversity, natural areas where large numbers of people congregate for swimming or other activities, CBD/town centres or any other area at Council's discretion where there is significant concern regarding human/animal conflict.

Appropriately located and designed signage is required indicating that certain animals are prohibited in the area.

Minimum Embellishment Standards Where Appropriate for Dog Off Leash Areas

Are as follows:

- One seat;
- Appropriately located and designed signage indicating that the space is a dog off leash area. Signage must include a plan detailing the extent of the dog off leash area as well as the owners responsibilities under the Local Law to have effective control of their animal;
- Dog rubbish bags;
- One bin; and
- One drinking fountain or tap where suitable access to water is available.

Minimum Embellishment standards for New Fenced Dog Exercise Areas

Are as follows:

- Suitable fencing of an appropriate height with self-closing gate that prevents dogs from exiting the site unaccompanied by a person;
- A range of items that challenge dogs and enables them to exercise;
- Three seats, including one with a shelter in the form of a structure or suitable cover from trees;
- Dog rubbish bags;
- One suitably sized and designed bin to meet specific usage needs;
- One drinking fountain or tap where suitable access to water is available; and
- Signage indicating that the space is a dog exercise area and that owner must have effective control of their animal.

IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of the standards shall occur in the following manner:

- Review existing dog off leash areas and provide improvements to meet the minimum standards in this policy. Improvements are to be considered for funding on an annual basis in the capital works budget;
- Fenced dog exercise areas are to be provided in accordance with the requirements of this policy and are to be considered for funding as required in the capital works budget;
- A register of dog off-leash areas and prohibition of animals in public places will be maintained by Council; and
- Council will provide information regarding dog off leash areas and animal prohibition areas on Council's website and through appropriate on-site signage.