HAVE YOU BEEN FOR A WALK TODAY?
Dogs play an important role in our community providing companionship and security. But when dogs are not cared for they can have a negative impact on residents, neighbourhoods and our environment. It is up to each dog owner to be responsible and look after their four-legged friend.
Cairns Pets deserve the best
There are some basic requirements for having a dog in Cairns. These rules allow Council to manage pets in our community and respond if something goes wrong.

Dog owners must:
• Register their dog
• Renew their registration each year
• Microchip their dog
• Have no more than two dogs per property, or apply for a permit to have more
• Prevent their dog from breeding, or apply for a breeding permit
• Have an enclosure that prevents their dog from escaping
• Prevent their dog from wandering at large

Walking your dog
Dogs are social animals by nature so it’s important to walk your dog regularly to help your pooch socialise with people and other dogs. It’s also a great way to relieve boredom - one of the most common reasons for dogs to misbehave.

When you are out and about with your dog it’s compulsory to:
• Have your dog on a leash (unless in a dog off-leash area)
• Have voice control or visual command over your pet
• Use designated dog off-leash areas - there are 45 in Cairns
• Pick up any droppings

If your dog is out in the community it’s important that you have it under effective control so your pet doesn’t rush at or bail up other residents or even attack someone or their dog.
Keeping your dog at home

Dogs that are outside your property and not under effective control are considered to be “at large”. This normally means your pet has escaped from its home but can also apply to taking your dog into the community without a leash or allowing your dog to sneak into a neighbour’s property.

Dogs “at large” can attack a person or other animal, be attacked themselves or be injured in accidents such as being hit by a car.

When at home it’s also important that your dog doesn’t cause distress or injury by “rushing” at people or attacking them through your fence.

Dogs can be quite inventive when it comes to escaping from their homes, especially if they are bored or looking to mate.

You can prevent your dog from wandering or rushing by ensuring your fence:

- Is high enough that your dog can’t jump over it
- Low enough that your dog can’t crawl under it
- Strong enough that your dog can’t push it over
- Secure enough that your dog can’t escape through it
- Designed so your dog can’t attack people through it

Another important step is to spay your dog to prevent it from looking for love where it shouldn’t be.

If your dog does escape it will be taken to the pound. In some cases, if your dog is wearing its registration tag, Council can return your pooch to you.
Barking
Barking is one of the main causes of neighbourhood friction - Council receives more than 1400 complaints about this matter each year. As pack animals, dogs need regular love and affection, so it’s not surprising that two of the main reasons behind barking are boredom and lack of attention. It also explains why many people are unaware their dog is barking as it only barks when they are away from home.

You can reduce, and even prevent, barking by making sure your dog:

• Goes for regular walks
• Has some play time, either with a family member or appropriate toys
• Has enough food and water or treats to get through the day. Dogs, like humans, can feel anxious or scared when left at home alone.

You can help by:
- Leaving the radio or tv on tuned to a speaking channel
- Leaving an old shoe or piece of clothing that has your scent on it
- Letting your pooch into a section of your home that has your smell
CAIRNS PETS deserve the best!

Each year Council:

- Receives 1400 barking dog complaints
- Finds 900 dogs wandering outside their homes
- Responds to 100 attacks on people
- Responds to 170 attacks on other animals
- Responds to 350 reports of dogs rushing at people
- Impounds about 1600 dogs
- Puts down around 500 dogs
- Returns 1300 dogs to their owner or finds them a new home

Further information

If you have any questions or need more information:

**Online:** www.cairns.qld.gov/pets
**Phone:** 4044 3044, **Email:** council@cairns.qld.gov.au
**YouTube:** Search CouncilCairns