General Policy

FREE REGISTRATION FOR AGED PENSIONER'S DOGS AND GUIDE, HEARING AND ASSISTANCE DOGS

Intent To provide clear guidelines and assessment criteria for issuing free registration for dogs owned by aged pensioners (or other pension card holders who would otherwise be eligible for the aged pension) and for guide, hearing and assistance dogs.

Scope This policy shall apply to the assessment of all applications for free registration of dogs owned by aged pensioners (or other pension card holders that would otherwise be eligible for the aged pension), and for guide, hearing and assistance dogs.

Definitions Definitions as set out in *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008*

https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-2008-074

PROVISIONS

General
All applications for free registration will be assessed by Council Officers. If approved, the free registration will be for a period of up to three (3) years.

Assessment Criteria
Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

Aged Pensioner Dogs

- Presentation of a certificate from a veterinary surgeon or extract of microchip register, showing the dog is microchipped and the number (or if relevant, a signed veterinary surgeon's certificate for the dog stating that implanting it is likely to be a serious risk to the health of the dog);
- Provision of a certificate or statement from a veterinarian that the dog is desexed;
- Proof the dog is owned and kept by an aged pensioner by provision of an aged pensioner card (or equivalent card of a person who would otherwise be eligible to hold an aged pension card);

Guide, Hearing and Assistance Dogs

- Presentation of a certificate from a veterinary surgeon or extract of microchip register, showing the dog is microchipped and the number (or if relevant, a signed veterinary surgeon's certificate for the dog stating that implanting it is likely to be a serious risk to the health of the dog);
- Provision of a certificate or statement from a veterinarian that the dog is desexed;
- Evidence that the dog is a guide, hearing or assistance dog, including:
    - a Queensland Guide, Hearing or Assistance Dog Handler Identity Card identifying both the handler and the dog.
    - evidence that the dog is certified under the *Guide, Hearing and Assistance Dogs Act 2009* (Qld); *or*
    - evidence that the dog is certified or accredited under a law of another Australian state or territory.
- If the recognised assistance animal evidence listed above is not available, Council may consider other types of documented evidence that clearly demonstrates each of the following:
    - the person has a disability and the dog assists in alleviating the effect of that disability.

- the dog is trained to perform tasks or functions that provide that assistance; and
- the dog meets appropriate standards of behaviour and hygiene for access to a public place.

Any application not complying with the assessment criteria will be referred to the Executive Manager Community Life for consideration, assessment and decision.

Approval
A Registration Notice will be issued for the dog, covering up to a three-year registration period. A registration tag will also be provided as evidence of the dog's registration status for this period. The dog's details, including the microchip number, animal identification number and registration tag number, will be recorded and maintained within Council's records management system.

Current registration period 1 April 2026 to 30 March 2029
Next registration period 1 April 2029 to 30 March 2032

A Renewal Notice will be issued to the owner at the end of the registration period. Upon receipt of the completed Renewal Notice, Council will update its records to identify the dog as being registered for a further three (3) year period.

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

Director Responsible for Review: **Lifestyle & Community**

ORIGINALLY ADOPTED: 24/02/2005
CURRENT ADOPTION: 28/10/2026
DUE FOR REVISION: 28/10/2030
REVOKED/SUPERSEDED:

Ken Gouldthorp.

Ken Gouldthorp
Chief Executive Officer