

YOUR DOG, YOUR RESPONSIBILITY FACTSHEET

Your responsibilities as a dog owner

For the comfort, safety and health of our community and our pets, dog owners have a number of responsibilities:

- **Microchipping:** All dogs must be microchipped by 12 weeks of age or before being sold or given away.
- **Registration:** All dogs must be registered by 6 months of age. The registration fee is a once-only, lifetime payment.
- **Control:** In public places, your dog must be under the control of a competent person by means of an adequate leash, chain or cord. You must also maintain effective control of your dog at all times in off-leash areas.
- **Identification:** Make sure your dog is wearing a collar with a tag attached that shows the dog's name and your address or phone number.
- **Waste:** In public places, you must collect your dog's poo and put it in a red bin. Dog waste bag dispensers are found at many locations across Kempsey Shire.
- **Prohibited areas:** Make sure your dog doesn't enter prohibited areas such as children's play areas, food preparation and consumption areas, school grounds, childcare centres and wildlife protection areas.



Exercise

Where can I exercise my dog?

You can freely exercise your dog in most public places. However, you can't take your dog:

- into any part of a national park, including Hat Head National Park, Limeburners Creek National Park and Arakoon National Park
- to sports fields, schools, childcare centres, swimming pools and children's play areas
- within 10 metres of any food preparation or consumption in a public place.

Where can I let my dog off the leash?

There are off-leash areas across Kempsey Shire, including some beaches. For a full list and maps showing where you can and can't take your dog, head to our website at ksc.pub/dogs

Restricted, dangerous and menacing dogs are not permitted in off-leash areas. Special restrictions also apply to the exercising of greyhounds.



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Registration

Under NSW law, pet cats and dogs must be microchipped and then registered. If you provide proof that your pet is desexed, you'll pay a reduced registration fee.

Before you can register your pet, it must be microchipped by a vet. Microchips are the size of a grain of rice and are implanted under your pet's skin. Each microchip has a unique number that can be read with a scanner, like a barcode at the supermarket.

Microchipping and registration ensure that your pet can be safely returned to you if it gets lost.

You can register your cat or dog online or over the counter at Council.

Online: Go to the NSW Pet Registry website. You will need to prove your identity using your driver's licence, Medicare card or passport.

At Council: Visit Council Customer Service in person at 22 Tozer Street, West Kempsey.

Please note you can be issued with an on-the-spot fine if you have an unregistered animal.

Dog attacks

If someone has been injured in a dog attack, you should seek medical attention urgently. Call 000 for ambulance and police attendance if a person has received life-threatening injuries.

If an animal has been injured, you should transport it to your nearest vet. Even minor wounds can easily become infected without immediate attention.

As soon as possible, report the incident to Council on 6566 3200. A ranger will contact you for an interview. You will need to briefly explain the incident and describe the attacking dog. It may be useful to write down these details straight after the attack to ensure you don't forget.

Council will investigate complaints of attacks by:

- confirming who owns the dog
- speaking to any witnesses who can describe the incident and the attacking dog.

As a result of an attack, Council can declare a dog menacing or dangerous. If this occurs, the dog's owner must take certain actions to control the dog.

Contact us

Our rangers work to ensure that the *Companion Animals Act 1998* (NSW) and other laws are implemented so residents and animals can co-exist safely and harmoniously in Kempsey Shire.

For advice on dog ownership, registration or control in public places, please contact us:

22 Tozer Street, West Kempsey

Phone: (02) 6566 3200

Email: ksc@kempsey.nsw.gov.au

Website: www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au

