Responsible pet ownership

Council encourages all residents to practice responsible pet ownership

Being a responsible pet owner includes:

- providing adequate food, water, shelter and bedding for your pet
- regular exercising and providing toys to control nuisance behaviour (such as barking, digging and straying)
- vaccinating your pets against disease and seeking professional medical care when needed
- clearly identifying your pet through registering and micro-chipping
- de-sexing your pet to help stop the spread of unwanted kittens and puppies
- maintaining suitable fences to contain your dog on your property
- walking your dog on a lead as well as scooping the poop!
- properly socialising your dog with other pets
- arranging suitable care for your pet when you go on holiday
- properly securing your pets during storms/fireworks/loud events
- and importantly, choosing the right pet to suit your lifestyle-factors such as having a small backyard, renting rather than owning a property and spending extended time away from home can impact on your pet's welfare.

Registering your pet with council

Under the Queensland Government's Animal Management Act 2008 all dogs over the age of 12 weeks and living in the Mackay region must be registered with Mackay Regional Council. Pet registration is required each financial year and discounts apply when reminder notices are issued. Registration fees pay for council's Animal Control program (maintaining a pet database, re-uniting lost pets with their owners and Pound operating costs). You can register your pet online www.mackay.qld.gov.au or at council's Client Service Centres in Mackay, Sarina and Mirani.

mackay.qld.gov.au

Responsible pet ownership

Microchipping

How will I know if the microchip implanter is an authorised implanter?

The microchip implanter should have an authorised implanter number issued to them by the Department of Infrastructure and Planning.

What will happen if I sell or give away an animal that is not microchipped?

You may be liable for a $2000 fine.

Desexing your pet

Making the choice to desex your pet is an important part of responsible pet ownership. The best time to desex your pet is between four and six months of age.

Desexing your pet

- prevents uterine infections
- eliminates unwanted harassment from the opposite sex
- tends to make animals less aggressive and territorial and less likely to wander and mark their territory
- reduces registration fees.

Please note that cats are prolific breeders and can have two or more litters per year.

What should I do if my pet goes missing?

You should check council's online **Lost Pet Register** and contact the pound on 1300 MACKAY (622 529).

If council finds your pet and it has a form of identification, registration tag and/or microchip, you will be contacted by a representative from council's pound.

Impounded animals are held at the council pound for a minimum of 72 hours, after such time unclaimed animals will be re-homed, made available for purchase or humanely euthanised.

If your pet is impounded, you will be required to pay a pound release fee, in addition to a registration fee if it is not currently registered.

As a pet owner you are responsible for providing an adequate enclosure and adequate care if you are going away.

If you're still unable to find your animal we suggest you visit the Pet Search website www.petsearch.com.au, a national register for people who have lost or found pets.

Excessive animal numbers

By law residents are allowed one cat and one dog on a 600m^2 allotment and two cats and two dogs on an allotments bigger than 600m^2.

A permit is required to have three or more animals on a 600m^2 or bigger allotment.

Reminders

- Register and microchip your pet
- Desex your pet
- Regularly worm and vaccinate
- Always pick up after your pet

Please contact council on 1300 MACKAY (622 529) or council@mackay.qld.gov.au for further details.

mackay.qld.gov.au