



Animal Management - Roaming Dogs

Responsible Pet Ownership

By law, dogs and cats must be microchipped and registered by the age of 12 weeks and be kept in a properly maintained enclosure. Dogs must be restrained at all times when taken out into a public area unless otherwise stated in a Local Law. A dog found wandering at large may be impounded, subject to an on the spot fine, and only released after payment of fees set by Council.

A stray dog can cause distress to neighbours and the community. Dogs not kept safely in an enclosure are at risk of being injured or could cause injury to others. They can become a traffic hazard to motorists, a bite risk to innocent people, can display territorial aggression, are an annoyance to other animals in the community, and can cause damage to property.

Irresponsible owners whose animals show aggression and cause fear may have their dog declared menacing or dangerous and be required to keep the dog under strict conditions. Irresponsible owners could also face civil action from people who have been victims of a menacing incident or a dog attack. People in the community have a right to live without interference from other people's pets. Unaccompanied animals roaming the streets are at risk and all residents have a right to feel safe in their neighbourhood.

What can I do if my dog is roaming?

There are many reasons why your animal may roam including an urge to roam, searching for food or sexual partner, seeking company, boredom, responding to loud noises such as thunderstorms, isolation, escape from mistreatment, lack of obedience training, and inadequate socialisation. You should identify what causes your dog to roam and ensure your dog is happy, comfortable, involved, safe and stimulated at home.

If your dog does escape from its enclosure, all measures should be made to stop this from happening a second time. Take precautions to help prevent your dog from dashing out a door leading to an unfenced area. Regularly

check the enclosure and make any necessary changes to prevent your pet from roaming.

Having an adequate sized fence or enclosure for your dog protects both your dog and your neighbourhood. As a responsible pet owner, it is important to ensure that your fence or enclosure is:

- high enough or designed in such a way that your dog cannot jump over;
- include a barrier that your dog cannot dig under;
- strong enough that your dog cannot push it over; and
- hole proof so that your dog cannot escape through it.

Providing comfortable, clean, dry bedding and bonding closely with your dog through games or taking them on a leash walk, visiting with other dogs and securing your yard are a few measures that can be taken to ensure your animal does not roam.

What should I do if I find a roaming dog?

Roaming dogs can be impounded by any member of the public and collected by a Local Law Enforcement Officers when the animal has been caught. If you find a roaming dog, please restrain it and check for any form of identification, if possible, before reporting it to Council on 4970 0700. If the dog shows signs of aggression, do not approach it but still call Council to report it.

What happens if my dog is caught roaming?

If your dog is caught roaming and is impounded, Council will take all reasonable steps to contact you. If you notice your dog is missing, refer to the Council website at www.gladstone.qld.gov.au and follow the appropriate links to the Rescued Animal page. All impounded animals are uploaded on to Council's website for viewing by the public. You may also like to upload your

details and a picture of your animal on to the Lost and Found Register. If you think your dog is impounded phone Council on 4970 0700.

Release fees apply to all impounded animals and will need to be paid before the animal is released to its owner. If the animal is unregistered it will have to be registered prior to being collected. The registration fee is included in the release fee. If an animal is not claimed from the pound, Council will endeavour to re-house it, or if it is not suitable for re-housing, it may be euthanised.

If minimal steps aren't taken to stop the animal from roaming and the alleged roaming nuisance is proven to be a breach of Council's Local Law, an Officer will undertake an inspection of your enclosure and you may be subject to an on the spot fine.

How can you contact us?



(07) 4970 0700

STD CALLS: 1300 733 343

For those residents who currently incur STD call rates when contacting their local customer service centre



(07) 4975 8500



info@gladstonerc.qld.gov.au



www.gladstone.qld.gov.au

