

# Media Release

3 February 2023

## Council's 2023 Animal Inspection Program is underway

Gladstone Regional Council officers have commenced Council's annual Animal Inspection Program, which will run until the end of July.

Council conducts annual Animal Inspection Programs to ensure that animals are:

- Being kept and registered in accordance with requirements of the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008* and Council's *Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2011*; and
- Animal owners are fully complying with the microchipping requirements of the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008*.

This is conducted by Authorised Officers visiting, and if necessary, entering yards of premises. These Authorised Officers have the authority to enter properties to conduct those inspections under *Section 111 1(h)(i)* of the *Act*.

This program will target those animal owners that had dogs registered in the previous financial year and have not renewed their animal's registration for the current 2022/23 registration period.

In addition, the officers will be attending premises where there is an amount owing on the dog's current registration and new dogs sighted at a property but is not registered with Council.

Council always encourages residents to do the right thing around animal ownership and our continued priority in this area is informing and educating people to be responsible for their pets.

However, enforcement action will occur if animals are not registered with an initial penalty of \$287.

If owners continue to fail to register after this, Council a further charge of \$718 will apply.

Gladstone suburbs are the first areas to be inspected followed by the other urban and rural areas of our region. House to house visits will be conducted to determine if animals are being kept and if these animals are registered.

All Council officers and workers, who need to enter a property, are required to display identification and advise the property owner of the reason for the inspection. If you are not at home at the time of the inspection a calling card will be left explaining why Council has attended and entered your property.

Council encourages all animal owners within the region to ensure all dogs and cats kept on their properties are always registered and microchipped in accordance with the *Act*. This is the easiest way to ensure any lost animal can be reunited with their owners.

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If your animals were born after 10 April 2009, they must be implanted with a Prescribed Permanent Identification Device (PPID), otherwise known as a microchip, with those details provided to Council.

Council issues annual renewal notices and overdue reminder notices about registration to the animal owner and attempts are made to contact the registered owner if the full amount of their animal's registration renewal was not paid in full and an outstanding amount is due on their animal's current registration.

This allows the opportunity for the outstanding amount to be paid, so they are not included in the Animal Inspection Program.

The Animal Inspection Program promotes Responsible Pet Ownership by relaying to public that it is the responsibility of the animal owner to notify Council of any change of address, change of their animal details, and to ensure that animal owners have paid their registration renewal before the period of registration has expired.

**Inspections of properties and yards of properties will occur in the following urban and rural areas:** Agnes Water, Aldoga, Ambrose, Baffle Creek, Bangalee, Barney Point, Beecher, Benaraby, Berajondo, Bororen, Boyne Island, Boyne Valley, Boynedale, Burua, Callemondah, Calliope, Captain Creek, Clinton, Colosseum, Darts Creek, Deepwater, Gladstone, Glen Eden, Iveragh, Kin Kora, Kirkwood, Lowmead, Miriam Vale, Mount Larcom, New Auckland, Raglan, River Ranch, Rodds Bay, Rosedale, Round Hill, Rules Beach, Seventeen Seventy, South Gladstone, South Trees, Sun Valley, Tablelands, Tannum Sands, Taragoola, Targinnie, Telina, The Narrows, Toolooa, Turkey beach, West Gladstone, Wooderson, Wurdong Heights and Yarwun.

Visit [www.gladstone.qld.gov.au/registration](http://www.gladstone.qld.gov.au/registration) or contact Council on (07) 4970 0700 for more information.

**ENDS**