Pets of Port Phillip

City of Port Phillip values pets in our community and considers animals as part of the family. We encourage responsible pet ownership through registration, microchipping and desexing of your pets. Here's what you need to know about your responsibilities as a pet owner.

How your registration fees contribute to the City of Port Phillip

- Shelter services
- Collecting and returning lost pets
- Animal business compliance
- Staff and patrols
- Community programs
- Dangerous dog management
- Investigating and prosecuting serious animal offences
- Maintaining facilities and open spaces

Dogs and cats three months of age and over must be registered with your local council, and you must renew your registration by 10 April each year. This is a legal requirement under the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*.

Registration tags

Once your pet is registered, you will receive a registration tag that your pet must wear when it is outside your property. If your registration tag is missing or damaged, you can request a free replacement tag at any time.

Dog litter

As a dog owner, you need to clean up after your dog. Dogs produce tonnes of dog poo each day across Victoria which can pollute our footpaths and waterways. You also risk being fined if you don't pick up after your pooch. Please make sure you take a dog litter bag with you whenever you take your dog out. Not only will you be prepared, but you will also help improve the public perception of dog owners in our City.

Leashing requirements

By default, your dog must be on leash in all public areas of City of Port Phillip, unless a sign says otherwise.

Be sure to check the signs before taking your dog off leash. Even in a designated off leash area, your dog must still be under effective control.

This means:

- the dog will return to you on command
- the dog does not bother, attack, worry or interfere with other people or animals
- the owner retains a clear and unobstructed view of the dog.

Dogs on beaches

For most of the year dogs are allowed on the sand on all of our beaches (on and off leash).

However restrictions apply during the summer period from 1 November to 31 March.

During the summer period dogs are only allowed on the beach at certain locations, during certain times.

There are signs at each entry ramp you can check, and a map on our website.

Patrols

Authorised officers patrol regularly and you may receive a penalty infringement for having your dog off leash outside a designated off leash area, not under effective control or having your dog in a prohibited area.

Greyhounds

Under the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*, greyhounds must always be leashed in public, including designated off-leash areas. Greyhounds are not legally required to wear a muzzle in public.

Cat curfew and trespass

We understand cats are adventurous animals that can roam far distances from their property.

However it is a huge concern because cats can prey on wildlife, get hit by cars or be attacked by other animals. To address these concerns, a cat curfew from sunset to sunrise is in effect.

If your cat is found wandering off your property and is not identified, it can be seized and impounded. You may have to pay a release fee to reclaim your cat. You may also face other enforcement actions, such as a fine. Legally, your cat cannot wander onto other people's property without their permission.

Barking dogs

If you're having an issue with a neighbour's barking dog, it is worth considering that the owner may not know that their dog is barking. The first step is to reach out to the dog owner to let them know.

Dog Attacks

The City of Port Phillip Animal Management team takes every reported dog attack seriously. We encourage anyone who has been involved in an attack to report it immediately to Council.

Useful information

Find out where your pooch can play

portphillip.vic.gov.au/dog-parks-and-beaches

Responsible dog ownership

portphillip.vic.gov.au/dogs

Download a copy of the Barking Dog Management Guide or the Dog Attack Guide

portphillip.vic.gov.au/animal-nuisance

More questions? Contact Council's Animal Management Unit:

ASSIST 9209 6777

portphillip.vic.gov.au

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