



MICROCHIPPING

All new puppies and kittens must be microchipped before 12 weeks of age. If you acquire an adult dog or cat it must be microchipped within seven days.



OFF LEASH AREAS

Council understands the importance of exercising and socialising your dog and has provided a number of designated off leash areas across the city where responsible dog owners can safely exercise their dogs.

When walking your dog it must be on a leash at all times.



CARING FOR YOUR PET

Your animals are an important part of your family and should be cared for as you care for a family member. Do the right thing to keep them safe, exercised and happy. You will be responsible for your pet's care for the duration of its life and are responsible for everything your pet does. It is a full-time responsibility that needs to be carefully considered.

Dog owners should do a few simple things to keep their pets out of trouble and their neighbours happy:

- Make sure your dog is properly fenced in at home;
- Keep them on a lead when you are out;
- Stop them from roaming or being aggressive;
- Pick up any litter left by them in public;
- Cool and shady area in your backyard;
- Make sure they are registered and identified so they can be rescued;
- Cool, clean water at all times; and
- Warmer months are prime time.

Selecting the right pet for your lifestyle is an important place to start. Choose a breed that matches your lifestyle and your environment (house, yard, and flat). Make sure that you can devote the necessary time to training, exercising and socialising your pet. It is also important to determine whether you can afford the veterinary check-ups, vaccinations and food that your pet will require during its lifetime.



COMMUNITY RIGHTS

People in the community have a right to live without interference from other people's pets. Unaccompanied animals roaming the streets are a risk and all residents have a right and responsibility to have them rescued and either taken to a refuge or returned to their owners.



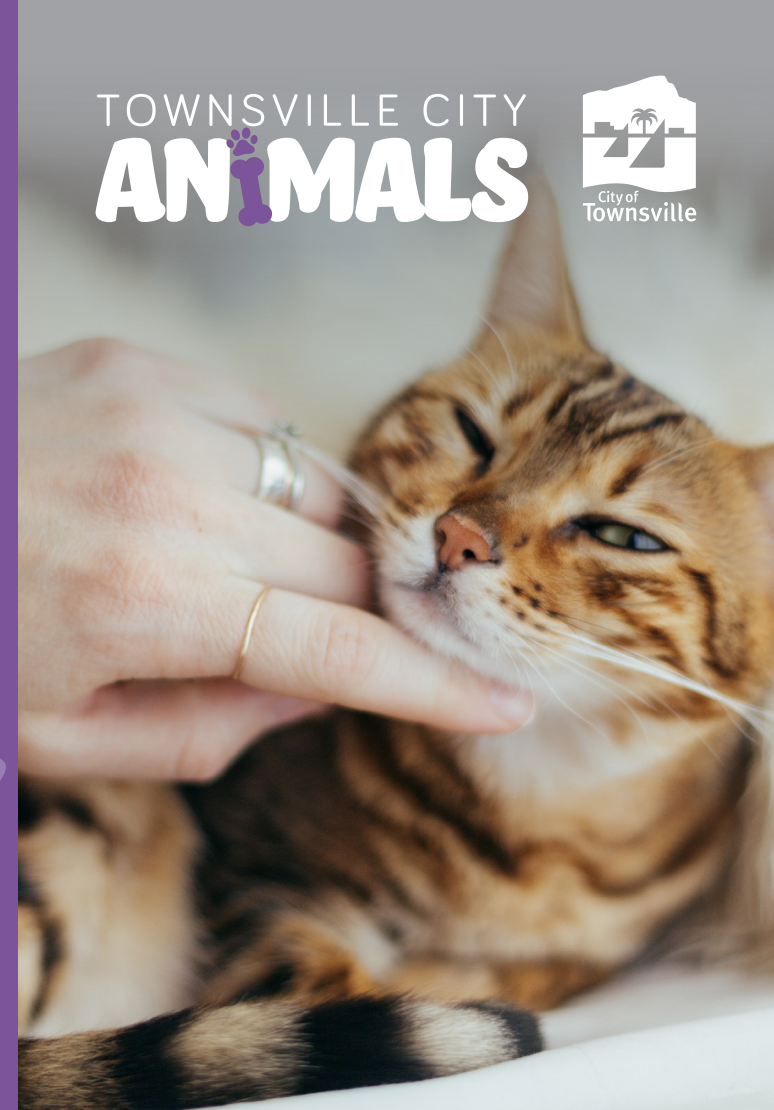
MORE INFORMATION

If you require any further information about this or any other responsible pet ownership issue, please contact Council on 13 48 10. Alternatively a range of Fact Sheets along with information regarding Local Law No. 2 can be accessed by visiting the Council's website.

townsville.qld.gov.au/animals

 Townsville City Animals

TOWNSVILLE CITY
ANIMALS



BE A RESPONSIBLE PET OWNER

BE A RESPONSIBLE PET OWNER

Animals play an important role in our community providing companionship and security. Owning a pet is both a basic right in our community and a serious responsibility. Anyone intending to own an animal in Townsville is legally liable and is always responsible for their pets.



LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

- Registering your dog and obtaining an approval for your cat;
- Renewing the registration and/or approval each year;
- Making sure your cat or dog is microchipped;
- Having an enclosure/yard that prevents your animal from escaping; and
- Prevent your animal from wandering from your property.

Failure to adhere to the law may result in an infringement notice to be issued. Contact Council for more information on approvals and special requirements.



REGISTRATION

Registration of your dog is a formal commitment by you to take responsibility for it as well as giving the dog appropriate care.

All dogs must be registered within 14 days of acquiring or moving to Townsville and carry an identification disc. Cats are required to have an approval at the premise where they reside.

Dogs receive their first registration with Council at a discounted cost. Registrations are valid up until 31 August each year.



FENCES

It is important to ensure that the fence or dog enclosure is:

- High enough that the dog cannot jump over;
- Low enough that the dog cannot dig under;
- Strong enough that the dog cannot push it over;
- Hole proof so that the dog cannot escape through; and
- Designed so no part of the dog can place any part of the body through.

If necessary to prevent unauthorised release of your animal, fitting keyed locks to the points of entry to the property.

If your dog is in your front yard, still on your property and your front gates are open or you have not got a front fence, and your dog is not on a lead, you are committing an offence. Legislation requires your dog to be under effective control.



CATS

Cats must be secured to their own property and kept in an enclosure to prevent them from wandering and causing a nuisance. Owners may be issued an infringement notice for a breach of Local Law 2.



REFUGE AND RECOVERY

Dogs and cats roaming our streets are often alone and afraid, with the potential to be hurt or involved in neighbourhood disturbances. Council provides a rescue and refuge service for the community.