



TIPS TO KEEP YOUR DOG AT HOME

ALL DOGS kept within the Litchfield Municipality must be securely contained to their own property and restrained by a suitable leash when off their property. Dogs may try to escape for a variety of reasons including boredom, fear, separation anxiety or a female dog in heat nearby. Wandering dogs may become lost, be stolen or injured in an accident or become a nuisance in the community.

Fencing

The height of a fence can sometimes be ineffective in containing a dog to a property. Dogs are fantastic climbers and some dogs can jump over 2 metres with no problem at all. If your dog is a jumper or climber, then a fence with a 'Lean Back' section on the top may be an option. This section should incline back into the property, much the same as a security fence. The incline provides a visual barrier for jumping dogs and prevents a dog climbing over the top of the fence.

Plastic lattice, mesh or chicken wire half way up the fence and either pegged to the ground or placed at a right angle and pegged to the ground can stop dogs digging out as will a concrete ledge along the inside of the fence line. Electric tape strung along the top and or bottom of a fence is also an effective way to contain your dog inside the fence line.

Fences should be checked regularly for holes, gaps or weak points and be kept in good repair. Any holes or gaps in the fence should be fixed to prevent dogs escaping, children putting their hand through a fence or another dog getting into your property. Ensuring your dog cannot gain access through the fence reduces the risk of dog fights through shared boundary fences.

Tethering

Keeping your dog on a run or a chain when you are not at home can be an effective way to ensure your dog is safe and sound on its property. Access to shelter from the sun and rain, water and fresh food must be provided. Providing adequate exercise for your dog is also required by the law under the **Animal Welfare Act**. It is an offence under this Act to "keep a dog tethered for an unreasonable time, or by an unreasonably heavy or short tether".

Shut the Gate!

Often this very simple step is forgotten and the dog has access to the street and beyond. Remind your children to shut the gate when they leave the property. A self-closing or self-latching gate and a sign on the gate with the words "SHUT THE GATE" can be effective in reminding people as they leave the property.

De-sexing

De-sexing a male dog can reduce the hormonal wanderlust. A male dog can detect a bitch in season up to 5 kilometres away and will repeatedly try and escape until the bitch is no longer in season. Once the bitch has come off season the dog may continue to escape after its taste of freedom. Escaping from a property can become a habit and this behaviour can be difficult to change.

Pet Containment System

Electronic pet fences keep your dog or cat safe in your garden. With a little DIY knowledge, you can customise your pet's boundaries by either burying wires in your garden with an in-ground fence, or our wireless fences let you set your pet's boundaries quickly and easily. For further information or to purchase a pet containment system, try your local pet product supplier.



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Litchfield Council is committed to encouraging responsible dog ownership within the community.
For more information please contact Council's Animal Management team on **8983 0600**

Your dog. Your responsibility.