



RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP

A dog that is well fed, exercised, de-sexed, has basic training and is healthy usually does not cause a nuisance to others or to the dog owner. Owning a dog is a legal responsibility and dog owners are liable for their dog's behaviour and actions in accordance with the Litchfield Council Dog Management By-laws.

Choosing a Dog

A number of factors should be considered before getting a dog. How big is your yard, is the fencing adequate, how much time and training can you put into the dog? The breed of dog also can play a part in the dog's behaviour, temperament and general disposition.

De-sexing

Although de-sexing is not mandatory in the Northern Territory, council recommends de-sexing your dog to prevent it from roaming and causing a nuisance in the community.

Registration and Micro-chipping

Having a dog go missing can be stressful and traumatic for family members. Ensuring that your dog is microchipped and registered with Council will assist rangers in notifying you should the dog be found roaming or impounded by council. Be sure to keep your animal's microchip details up-to-date and notify council if and when any changes occur. Important changes include changes to your address, contact phone numbers and if the animal is deceased or has left the municipality.

Litchfield Council offers both annual and lifetime registration for dogs and dog registration forms are available on the council website or from reception. All dogs must be microchipped prior to registration and low cost microchipping is available through council.

Training and Obedience

Basic training for your dog is a must. Attending obedience training teaches the dog owner as well as the dog. Training provides the dog owner with basic commands, knowledge of dog behaviour and preventative methods for nuisance behaviours. Exercise and obedience training is a good way for the dog to burn off excess energy and the effects can flow onto the dog's behaviour in its own yard. There are several dog obedience specialists that provide services within the rural area and their details can be found online or in local directories.

Holidays

Alternative arrangements for your dog may be required if you go away. Boarding the dog at a kennel ensures that your dog is contained, safe and well cared for and will not become a nuisance while you are away. Contact details for kennels and catteries in the area can be found online or in local directories.

Dogs that are left alone can suffer boredom and loneliness and will often try to escape or bark for attention. If you do have someone stay with the dog, make sure they understand the dog's normal routine and provide them with emergency contact numbers such as the vet and Council.



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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.