RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP

Owning a dog can provide great companionship, however deciding to become a dog owner also means you take on responsibilities not only towards your animal, but to your community members as well.

FIRSTLY, SHOULD I GET A PET?
Bringing home a dog is not a decision that should be made lightly. With many dog breeds living for well over 10 years, taking ownership of a dog is a huge responsibility and commitment.

Before making the big decision to get a dog, be sure to ask yourself the following questions:

- Am I prepared to care for the dog for its entire life?
- Can I afford to keep a dog? (Be sure to consider costs such as de-sexing, annual registration, food, veterinary bills: for vaccinations and in case of illness)
- Do I appreciate the effort it takes to care for a dog? (Most dogs require some form of basic training to ensure they behave at home and on outings in the community)
- Do I have the time to care for a dog? (Many dog breeds require stimulation to keep them from being bored, exercise to keep them fit and healthy, and grooming)
- Is my place of residence suitable to house a dog? (Consider the size of your yard and the height of your fence and the other pets you may already have)
- Am I 18 years and over? (You must be 18 years and over to register a dog).

Did you answer no to any of the previous questions? If so, you may not be ready to take on the great responsibility of owning a dog. If you answered yes, you may be ready for the privilege of bringing home a new furry family member!

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES OF A DOG OWNER INCLUDE:

- If your dog is three months or older, it must be registered annually with Maranoa Regional Council;
- Your dog is not to create a nuisance to others (i.e. barking or behaviour that may cause fear or injury to a person or another animal);
- Your dog must not wander off your land without being under a person's effective control;
- You must walk your dog on a lead when in a public place and the registration tag must be worn when off the property;
- If your dog defecates in a public place, you must clean up and dispose of the waste in a sanitary manner;
- Ensure the general welfare of your dog at all times; and
- Be sure to get your dog microchipped (regardless of whether you own the dog, or are giving/selling it).

For more information, please call Council’s Community Safety Team on 1300 007 662 or visit www.maranoa.qld.gov.au
HOW MANY DOGS CAN I KEEP?
To help ensure our residents are living in the safest communities possible, Council has in place restrictions with regards to the number of dogs that can be kept at designated town properties.

A property in a town area may keep two dogs. For any reason, if a resident wants to keep more than two dogs on a property and more than one dog in a multi-residential premises within a town area, approvals will be required. Applications will be considered on a case by case basis (taking into account the individual circumstances of the pet, pet owner and property). See Local Laws for Dog Owners Fact Sheet for further details and explanation.

REGISTERING YOUR DOG
If you are the new owner of a dog and the animal is over three months old, you must register the dog within 14 days after you take ownership of the dog. Registration is annual (30 June).

Registration makes it easier for lost dogs to be identified and reunited with their owners. If the owner is not located or identified in Council’s animal registration database, it is possible that a lost dog may be rehomed or as a last resort, euthanised. Dog registration also aims to reduce the number of stray dogs in towns, and on rural properties.

REGULATED DOGS
Under the Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008, there are requirements that apply to regulated dogs. Regulated dogs include dogs that are dangerous, menacing and restricted.

DANGEROUS & MENACING DOGS
Council may declare your dog dangerous or menacing if it:
- Has bitten or attacked a person or animal;
- Has acted in a way that caused fear to a person or another animal; and/or
- Was declared dangerous by another local government.

If your dog has been declared dangerous or menacing, there are specific requirements that you must follow. Be sure to contact Council’s Community Safety Team and they will assist you in keeping your pet and community safe.

RESTRICTED DOGS AND PROHIBITED BREEDS
A restricted dog is a breed prohibited from importation into Australia under the Customers Act 101 (Commonwealth) – these breeds include American pit bull terrier (or pit bull terrier) Dogo Argetino, Fila Brasiliero, Japanese Tosa, Perro de Presa Canario (or Presa Canario).

COUNCIL’S ADOPTION PROGRAM
If you’re looking to add a dog to your family, why not adopt through Council’s Adoption Program!

By adopting a dog from Council, you are saving a life and gaining a loyal friend. Adopting fee – this contributes to the cost of microchipping, de-sexing and registering your new pet. All dogs are temperament tested and Council officers make every effort to assign the right pet to the right person, family and property.

To view the dogs that are available for adoption, visit www.maranoa.qld.gov.au or call Council’s Community Safety Team on 1300 007 662.

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