

REGISTRATION AND IDENTIFICATION

LOST PETS ARE ALONE – REGISTRATION BRINGS THEM HOME!

Registration and identification of pets is important for the wellbeing of the animals themselves, the owner's peace of mind, and to allow Council to plan for future community needs.

a responsible pet owner's guide

REGISTRATION

All dogs and cats in Golden Plains Shire must be registered with Council annually and carry an identification tag when off their property. Pet registration is an important investment in your pet, providing safety and security as well as assisting Council to notify you if your pet is lost, injured or involved in an incident.

Registration is due on 10 April each year and is required for all dogs and cats over three months of age.

All new registrations require a microchip number before Council is able to accept the registration.

WHY REGISTER YOUR PET?

Registration of your pet is a formal commitment by you to take responsibility and care for it. Registration also helps Council identify who owns which pets, how many live in the Shire and where they live. Most importantly it helps to ensure lost pets are returned to their owners.

BENEFITS OF REGISTRATION

Your registration fee provides you with a range of services including;

- A tag for your pet to wear
- A lost and found service that ensures your pet is returned if found wandering, provided it is wearing its tag and somebody is home
- If no-one is home, your pet will be kept safe in the pound and attempts will be made to notify you
- A Council response to wandering dogs, aggressive dogs and dog attacks
- Council services to deal with nuisance issues such as excessive barking
- Council control of 'Dangerous', 'Menacing' and 'Restricted Breed' dogs
- Council monitoring of boarding kennels, catteries, pounds, breeding and training businesses
- State Government research, education & animal welfare programs

REFUGE AND RECOVERY

One of the most important benefits of pet registration and identification is that it allows an effective rescue and refuge service.

Dogs roaming our streets are often alone and afraid, with the potential to be hurt or involved in neighbourhood disturbances. Council attempts to reunite owners with their lost pets. If your dog strays or is lost, the Council registration tag is your best safeguard to ensure you get your pet back quickly and safely.

It is important to regularly check that your dog's tag is visible, safely secured and undamaged.

It is also important to provide Council with your current address and phone numbers. Similarly, for the microchip, notify Central Animal Records of any changes to your contact details.

REGISTRATION PROCESS

To register your dog or cat simply go to a Golden Plains Shire Customer Service Centre in either Linton or Bannockburn with the appropriate fee (discounts are available to pensioners and owners of desexed or microchipped pets and working dogs).

Owners of desexed pets must bring a copy of the Sterilisation Certificate or a Statutory Declaration when registering. Owners of farm working dogs must be able to demonstrate to an Authorised Officer (if the case requires) the ability of the dog to work livestock (Sheep/Cattle) before a concession fee can be obtained. Dogs kept for purposes such as hunting, rabbit control or security are NOT entitled to a concession under the working dog category.

It is important to register your dog as soon as you get it (or within 28 days if you have moved to Golden Plains Shire) to help keep it safe and have it returned to you if it wanders.



PENALTIES FOR NOT REGISTERING

Irresponsible owners who fail to register their pets with Council face significant penalties, including on-the-spot fines exceeding \$320.

Registration compliance is regularly checked, both in public areas and residential situations, to ensure that pet owners are taking their responsibility seriously.



IDENTIFICATION TAGS

When you register your pet with Council the information you provide is used to contact you if your pet is found or injured. It is worth ensuring you have provided Council with a work or mobile phone number to enable Council to contact you if you are not home when your pet is found wandering.

Owners whose pet is found at large without a tag can also be subject to fines in excess of \$75.

POUND RELEASE FEES

Impoundment costs are significant and you will be required to pay all these costs when retrieving your pet from the pound.

Owners of registered pets impounded for safety reasons are promptly notified to facilitate quick release and minimal costs.

Owners of unregistered pets will face fines as well as significant release fees in addition to the cost of registration and microchipping. All unregistered pets released from the pound must be registered prior to release.

In other circumstances pets not collected after eight [8] days may be given to new homes or, more tragically, put down.

SPECIAL PERMITS

Additional permits are required in a number of circumstances, including:

- Keeping more than two dogs (unless kept exclusively for droving or drafting of livestock in primarily rural farming areas)
- Operating as a breeder
- Keeping more than two cats
- Using premises as a pet shop or
- Using premises as a boarding kennel or cattery.

Contact Council for more information on permits and special requirements.

MICROCHIPPING

You can contact your local vet and arrange for your pet to be microchipped. Microchipping ensures that owner and pet identification details are readily available if a pet is found not wearing its registration tag. Remember, your pet must be registered with Council. A microchip does not cover Council registration.

MORE INFORMATION

Further information is also available in Council's range of Responsible Pet Ownership Fact Sheets. These include:

- Dogs, Fences and Roaming
- Biting and Aggression
- Litter
- Leashes and Exercise
- Registration and Identification
- Responsible Pet Ownership
- Barking Dogs
- Barking Solutions
- Desexing Your Pet

CONTACTING COUNCIL

If you require any further information or would like a copy of one of Council's Responsible Pet Ownership Fact Sheets, visit either of Council's Customer Service Centres at:

- 68 Sussex Street, Linton or

- 2 Pope Street Bannockburn or call

☎ 5220 7111 or

☎ 1300 36 30 36 (Toll Free within the Shire) or

Email enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au

Website www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au



GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE