



# Pets of Port Phillip

City of Port Phillip values pets in our community and considers animals as part of the family. We encourage responsible pet ownership through registration, microchipping and desexing of your pets. Here's what you need to know about your responsibilities as a pet owner.



## Registration and microchipping

Dogs and cats three months of age and over must be registered with your local council, and you must renew your registration by 10 April each year. This is a legal requirement under the Domestic Animals Act 1994.

It is important to note that pet registration is not the same as microchip registration. It is the responsibility of the pet owner to apply to register each new pet with Council.

Council offers a significant reduction in annual registration fees for desexed pets and for Victorian Concession card holders.

It is mandatory for all newly registered cats to be desexed.

All dogs and cats must be microchipped before they are registered. A microchip is a device around the size of a grain of rice that is injected under the animal's skin between the shoulder blades.

A microchip scanner is used to check if an animal is microchipped. This will detect the microchip which is generally a 15-digit number.

If an authorised officer requests to scan your pet's microchip, you must allow them to do so.



## Registration tags

Once your pet is registered, you will receive a registration tag that your pet must wear when it is outside your property. If your registration tag is missing or damaged, you can request a free replacement tag at any time.



## Dog litter

As a dog owner, you need to clean up after your dog. Dogs produce tonnes of dog poo each day across Victoria which can pollute our footpaths and waterways. You also risk being fined if you don't pick up after your pooch. Please make sure you take a dog litter bag with you whenever you take your dog out. Not only will you be prepared, but you will also help improve the public perception of dog owners in our City.

**To register your pet you will need your pet's microchip number.**

**Please visit**

[portphillip.vic.gov.au/animal-registration](https://portphillip.vic.gov.au/animal-registration)

**Not sure if your pet is registered?**

ASSIST 9209 6777



## Off-leash areas

City of Port Phillip provides designated off-leash areas for dog owners to exercise and socialise their dogs. Your dog must be under effective control and dog owners must always carry a leash, even in off-leash areas.

Effective control means:

- the dog will return to you on command
- the dog does not bother, attack, worry or interfere with other people or animals
- the owner retains a clear and unobstructed view of the dog.

Dogs can be exercised on most beaches across Port Phillip for most of the year. Summer restrictions are from 1 November to 31 March each year. During these times, dogs may be prohibited on some beaches. Always check the signs before entering a beach. You may receive a fine for entering prohibited areas with your dog, or for walking your dog off-leash when in an area that isn't designated off-leash.



## Dogs on lead

Outside off-leash areas, dogs must be on their leashes in all public places, including parks, walkways and beaches. Dogs must be on lead within 20 metres of an organised sporting event or training. To keep your pet and others safe, dogs are prohibited from entering the ground while the sporting event or training is taking place. Dogs are not allowed within 5 metres of playgrounds, public barbeques and outdoor gyms. Be sure to keep your dog on a lead unless signs indicate an off-leash area.



## Greyhounds

Under the Domestic Animals Act 1994, greyhounds must always be leashed in public, including designated off-leash areas. Greyhounds are not legally required to wear a muzzle in public.



## Cat curfew and trespass

We understand cats are adventurous animals that can roam far distances from their property.

Roaming cats in our neighbourhood are a huge concern to the community. Cats can prey on wildlife, get hit by cars or be attacked by other animals. To address these concerns, a cat curfew from 9 pm to 6 am is in effect.

If your cat is found wandering off your property and is not identified, it can be seized and impounded. You may have to pay a release fee to reclaim your cat. You may also face other enforcement actions, such as a fine. Legally, your cat cannot wander onto other people's property without their permission.



## Barking dogs

If you're having an issue with a neighbour's barking dog, it is worth considering that the owner may not know that their dog is barking. The first step is to reach out to the dog owner to let them know.

Pick up a copy of the Barking Dog Management Kit at any of Council's town halls or download the kit at

[portphillip.vic.gov.au/animal-nuisance](http://portphillip.vic.gov.au/animal-nuisance)

# Useful information

## Register your pet

[portphillip.vic.gov.au/animal-registration](http://portphillip.vic.gov.au/animal-registration)

## Check if your pet is registered

ASSIST 9209 6777

## Check Council's ground use scheduling

[portphillip.vic.gov.au/sporting-reserves-and-grounds](http://portphillip.vic.gov.au/sporting-reserves-and-grounds)

## Download a copy of the Barking Dog Management kit

[portphillip.vic.gov.au/animal-nuisance](http://portphillip.vic.gov.au/animal-nuisance)

## More questions? Contact Council's Animal Management Unit:

ASSIST 9209 6777

[portphillip.vic.gov.au](http://portphillip.vic.gov.au)

