



Your dog and the law

Dogs in public

You are legally responsible for your dog's behaviour, and must maintain "effective control" when taking your dog in public. This means:

- Using a **leash no longer than two metres** when walking your dog in public
- **Ensuring your dog remains within your sight and responds to basic commands.** This means your dog will come when called, and understands other commands. *Refer to your local council for a list of on and off leash areas*
- Ensuring your dog does not enter a **school, kindergarten, childcare centre or shop** without appropriate permission
- Ensure your dog **does not chase or harass other people, dogs or animals** including birds and native wildlife
- **Greyhounds must be kept on a lead and muzzled in public places, including off-leash areas like dog parks and beaches.** You can apply for a muzzling exemption from the Dog and Cat Management Board. Even if exempted from wearing a muzzle your greyhound must still be kept on a leash at all times in public places.

You must also clean up after your dog. Dog droppings pose a health risk to the community and other dogs. By law, you must immediately clean up after your dog in public places.

Failure to do so can incur an expiation.

Good dogs are the result of love, care and good training from their owners.

With more than 300,000 dogs in households around South Australia, the laws governing our beloved canine friends need to be the best possible, reflecting modern community attitudes.

That's why you have new legal responsibilities as a dog owner.

Visit **dogandcatboard.com.au** to find out how you can become a responsible dog owner.

For further information regarding the law and your dog or to download a copy of the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* visit **www.dogandcatboard.com.au**

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Your dog and the law

There are many changes to the law that will affect you and your dog.

From 1 July 2018:

- [mandatory microchipping and desexing](#)
- [a new registry and standards/guidelines for breeders and sellers](#)
- [a new statewide database \(Dogs and Cats Online\).](#)

This handy guide outlines changes that affect the whole state, and the timelines for their introduction. Your local council may have additional by-laws in place, so it pays to check the rules in your local council area.

Dogs and Cats Online

From 1 July 2018 all dog registrations will be kept on a statewide database, Dogs and Cats Online.

Owners will be able to login online any time and update their contact details in one place, pay annual dog registration renewals and notify councils if their dog has gone missing.

All registered dogs will be issued with a lifetime registration number on a disc reducing the environmental impact of issuing annual plastic discs.

Dog registration

Your dog must be registered with your local council by three months of age. The information you provide when you register your dog helps council staff and animal shelters to return lost dogs safely home, and the fees levied directly fund animal management in your area.

If you move to a new council area you must register your dog with the new council within 14 days.

Your council may also set a limit on the number of dogs that can be kept on a property.

Contact your local council for more information.

Mandatory microchipping

In South Australia, from 1 July 2018, it will be mandatory to get your dog microchipped. Microchipping is a safe and permanent form of ID, to help reunite you with your dog if it becomes lost or impounded.

From 1 July 2018:

- [All dogs will be required to be microchipped](#)
- [Puppies will need to be microchipped by 12 weeks of age or at the point of sale](#)
- [If you acquire a new dog that doesn't already have a microchip, you must have one implanted within 28 days.](#)

Microchips must be implanted by a veterinary surgeon or an authorised person.

When you get your dog microchipped, it's important to remember to keep your personal details linked to that chip up-to-date. If you move house or change phone numbers, you must update your information on Dogs and Cats Online.

Mandatory desexing

Research shows that desexing has a positive impact on a dog's health and temperament. Desexing can also reduce aggressive behaviour and the inclination to wander.

That's why, under changes to the law, all dogs born after 1 July 2018 will need to be desexed.*

These laws are being phased in, which means:

- [All dogs born after 1 July 2018 must be desexed by 6 months of age*](#)
- [If you acquire a new dog after 1 July 2018, it must be desexed within 28 days, or by six months of age if still a pup](#)
- [Working livestock dogs are not required to be desexed under the Act.](#)

Dogs can only be desexed by a registered veterinary surgeon.

*Exemptions apply. More information can be found at [dogandcatboard.com.au](#)

Barking dogs

Barking is part of normal behaviour for a dog, but excessive barking can cause a number of problems within the community, including stress, anxiety and loss of sleep.

As a dog owner, you have a responsibility to ensure your dog does not bark excessively and become a nuisance.

Proper training and socialisation, along with an environment that is stimulating for your dog, will help reduce problem barking.

If a dog barks excessively, and it becomes an issue that cannot be resolved by working with the owners, councils can issue the dog's owner with an expiation notice for excessive barking, or, in severe cases, a "control order" under the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*.

Wandering dogs

Allowing your dog to wander poses a real risk to the community, including the possibility of car accidents or attacks on people or other dogs. You must ensure your premises are secure, with adequate fencing to contain your dog. Substantial penalties may apply for allowing your dog to wander or attack.

If you find an unaccompanied dog, contact the council of the area where you found the dog, even if this is not your local council.

Dogs and driving

In South Australia, dogs travelling in the tray of a vehicle must be restrained by a leash, fixed cage or similar enclosure.

It is also unsafe to travel with an unrestrained dog inside your vehicle. The use of a purpose-made pet restraint, or pet carrier, is highly recommended, for the safety of you and your dog.

Dog breeders and sellers

There are new laws regulating the breeding and sale of dogs. These changes are designed to identify puppy farms and improve breeding practices. The most important changes to the law are:

- [Breeders and sellers must adhere to the new South Australian Standards and Guidelines for Breeding and Trading Companion Animals, from 1 August 2017.](#)
- [If you are a breeder and you intend to sell a dog after 1 July 2018, you must register as a breeder with the Dog and Cat Management Board.](#)
- [You must not sell a dog unless it has been microchipped in accordance with the Act.](#)
- [If you are a breeder and seller any advertisement you place for the sale of a dog must include your contact details and breeder registration number.](#)

For more information visit:
[dogandcatboard.com.au](#)
[dogsandcatsonline.com.au](#)
[gooddogsa.com.au](#)
 [gooddogsa](#)