

WANDERING DOGS



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All dogs must be registered with Council from the age of three months.

HOW TO STOP YOUR DOG WANDERING

As a dog owner you **MUST** make sure that your dog is not able to wander off your property. This means that you must use one of the methods described below to keep your dog at home.

If you allow your dog to wander, it might be impounded, and you will have to pay a fee to collect your dog. It also runs the risk of being poisoned, injured or killed on the road.

Your dog may also become involved in an attack on another person or animal. You as the dog owner will be liable for any damage caused by the dog. There are also penalties of up to \$10,000 that can be imposed on the person responsible for the dog if it attacks another person or animal.

WAYS TO CONFINE YOUR DOG

FENCING

The type of fence that you need will depend on the size and activity level of your dog. The dog must not be able to jump or climb over, dig under or push through the fence.

If your dog is climbing or jumping over the fence, you can add an inward sloping extension to the top of the fence. This works better than just trying to make the fence higher.

Alternatively, you can put up a low internal fence, about a meter in from your boundary fence. This stops the dog from getting a 'run up' at the fence, or getting into position to jump up at the fence.

If the dog is digging out, you may need to dig a trench around the bottom of the fence and fill it with concrete, or attach a strip of chicken wire to the bottom of the fence and bury it.

SELF LATCHING GATES

These should be installed to prevent gates being left open accidentally.

PEN OR COMPOUND

Where fencing the whole yard is difficult, dogs may be kept in a pen or compound. These need to be big enough for the size of your dog and should be built in a quiet sheltered area. Do not build the pen or compound near your neighbours fence or a busy footpath. A concrete floor is better than dirt as it is easier to keep clean and prevents digging out.

TETHERING THE DOG

Tethering the dog is not recommended and is illegal. The dog can easily tangle itself and could even be strangled.

PROBLEMS WITH CONFINEMENT

Dogs which are not used to being confined, or which have been confined for too long, may cause problems. They may begin to bark too much, or may damage property or injure themselves trying to escape.

To avoid these problems:

- Gradually get the dog used to confinement by keeping it in for short periods to begin with, first with the owner still at home and later when the owner goes out. Slowly increase the length of time in which the dog is confined.
- Play with the dog and feed it in its enclosure so that it doesn't think the enclosure is a punishment.
- Make sure that the enclosure is safe and secure.
- Place the enclosure in a quiet area of the property.
- Ensure that the dog has shelter, food, water and toys and is comfortable.

If the dog barks or tries to get out, give a firm command such as 'NO'. Praise the dog if it is quiet. Only let the dog out again when it is not barking.

If your dog does not respond to your commands it may require formal obedience training.