



# Fences and roaming dogs

Local Law 42 Animal Control

**Local Law 42 Animal Control imposes an obligation on all dog owners to provide a proper enclosure to confine their dog on their property.**

A straying dog causes distress to neighbours and the community. Dogs that are not kept safely behind a fence can risk being injured or cause injury to others.

They become a traffic hazard to motorists, are a bite risk to innocent people, can display territorial aggression, are an annoyance to other animals in the community and can cause property damage. Irresponsible owners will be liable for any injuries or damages that their dog causes.

## Fencing requirements

Having an adequate size fence for your dog protects both your dog and your neighbourhood. As a responsible pet owner, it is important to ensure that your fence or enclosure is:

- High enough that your dog cannot jump over
- Low enough that your dog cannot dig under
- Strong enough that your dog cannot push it over
- Hole proof so that your dog cannot escape through it

The fencing requirements of Local Law 42 Animal Control applies to all properties in Pine Rivers Shire irrespective of size or zone. Therefore, people in rural areas must provide a fence or enclosure to contain the dog on their property.

## Wandering dogs

It is a requirement under the local law that your dog must be under effective control when in a public place. Allowing your dog to wander is an offence and you may be liable to a \$375 fine.

Roaming also increases the amount of territory your pet considers their own (perhaps your entire street or as far as the dog can see) which is likely to result in them challenging any animal or person they consider to be an intruder in this extended territory.

## Community Rights

People in the community have a right to live without interference from other people's pets. Unaccompanied animals roaming the streets are a risk and all residents have a right to feel safe in their neighbourhood.

## Impounded dogs

Members of the community have a right to contact Council to rescue and impound wandering dogs. The Council has a management agreement with the RSPCA to manage the Dakabin Welfare Centre that includes caring for impounded dogs.

If your dog is missing or has escaped its enclosure, please contact the Dakabin Welfare Centre on 3886 0357 between 8:30 am – 4:30pm Monday to Friday and between 9:00am – 4:00pm Saturday, Sunday and public holidays to check whether your dog has been impounded.

## Liability

Many dog owners don't realise they are legally responsible for everything their pet does – especially when it is outside their property.

If your dog attacks another animal, injures a person, or damages property, the owner of that dog may be held liable for any damages, injuries and may face:

- Significant fines
- Having the dog declared dangerous (and be required to comply with additional conditions)
- A destruction order issued on the dog.

## Further information:

Please contact Council on 3480 6666 or visit [www.pinerivers.qld.gov.au](http://www.pinerivers.qld.gov.au)