

Responsible Ownership

If you own a dog, you must:

- Register each dog you own. Under Council's Local Law you may keep a maximum of two dogs in a residential area. You must apply for a permit to keep more than two.
- Ensure each dog you own is microchipped
- Make sure that each dog wears a valid Council registration tag
- Keep your dog confined to your property
- Make sure your dog doesn't bark persistently
- Obey all Council orders about having your dog on a leash and disposing of your dog's droppings
- Stop your dog from straying onto another person's property
- Prevent your dog from chasing or attacking other people or animals

Registered pets received a lifetime tag which is required to be on the pet when the animal is outside the owner's premises. If your pet loses its tag a new one can be purchased from Council.

Not only is it a legal requirement for your pet to have identification, but the tag will also assist the return of your pet in the event that it becomes lost. Council Officers can identify your pet by the registration number on the tag, and let you know your pet has been found.

Pets currently registered with Council receive a 'Free Ride Home' when they are collected by Rangers for the first time.

It is also a good idea for your pet to wear a separate ID tag with its name, phone number and address, so that you can be alerted if your pet is found outside your property.

Dogs on lead

Under Council's Community Local Law No.2 all dogs and cats must be on a leash at all times on all streets and roads within residential areas, public reserves, shopping precincts and within 10 metres of all playgrounds and BBQ areas.

Council currently has one specifically designated off-leash dog park which is located at Barry Steggall Park, Tower Hill.

- Ensure your dog is kept on a leash at all times unless in the designated off-leash dog park
- Ensure your dog is kept under effective control at all times, whether they are on or off-leash
- Ensure your dog does not threaten or rush at any person or animal
- Ensure your dog is wearing its Council registration tag

Dog Litter

As a responsible pet owner you should ensure that you clean up after your dog. Council does have multiple dog waste bag stations through the municipality. You can find specific locations on Council's Interactive Online Map

<https://www.swanhill.vic.gov.au/discover/maps/>.



Responsible Ownership of Dogs

Swan Hill Rural City Council

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Registration Requirements

Every dog and cat over the age of three months in Victoria must be registered with the Council in which they reside.

New dog and cat registrations can be made anytime throughout the year. Existing registrations must be renewed annually by the 10th of April.

Registering your pet can be a safeguard to help with the return of your pet if it becomes lost.

In addition, your registration fees help provide important pet related services within the Council such as animal control and community education about responsible pet ownership.

Domestic Animal Businesses

A Domestic Animal Business (DAB) is a Council registered business that includes pet shops, dog training establishments, shelters and pounds, boarding establishments and breeding businesses.

If you own between 3 and 10 fertile female cats or dogs, are not a member of an Applicable Organisation and breed to sell you are classified as a DAB which must be registered with Council.

Source Numbers are now required to microchip any cats or dogs born after 1 July 2020. It is also now a requirement if you advertise for sale or to giveaway cats or dogs in Victoria.

Desexing

Whilst it is not mandatory to desex your pet, it does assist in reducing roaming behaviour or territorial aggression.

Council also offers a reduced registration fee for desexed pets.

If you require financial assistance you may contact Swan Hill Neighbourhood House on 5032 1549 to check if you are eligible for the No Interest Loan Scheme to assist with desexing your pet.

Nuisance Issues

Other people may make complaints including:

- Dogs repeatedly at large on another property without permission
- Dogs wandering outside their owner's premises
- Dogs rushing at or chasing a person or animal
- Dogs attacking or biting a person or animal
- Excessive animal numbers
- Excessive barking

Confinement to your property

It is important to make sure that your pet is securely confined within your property for the safety of the community and your pet.

Dog Attacks

To report a dog attack on a person, animal or pet, please contact Council's Regulatory Services Department on 5036 2346 as soon as possible.

You can also report a dangerous dog to the Dangerous Dog Hotline by calling 136 186.

Did you know that dogs which are found within paddocks containing livestock may be humanely destroyed by the stock owner or an approved person.

If your dog attacks a person or animal, penalties can include:

- court action
- fines
- damages
- declaration of your dog as dangerous
- your dog may even be put down

FAQ

What if my pet's details change?

Please contact Regulatory Services as soon as possible to update your information, alternatively you may update details online by visiting <https://www.swanhill.vic.gov.au/community/pets/pets-registration/>. It's important that we have your current contact and address details in case we need to talk to you about your pet.

What if my pet passes away?

Please advise Council on 5036 2346 or alternatively you may update details online. This will ensure that your animal registration records are modified to reflect that your animal is deceased.

What if I move location, either within Swan Hill Rural City Council or to another municipality?

You will need to fill out an Animal Registration Change of Ownership and/or Change of Details form by attending a Customer Service Centre, alternatively you may update details online. This needs to be completed so that your animal records can be updated or closed off.

What if I take on ownership of someone else's pet?

If your pet is currently registered with Council, you will need to complete an Animal Registration Change of Ownership form. This form needs to be signed by both yourself and the previous owner and returned to Council so that records can be updated. You should also check to ensure that your animal's registration is currently paid up.

