

# PET news 2019



## *Help us to help you and your pets*

Rangers at the City of Greater Dandenong are committed to returning lost dogs directly to their owners rather than impounding them. This is less stressful for the dogs and their owners and reunites them quicker. Currently, around 30 per cent all lost dogs are reunited with their owners without the need for impounding, but we would like to increase this figure. The main difficulty Rangers have when trying to return dogs home is that the dog is either not registered or the contact details are out of date. The Domestic Animals Act prohibits the return of unregistered animals.

With this in mind, in the coming weeks our officers will be conducting targeted doorknocks to check for unregistered animals. Remember that your animal registration must be renewed before 9 April each year. Please help us to help you and your pets.



**If you haven't updated your details with Council recently, please contact us and we will check the records for you. If you have an email address and mobile number or have changed your number, let us know and we will add this to you pet's records. The more ways we have to contact you the more chance we have of getting your dog safely home to you.**



## *Barking dog complaints*

Council receives around 300 nuisance dog barking complaints every year. If your dog barks a lot and unreasonably disturbs your neighbours, they can make a complaint to Council. Dogs tend to bark a lot if they are lonely, bored or not getting enough exercise. Some of these ideas may be helpful if your dog is left at home for periods of time:

- Exercise - owners should try to take their dog for a good walk in the morning before they leave for work. This can help to tire the dog out and reduce anxiety levels.
- Organise a dog 'walker' or dog 'minder' to visit the dog during the middle of the day.
- Providing chew toys and toys with food treats stuffed inside them can help to preoccupy a dog for some time. Providing a raw meaty bone can also provide hours of chewing time for the dog.
- It can be useful to leave a radio or television playing quietly.
- Blocking the dog's view to the street. If people walking by your property is the cause of your dog's barking, you could try moving your dog to the back of the property or placing something such as thick shade cloth across the front fence or gate.

Advice from your local veterinarian or dog trainer may be helpful.

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## State Government Levy

Under the Domestic Animals Act 1994, the State Government applied a levy of \$2 for every cat registration and \$3.50 for every dog registration each year. The levy is collected by Councils through the annual registration process and forwarded to the State Government.

This year, the Treasurer has increased the levy to \$4 for each animal. This rate may increase annually. The levy pays for a variety of services such as:

- Policy and legislation development such as the Domestic Animals Amendment (Puppy Farms and Pet Shops) Act 2017
- Community education, including the Responsible Pet Ownership (RPO) Program and online training courses for Responsible Dog Ownership, Responsible Cat Ownership and the Breeding of Dogs and Cats in Victoria
- Administration and maintenance of the Victorian Declared Dog Registry, Banning Order and Microchip Implanters Database
- Auditing and licensing of council-owned pounds and domestic animal businesses
- Development of procedures, protocols and templates to support the effective administration of the Domestic Animal Act.

This owner was happy to be reunited with her three dogs that had been missing overnight.

Their up-to-date registrations saved the owner a trip to the pound and the cost of impound fees.



## Are your contact details up to date?

Keeping your pet's microchip records up to date is just as important as updating your registration details so you can be contacted should your loved one go missing.

A full list of microchipping agencies can be found at [greaterdandenong.com/animalmicrochipping](http://greaterdandenong.com/animalmicrochipping)



## Off-leash dog parks

One of the many things registration fees contribute towards is the development of dog off-leash parks across the municipality. A full list of the off-leash areas can be found at [greaterdandenong.com/dogoffleash](http://greaterdandenong.com/dogoffleash) or find the ones closest to you at [greaterdandenong.com/locate](http://greaterdandenong.com/locate)

Council is currently looking at our dog off-leash park areas and how we can continue to improve them. In the coming weeks we will be asking the community what you think about our dog off-leash parks and whether we should be looking to expand the number in Greater Dandenong.

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