



**HUON VALLEY
COUNCIL**

HUON VALLEY DOG MANAGEMENT POLICY

GOV-DEV 009

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Date of review	To be reviewed at least once every five years or as required as a result of any legislative change or change in community needs or circumstances
Previous policies withdrawn or amended	<i>Huon Valley Dog Management Policy</i> developed September 2001 and reviewed in March 2008
Department responsible for implementation	Infrastructure and Assets / People and Corporate Services
Department responsible for policy	Infrastructure and Assets
Publication of policy	On the Council Website and for inspection at and free from the Council Customer Service Centre

1. PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

1.1 Background

Dog ownership is an established and constructive part of life for many people in the Huon Valley community, whether for assistance, companionship or business.

1.2 Legislative Context

The *Dog Control Act 2000* (“the Act”) statutorily appoints a Council as the principal body with authority to administer the Act.

The Act provides a regulatory basis for balancing the rights and responsibilities of dog owners against the rights and expectations of the community at large to feel free from likely risk of threat, harm and nuisance caused by dogs.

The Act holds a dog owner responsible for the actions and behaviour of their dog, and creates a number of obligations on the owner to register and control that dog.

Section 7 of the Act requires a Council to develop and implement a Dog Management Policy for the Municipal area. The Policy must include the following matters:

- A Code relating to responsible ownership of dogs.
- The provision of declared areas.
- A fee structure.
- Any other relevant matter.

1.3 Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to provide a Dog Management Policy in accordance with the Act relating to dog management in the Huon Valley Municipal Area.

This Policy does not set out or reproduce all the detail in the Act of the Regulations and therefore it should be noted that the Act and Regulations will be the determining basis of any specific matter. The Policy may however, where applicable, guide those considerations and determinations and define declared areas as per Division 2 of the Act.

1.4 Objectives

The objectives of this Policy are to:

- provide an operational framework for the actions necessary to meet the Council’s statutory obligations and responsibilities to ensure dog ownership within the municipal area;
- minimise likely risk of threat or harm to the amenity and safety of the community;
- facilitate the pleasures and benefits of dog ownership in a responsible and harmonious manner;
- actively support and promote responsible dog ownership through the development of a Code relating to responsible ownership of dogs;
- ensure that owners of dogs comply with their obligations under the Act to prevent the danger caused by dogs to the public and to other dogs and animals;

- provide, and review, those areas where dogs are permitted, both on-lead and off-lead, and areas where dogs are prohibited or restricted;
- reduce the risk to the community from anti-social and straying dogs through education, routine patrols, and the prompt investigation of concerns and complaints of dog-related issues. Where appropriate enforcement provisions of the Act and the *Local Government Act 1993* will be utilised to penalise breaches of those statutes.

2. DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Policy the following words shall have the following meanings:

“Act” means the *Dog Control Act 2000*;

” Assistance Dog” means a dog as defined as an assistance animal by Section 9(2) of the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth)*;

As at the date of this Policy “Assistance Dog” if defined under section 9(2) as a dog:

(a) accredited under a law of a State or Territory that provides for the accreditation of animals trained to assist a persons with a disability to alleviate the effect of the disability; or

(b) accredited by an animal training organisation prescribed by the regulations for the purposes of this paragraph; or

(c) trained:

(i) to assist a person with a disability to alleviate the effect of the disability; and

(ii) to meet standards of hygiene and behaviour that are appropriate for an animal in a public place.

“Authorised Person” means - as per section 3 of the Act;

As at the date of this Policy “Authorised Person” is defined under section 3 as: means :

(a) a police officer; or

(b) a general manager; or

(c) a person appointed by a general manager to be an authorised person; or

(d) a person who is a ranger under the [Nature Conservation Act 2002](#) ; or

(da) a person who is a ranger under the [National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002](#) ; or

(e) a person appointed as a bailiff of Crown lands under the [Crown Lands Act 1976](#) ;

“Council” means Huon Valley Council;

“Council Officer” means a person employed by the Council for the purpose of the Act and includes an Authorised Person

“Effective Control” has the meaning as a dog under effective control in section 4 of the Act;

As at the date of this Policy “A Dog Under Effective Control” is:

(1) A dog, other than a greyhound, a dangerous dog or a restricted breed dog, is under the effective control of a person in a public place if the dog is –

(a) on a road or road-related area in a built-up area, or any other public place declared under [Division 2](#) of [Part 3](#) to be an area where a dog must be on a lead, and the dog is secured and restrained by means of a lead not more than 2 metres long held by hand by a person able to control the dog; or

(b) tethered to a fixed object by a lead not more than 2 metres long for a period not more than 30 minutes.

(2) A dog, other than a greyhound, a dangerous dog or a restricted breed dog, is under the effective control of a person while not on a lead if the dog is –

(a) a working dog engaged in working; or

(b) a hunting dog engaged in hunting; or

(c) engaged in racing or showing; or

(d) engaged in trialling; or

(e) engaged in training for any activity referred to in [paragraph \(a\)](#) , [\(b\)](#) , [\(c\)](#) or [\(d\)](#) ; or

(f) engaged in training in a training area.

(3) In an area where a dog is not required to be on a lead, a dog, other than a greyhound, a dangerous dog or a restricted breed dog, is under the effective control of a person if –

(a) it is in close proximity to the person; and
(b) it is in sight of the person; and
(c) the person is able to demonstrate to the satisfaction of an authorised person that the dog is immediately responsive to the person's commands.

“Guard Dog” has the meaning for a Guard Dog in section 3 of the Act;

As at the date of this Policy “Guard Dog” is defined under section 3 as: means a dog used to guard premises that are not residential premises.

“Guide Dog” has the meaning for a Guide Dog in section 3 of the Act;

As at the date of this Policy “Guard Dog” is defined under section 3 as: means:

- (a) a guide dog as defined by the [Guide Dogs and Hearing Dogs Act 1967](#); or
(b) a dog training to be a guide dog;

“Hearing Dog” has the meaning for a Hearing Dog in section 3 of the Act;

As at the date of this Policy “Hearing Dog” is defined under section 3 as: means:

- (a) a hearing dog as defined by the [Guide Dogs and Hearing Dogs Act 1967](#); and
(b) a dog training to be a hearing dog;

“Greyhound” has the meaning for a greyhound in section 3 of the *Racing Regulation and Integrity Act 2024*;

As at the date of this Policy “Greyhound” is defined under section 3 as: means: a greyhound dog bred for the purposes of racing

“Hunting Dog” has the meaning for a Hunting Dog in section 3 of the Act;

As at the date of this Policy “Hunting Dog” is defined under section 3 as: means a dog used principally for hunting.

“Non-Sterilised Dog” means a male or female domestic dog that has not been neutered or spayed;

“Pensioner’s Dog” means a dog owned by person as referred to in the *Local Government (Rates and Charges) Remission Act 1991*;

“Pure Breed Dog” means a pure breed dog kept for breeding purposes and registered with the Tasmanian Canine Association (TCA);

“Regulations” means the *Dog Control Regulations 2021*;

“Restricted Breed Dog” means a dog declared to be a restricted breed dog under section 29A of the Act;

As at the date of this Policy “Restricted Breed Dog” is declared under section 29A of the Act as:

- (1) An authorised person, by notice served on the owner of a dog, may declare that dog to be a restricted breed dog if the authorised person, having regard to any approved guidelines relating to restricted breeds, is satisfied that the dog is a dog of a restricted breed.
(2) A notice under [subsection \(1\)](#) is to –
(a) state the reasons for the declaration; and
(b) advise the owner of the right of appeal under [section 31](#) .
(3) For the purposes of [subsection \(1\)](#) , the following breeds of dog are restricted breeds:
(a) dogo Argentino;
(b) fila Brasileiro;
(c) Japanese tosa;
(d) American pit bull terrier or pit bull terrier;
(e) Perro de Presa Canario or Presa Canario;
(f) any other breed, kind or description of dog whose importation into Australia is prohibited by or under the [Customs Act 1901](#) of the Commonwealth.

“Sterilised Dog” means a male or female domestic dog that has been surgically sterilised by a Veterinary Surgeon, or a male or female domestic dog that is totally and permanently incapable of reproducing due to age or medical condition;

“Working Dog” has the meaning for a Working Dog in section 3 of the Act;

As at the date of this Policy “Working Dog” is defined under section 3 as: means a dog used principally for –

- (a) droving or tending livestock; or*
- (b) detecting illegal substances; or*
- (c) searching, tracking or rescuing; or*
- (d) working with police officers.*

3 POLICY STATEMENT

3.1 Policy statement:

Huon Valley Council recognises that dog ownership is a lifestyle choice of a significant proportion of the community, and is committed to facilitating a harmonious relationship between dog and non-dog owners, by providing appropriate facilities and guidelines to ensure the quality of life for residents, and for the dogs themselves.

The Council is committed to maintaining standards by being outcome focused and by means of positive education wherever possible. In the event that education avenues are not effective in addressing infringing behaviours with regard to dog management, enforcement and compliance action is available and will be undertaken where necessary or appropriate.

The Council will exercise its responsibilities in relation to dog control in accordance with the Act, the Regulations, the *Local Government Act 1993* and any relevant legislation or by-laws.

3.2 Dog Registration Fee Structure

In determining fees for dog registration, Council adopts principles of fairness and equity in recognising responsible ownership, limited income opportunities, working dog classification and restricted breed or declared dog classification where appropriate.

Council will set fees for the following categories annually. A late fee will be applied if a renewal is not paid by the due date.

Fee or Charge by Type of Dog	Proof Required	Fee
Sterilised Dog	Certificate of sterilisation, or other acceptable evidence.	An amount as affordable as possible as determined by Council from year to year
Non-Sterilised Dog	Dog is entire/not sterilised	Will be required to pay a higher level of fee
Pensioner’s Dog	Person is in receipt of a current Federal Government Pension Concession Card (PCC) or	Pensioners will be provided with an opportunity to register their first dog (only) at a discounted rate.

	Repatriation Health Care (TPI or DVA Gold Card)	
Guide Dog/Hearing Dog and Assistance Dog.	Owner must satisfy Council that the dog meets the definition of Guide Dog, Hearing Dog or Assistance Dog	No Charge
Pure Breed Dog	Current Stud Prefix issued from the Tasmanian Canine Association Incorporated	Levied a fee that recognises the purpose for which the animal is kept. Discounted Rate.
Working Dog	Owner must satisfy Council that the dog is a <i>bona fide</i> working dog	Discounted Rate
Dangerous Dog/ Restricted Breed Dog	Relevant declaration under the Act	Will be required to pay a substantially higher level of fee considering the risk of the keeping of the dog to the community
Guard Dog	Relevant notification and declaration under the Act	To pay the same rate as an unsterilised dog
Hunting Dog	Owner must satisfy Council that the dog is a <i>bona fide</i> hunting dog – Current Tasmanian Game Licence required	To pay the same rate as an unsterilised dog

3.3 Declared Areas

The Act defines specific classes of declared areas under Division 2 of the Act.

Council is given the authority to declare areas within the Huon Valley Municipal Area, with the exception of prohibited public areas, which are specified by the Act.

Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS), Property Services manages Crown reserved land, under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002*. Most land management functions undertaken by PWS are governed by the *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002* and the *National Parks and Reserved Land Regulations 2019*. The remainder of Crown land is managed in accordance with the *Crown Lands Act 1976*.

3.3.1 Dog Exercise Areas

3.3.1.1 Declared Areas

The Council may declare an area to be an area where dogs may be exercised, subject to any specified conditions.

To ensure residents and their dogs have access to exercise areas Council has declared dog exercise areas in the close proximity to each major population centre.

Declared exercise areas do not, as a matter of course, come with specific improvements other than the placement of a bin for the disposal of dog faeces.

It is acknowledged that, where possible, exercise areas need to be easily identified, accessible and usable for dog owners, and it is important to plan public open space areas to consider accommodation of dog owners. To facilitate this, subject to budget and asset management considerations, Council may consider the installation or provision of directional signage and items for the safety and convenience of dogs and users, including but not limited to fencing, seating and shading, as well as opportunities for interactive and educational exercise equipment for dogs.

Off-lead exercise areas are provided as a fun area for you to exercise with your dog. When using an off-lead exercise area do not allow your dog to approach another dog without the owner's permission. Do not allow your dog to harass, annoy, inconvenience or act aggressively towards other dogs or people.

If your dog becomes aggressive, scared or distressed, immediately put them on a lead and remove them from the area until they are calm.

Declared exercise areas in the Huon Valley are described in **Appendix 1**.

3.3.1.2 Dog Exercise Areas Conditions of Use

Owners can exercise up to four dogs (that are not a dangerous dog, restricted breed dog or a Greyhound), off lead in a dog exercise area.

Dogs must be under effective control at all times whilst in an exercise area.

For your dog to be under effective control while in an off-lead area it must remain in close proximity to you, be in sight of you at all times and be immediately responsive to your commands.

If you cannot confidently ensure you have your dog under effective control when off-lead you must keep your dog on a lead.

3.3.2 Restricted areas

Council may declare an area to be an area where dogs, other than guide dogs or hearing dogs, are restricted from entering;

- (a) During Specified hours, days or season; or
- (b) During Specified hours, days or seasons unless they are on a lead; or
- (c) At all times.

Council has not declared any restricted areas as at the date of this Policy and any future declarations will be considered on its merit.

3.3.3 Prohibited areas:

Council may declare an area containing sensitive habitat for native wildlife to be an area where dogs are prohibited from entering, unless the dog is a guide dog or a hearing dog or assistance dog and is accompanying the owner.

In addition to the public areas defined under Section 28 of the Act, Declared Prohibited Areas in the Huon Valley are described in **Appendix 2**.

Section 28 of the Act defines the following as prohibited public areas that dogs are prohibited from entering and is not discretionary to Council:

- a) Any grounds of a school, preschool, kindergarten, creche or other place for the reception of children without the permission of a person in charge of the place; or
- b) Any shopping centre or any shop; or
- c) The grounds of a public swimming pool; or
- d) Any playing area of a sportsground on which sport is being played; or
- e) Any area within 10 metres of a children's playground.

There are exceptions for prohibited public areas under section 28(2) of the Act to allow dogs into veterinary, pet shop, pet grooming premises and other places related to the care and management of dogs.

3.3.4 Declared Training Areas

The Council may declare an area where dogs can be trained either on or off lead subject to specified conditions.

The Council has not declared any training areas as at the date of this Policy and any future declarations will be considered on the particular circumstances of the case.

3.4 Education

Council will endeavour to provide education to the community regarding responsible dog ownership and compliance with the Act by collaborating with experts such as vets, animal behaviorists, or organisations such as the Dogs Home, local shelters or RSPCA for specialist advice.

New dog owners are also referred to the *Huon Valley Code of Responsible Dog Ownership*. See Clause 3.6.

3.5 Enforcement Principles

3.5.1 Enforcement Policy

Enforcement will be undertaken in accordance with the Council's Policy relating to Enforcement as adopted from time to time.

3.5.2 Dangerous Dogs

Section 29 of the Act provides that the Chief Executive Officer may declare that a dog be a dangerous dog if:

- the dog has caused serious injury to a person or another animal; or
- there is reasonable cause to believe that the dog is likely to cause serious injury to a person or another animal

When considering the exercise of discretion to declare that a dog is a dangerous dog pursuant to section 29 of the Act, the Chief Executive Officer will consider:

- The severity of any injury/incident
- Previous history/pattern of behaviour
- The circumstances of the incident.
- Whether the behaviour was provoked
- Steps taken by the owner to prevent incidents
- Public safety factors
- Expert Evidence
- Alternative measures available

The following matters are irrelevant considerations:

- Personal views about an individual dog or dog breeds;
- Unrelated complaints about the owner/person in charge of the dog;
- Political/public pressure
- Financial implications.

As a matter of Council Policy, the location of the incident of the dog being in a public place and/or at large will be a factor in favour of issuing a declaration.

3.6 Huon Valley Code of Responsible Dog Ownership

3.6.1 Background to the Code

Dog ownership satisfies many human needs, they fulfil a working role, a recreational role, a protective role and a companionship role. Dog ownership can improve the quality of human lives on both a psychological and physical level. However, if not managed responsibly they can exhibit behaviours that may have a negative impact on individuals or the broader community. In order to achieve the objective of this Policy it is considered necessary to have in place a code of responsible dog ownership.

3.6.2 Purpose of the Code

The purpose of the Code is to foster and promote understanding of the importance of being a responsible dog owner and to provide dog owners or prospective dog owners with guidelines to assist in providing a caring and safe environment for their dog/s. The desired outcome is a healthy, happy, contented suitably trained dog that does not negatively impact on its surrounding community.

Whilst the Code is not mandatory it does set out best practices principles and acceptable community expectations as to what responsible dog ownership means.

3.6.2 The Code

The Code is contained in Appendix 3.

4. APPLICATION

This Policy applies to the Council in implementing the requirements of the Act in relation to dog control and all dog owners within the Municipal Area.

5. PROCEDURES

5.1 Council Officers

The Chief Executive Officer will appoint Council Officers for the purposes of administering the Act.

The role of Council Officers will include the administration and enforcement of the Act. The Officers will be consultative in their approach and will work with community members to endeavour to achieve the best outcome for dogs and their owners. Council Officers will patrol the Huon Valley, attend to complaints and requests appropriately made by members of the community.

5.2 Hours of Operation

Council Officers will be on duty during standard office hours, subject to resource and availability, and will conduct regular patrols and respond as soon as practicable to:

- reports of dogs attacking people or animals;
- formal complaints regarding dog nuisance;
- reports of dogs at large.

5.3 After Hours

Outside of Council's standard business hours Council will endeavour to provide an emergency out-of-hours service to respond to reports of:

- dog attacks on people and animals;
- dogs at large that are causing a traffic hazard on a major road;

- where a dog at large has been restrained within a property, arrange for collection or delivery to the Pound the next business day.

5.4 Complaints

5.4.1 Making of Complaints

Complaints may be made appropriately in the following manner:

- Via HVC's online complaints form (www.huonvalley.tas.gov.au/requests-and-feedback/customer-complaints-form/).
- Via email to hvc@huonvalley.tas.gov.au. In person, at the Council Chambers, via Customer Service Officers.
- Via telephone to Council's Customer Service Officers (6264 0300).
- Via the Snap Send Solve, mobile application (snapsendsolve.com).

5.4.2 Nuisance Complaints

Those wishing to lodge a formal complaint in accordance with Section 47 of the Act are required by the Act to;

- Pay the applicable fee, and
- Complete a nuisance complaint form, and
- State the nature of the nuisance.

If a complainant is not prepared to lodge a Nuisance Complaint and/or not prepared to appear as a witness in court, Council may determine that no further action can be taken in regard to the complaint.

5.4.3 Confidentiality

Council Officers maintain the right to ask for the complainant's name, address, dates of birth, telephone number or email. It is essential that Council Officers have access to this information so that they may clarify details, seek further information and respond to complaints.

Information provided is strictly confidential and can only be used for Council business or subject to disclosure as required by law and considering any applicable Council Policy.

5.5 Municipal Dog Pound

Council will operate a Pound. The pound will be operated in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and the *Animal Welfare (Dogs) Regulations 2016*

Council Officers have the power to seize and impound any dog, including but not limited to the following:

- A dog that is at large;
- If the Officer has a reasonable belief that the owner or person in charge of a dog has committed an offence under the Act;
- If the Officer has reasonable belief a dog that been involved in an attack, as per section 19, Dogs Attacking Persons or Animals, of the Act;

- If the Officer has reasonable belief a dangerous dog or a restricted breed dog is not under effective control, as per section 32, Effective control of dangerous dogs and restricted breed dogs, of the Act.

Impounded dogs that are currently registered will be held for a minimum period of 5 working days before any further action.

A dog that has been seized under sections 19 and 32 of the Act may be held for up to 7 working days or if proceedings are commenced until proceedings are completed.

Dogs that are not registered will be kept for a minimum period of 3 working days. All reasonable steps will be made to identify the owner of the dog. The dog that is seized may be implanted in an approved manner with an approved microchip. The owner of the dog is liable for the costs associated with the implanting.

Dogs will be released from the Pound in accordance with the Act.

5.6 Re-Homing Dogs – Dogs’ Homes of Tasmania

The Council will make every effort to secure an alternative home for detained dogs, including keeping dogs for longer than the statutory period.

Council has a partnership with Dogs’ Homes of Tasmania which enables the Council to transfer dogs and thus, provide the Huon Valley Community with a broader range of services in relation to dog management in the municipal area. Dogs’ Homes of Tasmania is a registered not for profit organisation dedicated to rehoming homeless and unwanted dogs and has facilities and resources available to provide for their care and where necessary the humane euthanasia of animals. Dogs will be euthanised as a last resort when necessary.

Exceptions where dogs may not be transferred to Dogs’ Homes of Tasmania include the following: -

- Dogs’ Homes of Tasmania do not have capacity or ability to take the dog (under their “Licence to Keep Dogs”) and Council’s Pound does not have capacity to retain the dog.
- Council cannot make contact with Dogs’ Homes of Tasmania for urgent dog transfer.
- Behaviour of a dog is assessed as too dangerous to transport.
- The dog has been injured and requires immediate euthanasia or transportation to a qualified veterinarian.
- Court order requires Council authorised person only to euthanise dog as laid out in Section 62 of the Act.

APPENDIX 1

DECLARED DOG EXERCISE AREAS

See Clause 3.3.1 of the Policy

<p>Ranelagh Showground</p> 	<p>The area west of the unmade section of Elizabeth Street to the western boundary excluding the area utilised by the Huon and Channel Kennel Club as dog shown areas.</p>
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<p>Franklin Foreshore</p> 	<p>The area South of the Franklin Bowls Club to the southern-most toilet block excluding the RV Site.</p>
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<p>Geeveston</p> 	<p>The fenced area of land on Heritage Park in Arve Road between the CMCA caravan Park and the Children's playground.</p>
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<p>Huonville</p> 	<p>The fenced area in Heron Street, Huonville between the Huonville Scout Hall and the Huonville Swimming Pool Car Park.</p>
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Shipwrights Point Regatta Ground



The Shipwrights Regatta Ground at Huon Highway, Port Huon excluding the children's playground.

Kent Beach Road Dover



Kent Beach, Dover – East of Knobby Point to slipway.

Cygnets



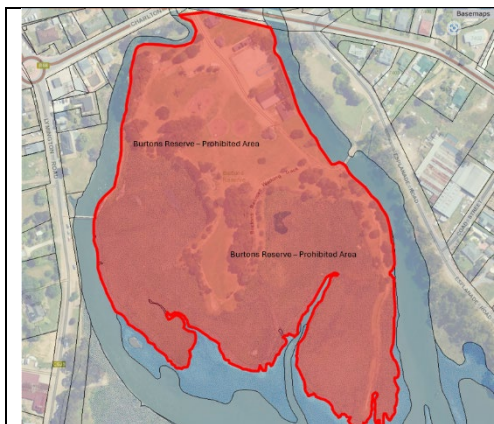
The fenced area between the wood chopping area and the Port Cygnet Men's Shed within the Cygnet Recreation Ground (Certificate of Title 35309/1) subject to the following conditions:

- (i) Use of the Exercise Area is prohibited when the Cygnet Recreation Ground is being exclusively used for an event.
- (ii) Dogs are not permitted on the Cygnet Oval.

APPENDIX 2

PROHIBITED AREAS

See Clause 3.6 of the Policy



The entire Burton's Reserve land at Charlton Street Cygnet

APPENDIX 3

CODE OF RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP

See Clause 3.6 of the Policy

The Code of responsible dog ownership is a commonsense approach to establishing a foundation of easily followed guidelines based on the principles of practical selection, humane keeping, regulatory compliance and respect set out as follows:

(a) Select the Appropriate Dog

- Select a pet that best suits your circumstances i.e. lifestyle, family, budget and property. It may be that a dog is not the best choice of pet in the first place;
- Select a dog breed that best suits your circumstances. Remember you are committing to a long-term companion animal relationship, different breeds of dogs will vary from an 8 year to a possible 20-year lifespan;
- Research/investigate the original purpose of your choice of dog breed because underlying instincts may remain even after generations of cross breeding (ie. herding, guarding, hunting, household companion).
- Research the type of dogs that will fit into an owners' environment and lifestyle, such as find out how big your choice of dog will grow and decide if you yard/house will suit it at full growth.
- The more suited your dog is to your circumstances the easier and more enjoyable it will become for you, your dog, your neighbours and the community in general.

(b) Health and Well-Being

- Ensure that the dog receives proper care and attention;
- Learn about grooming requirements needed to achieve the desired breed look. Some breeds need lots while others need little.
- Provide adequate shelter for your dog/s, warm covered protection in winter and shade in summer. Ensure it is ventilated, dry and the entrance is away from prevailing winds/rain.
- Provide for an adequate and appropriate diet. Some foods are simply not good for dogs.
- Ensure there is ample fresh water for your dog/s.
- Ensure your dog/s receive regular exercise and sensory stimulation.
- Maintain the health of your dog(s) health with regular vaccinations, worming, de-fleeing and veterinarian checks;
- Dogs should be regularly exercised. Not all breeds of dogs are the same and some require more exercise than others. It is important to understand your dog's needs for exercise, so you are able to provide adequate exercise to fit in with your fitness, health and lifestyle. A well exercised dog is a satisfied dog.
- Avoid taking young puppies into off leash dog areas until at least 6 months.
- Consider taking your dog to education programmes including socialisation and behavioural training. Stimulation of a dog's mind is important and will be rewarding for you as the owner and for future socialisation with other dogs.
- Provide suitable toys/raw bones for entertainment and mental stimulation, which can assist to alleviate boredom.
- Do not leave dogs unattended in motor vehicles during periods of warmer temperatures.

(c) Social Responsibility

- Ensure your dog/s receive early and ongoing socialisation and exposure to the community in which it lives in order to create a balance of confidence and contentment i.e. appropriately socialise your dog/s with other animals and people in various surroundings, and exercise your dog/s regularly, varying the route, thereby introducing your dog/s to new sights, sounds, odours and experiences. Appropriately socialised well-adjusted dogs are less likely to develop unwanted behavioural traits.
- Take your dog/s to obedience training. Poor manners in dogs are the predominant reason why people dispose of them, or the cause of complaints about them. Training organisations can be found in telephone directories or by contacting the Tasmanian Canine Association.
- Ensure your dog/s does not create a nuisance by barking excessively or unreasonably which may interfere with the amenity of others in the community.
- Clean up and appropriately dispose of your dog's faeces, both in a public place and on your own private property.
- Always ensure your dog/s remain under effective control when in public i.e. on a lead where required, and responsive to command at all times.
- Maintain your property to ensure your dog/s remains secure at all times and cannot roam.
- De-sexing will eliminate unwanted litters and generally improve the dog's health and lifespan.
- Do not permit your dog/s to act aggressively toward people or other animals. Adopt all necessary precautions if you are aware that your dog may become aggressive.
- Take all reasonable steps to ensure that the dog does not injure, endanger, or cause distress to any stock, poultry, domestic animals or wildlife.

(d) Identification and legislative compliance

- All dogs over six months of age must be registered and microchipped;
- A lifetime dog tag will be provided by Council on Registration and must be attached to the Collar of the Dog;
- Apply for a licence to keep dogs if more than two dogs (over the age of six months) are kept on the property.
- Ensure you advise Council of any change in circumstances, such as, change of ownership, change of address, new telephone contact numbers etc.

(e) Regulatory and Compliance

- Responsible dog owners are aware of and prepared to comply with the requirements of laws and regulations as set by governing bodies, and accept that Councils are required to enforce these provisions.

Once you have committed to the decision of owning a dog you must remember, it is- 'Your Dog Your Responsibility'