

Fact Sheet

Dog and Cat Enclosures

Owning a domestic pet in Queensland is both a basic right and a serious responsibility. Queensland's Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008 and Council's Local Laws impose strict criteria on the responsibility of animal owners.

Why provide an enclosure on my property?

Council's Local Law 2 (Animal Management) 2011 states:

"A person who keeps an animal must maintain a proper enclosure to prevent the animal from wandering or escaping from the person's land."

Furthermore, animals that are not safely contained on private property can risk being injured or causing injury to others and they may:

- become a traffic hazard for motorists
- risk injuring persons or other animals
- can display territorial aggression
- can be a danger to wildlife
- be impounded for their safety and the safety of the community
- have an increased risk of contracting and spreading diseases
- cause a nuisance to the neighbourhood/community

Minimum Standards and Tips

A person who keeps an animal must maintain a proper enclosure in accordance with Council's Local Laws. Generally, this means that the enclosure must stop them from going over, under or through your fence.

In order to comply with Council's Local Laws on enclosures, consideration should be given to whether:

- dogs and/or cats are effectively contained within an adequate enclosure
- dog and/or cat runs are constructed of relevant dog or cat proof mesh fencing
- the materials used are sufficiently strong and firm
- there are any gaps in the enclosure that require your attention
- you have installed self closing/self latching gates
- your dog/cat can enter your house/garage from the enclosure? If so, what steps are in place to ensure the dog/cat cannot enter public land or other private property through an open door?
- your dog and/or cat can dig under or climb over the enclosure?



It is important to regularly check your enclosure to ensure it continues to be capable of containing your dog/cat.

Enclosures should be constructed and maintained in a way that meet the needs of your animal to ensure they are comfortable, safe and cared for, with the inclusion of adequate shade and water, and of a suitable size.

Did you know that all persons have the right to safe access to your front door for a lawful purpose?

If you have a dog that may act in a way that causes fear or apprehension to a person, you may wish to display a "do not enter" sign or equivalent.

Community Rights

All members of our community have the right to live peacefully without interference from other people's pets.

Unaccompanied animals roaming the streets are at risk and all residents have a right and responsibility to have them rescued and either taken to a refuge or returned to their owners.

Owner's legal obligations

If your cat or dog causes any injuries or damage, you may be held liable for these actions and Council may commence enforcement.

Any enforcement commenced by Council does not negate any civil action that may be commenced by an aggrieved party.

**For further information please contact
Banana Shire Council on 07 4992 9500**