

Responsible Dog Ownership

This checklist is designed as a guidance tool to assist you with a decision on whether to keep a dog as a pet. These requirements are based on the *Animal Management (Dogs and Cats) Act 2008* and Councils' local laws.

Animal enclosure and handling		✓
Objective	Standards	
Proper housing contributes to good health and well-being of dogs	Minimum dimensions are met	
	Keep and maintain sanitary conditions	
	Materials and construction are appropriate	
	Meets the requirements for the dog's health and well-being, such as sufficient shelter from the weather	
Noise management prevents nuisance to neighbours and the community	Manage animal to prevent noise nuisance	
	Structural provisions in place limit nuisance	
	Sufficient exercise and stimulation to prevent boredom	
Security methods prevent accidental or unauthorised access to dog, facilities or dangerous materials	Dogs are kept reasonably secured to prevent access by unauthorised people	
	All potential poisons and harmful substances, whether in storage or in use, must be kept out of reach of dogs	
Minimum standard tips	Enclosure is constructed of relevant dog-proof mesh	
	Check for any gaps in the fencing	
	Are the gates self-closing/self-latching?	

Food and water		✓
Objective	Standards	
Dogs receive appropriate and sufficient food and water to maintain good health and growth, recognising the special needs of differing ages, species and states, such as puppies or older dogs	Diets are nutritionally balanced and appropriate to the particular needs of each animal	
	Fresh water is available at all times	
	Food must be stored appropriately to prevent its deterioration and contamination	

Sourcing of dogs		✓
Objective	Standards	
Temperament and suitability considerations	Is your property size suitable for the dog's exercise needs?	
	If you have children, is the breed good with children?	
	Does the breed have specific medical, exercise, or grooming needs?	
Dogs are sourced responsibly to ensure the welfare of the dogs and to prevent poor breeding practices	Sources have a local government breeders permit and/or are recognised breed societies	
	Dogs supplied are healthy, bright, alert, social and are provided with a health guarantee	
	Documentation of health care, medical history and genetic problems are maintained	
RSPCA or Animal Shelter	Contact your local pound/shelter or RSPCA to identify if there is a dog that needs a home	

Hygiene		✓
Objective	Standards	
Pest prevention and control measures should be implemented on specialist advice and manufacturer's instructions to protect the health and safety of dogs and dog carers	Routine and preventative treatment plan in place	
	Waste waters are drained in a nuisance free manner and the run-off is kept off adjoining land	
	Dog faeces are collected and disposed of in a sanitary manner	

Socialisation, exercise, enrichment and training		✓
Objective	Standards	
Dogs are well-socialised and provided with positive physical and mental stimulation to be friendly, confident and well-adjusted to home life	New owners are informed and encouraged to continue the training and socialisation process	
	Dogs are provided with physical and mental enrichment through exposure to a variety of safe, non-threatening objects and activities	

Health care		✓
Objective	Standards	
Dogs are cared for to maximise their health and well-being and minimise health risks to other dogs and the community	Established liaison with a veterinary practitioner	
	Routine preventative treatment plan is in place	
	Health and welfare of your dog is monitored regularly to detect signs of disease, injury and distress with treatment provided where necessary	
	Euthanasia is only used for the relief of incurable illness, chronic pain and suffering and only performed by a veterinarian	
	Scheduled vaccinations are performed by a veterinarian	
	Have your dog micro-chipped by a veterinarian	
	Desexing puppies and dogs contributes to reducing unwanted litters	

Rearing of young dogs (puppies)		✓
Objective	Standards	
Puppies are cared for to maximise their health and well-being and minimise health risks to other dogs and the community	Routine preventative treatment plan, in addition to the health and welfare monitoring of your dog, is in place	
	Complete and maintain written medical records for each animal	

Transfer of ownership		✓
Objective	Standards	
The transfer of ownership of your dog/s should be used to promote socially responsible pet ownership	Appropriately identify dogs as per legislative requirements and notify new owners of their obligations (i.e. micro-chipping). Micro-chipping cannot occur prior to 12 weeks of age	
The future welfare of your dog is the primary obligation when selling or re-homing	Important information about the individual animal, such as health care are provided to new owners	

Transfer of ownership ✓

Objective	Standards
Transporting your dog to new owners should be conducted with minimal distress to the animal	Transportation of your dog is undertaken according to the requirements of the individual animal and the current IATA Live Animal Regulations

Owner acknowledgement

I have reviewed and completed the above self-assessment checklist. I acknowledge I understand the responsibilities imposed upon me in accordance with the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008, Animal Care and Protection Act 2011* and Council's local laws.

Date:

Signature: