

## Dispute Resolution

If you have issues with a neighbour's dog or cat, it is recommended that you bring the nuisance to the attention of the pet owner and explore ways to remedy the situation. The Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria can assist neighbours to reach an agreement and can be contacted on 9603 8370.

## The Keeping of Animals

Wyndham City's Local Laws govern the number of animals allowed on residential premises. The keeping of more animals than the Local Law allows requires a permit from Wyndham City.

### Cats & Dogs

Two dogs and two cats or 1 dog and 3 cats are permitted for each residential property. Only one dog and one cat is allowed per flat/unit.

### Birds

Most birds are allowed to be kept in a residential area; however there are some species that are very loud and destructive and a permit may be required.

Up to 10 pigeons can be kept per residential property (excluding owners who owned larger numbers prior to the introduction of this Local Law). Residents who wish to keep more than this number require a permit from Wyndham City. Strict guidelines must also be met for the keeping of pigeons - you can only allow your birds to exercise for two hours after sunrise and two hours before sunset (there are exceptions for race pigeon events). Pigeons must also be kept in a loft.

### Rabbits/Guinea Pigs

Up to four rabbits or four guinea pigs can be kept on a residential property and must have a hutch or similar to be kept in at all times.

### Other Pets

The keeping of reptiles and wildlife is governed by the Department of Primary Industries and some species require permits from this department. It is the responsibility of the owner to ensure they have the relevant permit/licence and to adhere to the codes of practice for keeping the animal. You cannot keep farm animals or livestock in residential areas.

For more information, contact the Department Primary Industries on 136 186 or visit: [www.dpi.vic.gov.au](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au).

## How to Keep Pets on Your Property

Wyndham City has Local Laws that govern how you keep pets on your property. Here are some important points to consider before you take ownership of a pet and before you perform any works such as building structures:

- > The area where the animal is located must be kept in a clean and inoffensive manner and not be injurious or dangerous to any animal or person, in accordance with the codes of practice developed by the Department of Primary Industries and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.
- > Structures such as kennels and aviaries must be at least 1.25 metres from any boundary fence, at least 10 metres from a dwelling and not more than 2.5 metres high.
- > Pets cannot be kept in the front yard of any premises.
- > All food stuffs stored for animals are to be in vermin proof containers.
- > Large structures involving the housing of more than four dogs must have town planning approval and may need to fulfil the requirements of the Domestic Animals Act 1994.
- > Greyhounds have special requirements and permits may be required by Local Laws and Town Planning departments. It is important that you familiarise yourself with these requirements before purchasing greyhounds and before commencing any building works relating to kennels.

### Are there any Penalties?

Under the Domestic Animals Act 1994 and Wyndham City's Local Laws, there are penalties which are enforced if the responsibilities outlined in this brochure are not adhered to. Court action can also be taken if necessary.

### For more information contact...

Wyndham City Legislative Services  
Civic Centre, 45 Princes Highway  
(PO Box 197) Werribee, Vic 3030  
Phone: 9742 0777 (24 hr service)  
Fax: 9741 6237  
Email: [mail@wyndham.vic.gov.au](mailto:mail@wyndham.vic.gov.au)  
Website: [www.wyndham.vic.gov.au](http://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au)



# Keeping pets in Wyndham

## Owning Pets

Owning a pet provides many benefits, but also imparts responsibilities to ensure the pet is cared for properly and is not a nuisance to other residents.

Responsibilities relating to the ownership of dogs and cats are governed by the Domestic Animal Act 1994 and Wyndham City's local laws. For further information about Wyndham City laws relating to animals, visit: [www.wyndham.vic.gov.au](http://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au)

## Dog & Cat Registrations

All dogs and cats aged three months and over must be registered with Wyndham City. Dog and cat registrations are renewed with Wyndham City from 10th April each year. Under new laws, all dogs and cats that have not been previously registered with Wyndham must be microchipped before their registration can be accepted. Registration is discounted for sterilised pets. Proof of microchipping and sterilisation is required at point of registration.

New registrations can be made at the Civic Centre or by mail. The Wyndham City identification tag must be worn by the registered animal at all times.

## Microchipping & Sterilisation

Sterilised pets not only reduce the number of stray animals in the municipality but makes pets less prone to wander, develop aggressive tendencies and mark their territory by 'spraying'. Microchipping is a safe and easy form of permanent identification for your pets and involves a microchip being injected beneath the pet's skin. The microchip contains a unique identification number which identifies your pet through a central registry. Microchipping can be done by your local vet or by an authorised implanter. Wyndham City

offers a microchipping service at the Wyndham City Pound. Contact the Pound on 9742 0958 for further information and appointment times.

## Restricted Breeds & Dangerous Dogs

There are mandatory conditions which apply to restricted breed dogs and dangerous dogs. Restricted Breed Dogs are defined as dogs that fit the Victorian "Approved Standard" for an American Pit Bull Terrier (or Pit Bull Terrier), Perro de Presa Canario (or Presa Canario), Dogo Argentino, Japanese Tosa, or Fila Brasileiro. From 30 September 2011, all dogs fitting the Standard, except where exemptions are given by the Standard, are considered a Restricted Breed Dog.

A dog that is kept for the purpose of guarding non-residential premises or a dog that has been trained to attack is automatically classified as a dangerous dog.

For further information about Restricted Breeds, Dangerous Dogs and your legal responsibilities, contact Wyndham City on 9742 0777 or the Department of Primary Industries on 136 186 or visit [www.dpi.vic.gov.au](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au)

## Trespassing/wandering cats

Wyndham City has traps for residents to hire should a cat be found on their property. Please note that traps are only to be set on private property, not on public land. Contact the Wyndham City Pound on 9742 0958 for more information.

## Barking Dogs

Owners of animals have a responsibility to their surrounding community to ensure that their pet does not make excessive noise or create a nuisance, especially early in the morning or late at night. To minimise dogs barking, it is suggested that owners exercise their dog regularly; improve the dogs sleeping area to ensure it feels secure; and socialise the dog with other people and their dogs. There is also a wide range of toys and products available to help with behavioural problems, which can be found in pet shops and veterinary clinics. If necessary, consult an agency or veterinarian for professional advice regarding your barking dog. Wyndham City has barking dog collars available for hire. Contact the City on 9742 0777 for more information.

We accept animals have to express themselves vocally, we also have to respect other peoples' need for peace and quiet. The laws seek to find a happy medium between the two.

## Dogs Off-Lead

Dogs must be on a lead when they leave a person's private property. Wyndham City requires that owners have effective control of their

# Keeping pets in Wyndham

dog by way of a chain or lead, at all times, even at the front of their premises. It is also the owner's responsibility to remove any waste deposited by their pet, whilst in a public place.

There are designated "off-lead areas" in Wyndham where pet owners can walk their dogs off lead, 7 days a week, 24 hours a day (unless otherwise stated). To ensure all user groups have equal enjoyment of Wyndham City reserves, a number of conditions of use must be adhered to when exercising your dog off-lead in the off-lead areas. Dogs that are unsocialised or aggressive should not be off-lead any time. Officers patrolling on bikes ensure that owners comply with these conditions for the safety of all users.

Details on the off-lead areas in Wyndham as well as the conditions of use, are available from the Civic Centre and from Wyndham City's website, [www.wyndham.vic.gov.au](http://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au)

## Holiday Care

If you are going away on holiday and leaving your pet at home, ensure it is well looked after by a reliable person or employ a home feeding service. Kennels and catteries are also advisable. It is a good idea to let your neighbours know about your pet's situation.

## Lost Pets

If you have lost a pet, visit the Lost Animal Register on Wyndham City's website or contact the Wyndham City Pound located at 253 -255 Old Geelong Rd, Hoppers Crossing. The Pound is open from 8am to 4.30pm, Monday - Friday and can be contacted on 9742 0958. The Lost Dogs Home also holds and receives strays from Wyndham. The Lost Dogs Home can be contacted on 9329 2755.

Dogs that are impounded must be microchipped and registered before they can be legally released back to the owners. If your dog or cat is registered and microchipped and is found by one of Wyndham City's rangers, it means it can be easily identified and returned safely to its owners.

## Advice & Assistance

Wyndham City's Legislation Officers are here to assist residents with advice, practical solutions and enforcement (if necessary) to ensure the safety and amenity of the community.

Wyndham City's Legislative Services Unit can be contacted on 9742 0777, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm.

