

## Owner's Responsibilities

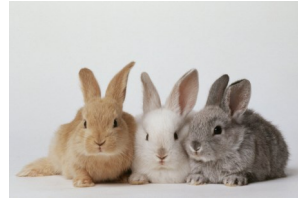
To ensure the comfort, safety and health of the whole community, the Companion Animals Act places certain responsibilities on all pet owners. A summary of the responsibilities are:

- You have a responsibility to look after your pet's basic welfare needs, including the nutritional and energy needs.
- Your pet must, in addition to being microchipped, wear a collar and tag showing the pet's name and your address or telephone number when outside its own property.
- If your pet is in a public place it must be under the effective control of a competent person by means of an adequate chain, cord or leash. The exceptions to this are: dogs exhibited at a show or engaging in obedience classes, your dog is secured in a cage or vehicle, or in an approved off-leash area.
- If your animal defecates in a public place it is an offence not to remove the faeces;
- Your pet should be properly secured with a harness or seat belt when travelling in a car.
- Dogs are prohibited in children's play areas, food preparation areas, recreation areas, public bathing areas, school grounds, child care centers, shopping centers and wildlife Protection Areas.
- Training stimulates your pet helping to prevent boredom, and improves behaviour.

## More Information

Each year, millions of cats are run over by cars, mauled by dogs or lost. Domestic Cats are natural hunters even if your cat is well fed and happy. Help protect your cat and out native wildlife by keeping your cat indoors when possible.

In most cases, cats are allowed to roam freely. However, there are circumstances when a cat may be seized/ impounded. See Council's 'stray and roaming cats' brochure for more information.



If you can no longer care for your rabbit or small pets such as rats, mice, or guinea pigs try to rehome them or take them to a shelter - never release them into bushland, and fish should not be flushed down the drain as they may impact on the local waterway.

### **Dedicated off-leash areas:**

**Eastgrove:** Park Road (Near the fields)

**Victoria Park**

**Garfield Park** (Cnr of Garfield Ave and Francis St)

**Bradfordville** (Jack White Park)

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For further information or advice please contact Goulburn  
Mulwaree Council.

184 Bourke Street, Goulburn NSW 2580

Phone: 02 4823 4444

Fax: 02 4823 4456

E-mail: [council@goulburn.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@goulburn.nsw.gov.au)

Website: <http://www.goulburn.nsw.gov.au>



## Responsible Pet Ownership

## Ranger Services



# Steps for lifetime protection of your pet.

The Companion Animals Act 1998 was introduced in New South Wales to protect pets, people and the wider community. The Companion Animals and Other Legislation Amendment Act became law on 6 June 2018. The Act amends the *Companion Animals Act 1998 (CA Act)* and *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 (POCTA)*

Being a responsible pet owner requires that you understand your obligations under the The Companion Animals and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2018.

## Before purchasing a pet consider the responsibility of owning a pet.

**Dogs need regular exercise.** The amount of exercise your dog requires depends on the breed. Remember to put your dog on a lead when in a public place, other than an off-leash area. Remember to always have your pet under the effective control of a competent person.

**Desexing** your pet is recommended to prevent the likelihood of aggression and reduce unwanted litters.

**Dogs bark naturally**, however barking can become excessive. Dogs bark most frequently when their owner is not at home and can be caused by boredom, anxiety, disturbances, or habit. Ensure you provide enough stimulation for your dog including toys to keep your dog amused during the day.

Please ensure that your cat or dog is, **at all times, wearing a collar and tag with your contact details on it.**

As a dog owner, under the Companion Animals Act 1998, you are required to **pick up after your dog** immediately when out walking or playing, and dispose of dog faeces appropriately. Not picking up after your dog can result in a fine being issued.

**Microchipping and Registration** is a two part process that requires owners to:

1. Have their animals implanted with the microchip from the time they are 12 weeks old or before being sold or given away.
2. Register their animals with their NSW local council by six months of age.

A microchip is about the size of a grain of rice that is quickly implanted under your pet's skin between the shoulders. It contains a unique 15 digit identification number which can be scanned in the event the pet is found, lost or stolen.

There are a number of places that you can have your animal microchipped. The most common are at your preferred Veterinary Clinic, an authorised identifier or at the Council's Companion Animal Facility.

To have a animal registered at Goulburn Mulwaree Council you can either attend the Council Civic Centre located at 184-194 Bourke Street, Goulburn or the Companion Animal Facility located at 41B Ross Street, Goulburn.



All cats and dogs, must be registered by six months of age. The registration fee is a once-only payment, which covers the cat or dog for its lifetime in NSW, regardless of any changes in ownership. You are encouraged to have your cat or dog desexed before registering it.

Registration fees are used by councils for providing animal management related services to the community. These may include ranger services, pound facilities, dog refuse bins, educational and other companion animal-related activities.

If you fail to have your dog or cat microchipped and registered you may be issued with fixed penalty notices. The registration fees vary depending on the circumstance of the animal and the owner. Please see below for the current fees.

◆ Entire (Not De-sexed)	\$207.00
◆ De-sexed	\$57.00
◆ Registered Breeder	\$57.00
◆ Pensioner (De-sexed)	\$24.00
◆ Desexed purchased from pound/shelter	\$28.50
◆ Working Dog/ Assistance Animal	Nil Fee

From July 2016, the Registry will be publicly available for cat and dog owners to update their contact details, report their pet missing, transfer ownership and pay most lifetime registration fees online.

**The Registry** can be found at [www.petregistry.nsw.gov.au](http://www.petregistry.nsw.gov.au)

