

Cats

Cat Curfew

Council has regulations in place that aim to provide a safer environment for pets and native wildlife. Cat owners are required to:

- **Ensure cats are confined to their property, either within the home or within a suitable escape-proof building or structure between the hours of 8pm-6am.**

There are several options available to suit different circumstances including:

- Keeping your cat in your home with you
 - Using a cat enclosure
 - Enclosing your yard, veranda or section of the garden between the house and fence
- Prevent your cats from entering the following Council bushland reserves to ensure that local wildlife is protected from the threat of cats:

COUNCIL BUSHLAND RESERVES

Blackburn Creeklands – Between Middleborough and Blackburn Roads

Blackburn Lake Sanctuary – 80 Central Road, Blackburn

Cootamundra Walk – 35 Williams Road, Blackburn

Wandinong Sanctuary – 153-159 Canterbury Road, Blackburn

Joseph Street Reserve – 53A Joseph Street, Blackburn North

Antonio Park – 22-40 Deep Creek Road, Mitcham

Yarran Dheran – 95 Quarry Road, Mitcham

Bellbird Dell – 123A Terrara Road, Vermont

Koonung Creek Park Parklands – 42 Jackson Avenue, Mont Albert North

RE Gray Reserve – 9-23 Springvale Road, Nunawading

Campbells Croft – 105 Boronia Road, Vermont

- This means that owners need to confine their cats so that they do not enter these bushland reserves at any time. If cats are not confined overnight or prevented from entering these reserves, owners may see their cats impounded and fines issued.
- Brochures that explain how to build cat-proof fencing or cat enclosures are available at www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/living-working/pets/cats/confining-your-cat-your-property or Council's service centres.

Additional Pets

Council has a local law that allows residents to keep a maximum of three dogs or three cats and any combination of the two up to a total of four animals. Pet owners wishing to keep more than the permitted number of pets must obtain a permit from Council.

Subsidised Animal De-sexing Scheme

Council, in partnership with the Australian Veterinary Association, offers a de-sexing scheme for dogs and cats owned by pensioners. Vouchers are available for holders of valid and current pension concession cards at Council's service centres in Nunawading, Box Hill and Forest Hill.

Registration Fees

Animal registration fees contribute to the cost of providing Council's animal management program including payments to the State Government, provision of an animal pound, an animal lost and found service, the management of nuisance animals and aggressive dogs

For annual fees, please refer to your Application to Register Domestic Animal(s) Form or visit www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/living-working/pets/pet-ownership-whitehorse

Further Information

If you require additional information regarding responsible pet ownership, visit Council's website at www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/living-working/pets/pet-ownership-whitehorse or call 9262 6333 or visit Agriculture Victoria at www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/pets



WHITEHORSE

Responsible Pet Ownership

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Whitehorse City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people of the Kulin Nation as the traditional owners of the land. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.



CONTACTING COUNCIL

Postal Address: Whitehorse City Council
Locked Bag 2
Nunawading Delivery Centre 3131

Telephone: 9262 6333

NRS: 133 677 then quote 9262 6333
(Service for deaf or hearing impaired people)

TIS: 131 450
(Telephone Interpreter Service. Call and ask to be connected to Whitehorse City Council)

Email: customer.service@whitehorse.vic.gov.au
Website: www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au

Service Centres: Whitehorse Civic Centre
379-399 Whitehorse Road,
Nunawading 3131

Box Hill Town Hall Service Centre
Box Hill Town Hall
1022 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill 3128

Forest Hill Service Centre
Shop 275
Forest Hill Chase Shopping Centre
Canterbury Road, Forest Hill 3131





Whitehorse City Council has a number of responsible pet ownership initiatives in place that aim to promote animal welfare, protect wildlife and the environment and to reunite lost pets with their owners.

Pet Registration

Dogs and cats must be microchipped and registered with Council by three months of age. Registrations are renewable every year by 10 April. You will be issued with a tag to place on your pet once it is registered to assist in its safe return should your pet go missing.

Council provides lifetime tags. The tag you received previously will not be replaced unless you lose your pet's original tag or if it needs replacing due to wear and tear.

For more information, visit www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/living-working/pets/pet-ownership-whitehorse/register-pet/first-time-pet-registration or contact Council on 9262 6333.

Registration of Pups and Kittens

Council offers free first time pet registration to microchipped and desexed puppies and kittens aged under three months. Visit www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/living-working/pets/pet-ownership-whitehorse/register-pet/first-time-pet-registration to register online or contact Council on 9262 6333.

De-sexing your pet is a responsible choice for pet owners because it helps reduce the numbers of unwanted puppies and kittens and reduces the incidence of roaming, disease and aggression in dogs and cats.

Compulsory De-sexing of Cats

Cats being registered for the first time must also be de-sexed (see [council website](#) on responsible cat ownership and order 8 on compulsory cat de-sexing) unless exempt. Animals currently registered with Whitehorse City Council or any other council are exempt from the compulsory de-sexing requirement.

There are a number of exemptions to de-sexing your cat, including:

- that it is owned by a person who is a current member of an applicable organisation and the cat is registered with that organisation
- Veterinary advice detailing how the de-sexing would be prejudicial to the cat's health.

Updating Your Contact Details

Up-to-date information is vital when trying to reunite pets with their owners. You should update council at petrego@whitehorse.vic.gov.au whenever you change your address, email or phone number.

You should also update your microchip registration company whenever you change phone numbers or address. Ensure you include the animal reference number.

Visit www.petaddress.com.au if you have forgotten or lost the information regarding which microchip registration company your pet is listed with.

Lost Dogs and Cats

If your dog or cat goes missing, it is important to contact Council on 9262 6333 with a description of your pet, where and when it went missing and your contact details as soon as possible. If your pet has identification, it will help Council to reunite you in the shortest possible time.

If you are unable to be contacted, your pet may be taken to the Pound in Coldstream and you will be charged a release fee when you collect your pet. The fee covers the costs incurred while caring for your pet. Council fines may also apply and will be sent to you separately.

Visit www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/living-working/pets/pet-ownership-whitehorse/lost-and-found-pets to view Lost and Found Pet photos and information.

Dogs

Walking Your Dog

Walking your dog is an important part of being a responsible pet owner. Regular walks are not only enjoyable for your dog but will provide wonderful health benefits for you. To balance the needs of people who own dogs with those who don't, dogs are required to be on a leash when they are being walked in public.

Certain areas of our parks (i.e. playgrounds, picnic areas) are set aside for use by other members of the community. Council requires owners to keep their dogs 2.5 metres away from these areas at all times.

During organised sporting events and training sessions, dogs must be kept 2.5 metres away from sportsfields, courts or similar – even if in off-lead areas.

In all other public areas, including streets, always ensure your dog wears its registration tag and is on a lead.

Dog Off Lead Areas

There are 22 parks where you can exercise your dog off lead. Visit www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/living-working/pets/dogs/exercising-your-dog/dog-off-lead-areas for locations

Exercising Your Dog In Our Parks

There are fabulous parks and reserves in Whitehorse for walking your dog. Parks are for the enjoyment and use of everyone so please be mindful to be respectful of other people when walking your dog. A few simple acts can go a long way to ensure we can all enjoy our open space, including:

- Dogs must be on lead unless in a designated off lead area. Keep leads less than 1.5 metres in length so that dogs do not wander into the path of oncoming pedestrians and cyclists
- In an off lead area, dogs must always be under your effective voice or hand control, return to you on command and must not annoy other people or dogs.
- When walking along paths, please keep to the left of the path and move off the path if you want to stop

Dog Droppings

Owners are required to carry a bag to remove and dispose of dog droppings. Dog litter bags can be placed in Council's public litter bins or in your household rubbish bin.

Dogs Prohibited From Wetland Areas

A wetland is a distinct eco system where vegetation or aquatic plants have adapted.

Council has identified a number of environmentally significant wetlands, listed below, that require protection from dogs due to the potential damage they could cause in these sensitive environments.

As a result, dogs are prohibited from entering these specified wetland areas. Remember, you can still exercise your dogs in the reserves where these water bodies are located, but access to the wetlands is prohibited.

WATER BODY
Blackburn Lake Sanctuary – 80 Central Road, Blackburn
Kalang Park – 11 Kalang Street, Blackburn
Box Hill Gardens – 717-731 Station Street, Box Hill
Surrey Dive – 354 Elgar Road, Box Hill
Yarran Dheran – 95 Quarry Road, Mitcham
Miniature Railway – 653-661 Elgar Road, Mont Albert North
Koonung Creek – 42 Jackson Avenue, Mont Albert North
Buckanbe Park – 78 Glenburnie Road, Vermont
Campbells Croft – 105 Boronia Road, Vermont
Bellbird Dell – 123A Terrara Road, Vermont
Morack Billabongs – Morack Road, Vermont South

