

## 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 – search under ‘Pet Shop Suppliers’ or ‘Animal and Pet Enclosures’ in the phone directory or internet for more information
  - Enclosing your yard, veranda or section of the garden between the house and fence
  - Cat-proofing your boundary fence.
- Restrain their cats from entering the following Council bushland reserves to help ensure that local wildlife is protected from the threat of cats:

#### COUNCIL BUSHLAND RESERVES

**Blackburn Creeklands** – Between Middleborough and Blackburn Roads & Whitehorse and Canterbury Roads, Blackburn

**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](http://www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au) or Council’s service centres at Nunawading, Box Hill and Forest Hill.

## 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/Animal-Registrations.html](http://www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/Animal-Registrations.html)

### Further Information

If you require additional information regarding responsible pet ownership, call 9262 6333, visit Council’s website at [www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au](http://www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au) or Agriculture Victoria at [www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/pets](http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/pets)



### Acknowledgement of Country

In the spirit of reconciliation, Whitehorse City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri people as the traditional custodians of the land. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

### Contacting Council

#### Postal Address:

Whitehorse City Council  
Locked Bag 2  
Nunawading Delivery Centre 3131

**Telephone:** 9262 6333

**Fax:** 9262 6490

**NRS:** 133 677  
(Then quote 9262 6333)

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

#### Email:

[customer.service@whitehorse.vic.gov.au](mailto:customer.service@whitehorse.vic.gov.au)

#### Website:

[www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au](http://www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au)

#### Service Centres:

**Whitehorse Civic Centre**  
379-397 Whitehorse Road  
Nunawading 3131

**Box Hill 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

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## Responsible Pet Ownership





**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 on 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 it go missing.

Please note that Council now 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, please 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. Registration forms are available from Council's website at [www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au](http://www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au) and Council's service centres at Nunawading, Box Hill and Forest Hill.

### Compulsory De-sexing

Dogs and cats being registered for the first time must also be de-sexed. Animals currently registered with Whitehorse City Council or any other council are exempt from the compulsory de-sexing requirement.

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.

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

- A dog or cat that is owned by a person who is a current member of an applicable organisation and the animal is registered with that organisation
- A dog or cat that has been examined by a vet who then provides written advice detailing how the de-sexing would be prejudicial to the animal's health.

Further details on other exemptions can be found on Council's website: [www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au](http://www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au)

### Updating Your Contact Details

**You should advise Council and the microchip registration company whenever you change phone numbers or address. Up-to-date information is vital when trying to reunite pets with their owners.**

Visit [www.petaddress.com.au](http://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's Community Laws Department 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 enable Council to reunite you in the shortest possible time.

If you are unable to be contacted, your pet may be impounded 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.

## 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.

### Dog Off Lead Areas

For a listing of parks where you can exercise your dog off lead, visit [www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/Dog-Off-lead-Areas.html](http://www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/Dog-Off-lead-Areas.html)

Certain areas of our parks (i.e. playgrounds, picnic areas and sportsfields) 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 controlled on a leash held in your hand that is no longer than 1.5 metres.

### 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 still be under your effective voice or hand control and must not annoy other people or dogs. Ensure your dog is under control especially near paths
- When walking along paths, please keep to the left of the path and move off the path if you want to stop
- If you are a cyclist, please ride at a slower speed along paths where there are other people and dogs walking and ring your bell to alert others that you are approaching.

### Dog Droppings

Please remember to clean up after your dog 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

Council has identified a number of environmentally significant wetlands in the municipality 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

