



## Wandering Dogs and Enclosures

The Richmond Shire Council encourages all dog owners to provide a proper enclosure to contain their dog/s or cat/s on their property.

### Wandering animals

Animals that are not safely contained on private property can create a number of risks to themselves and to the community including;

- Becoming a traffic hazard for motorists.
- Injuring themselves, persons or other animals.
- Being a danger to wildlife.
- Mating with other animals.
- Having an increased risk of contracting and spreading diseases.
- Becoming a bite risk to innocent people and animals, resulting in your dog being declared a Regulated dog.
- Owners facing civil action from a victim of a menace or an attack.
- Displaying territorial aggression.

***An animal found wandering at large, will be impounded until the owner is found.***

### Enclosure requirements

Having an adequately sized fence for your animal protects you, your animal and your neighbourhood.

As a responsible pet owner, it is important to ensure that your fence or enclosure meets the following requirements:

1. High enough that your dog cannot jump over.
2. Low enough that your dog cannot dig under.
3. Strong enough that your dog cannot push it over.
4. Hole proof so that your dog cannot escape through it.

***Irrespective of your property's zoning or size the Richmond Shire Council fencing standards apply to all residential, commercial and industrial properties.***

### Enclosure standards

It is important to regularly check your enclosure to ensure it continues to be capable of containing your dog/cat. Enclosures should be constructed and maintained in a way that meet the needs of your animal. Including;

- The animal/s are comfortable, safe and cared for.
- They have adequate shade and water.
- The enclosure is of a suitable size.
- No offensive odour is created.
- There is no unreasonable noise nuisance.

### Community rights

People in the community have a right to live without interference from other people's pets. Unaccompanied animals roaming the streets are a risk and all residents have a right to feel safe in their neighbourhood.

Members of the community have a right to contact the Council in order to have a wandering dog or cat impounded.

If your animal is missing or has escaped its enclosure, please contact Council. Please note that animals are only released from the Richmond Shire Animal Facility during business hours weekdays.

For any further information relating to this fact sheet, contact the Richmond Shire Council