



Central
Coast
Council

Pets and protecting wildlife

Owning a pet is highly rewarding, but remember **your pet is your responsibility**. As a responsible pet owner you have an obligation to ensure your pet does not affect the natural environment and its inhabitants.

The impact of pets on native wildlife

- The sight, smell and sound of a dog or cat can cause birds and other animals distress.
- Dogs and cats can kill or harm wildlife.
- Breeding of native animals can be disrupted, affecting the already reducing populations.
- Dogs and cats can disturb bush regeneration projects and areas of ecological significance.
- Dog and cat poo that washes into waterways can harm fish, frogs and other aquatic animals.

centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/pets

What you can do

To help preserve our wildlife and the environment, there are some things that responsible pet owners can do:

- For your cats safety and to protect local wildlife, it is recommended to keep your keep your cat inside, especially overnight.
- For the safety of your dog and our native wildlife, failure to prevent your pet escaping can result in a fine.
- When exercising in a public place, **keep your dog on a lead** and under the control of a competent person. If you would like to give your dog some lead free time visit one of Councils allocated dog off-leash exercise areas. When within these areas it is important that your dog is still under your control and comes back to you when called.
- Dogs and cats are prohibited to enter schools (including preschools and kindergarten grounds), shopping centres, public-bathing areas including beaches (except in designated areas), food preparation areas, sporting fields, playgrounds and wildlife protection areas, as outlined by the *Companion Animals Act 1998*.
- If your dog poos in a public place or on someone else's property you are responsible for picking it up and disposing of it. This will stop it from getting into our waterways or ending up on the bottom of other people's shoes. Failing to pick up after your dog risks an on the spot fine.
- If your dog attacks or harms an animal, or causes a nuisance, as an owner you remain liable.
- If you find a sick or injured wild native animal, contact WIRES Wildlife Rescue Line at 13 000 WIRES or Wildlife Arc on 0243250666.

For more information on responsible pet ownership visit centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/pets