

# WALKING YOUR DOG

## Control of dogs in public places:

Dogs must be on a leash in all public places unless declared as “off-leash” and pick up bags must be carried and used. A full list of prohibited and off-leash areas can be found below.

Walking your dog is a great way to explore Warrnambool but please be aware of the rules regarding dogs in public areas, particularly the foreshore, which is off limits to dogs during certain months of the year.

### PROHIBITED AREAS:

The following areas are prohibited for dogs:

- Lake Pertobe Reserve
- Botanic Gardens
- Jetty Flat Athletics Centre
- Sports ovals
- Main beach area (**Flume to Breakwater**) between 1 December and 31 March
- Merri River Mouth (**south of Stanley Street Bridge including Middle Island**)
- Merri River Wetlands (**Viaduct Road to MacDonald Street**)
- Rail Trail (**sections adjacent to Lake Pertobe Reserve**)
- Ski Club beach frontage (**1 November to 30 April**)
- Surfside and Shipwreck Bay holiday parks between 23 December and 2 February
- Hopkins River frontage (**Ski Club**) between 1 November and 30 April
- and such other areas as Council may determine

### DESIGNATED ON-LEASH AREAS:

You can walk your dog on a leash in the following areas:

- All public areas (**residential streets, CBD etc**)
- Blue Hole Reserve (**Hopkins River Bridge to Mouth, east side 1 December to 31 March**)
- Foreshore walking tracks, including Foreshore Promenade
- Main beach area (**Flume to Breakwater 1 April to 30 November**)

### DESIGNATED OFF-LEASH AREAS

Dogs must be kept under effective voice control and a lead carried and used when in the vicinity of another dog or within 30m of a children’s playground, barbecue facility, organised sporting events, picnic areas or public meetings. Dogs must not be allowed to worry or threaten any person or animal. You can walk your dog off a leash in the following areas:

- Albert Park (**excluding sporting grounds**)
- Beach area, Hopkins River (**west side**) to Flume
- Blue Hole Reserve (**from Hopkins River Bridge to mouth, east side only between 1 April and 30 November may be off leash**)
- Merri River areas of public open space in the vicinity of Manuka Drive, Membrey Way and Ponting Drive
- Bushfield Oval Reserve
- Harris Street Reserve
- Jubilee Park, Woodford
- Logans Beach
- Allansford Reserve
- Davidson Oval Reserve
- Kings Park
- Malwarrah Reserve, Woodford
- Russells Creek Reserve (**Mortlake Road to Garden Street**)
- Schrader Park, Allansford
- Tozer Road easement (**to Wanstead Street**)
- Victoria Park
- Payne Reserve
- Merrivale Reserve
- Jones Oval
- Scuborio Reserve
- St James Reserve
- Brierly Reserve
- Rotary Park
- Dennington Reserve
- Archibald Reserve
- and such other areas as Council may determine

# WALKING YOUR DOG

## FAQ

### Why do I have to register my dog?

The Domestic Animals Act requires all dogs to be registered with the relevant local council. **Annual renewal date is April 10. Microchipping is not registration.** Money from pet registrations goes toward maintaining the animal shelter, improving council facilities and signage for pet owners as well as maintaining equipment for rangers and supplying poo pickup bags on the Promenade.

### Who sets the dog registration and infringement costs?

Registration costs are set by the Warrnambool City Council. Discounts apply for pensioners, pets, obedience trained or working dogs, dogs or cats over 10 years or animals registered with an approved feline or canine association. Infringement costs (unregistered pet, dog at large etc.) are set by the Victorian Government, and Council has no control over these.

### How many dogs can I have?

Local Laws currently state that you can house up to two dogs. You must apply for a permit if you wish to house more than two.

### Does Council actively enforce Local Laws relating to dogs?

Yes. Council officers conduct frequent patrols, including after-hours and weekends. Infringements may be issued if your dog is not on a lead or in a prohibited area.

### What animal emergencies can Council respond to and who do I contact?

Council provides an after-hours service for emergencies only. Emergencies are livestock on roads, dogs at large and injured animals (not wildlife). Call 5559 4806.

### Can Council assist wildlife?

No. Council does not have the facilities to collect or handle wildlife. Wildlife Victoria can be contacted on 1300 094 535. Injured animals can also be taken to any veterinary clinic.

### Does Warrnambool have an off lead enclosure

Yes. An off lead enclosure is currently available for use at Harris Street Reserve. Please observe signs in relation to times of availability.

### Who do I contact if I have lost my dog or found someone else's dog?

Contact Council on 5559 4806. We recommend that you engrave your phone number on the back of your pet's registration tag to assist in getting your pet home quicker.

**Don't forget you must carry a bag and pick up after your dog!**

