

Care for your dog

Care for our wildlife



Owning a dog in the Blue Mountains means unique responsibilities

Living within a World Heritage Area means we all have to work together to protect our native wildlife. Unlike owning a dog in an urban or country area, responsible dog ownership in the Blue Mountains requires an active sensitivity to the impact dogs can have on the myriad life-forms that live in our bush backyards, bushland reserves and the Blue Mountains National Park.

Dogs get up to all sorts of things when their owners aren't looking...

Dogs have a natural predator instinct and may prey on native animals (like those pictured right).

Even when on a leash, a dog's presence in a bushland area can disturb and distress native wildlife. This is because the sound and smell of a dog alerts native animals to the approach of a predator. This may result in wildlife relocating from the area it normally inhabits. Dogs are prohibited from National Parks and declared Category 1 Wildlife Protection Areas

Dogs can also increase weed growth. Their faeces pollute waterways and may leave bushland susceptible to weed invasion. This is made worse when dogs physically disturb the bushland, dig in the soil, and leave the ground vulnerable to yet more weeds.

Make sure you keep your dog contained on your property and on a leash if exercising your dog outside of a designated dog off leash area.

It's not just the native animals that you need to think about...

If you feed your dog outside or leave out uneaten food scraps, you may inadvertently attract feral animals such as foxes, feral cats, rats and Indian Mynas. These threaten native wildlife and are a nuisance to households and businesses. Help to discourage feral animals by feeding your dog indoors or removing left over outdoor pet food.

Dogs have a strong sense of smell and will easily locate wildlife, even when an animal is still or sleeping.



Small ground-dwelling mammals such as the Brown Antechinus are susceptible to predation by dogs.



Ground-dwelling birds such as Lewin's Rail are also at risk of predation by dogs.



Blue Tongue Lizards may be camouflaged when still, but dogs can still locate them with their strong sense of smell.

Care for your dog

Hot tips to help you



Before getting a dog, consider the following:

- Make sure you select a breed that is suited to you and your family's needs. Consider the breed's size, length of coat, need for exercise, susceptibility to particular health problems, and temperament.
- Consider giving an orphaned animal a home. Phone the RSPCA Blue Mountains on 02 4782 2674 or visit rspcansw.org.au
- Give thought to whether you can accept the responsibilities of owning a dog in the Blue Mountains. Will you have the time and resources to properly feed, contain, exercise and care for a dog?

Tips for keeping a happy and healthy dog

- Exercise your dog regularly and provide a healthy diet.
- Provide veterinary care including vaccinations, worm & flea prevention.
- Desex your dog (if appropriate).
- Keep your dog secure on your premises with adequate shelter.
- Adopt appropriate hygiene practices by removing animal faeces, especially from public areas.
- Provide regular social inter-action with other animals and people.

If you already own a dog, remember your legal responsibilities

- Microchip and register your dog.
- Ensure your dog wears a collar with an identification tag (showing your contact details).
- Clean up your dog's faeces from public places.
- Contain your dog on your property, and keep your dog on a leash (except in designated off-leash areas) and under effective control in public places.
- Keep your dog away from prohibited places such as child care centres, children's play areas, food preparation and consumption areas, public bathing areas, parks / recreational areas that specifically prohibit dogs or designated wildlife protection areas.
- Comply with control requirements associated with restricted breeds.



Wandering, persistently noisy and / or aggressive dogs are considered a nuisance and a threat to the health & wellbeing of the community.



If you have recently moved, update your details directly online with the **NSW Pet Registry** or notify Council of your new address so your dog's registration details can be updated.

To report nuisance dog issues or for information about dog registration:
Phone 4780 5000 or
Email council@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

Why should I register my dog?

It's the law!

If your dog is lost, this will help enable your dog to be returned to you quickly.

Registration Cost (2020-21):

- \$60 for a desexed dog
- \$216 for an undesexed dog
- \$60 for an undesexed dog owned by a registered breeder
- \$26 for a desexed dog owned by an eligible pensioner
- FREE for assistance / working dogs