

Dogs, cats, neighbours and you

Your guide
to the laws
about owning
a cat or dog
in Victoria



Do you need this booklet in a different format?

Please go to www.legalaid.vic.gov.au and search *Dogs, cats, neighbours and you* for an accessible version of this booklet. You can phone (03) 0269 0234 and ask for Community Legal Education. We can talk with you about what you need.

Produced by Victoria Legal Aid

Victoria Legal Aid
570 Bourke Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

For free information about the law and how we can help you:

- visit our website www.legalaid.vic.gov.au
- use our Legal Help Chat on the website, Monday to Friday, 8 am to 6 pm, excluding public holidays
- phone Legal Help on 1300 792 387, Monday to Friday, 8 am to 6 pm, excluding public holidays.

For business queries, phone (03) 9269 0234

First edition published 1997
12th edition April 2023

Acknowledgements: Victoria Legal Aid gratefully acknowledges Victoria Law Foundation for establishing and maintaining this publication from 1997 until its tenth edition. *Dogs, cats, neighbours and you* was transferred to Victoria Legal Aid in July 2018.
Image on page 12 © The State of Victoria.

© 2023 Victoria Legal Aid. This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0. You are free to re-use the work under that licence, on the condition that you credit Victoria Legal Aid as author, indicate if changes were made and comply with other licence terms. The licence does not apply to any images, photographs or branding, including the Victoria Legal Aid logo.

Changes to the law: The law changes all the time. To check for changes you can visit our website, use our Legal Help Chat or phone us.

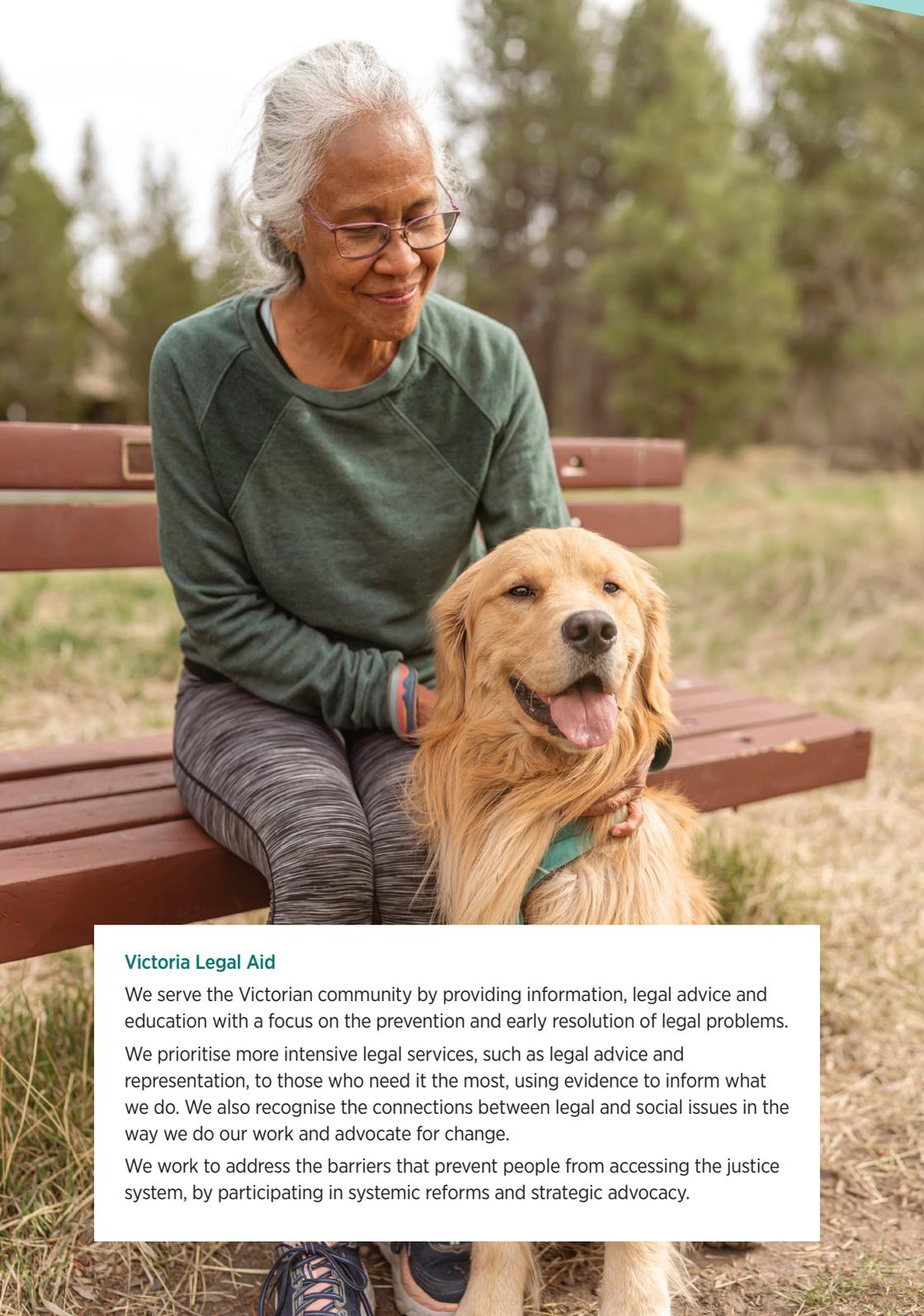
Disclaimer: The material in this publication is a general guide only. It is not legal advice. If you need to, please get legal advice about your situation.

ISBN 978 1 876 04522 7



CONTENTS

About this booklet	1
Rules for all dog and cat owners	1
Laws about owning a cat	4
Laws about owning a dog	7
Dog attacks	10
For neighbours	14
Local councils' role	18
More information and where to get help	20



Victoria Legal Aid

We serve the Victorian community by providing information, legal advice and education with a focus on the prevention and early resolution of legal problems.

We prioritise more intensive legal services, such as legal advice and representation, to those who need it the most, using evidence to inform what we do. We also recognise the connections between legal and social issues in the way we do our work and advocate for change.

We work to address the barriers that prevent people from accessing the justice system, by participating in systemic reforms and strategic advocacy.

ABOUT THIS BOOKLET

This booklet is for owners of dogs and cats, and their neighbours.

It outlines the responsibilities of pet owners in Victoria and the rights of their neighbours.

Anyone who owns a dog or cat, looks after one from time to time, or lives next to one, should read this booklet. Most laws about dogs and cats are the same throughout Victoria, but they can vary from council to council.

Check with your local council for information about laws in your area.

Getting more help

This booklet gives general information, not legal advice. For contact details of helpful organisations [go to](#) 'More help and information' on page 20.

RULES FOR ALL DOG AND CAT OWNERS

There are some basic things that all dog and cat owners need to consider.

If you own a dog or cat, it is important that you know your legal responsibilities and understand what you need to do to meet them.

By law you are considered the owner of a dog or cat even if you are only looking after it for a short time.

If you are under 18, your parent or guardian is considered the owner of your dog or cat.

Getting it right from the start

Responsible pet ownership starts before you take your new dog or cat home. When choosing a dog or cat, think carefully about the type that will best suit your circumstances and plan how you will care for your dog or cat properly. Getting these things right will help you meet your legal obligations as a pet owner.

A dog or cat that is properly trained, exercised and cared for will be happier, healthier and less likely to cause problems.

To find out more about responsible pet ownership [go to](#) 'More information and where to get help' on page 20.

How many dogs or cats am I allowed to keep?

Some councils place restrictions on the number of dogs or cats that you can have. If you want to keep more than one or two dogs or cats, it is a good idea to check with your council – you may need a permit.

Registration

You must register your dog or cat with your council once it is three months old, and you must renew the registration every year.

Once your dog or cat is registered, the council will send you an identification tag that your pet must wear when it is away from your property. If your dog or cat does not wear its tag when it is off your property, you may be fined.

Councils will only register a dog or cat if it is microchipped and some councils also require dogs and cats to be desexed.

There are strict rules about registration of dogs declared menacing, dangerous or restricted-breed dogs. [Go to](#) 'Menacing and dangerous dogs' on page 11 for more information.

All councils offer pensioner concessions to register a dog or cat. Other fee reductions may also be available if your animal is desexed, or if it is a dog that works with livestock or has been trained by an approved obedience training organisation. Ask your council for details of fee reductions available in your area.

Registering your pet helps the council return your dog or cat if it gets lost. It also helps the council pay for collecting stray animals, operating pound services and investigating complaints about animals. Registration fees also help to fund responsible pet ownership education programs in schools and for the community.

For more information on pet registration in your area, contact your council.

Why should I register my dog or cat with the council?

If you do not register your dog or cat it may be difficult to identify your pet if it goes missing and someone finds it. If your lost dog or cat is found and the council cannot contact you within eight days, your dog or cat may be rehoused or put down.

Microchipping

All dogs and cats must be microchipped before they can be registered.

Microchipping is a painless, one-off procedure. A microchip, about the size of a grain of rice, is injected into the loose skin at the back of your dog or cat's neck. It can be performed by a vet or qualified microchip implanter. A microchip provides a permanent form of identification which can quickly reunite owners with lost or injured pets.

Operators of pounds and animal shelters will scan dogs and cats with microchips and use this information to contact you if your pet is found off your property.

Microchipping is not a replacement for registration.

If you move, remember to update your contact details with the organisation where you registered your pet's microchip. If you do not know who this is, contact the vet or organisation that inserted the microchip.

Desexing

If you do not plan to breed from your pet, desexing is a good idea to prevent behavioural issues and unwanted puppies and kittens. Desexing your cat helps to address cat overpopulation. Overbreeding results in unwanted cats or dogs, which can place other wildlife at risk.

Some councils require your dog or cat to be desexed before it can be registered.

Owning a pet if you are renting

If you are renting, you can own pets if you get permission from your landlord first. You can use the *Pet request form* on the Consumer Affairs Victoria website www.consumer.vic.gov.au. Your landlord can only refuse if they apply to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal and the tribunal agrees.

Your landlord cannot refuse if you have an assistance dog.

If your pet causes damage to a rental property beyond normal wear and tear you will have to repair any damage caused.

These laws apply even if you signed your tenancy agreement before 2 March 2020. Consumer Affairs Victoria and Tenants Victoria have more information on pets and renting. **Go to** 'More information and where to get help' on page 20.

LAWS ABOUT OWNING A CAT

Understanding your legal responsibilities as a cat owner is important – the laws protect your cat, other animals, your neighbours and their pets.

Wandering cats

There are restrictions on cats wandering. Some councils impose curfews which means that your cat must not leave your property during certain times.

Other people's property

Your cat cannot wander onto your neighbours' or other people's property without permission.

If your cat strays onto someone else's property without permission more than once, it can be seized by the owner of the property or a council authorised officer. The council will send you a notice of objection, which starts a formal legal process. If your cat strays again after this notice is sent, you can be fined.

Cat curfews

Councils may also set a curfew requiring your cat to be on your property at a set time, usually at night. Some councils have a permanent cat curfew, which means your cat must stay on your property at all times. Other councils may set a curfew for a limited time to round up stray cats.

You can be fined if you fail to confine your cat on your property during a curfew.

Cat curfews help to keep your cat safe at night. They also help to protect other wildlife. Check with your council to find out about cat curfews in your area.

Nuisance

Your cat could cause a nuisance by:

- being noisy and unreasonably disturbing your neighbours
- injuring someone.

Your neighbours, or the person who was hurt can make a formal complaint to the council.

The council will investigate the matter by speaking to you and your neighbour.

The council can make suggestions to you on how to stop your cat causing a nuisance.



What if I cannot care for my cat?

If you can no longer care for your cat and you cannot find someone else to, contact your local animal shelter or pound. Animal shelters and pounds must accept unwanted cats.

It is against the law to abandon your cat.

Ideas for keeping your cat safe

It can be dangerous to let your cat wander at night. Cats can roam a long way at night and do most of their hunting between dusk and dawn. If they are kept inside at night they are less likely to injure birds and other wildlife. Cats are also safer if kept indoors at night.

With persistence, any cat can be trained to stay in after dark. One of the best methods is to teach your cat that it won't be fed unless it is home by dusk. Once inside, give it food and water and keep the doors and windows closed so it cannot get out.

There are several ways to keep your cat at home, including adapting your boundary fences to make them harder for your cat to climb. Creating an inward facing barrier on the top of the fence (using aluminium flashing or chicken wire) is one of the best ways.

You can also buy or make a cat house or enclosure for your cat using clear netting. The Agriculture Victoria website has information about building cat proof fencing and cat enclosures. You can also contact the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) or Cat Protection Society. [Go to](#) 'More information and where to get help' on page 20.



LAWS ABOUT OWNING A DOG

Understanding your legal responsibilities as a dog owner is important. Many of the laws about dogs protect them as well as the people who live with them and their neighbours. There are heavy penalties for not meeting your legal responsibilities.

Wandering dogs

It is against the law to let your dog wander on its own outside your property.

Allowing your dog to wander can place it at risk of being lost, attacked or involved in an accident. It can also create problems for your neighbours. Your neighbours are entitled to enjoy their private space without your dog entering their property and possibly:

- causing damage
- creating a nuisance
- chasing their animals.

Wandering dogs are more likely to be involved in a dog attack. Dog attacks are often caused by dogs wandering in the street or rushing out from poorly fenced properties. The best way to keep your dog secure is with a fence that it cannot dig under, push through or jump over. Keep your gates closed and locked to make sure visitors cannot accidentally let your dog out.

If your dog enters someone else's property and they ask you to stop your dog from doing so, you must take action. If your dog enters someone else's property without permission more than once, it can be seized by the owner or occupier of the property or a council authorised officer. The council will send you a notice of objection, which starts a formal legal process. If your dog strays again onto the property after this notice is sent, you can be fined.

Remember, even if you only look after a dog or cat for a short period, you may be considered its owner.

Barking

If your dog barks a lot or is too noisy and unreasonably disturbs your neighbours, they can make a complaint to the council.

The council will investigate by speaking to you and your neighbour. The council can make suggestions to you about how to stop the barking and assist the welfare of your dog.

Dogs tend to bark a lot if they are lonely, bored or not getting enough exercise. Making some changes to your dog's routine or environment may help fix the problem. You could also get some professional help from a vet or dog trainer. Contact your council for more information.

Dog droppings

Many councils have laws that you must pick up your dog's droppings in public places. When you go for a walk with your dog, make sure you have a bag or container with you to pick up any waste your dog leaves behind.

Dog droppings carry disease and pollute our footpaths and waterways – cleaning up after your dog helps to keep our streets clean.

Dog off-leash areas

Councils often require dogs to be on a leash when they are away from home. In this case, the council will generally provide special areas for you to walk your dog off-leash. There may be time restrictions placed on off-leash areas. For example, in some beachside areas, the on-leash and off-leash hours change from summer to winter.

Contact your council to find out about these restrictions in your local area. Your council can tell you where the dog off-leash areas are in your neighbourhood and their hours of operation.

Time restrictions

Councils can make an order that dogs are only allowed in certain public areas at certain times. For example, they may order that dogs are not allowed in a local park between the hours of 10 am and 3 pm. Check with your local council about these restrictions and look out for signs.

Look out for signs that tell you about laws in your area.

What if I cannot care for my dog?

If you can no longer care for your dog and are unable to find someone else to, contact your local animal shelter or pound. Animal shelters and pounds must accept unwanted dogs.

It is against the law to abandon your dog.



**DOGS
ON-LEASH
AREA
AT ALL TIMES**

**IT'S THE LAW
clean up
after
your
dog**



**maximum
fine \$100**

DOG ATTACKS

There are strict laws about dogs that are considered dangerous or menacing or are restricted breeds. There are serious consequences for dogs that act aggressively.

Dog attacks include dogs biting, rushing at or chasing a person or animal.

The reasons why dogs attack people are complex – some breeds are more likely to be aggressive than others. Some dogs attack due to either a lack of training or because they have not been socialised with people and other dogs from a young age. Dog bites can be triggered by a child's behaviour, which can be unintentionally threatening to the dog.

Most dog bites that result in hospital admission occur in the home, and more children than adults are bitten by dogs. Most injuries to children are to the child's head or face – these can be serious and, in extreme cases, fatal.

Who is responsible for a dog attack?

The owner (or, in some circumstances, the person who appeared to be in control of the dog at the time of the attack) will be held responsible for a dog attack. Penalties for dog attacks can include large fines, criminal convictions, jail, payment of council and victim's costs, and, in some cases, the dog being destroyed.

It is against the law to train your dog to attack, bite or chase another person or animal. Penalties include fines and even jail.

What happens if my dog is aggressive or injures someone?

If your dog is aggressive or injures someone:

- you could go to jail
- you could receive a criminal conviction
- you may be ordered to pay a fine or damages (damages means paying the other person money)
- your dog could be declared menacing or dangerous by the council
- your dog could be held by the council while legal action is taken against you
- your dog may be ordered to be destroyed
- you may be banned from owning a dog for a period of time
- you could be charged. That means the police or council say you have broken the law.

If you are charged, your case will be heard in the Magistrates' Court. You may be able to defend the charges if you can show that:

- your dog was being teased or abused
- another person or animal was trespassing on the property where the dog was being kept (that means, they came onto the property without permission)
- another person known to the dog was being attacked in front of the dog.

If the council takes your dog away because it has been aggressive, they may hold it until the magistrate makes a final decision.

If you are found not guilty, the dog will be returned, and the court may order the council to pay your legal costs.

If you are found guilty, penalties may include jail, fines, payment of court and council costs and any damages, or being banned from owning a dog for up to 10 years. You may be required to attend a training course on responsible pet ownership or dog obedience training. In some cases, your dog may be destroyed.

If you are charged with an offence because of your dog's behaviour, you should get legal advice. [Go to](#) 'More information and where to get help' on page 20.

Menacing and dangerous dogs

If a dog rushes at, chases, injures or causes the death of a person or an animal, it can be declared a menacing or dangerous dog by the council. A dog that is declared menacing or dangerous will have certain restrictions placed upon it.

Menacing dogs

Councils can declare a dog menacing if the dog has:

- rushed at or chased a person
- bitten a person or animal, causing minor injuries
- been declared a menacing dog by another state or territory.

If you own a dog that has been declared menacing, you have several obligations. These include having your dog microchipped and notifying the council within 24 hours if your dog has rushed at or chased someone, or if it goes missing. The council may also require you to muzzle and control your dog when it is off your property.

Dangerous dogs

Councils can declare a dog dangerous if one of the following applies:

- the dog has caused death or serious injury to a person or animal
- the dog is a menacing dog and the owner has been fined twice before for failing to muzzle the dog and keep it on a leash
- the dog has been declared a dangerous dog by another state or territory
- the dog's owner has been served with two infringement notices (fines) because of the dog rushing, chasing or biting someone.

A dog is automatically considered a dangerous dog if it is kept as a guard dog for guarding non-residential premises or if it is trained to attack or bite. If you become the owner of a dangerous dog, you must notify the council immediately.

If your dog is declared dangerous, the law says you must have your dog microchipped and desexed. You also have to notify the council within 24 hours if your address or where the dog is kept changes, or if the dog goes missing. You will also need to identify your dog with a special collar and prescribed warning signs at all entrances to your property. As the owner, you are responsible for controlling your dog both inside and outside your property.

A person must not sell, give away or transfer a dangerous dog unless they advise the other person in writing beforehand that it is a dangerous dog.



Declaring your dog menacing or dangerous

The council can only declare your dog menacing or dangerous in certain circumstances. [Go to](#) 'Menacing and dangerous dogs' on page 11.

If the council declares your dog menacing or dangerous, they must send you a notice in writing giving reasons for the decision.

If you do not agree with the council's decision, you can appeal to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

Restricted-breed dogs

Restricted-breed dogs are breeds of dogs that are considered dangerous. Restricted-breeds in Victoria include the Fila Brasileiro, Dogo Argentino, Japanese Tosa, Perro de Presa Canario (or Presa Canario), American Pit Bull Terrier (or Pit Bull Terrier) or a dog that fits the standard for restricted-breed dogs in Victoria.

A council may register or renew the registration of a restricted-breed dog in Victoria and may impose conditions on registration.

If you have a restricted-breed dog and it is not registered correctly, you may be fined.

If you own a restricted-breed dog, you must take specific precautions or face fines or seizure of the dog. These relate to having your dog microchipped and desexed and notifying council of your dog's movements in certain circumstances. They also include controlling your dog both inside and outside your property with a purpose built prescribed enclosure and, where necessary, enhancements to pre-existing property boundary fencing.

You will need to identify your dog with a special collar and prescribed warning signs at all entrances to your property.

You must not own more than two restricted-breed dogs unless you have the required permit.

It is an offence for a person under 18 to be in charge of a restricted-breed dog outside the dog owner's premises.

You must not sell or give away or transfer ownership of a declared restricted-breed dog unless you surrender the dog to a council pound or shelter. If the owner has died, the dog may be given to an immediate family member of the deceased who is over 18 years of age.

Check the Agriculture Victoria website or check with your local council for more details about the prescribed conditions for keeping a restricted-breed dog. If you fail to meet your obligations as the owner of a restricted-breed dog, you could receive a large fine. [Go to](#) 'More information and where to get help' on page 20.

FOR NEIGHBOURS

From time to time you may come into contact with dogs and cats that live near you. This section outlines your rights as a neighbour.

Resolving problems

Sometimes living next door to or near a dog or cat can be problematic. Generally, in order to make a complaint about a dog or cat's behaviour, the problem must be persistent and unreasonable. This section outlines what your rights are as a neighbour living near dogs and cats.

If a neighbour's dog or cat is causing you problems, the best thing to do is talk to your neighbour about it. They may not realise what is happening and may be able to take steps to fix the problem easily.

It is important to have reasonable expectations of normal animal behaviour. Don't be too quick to react to isolated incidents – wait to see if the problem persists.

Problems with your neighbours' pets

Dogs and cats on your property

If a dog or cat goes onto your property without your permission on more than one occasion, you can take action. But you should talk to the owner of the dog or cat first. Discuss your concerns with them to give the owner a chance to fix the problem. The Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria has information on their website about how to raise issues with neighbours. [Go to](#) 'More information and where to get help' on page 20.

There are also some practical steps that you can take to deal with the problem, including:

- making sure your gates, doors and windows are secure
- not leaving pet food or other food outside that may attract other people's pets
- using products that are designed to keep animals away – talk to your local pet shop or nursery.

If a dog or cat has been on your property more than once without permission, you may be entitled to seize the dog or cat while it is on your property. If you seize an animal on your property, you must:

- tell the council immediately
- take the animal to the council or to a pound.

If the owner can be identified, the council will send them a notice within five business days. The notice will tell them that their pet should not be on your property.

If the owner has received the notice but their pet continues to enter your property, they can be fined.

You can also contact your council to discuss ongoing issues you have with a neighbour's pet.

Barking and other forms of nuisance

If a neighbour's dog or cat causes a nuisance, you may be able to complain. Nuisance can include noise or behaviour from a dog or cat that injures or endangers the health of a person.

Noise, such as barking, will only be considered a nuisance if it is persistent and continues to such an extent that it disrupts your peace, comfort or convenience.

If your neighbour's dog or cat is making a lot of noise or causing another form of nuisance, speak to your neighbour first. Let them know what the problem is and give them a chance to fix it. If this does not work, contact your council. The council will then give the dog or cat's owner advice on how to fix the problem.

If the noise or other nuisance continues, let the council know so that they can take further action. They may ask you to keep records to show how often and how long the nuisance goes on for.

Although councils can act on one person's complaint, it helps your case if other neighbours also report the problem.

If your neighbour's pet continues to be a nuisance, your neighbour may be fined or taken to court.

Remember to speak to your neighbour first if their dog is causing a nuisance by barking – they may not be aware of the problem.



Wandering pets

If you see a dog wandering alone, always try to find its owner. If you cannot do this, contact the council – wandering dogs can be a danger to themselves and others.

Making a complaint to council

If you cannot fix the problem by speaking to your neighbour, then your council will deal with all legitimate complaints.

When you make a complaint to council you will need to:

- be prepared to give your name and address
- put your concerns in writing to your neighbour
- keep a record of all incidents, such as how often a dog barks and for how long.

You may also be required to sign a statutory declaration or be available to provide evidence in court.

Dealing with your neighbour

It is always best to try to resolve an issue about a dog or cat with the owner before making a complaint to your council. Below are some ideas on how to get the best results when talking to your neighbour about problems with their pets. The Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria also has information on their website about how to talk to your neighbour about issues. [Go to](#) 'More information and where to get help' on page 20.

Councils have limited resources. For this reason, it is better to resolve minor disagreements about dogs and cats by yourself.

The following tips may be useful when talking to your neighbour:

- Be reasonable about animal behaviour – all cats like to wander and all dogs bark sometimes.
- Don't be too quick to react – wait and see if there is really a problem before taking action.
- Discuss your concerns with your neighbour in a friendly way. Many people don't know their animal is being a nuisance.
- Try to find a solution that is acceptable to both of you.
- There may not be an instant solution. Be patient – it takes time to train an animal.



Keeping children safe around dogs and cats

Always supervise children when they are near your own or other people's pets. For their own safety, teach children not to:

- pat a dog or cat without asking the owner for permission
- put their face close to a dog or cat's mouth or face
- hug a dog or cat too tightly or tease it
- pat a dog or cat that is tied up, left in a car, or eating
- approach or pat a dog or cat that is not with its owner.

LOCAL COUNCILS' ROLE

Local councils play an important role in making laws about pet ownership and controlling dogs and cats in their area.

Councils have many powers to control dogs and cats.

Councils' powers

Councils can make laws and ensure they are followed by issuing fines and taking further action.

Councils can make local laws on how many dogs and cats you can keep, where dogs and cats are allowed to go and the management of droppings.

If a council authorised officer has good reason to think the law has been broken, they can:

- enter and search land, vehicles or buildings (but not private houses) without a search warrant
- scan or inspect animals and enclosures
- ask questions
- look at or take away documents.

Councils can apply to the Magistrates' Court for a search warrant to enter a private house if they have good reason to think the law has been broken. They can also ask the police for assistance in executing the search warrant.

Council authorised officers must carry an identity card.

Power to take a dog or cat away

There are many circumstances where a council authorised officer can take away a dog or cat. These include:

- if a dog is considered a restricted-breed dog or a dangerous dog
- if a dog has attacked or is suspected of attacking a person
- if a dog has been urged to attack by its owner.

Dogs and cats can also be seized if they are found wandering in locations or at times when they are prohibited. [Go to](#) 'Rules for all dog and cat owners' on page 1.

What happens after a dog or cat is taken away by the council?

All dogs and cats taken away by a council authorised officer are placed in a pound.

If a dog or cat is seized by someone else, it must be handed over to a council authorised officer or to an organisation approved by the council as soon as possible.

If the animal's owner can be identified, they must be formally notified within four days that their dog or cat has been seized. The owner can recover their dog or cat by:

- proving they are the owner
- paying any relevant registration and release fees.

Power to put down a dog or cat

If the owner does not pick up their dog or cat within eight days the council can:

- put the pet down
- sell the pet to someone else.

If a dog or cat in the pound is unwell or considered dangerous, council may authorise that it be put down before eight days have passed, if this is recommended by a vet.

A council authorised officer can also destroy a dog or cat if it is found at large in a conservation zone or control zone. Contact your local council for details.

A council authorised officer can destroy a dog or cat found at large where livestock or birds are kept for farming purposes.

If your dog is found wandering or is seized by council, its microchip will help identify it. Remember to update your contact details with the organisation that registered the microchip.



MORE INFORMATION AND WHERE TO GET HELP

There are many organisations that can help you to choose and look after your pet or to resolve any problems you may have with your neighbours and their pets.

Responsible pet ownership

Agriculture Victoria

Includes Animal Welfare Victoria.

Phone: 136 186

www.agriculture.vic.gov.au

Cat Protection Society of Victoria

Information about cats available for adoption.

Phone: (03) 8457 6500

www.catprotection.com.au

Dogs Victoria

Information about purebred dogs and responsible dog ownership.

www.dogsvictoria.org.au

Feline Control Council Victoria

Information about breeds and choosing the right cat for you.

Phone: (03) 9720 8811

www.fccvic.org

Lost Dogs' Home

Information about finding your dog if it is lost, animal welfare and dogs available for adoption.

Phone: (03) 9329 2755

www.dogshome.com

Pet Industry Association of Australia

Information about breeders and pet care.

Phone: (02) 9659 5811

www.piaa.net.au

RSPCA Australia Knowledgebase

Information about choosing and caring for your dog or cat.

<https://kb.rspca.org.au>

Vets

Australian Veterinary Association

Information on keeping your pets healthy.

Phone: 1300 137 309

www.ava.com.au

Veterinary Practitioners Registration Board of Victoria

Information on finding a registered vet in your area.

Phone: (03) 9620 7444

www.vetboard.vic.gov.au

Local councils

Vic Councils

Find your local council.

www.viccouncils.asn.au

Neighbour and renting disputes

Consumer Affairs Victoria

Information about pets and renting.

Phone: 1300 558 181

www.consumer.vic.gov.au

Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria

The Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria has information on their website about how to talk to your neighbours about issues. They can also provide general information and advice on pet disputes through their online form.

Phone: 1300 372 888

www.disputes.vic.gov.au

Legal services

Victoria Legal Aid

For free information about the law and how we can help you:

- visit our website www.legalaid.vic.gov.au
- use our Legal Help Chat on the website, Monday to Friday, 8 am to 6 pm, excluding public holidays
- phone Legal Help on 1300 792 387, Monday to Friday, 8 am to 6 pm, excluding public holidays.

Do you need help phoning us?



Translating and Interpreting Service

Phone: 131 450

www.tisnational.gov.au



National Relay Service

TTY users: phone 133 677

Speak and Listen users: phone 1300 555 727

Internet relay users: www.nrschat.nrsccall.gov.au

SMS relay: 0423 677 767

Local offices

We have offices all over Victoria. Our offices are open Monday to Friday, 8.45 am to 5.15 pm, excluding public holidays. Go to our website for office locations. People with a disability are welcome at all our offices. We have ramps or lifts and you can bring your service animal.

Community legal centres

Find your nearest community legal centre.

www.fclc.org.au

Law Institute of Victoria

Referral to a private lawyer.

Phone: (03) 9607 9550

www.liv.asn.au/referral

The Victorian Legal Services Board + Commissioner has produced a short video and Easy English fact sheet listing six questions you should ask before hiring a private lawyer. Visit their website for more information www.lsbcc.vic.gov.au

Tenants Victoria

Information and advice about pets and renting.

www.tenantsvic.org.au

Useful Victoria Legal Aid resources

To order publications

We have free booklets about the law in English and other languages. Visit www.legalaid.vic.gov.au to order or download booklets. Phone (03) 9269 0234 and ask for Community Legal Education to find out more.

Our public law library

Open Monday to Friday, 9 am to 5 pm
570 Bourke Street
Melbourne VIC 3000



Law help guide

A free guide to help Victorians find the right help for their legal problem. It has information about:

- ombudsmen
- free or low-cost legal services
- private lawyers.



Fines, the law and you

This free booklet is for anyone who has been fined in Victoria. It will help you understand your options.

It has information about:

- what to do if you get a fine
- what happens if you don't pay a fine
- what to do if you disagree with a fine
- special circumstances and family violence
- what happens if you go to court
- where to get help.

Watch me on 

Watch our community legal education videos.

Dogs, cats, neighbours and you

Victoria Legal Aid

For free information about the law and how we can help you, please visit our website www.legalaid.vic.gov.au or phone Legal Help on 1300 792 387.

For business queries, phone (03) 9269 0234

Offices

Melbourne

Suburban offices

Broadmeadows

Dandenong

Frankston

Ringwood

Sunshine

Regional offices

Bairnsdale

Ballarat

Bendigo

Geelong

Horsham

Mildura

Morwell

Shepparton

Warrnambool



Publication orders

To download or order our publications in English or other languages go to www.legalaid.vic.gov.au

If you need help ordering online please phone (03) 9269 0234 and ask for Community Legal Education or email cle@vla.vic.gov.au