

Effective control of dogs in public places

Local governments in Queensland are responsible for monitoring, investigating and enforcing non-compliant dog owners under the [Animal Management \(Cats and Dogs\) Act 2008](#) (AMCDA).

While most people meet their dog ownership responsibilities, there continues to be serious incidents involving dog attacks in the Queensland community including:

- 8,500 complaints about negative dog behaviour and dog attacks in 2022;
- 2,500 of those complaints resulted in hospitalisation of the victim;
- an increase of 57% in dog-related incidents in public hospital emergency department admissions from 2021 to 2022.

Key changes to the AMCDA

Changes were made to the [AMCDA](#) in response to the rise in dog attacks on community members and animals in Queensland.

From 31 July 2024, there are:

- Increased penalties for dog owners, including on-the-spot fines of 5 penalty units (currently \$834) for not keeping a dog under effective control when in a public place.
- Increased penalties for dog owners of up to 700 penalty units for the most serious dog attack offences, including the option of imprisonment for up to 3 years where a person encourages a dog to attack, which results in death or grievous bodily harm to a person.

Effective control of a dog under the AMCDA

A person has effective control of a dog if:

- they are physically able to control the dog
- they are holding the dog using a leash, lead or other restraining device
- the dog is securely tethered to a fixed object and under a person's constant supervision
- the dog is kept in an appropriate temporary enclosure that limits the dog's movement and is under a person's continuous supervision
- the dog is being confined or tethered in, or on, a vehicle in a way that prevents the dog moving any part of its body beyond the vehicle
- the dog is under a person's continuous supervision and control using voice command when:
 - in an off-leash area
 - doing obedience training
 - being shown at an exhibition or a race
 - acting as a working dog, a dog working for a government organisation or a security patrol dog.

Off leash and on leash areas

Council has designated off leash areas. These areas are outlined in Council's local laws and will have signage installed in the immediate area. If you cannot locate off leash dog signage, your dog must be on a leash.



For more information

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