

# Keeping dogs under effective control

Under the *Dog and Cat Management Act, 1995* (the Act), dog owners are responsible for ensuring their dog is 'under effective control'. This information is intended to provide some clarity around what that means, as well as highlight where you can (and can't) exercise your dog within the West Torrens council area when it is under effective control.

## So what is 'effective control'?

The Act states effective control means your dog:

- is close to you at all times
- responds to all verbal commands
- can be seen by you at all times.

If your dog is off leash and you are unsure whether it will return to you when encountering another animal, such as a cat or dog, you may not have it under effective control. In such cases, it should remain on a leash, held by an appropriate handler. It is crucial that the person holding the dog's leash has the strength and capacity to suitably restrain it should it get excited.

If you do not have effective control of your dog, it may be deemed to be 'wandering at large', which is an offence. Dogs wandering at large can also increase the risk of behaviours escalating. Not only is it an offence for a dog to wander at large it is also an offence for it to attack, harass, or chase a person or animal - irrespective of whether an injury occurs.

## I have effective control of my dog, can I exercise it off leash?

Under the Act and council's by law, there are rules about where dogs can be allowed off leash to run and play. These rules cover local streets, parks, beaches and schools.



Here is a list of places within our council area where you can exercise your dog off leash, providing it is under effective control:

- The section of beach within the West Torrens council area at any time of the day or night.
- At designated dog parks including:
  - Pooch Park, Rowells Road, Flinders Park.
  - West Torrens Dog Park, Moss Avenue, Marleston.
  - West Torrens Dog Park, Linear Park, Torrensvile.
  - Clifford Street Dog Park, Torrensvile.

## Where else can I exercise my dog?

Providing your dog is kept on a leash, chain or cord (up to 2 metres in length) when being walked, you can exercise it:

- on footpaths along roads and streets
- in public places (other than parks and reserves)
- on any park or reserve during times when organised sport is being played

- within 10 metres of children's playground equipment
- within 10 metres of any outdoor fitness equipment
- on a shared path (being a bicycle/walking path)
- in any wetland area
- St Georges Avenue Reserve
- Fulham Community Centre
- parks and reserves that are sign-posted as on leash areas.

## Dog prohibited areas

The following are 'dog prohibited areas' where dogs are not permitted at any time within our council area:

- all fenced playgrounds
- Clifford Street Reserve (outside of the designated dog park), Torrensvile
- Plympton Community Garden, Plympton.

Under the Act, dogs are also prohibited from all South Australian school grounds, kindergartens, childcare centres and preschools without the permission of the person in charge of the site.

For further advice, or to report an incident, contact council.