

Approved Inspection Program (Systematic) – Dog Registration

Introduction

Community safety and sustainable communities are a priority for Douglas Shire Council. To assist in achieving this, Council aims to educate dog owners on their responsibilities and ensure compliance with the requirements for owning a dog.

On 31 August 2021, Douglas Shire Council resolved:

That Council approves a systematic Approved Inspection Program to be carried out from 20 September 2021, for a period of not more than 6 months from that date, to ensure compliance with the registration requirements of the Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008.

Purpose of Program

An Approved Inspection Program is coordinated by a Local Government to confirm compliance with legislation. Section 113 of the Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008 states that a local government may, by resolution, approve a program under which an authorised person may enter and monitor compliance with the Act.

The purpose of this program is to ensure that the owners of dogs in the Douglas Shire Council area have complied with the registration requirements of the Act.

Can Douglas Shire Council officers enter my property?

Yes. While officers may be able to complete the inspection without having to enter your property, section 111 of the Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008 provides 'Powers of Entry' for an authorised person under an approved inspection program.

What if I am not home, does Douglas Shire Council still have the right to enter my yard?

Yes. As outlined in section 111 of the Act, an authorised person from the Council can enter your property without you being home. The officer will leave a card or notice in a prominent place such as the mailbox or front door to let you know that they have been.

Will I be issued with a fine?

If you are found to be non-compliant with animal registration you will be issued a Notice to comply that will provide you with 7 days to register your dog/s. At the expiration of the Notice, if Council records show you have not registered your dog, you will be issued with a Penalty Infringement Notice (fine) for \$275.00 for each dog in your care that you have failed to register. If you require more time to register your dogs, you will need to contact Council on (07) 4099 9444 or by email enquiries@douglas.qld.gov.au where,

depending on your circumstances, you may be issued a short extension. This will be at the discretion of an authorised person.

What if I don't pay my fine?

Unpaid fines will be lodged with the State Penalties Enforcement Registry (SPER) and an enforcement order will be issued. There will be additional costs added to your amount owing. If you receive an enforcement order, but do not act on it by the due date, SPER may take further enforcement action against you, such as:

- Suspend your driver's licence
- Direct your employer or financial institution to deduct funds from your pay or bank account
- Seize or sell your property
- Issue a warrant for arrest and imprisonment

Finally, please remember that officers are only doing their job and any abuse or aggressive behaviour will not be tolerated, and promptly referred to QLD Police. The officers conducting the program will be wearing body cameras for their protection and yours.

For further information relating to the Approved Inspection Program, please contact Douglas Shire Council on (07) 4099 9444 or enquiries@douglas.qld.gov.au

