



Particularly in urban areas, the issue of adequate control of animals can often be a source of conflict between neighbours.

If you own a dog or cat you must:

- Register each dog or cat you own
- Keep your dog confined to your property or under control at all times
- Make sure your dog doesn't bark persistently
- Obey any Council orders about having your dog on a leash
- Stop your dog or cat being on other people's property
- Obey any Council orders about keeping your cat confined to your property
- Prevent your dog from chasing or attacking people or other animals, including livestock

#### **Definition of owner**

Under the Act, the term 'owner' includes not only someone who keeps a dog or cat, but also someone who has a dog or cat in his or her care for the time being.

Other people can object to:

- Barking dogs or noisy cats
- Dogs or cats creating a health risk
- Dogs or cats being repeatedly on their property
- Dogs wandering outside their owners property
- Dogs being off-leash in an on-leash area
- Cats at large during curfew
- Dogs rushing at or chasing a person
- Dogs attacking or biting a person or an animal

Your neighbours are entitled to the enjoyment of their garden without your dog or cat roaming around. If neighbours ask you to stop your dog or cat coming onto their property you must do so. If your dog or cat strays onto your neighbours property without permission more than once, it can be seized by the neighbour or the Council. You will then be sent a Notice of Objection by the Council. If your dog or cat strays after the notice you may be fined or prosecuted by the Council.

You can be fined for breaking the law relating to dogs and cats. Most offences are dealt with by an on-the-spot fine, issued by a Council Officer. If the offence is more serious or if you keep committing the same offence, you may be prosecuted in the Magistrates' Court.