



## Welcome...

Welcome to the fifth edition of the Local Law Scoop from Livingstone Shire Council.

In the Scoop, Council's Local Law Unit will provide up to date information for our residents and visitors.

Council will continue working to ensure that current and relevant information regarding Council's Local Laws is available on our website.



## Animal Registrations



**Now made easier.** Check out our 24/7 online services. Log on at [www.livingstone.qld.gov.au/onlineservices](http://www.livingstone.qld.gov.au/onlineservices)

Cats and dogs over 12 weeks of age must be registered in Livingstone Shire and wear their registration tag at all times.



## Impounding Stats

Council has impounded 240 dogs and 84 cats from 1 January to 31 August 2017.

168 dogs, (70%), were reunited with their owners and a further 50 were rehomed with our foster organisations.

8 cats, (9.5%), were returned to their owner and 50 were rehomed.

Thanks to CAA, RSPCA and Four Paws for their ongoing support in helping these lost or unwanted animals find their new homes.

## Micro-chipping Day Success

Council held their Micro-Chipping Day on Saturday 20 May, which was a beautiful, sunny day. This event proved highly successful and was well attended by friendly pooches, furry felines and their owners.

Council provided free chipping to dogs and cats who were registered with Livingstone Shire Council, and offered discounted chipping for other animals not registered. This is a big initiative for the community as by law, all dogs and cats born after 2011 are required to be microchipped. Registration for animals was also available on the day.

A total of 102 animals were chipped, with 20 dogs and 11 cats becoming newly registered.

**IMPORTANT** Please ensure your current contact details and address are correct with the microchip company. This can be achieved when you take your pet to the vet or by going on-line and amending any required changes.

Council's three foster partners (RSPCA, Capricorn Animal Aid and Four Paws) kindly participated on the day and were presented with a donation of five thousand dollars each.



Capricorn Animal Aid, RSPCA and Four Paws receiving their \$5,000 donation

Thanks to Councillor Belot for gracing the event with his presence and presenting the cheque to the various organisation representatives.

Keep an eye out for next year's microchipping day with plenty of fun to be had. A date is yet to be announced, but watch this space!



## ATTENTION breeders

## New laws for breeding and selling dogs.

On 26 May 2017, the State Government approved an amendment to the Animal Management Act, requiring a person who is selling or supplying dogs and puppies born on or after 26 May 2017 to have a supply number from the State Government.

To obtain a supply number, simply log onto the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries website and follow the prompts to the Queensland Dog Breeder Register.

Alternatively Council has links to the register from their website ([www.livingstone.qld.gov.au](http://www.livingstone.qld.gov.au))

# Dog Attacks



Recently, Council has received a higher than normal number of complaints regarding aggressive dogs. These complaints have included serious incidents on both people and other animals.

*The following is the experience of a victim of a recent attack on Bangalee Beach:*

"After a frightening experience on Bangalee Beach, watching my dog being attacked by 4 other dogs, 1 of which bit him repeatedly. I immediately contacted LSC and reported the incident. Within an hour I had a call from the Local Law Officer, who kindly came to my home and took a witness statement, and also took one from my friend who was with me at the time. Within 24 hrs the officer had tracked down the owners. My dog had many wounds and needed surgery. It was such a relief to know the dogs had been identified. The officer has put in an application for the "biting" dog to be regulated which I feel is essential for the safety of others. I cannot thank the officer and her team enough for this prompt, professional and caring response. This has never happened to me before and I have been walking my dog on Yeppoon beaches for many years. I've been very surprised to learn, both from Council and my friends, that this is a very common occurrence. Unfortunately the majority of these incidents are not reported.

Can I suggest that there are more reports on dog attacks in the local media, encouraging people to take pictures of dogs off the leash in the hope that irresponsible dog owners are brought to task? Perhaps some statistical evidence on the amount of attacks and how many dogs are picked up and taken to the pound? My dog has recovered well, I'm not sure I have! It was terrifying to witness those dogs out of control, even more unsettling was the owners who were nearby and did nothing to stop them. I'm hesitant to take him onto the beach now which seems ridiculous having wandered this coast for 30 years. We live in a very special place, the whole community should be able to enjoy it fear free."

A dog owner is responsible for ensuring their dog does not cause fear, injury or attack people or other animals. Council has the ability to investigate aggressive dog complaints. If the evidence supports the dog has behaved in a way that caused fear or attacked, Council may regulate the dog. This will require the owner of the attacking dog to comply with a number of requirements in order to keep their dog.

Depending on the severity of the attack, Council may prosecute the dog owner in the Magistrate's Court. Council has recently successfully prosecuted three dog attack incidents through the court and another two cases are pending.

## Penalty Unit Increase How are fines determined?

In Australian law, a penalty unit is an amount of money used to compute pecuniary penalties for many breaches of statute law. Fines are calculated by multiplying the value of one penalty unit by the number of penalty units prescribed for the offence.

If you have fallen foul of Council's Local Law area, you may have noticed that Council fines have increased. This is due to the value of a penalty unit rising \$126.15 from 1 July.

For example if you are walking your dog off leash in a public area that is not an off-leash area you are committing an offence. This is an offence under Local Law 2 (Animal Management) 2011 (s)12 carrying a penalty of 20 penalty units as a maximum penalty.

Council are able to issue an 'on the spot' infringement of 2 penalty units for this offence which in real terms equals  $2 \times \$126.15 = \$252.30$ . The infringement value is \$252.00 when rounded down to the nearest dollar.

# Parking on the Capricorn Coast

Illegal parking on footpaths and nature strips can endanger pedestrians, damage underground services and damage the surface and create trip hazards.

To ensure everyone's safety, vehicle parking is regulated and monitored in the Livingstone Shire area. Vehicles should not be parked in a manner that blocks pedestrian access particularly on footpaths, or in a way that causes a hazard to motorists.

Vehicles are not to be parked on a road marked with a continuous yellow edged line or a painted traffic island.

Be aware of timed parking zones. Council officers do take enforcement action for overstaying the specified time.

Blue Australian Disability Permit holders need to clearly display their permits with expiry date visible from outside the vehicle.

Red permits do not allow on street parking in disabled parking zones.

Heavy vehicles (GVM of 4.5 tonnes or more) and long vehicles (7.5 metres or more) must not park for more than an hour in a built up area, unless actively engaged in loading or unloading the vehicle.

For more information regarding parking rules visit the Qld Government website, [www.legislation.qld.gov.au](http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au).

