



Dog Keeping

How many dogs can I keep on my property?

There is a limit on the number of dogs that can be kept on your premises. Limits on dog numbers in the Council area are found in *Council's Dogs By-Law 2012*:

In a Township a maximum of three (3) dogs may be kept

In the Rural Living Zone a maximum of three (3) dogs may be kept

In the Animal Husbandry Zone a maximum of nine (9) dogs may be kept

On any other premises a maximum of five (5) dogs may be kept

Council may, in some circumstances, grant permission to keep more than the maximum number of dogs prescribed above on your property. Each application is individually assessed and there is no guarantee of approval.

Please note the above limits do not apply to dog kennelling. Dog kennelling, along with some other types of dog keeping like breeding, showing, training etc. may require Development Approval from Council. Council has prepared a short questionnaire that you can fill out to help determine whether a Development Approval is required for dog keeping at your property.

In what areas of the Council can I get approval for dog kennelling?

The Animal Husbandry Zone is a specialized zone recognizing the legitimacy of dog kennelling and horse keeping. However, Development Approval for these activities is still required. In finding a suitable location within the Animal Husbandry Zone, you still need to be mindful of any restrictions on development in the *Gawler River Flood Plain Policy Area*.

Refer to flood maps at:

http://www.apc.sa.gov.au/webdata/resources/files/Gawler_River_Flood_Plain_-_Hazard_Map.pdf

Owners outside the Animal Husbandry Zone should contact Council for further information.

Four to nine dogs in the Animal Husbandry Zone are automatically exempt from public notification (Category 1).

Between **10 and 30 dogs** in the Animal Husbandry Zone require immediate neighbour notification (Category 2).

More than 30 dogs in the RL (AH) Zone require full Category 3 public notification, which involves advertising of the application in two local newspapers.

Planning requirements I need to be aware of

The following guidelines / requirements have been taken from the *Mallala Council Development Plan consolidated 21 April 2016*:

- Dog keeping should only take place where a dwelling is permanently occupied on the site.
- Landscaping to provide shade in summer and access to winter sun for runs, kennels and associated ancillary structures.
- Landscaping to provide permanent screening along property boundaries of views of buildings and structures from adjoining properties and public roads should form part of the development.
- Kennels should be designed and constructed of materials able to be cleaned regularly to prevent the creation of unsanitary conditions.
- Animal wastes should be treated using a disposal system for decomposition of solid wastes in a safe manner, or otherwise disposed of in a satisfactory manner not involving disposal via the domestic waste collection service (refer to SA Public Health Act 2011).
- The floor of kennels should be constructed of concrete or similar impervious material and be designed to allow for adequate drainage when kennels are cleaned.
- Kennels should be sited as far as practical from allotment boundaries (minimum 10 metres from side boundaries, if kennel building walls fully sealed and insulated OR 20 metres from side boundaries, if kennel building opens towards the boundary; 12 metres from the rear boundary,; and no closer to the front boundary than the existing dwelling) with openings orientated to minimise noise nuisance to neighbours and insulated to protect from extreme temperatures.
- The floor, roof and walls of the kennels, fencing around the exercise yards, and the animal waste disposal system should be maintained in good condition at all times. External walls and roof should be maintained in a good state of appearance at all times.
- Exercise yards attached to kennel buildings should face away from allotment boundaries to minimise potential noise nuisance to neighbours.

What if my property is in the 1 in 100 year Gawler River flood plain?

Restrictions apply to buildings, structures, fencing, and excavation and filling of land in the *Gawler River Flood Plain Policy Area (GRFP)* as per flood maps link referred to previously. Please check with Council for more information on the requirements associated with the GRFP. All dogs must be registered under the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*.

Everyone has an environmental duty of care under the *Environment Protection Act*. This means that owners have an obligation to ensure they do not cause environmental harm or pollution and that neighbour's have sufficient protection from barking dogs and odours. The EPA have guidelines that Council consider during an assessment process.

Broader provisions apply in relation to the keeping of dogs, and especially with regard to the waste that is generated and the conditions in which animals are kept.

Note: Where kennels are washed down periodically for hygiene and sanitary reasons, all wash down water shall be directed to a series of floor grates/spoon drain. The grates/drain shall be directed to a silt trap for physical removal of hair/faeces etc. The waste water will then be directed to a **septic tank via sewer pipes and then on to a soakage trench/trenches**. The size of tank and trenches will be determined by the number and size of dogs. Solid waste must be removed from the property and disposed of at a licensed waste depot. Solid waste can also be composted, utilising an adequate worm farm. Composting may be recommended, in conjunction with also removing some waste from the property.