

28 February 2023

Responsible Dog Ownership

With an increased number of dogs wandering off leash leading to dog attack incidents across the Warrumbungle Shire area, Council is seeking help from the community to ensure dogs are appropriately secured.

“Council would like to remind community members of the importance of having dogs leashed while in public areas at all times,” said Warrumbungle Shire Council Mayor, Councillor Ambrose Doolan. “Wandering dogs are not only a danger to the public but also a danger to themselves; they may become lost, stolen, killed or injured by vehicles on public roads or cause damage to other people or another animal.”

“As a consequence of dogs unleashed in the community the number of dog attack incidents have increased. Dog attacks are a traumatic experience and dog owners need to take responsibility for their dogs to protect the public against consequences of attacks.”

“Unfortunately, dogs may also attack people, other pets or native animals. It can be difficult to imagine, but the way a dog behaves around their owner or family and friends can be completely different to how it behaves when the owner is not present with the dog,” said Cr Doolan.

Remember, an attack is not just limited to a dog biting someone, it can include a dog rushing at, biting, harassing, or chasing any person or another animal. Whether or not any injury is caused to the person or animal it should still be reported, there could still be grounds to place a declaration on the attacking dog and the owner may receive a fine.

“If you are a dog owner, please keep them safe and secure at home. Sometimes accidents happen and dogs escape, but we can all do our part to prevent this from happening and reduce the number of dogs roaming the streets,” concluded Cr Doolan.

For more information about dog attacks and other information about animals visit Council’s website or contact Council’s Compliance Officers on (02) 6849 2000.

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