

Council shall operate an approved owner scheme, which gives recognition and benefits for those owners who meet such standards in respect of the dog control as Council may from time to time approve.

During each twelve months ending 30<sup>th</sup> June, any dog owner can become an “Approved Dog Owner” if they have:

1. Paid their registration fee before the final payment date each year. However, if an owner completes registration including payment of penalty fees by 31 August, approved owner status is only removed where the owner has not met fees by due registration date on any occasion during the previous five years or other criteria are not met.
2. Not been prosecuted for an offence against Council’s Dog Control Bylaws or the Dog Control Act 1996.
3. Not received a written notice of an offence against the Act or Council’s Bylaws, even though no prosecution may follow.
4. Not had a dog impounded.
5. Not been the subject of a complaint by two or more independent complainants, e.g. for prolonged barking at night or scavenging in rubbish bags.
6. Not been the subject of a complaint verified by a Council Officer.

If a dog owner fails to comply with any requirements they will not be able to become “Approved Dog Owners” and will be required to pay a greater dog registration fee during the following registration year.

**Notes:**

Where an unregistered dog has been impounded, all fees, including registration fees at the full rate (‘Non-Approved Owner’) must be paid before the dog is released.

The owner of any disability assist dog who contravenes the approved owner criteria shall be deemed to be a general dog owner and shall pay fees accordingly.