

IT'S A DOG'S LIFE

IN HOBSONS BAY

OFF-LEASH DOG AREAS

There are 14 designated off-leash dog areas in Hobsons Bay. Here are some tips for keeping your dog happy and safe in an off-leash area while respecting other park users:

- Even when off-leash, keep your dog under close supervision. Whether you are a dog owner, cyclist or pedestrian, everyone needs to be courteous and aware of other park and reserve users.
- Dogs must be under effective voice or hand controls at all times – if your dog does not return to you when called or you cannot control their behaviour they should not be off-leash.
- Always have the leash close at hand in case your dog becomes aggressive or is scared.
- Don't let your dog run up to or jump on other people.
- Don't let your dog rush up to other dogs to play as the other dogs may be fearful or aggressive.
- Ask other dog owners if their dog is sociable and if they are happy for your dog to approach.
- To protect native wildlife, don't let your dog rush at or chase wading birds.

Microchipping and registration

All cats and dogs over the age of three months must be registered with Council, with registration renewals due by 10 April every year. In line with state legislation, all animals must be microchipped when registered for the first time. For more information and costs for registering your pet, visit www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

Walking your dog - the rules

A leash is essential when walking your dog in public areas in Hobsons Bay, unless you are in a designated off-leash area. Under the local law, dog owners can be fined \$200 if they are not carrying a litter bag, do not pick up after their dog or do not have their dog on a leash.

Taking the lead on dog-bird relations

Apex Park, Doug Grant Reserve, the mouth of the Laverton Creek, Jawbone Reserve, Truganina Park and Cherry Lake are important stopping points for migratory birds, and a favourite residence for wader birds. Dogs and birds don't mix so we ask dog owners to avoid these areas if possible. Off-leash canines can crush birds' eggs and nests, or scare the shorebirds and cause them to deplete energy for the return journey to places as far as Siberia. If your dog loves water consider taking them to PA Burns Reserve and Altona Dog beach.

DOG'S



Hobsons Bay's top 5 registered dog breeds

1	2	3	4	5
Jack Russell Terrier	Labrador	Border Collie	Golden Retriever	Staffordshire Bull Terrier



*Time restricted. See www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au for details.