



City of Ballarat

Dogs, Fencing and the Community

Your pet, your responsibility

As a dog owner, you are responsible for keeping your dog contained to your property. City of Ballarat Community Local Laws (2017) require that dogs must not be able to escape their property or put any part of their body through, under or over the fence. The height of a fence needed depends on the dog's breed, size, age, and behaviour. If a dog has a history of escaping, an authorised Animal Management Officer (AMO) may issue a Notice to Comply for the owner of the dog to secure the dog to the property and/or amend the fence.

Frequently asked questions

I am having issues with the neighbour's dog and my fence, what should I do first?

The most effective first step is to speak to your neighbours in a polite way to try and resolve the issue. If you are unable to resolve the situation, an Animal Management Officer (AMO) can attend your property and provide further assistance.

What can City of Ballarat do to enforce fencing matters regarding dogs?

City of Ballarat's Animal Management Team can only enforce fencing matters if a dog has previously escaped a property, or a fence has been damaged in a way where a dog may escape. If you are concerned about a dog potentially escaping or behaving aggressively, an AMO can speak to the dog owner to educate them about ways to mitigate this.

I am renting the property, isn't it the landlord's responsibility to maintain the fences?

As a dog owner, it is your responsibility to ensure your dog is securely contained to your property. The suitability of a fence depends on a dog's breed, size, age, and behaviour. While it may be helpful to ask your landlord for help, it is your responsibility to keep your dog in your yard. Temporary solutions can still be put in place in a rental home which need to be tailored to the dog in question.

My dog jumps on or over the fence, how can I fix this?

Extending the height of the fence using permanent or temporary fence extenders reduce the possibility of a dog escaping the property. The height of these structures depends on the dog in question.

Blocking vision through a fence may reduce barking, jumping, and digging as dogs are less likely to see other dogs or people walking past.

My dog is digging under the fence, what can I do to prevent this?

It is important to work out why your dog is digging in the first place. If there is another dog or people on the other side of the fence, blocking vision or preventing access to the fence may help. Placing impervious materials below or near the fence may also reduce a dog's ability to dig. Temporary solutions may include bricks, rocks, wood, or chicken wire.

Many dogs have an innate desire to dig, so providing a sandpit as a designated digging area may reduce digging at the fence.