

# Dogs

Caring and licencing  
your pets



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## Managing your Dog

Excessive barking of dogs often cause neighbourhood disputes and violates animal control ordinances. If your dog's barking creates tension with your neighbours, it is a good idea to discuss the problem with your neighbours.

It's normal and reasonable for dogs to bark from time to time, just as children make noise when they play outside. However, incessant barking for long periods of time is a sign that your dog has a problem that needs to be addressed.

The first thing you need to do is determine when and for how long your dog barks, and what causes it to bark. This may mean asking a number of neighbours in the vicinity about the length of time the dog barks, especially if the barking occurs when you're not home. Some causes for excessive barking include:

- 1 Your dog may be barking because he's bored and lonely. If he is left alone for long periods of time without opportunities for interaction with you.
- 2 His environment is relatively barren, without playmates or toys.
- 3 He's a puppy or adolescent (under three years old) and doesn't have other outlets for his energy.
- 4 He's a particularly active type of dog (like the herding or sporting breeds) who needs a "job" to be happy.

Expand your dog's world and increase his "people time" in the following ways:

- 1 Walk your dog daily - it's good exercise, both mental and physical.
- 2 Teach your dog to fetch a ball or frisbee and practise with him as often as possible.
- 3 Teach your dog a few commands and/or tricks and practice them every day for five to ten minutes. If possible take an obedience class with your dog.

- 4 Provide interesting toys to keep your dog busy when you're not home. Rotating the toys makes them seem new and interesting.
- 5 If your dog is barking to get your attention, make sure he has sufficient time with you on a daily basis (petting, grooming, playing, exercising) so he doesn't have to resort to misbehaving to get your attention.
- 6 Let your neighbours know that you're actively working on the problem.
- 7 When you have to leave your dog for extended periods of time, have a friend or neighbour walk and/or play with him.

## Strays

Residents are also warned not to allow their dogs to leave their premises without a leash. Stray dogs are the cause of uncontrolled breeding, overall nuisance, spreading of ticks, fleas and diseases. Allowing dogs to roam the streets without a leash and uncontrolled is also an offence.

Stray dogs will be impounded and owners of the impounded dogs will not be able to reclaim the animals before proof is submitted that dogs will be kept under control in the future to the satisfaction of the Animal Control Officer.

## Adopting a Dog

Puppies can be cute, but many people get so caught up in how much fun a new dog would be, they forget how much time and money caring for a dog is going to take. This often leads to animals being mistreated, abandoned or left to roam on the street.

Similarly, dog owners need to have their dogs inoculated (including periodic veterinary examinations), dipped and dewormed to curb the spread of animal diseases and ticks and fleas.

It is a criminal offence to abuse or mistreat dogs and other pets. Animal abuse includes:

- not providing adequate shelter, food and water;
- not providing enough space for the dog to roam in

- keep the dog chained up;
- hitting or hurting the animal deliberately or through its environment (tight collar/wire etc);
- not keeping their living area clean and hygienic;
- allowing dogs to fight or breed uncontrolled.

The option of sterilising your dog is important for many reasons. Walvis Bay is overpopulated with stray dogs, which results in large numbers of animals being euthanized every year for lack of responsible homes. Also, sterilizing your dogs gives them healthier, happier lives and it reduces behavioural problems.

Dogs require time, money, and care and commitment for a lifetime. If that doesn't fit in with your life-style, you'd better take another look at the situation.

### Licensing & Fees

It is the Council's objective to maintain safe, hygienic and harmonious conditions for all residents of Walvis Bay, therefore the Council appeals to all dog owners to adhere to the following rules:

- Renew/ Obtain your dog's licence in time
- Keep your dog under control and off the streets
- Prevent your dog from being a nuisance to your neighbours
- Report stray dogs to the Municipality immediately
- Co-operate with the officials of the Council when routine inspections are carried out.

Dog licences are issued by the Municipality of Walvis Bay on an annual basis. Each property owner may only have a maximum of two dogs on his/her property. Dogs need to be licensed as from six months of age.

Dog licences are available from cashier desks at any of the municipality's three offices. These licences are renewable annually between 1 January and 31 March and expire on 31 December of every year.

It is an offence under the Municipal Dog Tax Ordinance to keep unlicensed dogs. Upon conviction, offenders can be fined a maximum of N\$200 or be imprisoned for six months.

### Fines & Requirements

Non-payment of Dog Tax	N\$150, 00
Stray dogs	N\$200, 00

Penalties for late licensing 10% of the fee per month  
Requirements:

- Spayed bitch – proof that dog was spayed
- Name of owner
- Physical address
- Telephone number
- Postal address
- Erf number
- Type of dog

For further information please call the Animal Control Officer of the Municipality of Walvis Bay at Tel 201 3286/8.





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