



Household pet expansion

Dog or no dog

Prepared for Sisters

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1. Context

- 1.1 Sisters reside in a second-floor apartment in Elsternwick, Victoria, which is currently home to two sisters and two cats (collectively, the **Household**).
- 1.2 The Household is currently functioning in an above optimal capacity and sister 1 has proposed the addition of 1 dog to the Household.

2. Question

2.1 Should the Household acquire a dog and if so

- are there any legal consequences; and
- are there any likely downsides and how can these be mitigated.

3. Answers

3.1 **Yes**, the Household should acquire a dog if it is:

- small;
- insured;
- registered with council; and
- heckin' cute.

3.2 Legal implications:

- City of Glen Eira Council [requires a permit](#) if “three of more dogs or cats” are on a property (see Annexure 1).









- Permit costs vary from \$166.37 - \$337.21 (for restricted breed and declared dangerous dogs).

3.3 Possible downsides:

- Adding 1 dog to the Household will likely incur costs, including:
 - vet bills (for dog maintenance and potential cat injury);
 - equipment (e.g. dog food, bedding, treats, harness); and
 - replacement of destroyed furniture.
- significant time expenditure;
- disturbance of the Household’s equilibrium (particularly, cat happiness).

3.4 Mitigation:

| RISK | IMPACT | RISK LEVEL | MITIGATION ACTION TO REDUCE RISK | RESIDUAL RISK |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| High cost of vet bills | Dog will require standard vet procedures and likely sporadic vet visits too. | | Hide any chocolate (bad for dogs) Get pet insurance to mitigate impact of vet bills and unforeseen expenditure. | |


| RISK | IMPACT | RISK LEVEL | MITIGATION ACTION TO REDUCE RISK | RESIDUAL RISK |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| High cost of registering dog | Restricted breed and declared dangerous dogs cost in excess of \$300 for yearly registration. |  | Only obtain a dog that is a non-restricted or declared dangerous breed for lowest council registration fee. |  |
| Cost of replacing destroyed furniture | If dog to be obtained is a puppy, it is likely to destroy furniture and household items. |  | 'Puppy proof' apartment and invest in dog toys that require active focus and mental stimulation to prevent dog becoming bored and anxious. Walk dog regularly and obtain a small breed dog that will require less exercise, |  |
| Significant time expenditure | Dog is likely to require significant time from members of the Household. |  | Ensure you obtain a heckin' cute dog so that significant time expenditure is enjoyed and other people might offer to take the dog for a walk ¹ . |  |
| Disturbance of household equilibrium | Current Household equilibrium of one old cat and one young cat recently reached. Potential for one dog to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • annoy cats, and • scare cats. |  | Obtain dog from young age to ensure cats in household can assert dominance and hierarchy is more easily established. Small breed dogs are recommended to lessen the risk of harm to cats. Ensure cats have access to places dog can't reach (easier with small breed), and preferably get a dog that not be able to jump and chase cats as easily (e.g. dachshund). There will always be residual risk for factors outside of the Household's control (e.g. 'personality' of the animals). |  |

¹ Dogs and companion animals have a positive effect on mental health and increased time spent with dogs (and cats) can be beneficial to your health

4. Annexure 1 - Application to keep more than the permissible number of dogs/or cats

Application to keep more than the permissible number of dogs/or cats
Clause 58 of the Community Local Law

Revised 2022



Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: (Home): _____ (Work): _____ (Mobile): _____
Email: _____

The description and particulars of the premises on which the dogs/cats are to be kept:

Total property area: _____ (sqm2) Rear outdoor area of: _____ (sqm2)
Method of confining animals to the premises (eg. fence, gates, enclosure, etc):

Interest in premises (ie. owner or occupier): _____

Details of animals:

| No. | Name | Breed | Colour | Sex (M/F) | Desexed (Y/N) | Animal ID No. |
|-----|------|-------|--------|-----------|---------------|---------------|
| 1 | | | | | | |
| 2 | | | | | | |
| 3 | | | | | | |
| 4 | | | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | | |
| 6 | | | | | | |

The provisions made for housing and keeping the premises clean and free from offensiveness are:
