



# Westminster Warriors Soccer Club

## Policy 009 – Control of Animals

Westminster Warriors, whilst promoting Redbank Plains Recreation Reserve family atmosphere, needs to also ensure the safety of people in what is, under Local Law 4, Animal Control, designated as a **public area**. This is due to Redbank Plains Recreation Reserve being:

- land owned by or under the control of the Council, other than an area specifically designated by Council as being a leash free exercise area;
- used for a public purpose; and
- open to access by the public whether on by the express or tacit consent of the club.
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It also needs to ensure that its playing surfaces are maintained in a condition suitable for the playing of Football. Therefore certain animals that can cause damage to the playing surface are not suitable to enter the playing area.

### Policy

Westminster Warriors Soccer Club Inc.:

1. Prohibits large or hoofed, domesticated animals such as horses, sheep and cattle from entering whether under effective control of an owner or not; and
2. Welcomes smaller domesticated animals such as dogs and cats, provided their owners ensure that:
  - a. they are under effective control at all times;
  - b. people are not frightened or annoyed by their animals; and
  - c. any excreta is clean up.

This policy keeps in mind the:

#### a) Rights of the club

Paragraph 16 of “Local Law 4 – Animal Control” imparts that a person must not bring or permit an animal to be brought or roam into a public place unless the animal is under the effective control of such person.

If an animal in a public place is not under effective control, an authorised person may seize and impound the animal.



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To meet its obligations and to enforce its rights, the club will:

- 1) notify all club members of their rights as members of the public and their responsibilities as animal owners via multiple media each season;
- 2) notify all club members and owners of surrounding properties that animals that become a nuisance, impede other people's enjoyment, or otherwise form a safety risk to our club players, patrons or visitors, will be impounded at the clubs request.

### **b) Liability of the Animals Owner**

“Local Law 4 – Animal Control” enforces the requirement for owners to provide proper enclosures for animals kept on their property. It also makes allowing animals to wander an offence (owners may be liable for up to a \$375 fine for not having their animals under effective control when in a public place).

Animal **owners are also legally responsible for everything their pet does** – especially when it is outside their property. If their animal attacks (including aggressively rushing at or attempting to attack, as well as tearing clothing, biting or causing physical injury) a person or another animal, or damages property, the owner may be held liable for any damages and injuries and may face:

- Significant fines
- Having the animal declared dangerous (and be required to comply with additional conditions); and/or
- Having a destruction order issued.

Even if the animal is well behaved, it can be frightening to other people if it is roaming unattended. Roaming also increases the amount of territory animals considers their own (perhaps your entire street or as far as they can see) which is likely to result in them challenging any animal or person they consider to be an intruder in this extended territory.