

Additional Animal Permit Policy

POL-037

VERSION:
1

EFFECTIVE FROM:
1 January 2026

REVIEWABLE FROM:
October 2026

INTENTION:

Weipa Town Authority (WTA) regulates and manages the keeping and control of animals within the Weipa town boundary. To ensure public safety, amenity, and responsible pet ownership, WTA regulates the maximum number of animals permitted at a property.

This policy establishes principles and conditions for the assessment and issue of permits for additional animals at residential properties under WTA Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2018 and WTA Subordinate Local Law No. 1 (Administration) 2018. This policy supports the objectives within the Animal Management Strategy 2026 – 2030.

SCOPE

This policy applies to applications to keep more than:

- two (2) dogs at a residential property
- one (1) dog in a multi-residential complex (unit or duplex).

DEFINITIONS

Multi-Residential Property: Any complex, unit, or duplex with multiple dwellings on a single allotment

Permit: A written approval issued under Subordinate Local Law No. 1 (Administration) 2018 to keep animals beyond the number permitted without approval

Residential Property: A property zoned for residential use within the Weipa Township

POLICY

1. General Requirements

- 1.1. A permit is required to keep more than two (2) dogs at any residential property or more than one (1) at any multi-residential property.
- 1.2. With an approved permit, a maximum of four (4) dogs may be permitted at a residential property.

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- 1.3. All dogs kept under a permit must be registered and comply with containment and welfare standards.¹

2. Permit Conditions

- 2.1. Permits will be issued for a maximum period of 12 months and require renewal prior to expiry.
- 2.2. Permit holders must:
 - maintain fencing and containment requirements
 - ensure no substantial nuisance (barking, roaming, or aggression) occurs
 - notify WTA of any change in animal ownership or property occupancy
 - allow inspection by an authorised officer when requested.
- 1.2. Additional reasonable conditions may be imposed to ensure community amenity and safety, and animal welfare is maintained.

3. Assessment Principles

- 3.1. The following principles will be considered when assessing permit applications:
 - number, species, breed and age of the proposed and existing animals at the property
 - capability of the property for keeping the proposed and existing animals
 - yards must be fully fenced and provide adequate shade, shelter, and space for exercise
 - welfare and living conditions
 - potential impact on surrounding areas, including nuisance, inconvenience and annoyance
 - applicant's history of compliance with animal management legislation.
- 3.2. A permit may be refused, or additional conditions imposed, if:
 - the property is unsuitable for the number of animals proposed
 - previous unrectified undue nuisance, welfare, or registration breaches exist
 - amenity, safety or environment of the surrounding area would likely be impacted.

4. Assessment Process

- 4.1. Applicants are to submit properly made applications with relevant evidence to support the above principles, including:
 - descriptions or photographs of each animal
 - diagrams or photographs of the yard and enclosure
 - neighbour consultation form (optional but encouraged).
- 4.2. Applications will be assessed with a recommendation presented to Supervisor Communities for final approval.

¹ See *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008* (Qld), *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001* (Qld), WTA Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2018 and WTA Subordinate Local Law No. 1 (Administration) 2018.

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- 4.3. Applicants will be advised in writing of the decision and, if applicable, any additional conditions.

5. Compliance

- 5.1. WTA may conduct yard inspections at any time, within reason, to ensure compliance with all permit conditions.
- 5.2. Permits may be suspended or revoked for repeated breaches of permit conditions.
 - 5.2.1. Time may be given to rectify any breach, depending on the severity or impact of the breach.
- 5.3. Breaches of permit conditions may also result in impoundment or prosecution under the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008* (Qld) or WTA Local Laws.
- 5.4. Ongoing breaches of permit conditions may result in permit refusal for a period of time determined by WTA.
 - 5.4.1. Permits may be refused for 6 months, 12 months or 18 months, determined with reference to the degree of and willingness to rectify breaches.

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LEGISLATION AND COMPLIANCE

- *Local Government Act 2009* (Qld)
- *Local Government Regulation 2012* (Qld)
- *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008* (Qld)
- *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001* (Qld)
- *WTA Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2018*
- *WTA Subordinate Local Law No. 1 (Administration) 2018*
- Rio Tinto HSE-A-001 *Health, Safety, Environment, Security & Communities Policy*

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Animal Management Strategy 2026–2030
- Animal Management Operations Manual
- Pound Facility Manual
- Compliance and Enforcement Framework
- Relevant application forms

FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information, consult with Supervisor Communities.

DOCUMENT HISTORY

Version	Endorsed by	Date released	Description of Amendment
1	Superintendent; WTA Members	1 January 2026	Creation of policy to impose a framework for additional animal permits and to reflect the Animal Management Strategy 2026-2030.

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