

Fines for Animals at Large

This week a number of cases were heard at the Korumburra Magistrates Court regarding animal management issues, including failing to properly confine a dog and failing to register a dog.

One animal owner received a fine of \$4,200 for not registering their dogs and allowing them to roam around the neighbourhood.

South Gippsland Shire Council's Local Laws team continues to receive a number of complaints about wandering dogs from concerned residents throughout the municipality.

Wandering dogs pose a risk to themselves and the community; they are subject to attacks from other animals, road trauma and ingesting pest baits. These dogs may also attack other animals, making owners liable for any injury or damage caused.

The courts recognise the potential for harm caused by wandering or unrestrained dogs and this is reflected in the decisions being handed down. Recent media attention given to dog attacks and dogs at large also highlight some of these issues.

South Gippsland Shire Council's Local Laws Coordinator Bruce Gardiner said of Monday's court proceedings, "We believe that this is a positive outcome for the community and will hopefully encourage owners to make sure their properties are secure enough to keep their animals contained and register their animals.

"Animal owners are reminded that if their dog is found wandering but is registered with Council, wearing its registration tag and has not been the subject of any previous issues we will usually return it home without cost or the need for impounding it," said Mr Gardiner.

Further information and advice on animal management issues may be obtained from Council's Local Laws team on 5662 9200 or via Council's website.

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