

OFF-LEASH AREAS



Advice for Off-Leash Users

- Your dog should be trained to consistently return to you in the face of distraction. Silent whistle recall training is recommended.
- If you know your dog has doubtful social skills, is not trained to always come when it is called or is the fearful type, do not take it to any off-leash areas.
- Don't feed your dog before visiting an off-leash area. Let your dog know you are carrying food treats as this will keep him close by and his focus on you.
- Reward your dog with treats each time he returns or retrieves on command.
- If your dog appears to be showing unwanted attention to, or interest in another person or dog, immediately reward it when it responds and place a collar and lead on it, and quietly move it away.
- Restrain your dog if asked and don't allow it to be a nuisance.
- Keep play activities away from main walking tracks and other users.
- If your dog is approached by another while playing with toys, recall your dog. Restrain it and remove the toy so your dog won't feel that it needs to protect it from the other dog.
- If your dog approaches another person or dog, don't rush up yelling at your dog as this could incite it or the other dog into attacking.
- Quietly wait a reasonable distance away until the dogs have lost interest in each other. You should then call your dog, praise and reward it on its return.
- Ask any person approached by your dog to remain still until the dog has scented them. Do this if you are approached by another dog.
- Do not allow your dog to wander off exploring. Use your visit to the off-leash area for controlled exercise or play only.
- Keep your dog under control at all times. Keep your first visits to strict routine and your dog will still learn 'the drill'
- Control over your dog and respect for the rights of local residents, other users and the environment are the keys to preserving these facilities.



CONTACT PHONE NUMBER

For more information contact:
Kiama Municipal Council on 4232 0444



Sept 2006



OFF-LEASH AREAS

FACILITIES FOR DOG OWNERS OWNERS

Kiama Municipal Council offers its residents and visitors seven coastal locations for the off-leash exercise and recreation of dogs, whilst under the control of their owners. Six are headland areas and one is a time restricted beach area. They extend from Minnamurra south to Gerroa. Council established all areas after public consultation and following a recommendation of the Council's Companion Animals Management Advisory Committee.

Kiama Council understands that companion animal ownership is an integral part of family life and recognises the need for resident and visiting dogs and their owner families, to be provided with facilities that promote health, recreation and socialisation. This initiative represents a part of Council's holistic approach to sustainable living and environmental management, themed - "Kiamasphere".

Be Responsible and Protect Your Off-Leash Area

All Off-Leash Areas (OLAs) are subject to on-going regulatory patrol and evaluation by Council's Ranger Service. The areas are also the subject of an annual review by Council whereupon factors such as environmental and regulatory compliance are reviewed. Of principal concern to Council are the impacts caused by irresponsible dog owners failing to remove and properly dispose of their dog's faeces in the bins provided or failing to maintain control of their unleashed dogs in OLAs.

All OLAs are established as joint use facilities. Of particular importance is the time restricted Bombo Beach area where dogs may also swim. The areas border some environmentally sensitive natural rock platforms, creeks and other beaches, where entry is prohibited for dogs. Some also form part of larger reserve areas.

The consideration and respect of all users for each other and the environment is of paramount importance. By heeding the information and advice provided in this brochure and by observing all conditions and regulations pertaining to the OLA's, the future use of these areas for off leash purposes will be ensured.

Council's Ranger Service promotes the responsible use of OLAs and welcomes community and visitor feedback in order to protect these facilities.



Regulations for all Headland Reserve Off-Leash Areas

Signs in all areas provide a map of the OLA and read:

- ◆ Dogs are permitted off leash in this area but *must* remain under effective control at all times.
- ◆ Owners are responsible for their dogs' actions.
- ◆ Dogs *must* be registered and identified by means of a collar and tag.
- ◆ Dogs *must* be leashed at all times when outside the designated area.
- ◆ Dog faeces *must* be immediately removed and properly disposed of in the bins provided.
- ◆ Greyhounds, dogs declared dangerous and restricted breed dogs are prohibited in this area.
- ◆ Owners *must* comply with all provisions of the Companion Animals Act 1998.

INFRINGEMENT NOTICES WILL BE ISSUED FOR OFFENCES

Regulations for Bombo Beach Off-Leash/Swimming Area

Signs at both access points depict maps of the OLA together with the regulations:

- ◆ Dogs are only permitted in the defined off-leash area:
- ◆ Dogs must be leashed at all times when outside the off-leash area including when on the beach either approaching or departing the defined area.
- ◆ Dogs are only permitted upon Bombo Beach to enter or exit the off-leash area via the shortest practicable route from either the signpost point adjacent to the roadway under the rail bridge at the northern end; or the fenced walkway which passes under the railway bridge from the Hothersal St carpark, at the southern end of Bombo Beach.
- ◆ Dogs are only permitted off-leash and to swim, in the centre area of Bombo Beach as defined by the attached map and indicated by northern and southern limit signs erected on the beach
- ◆ Dogs must be under effective control at all times and their owners or handlers are responsible for their dogs' actions.
- ◆ Dogs must be registered and wear a collar and identification tag.
- ◆ Each dog's attending owner or handler must carry a bag or suitable means to immediately remove any dog faeces, which must then be disposed of offsite in the reserve bins provided.
- ◆ Greyhounds, dogs declared dangerous and restricted breed dogs are prohibited in this area.
- ◆ Owners and handlers must comply with all relevant provisions of the Companion Animals Act, 1998 and Council's Conditions of Use.

DOGS ARE PROHIBITED AT ALL TIMES AND IN ALL AREAS OF THE BEACH, OTHER THAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ABOVE CONDITIONS.

INFRINGEMENT NOTICES WILL BE ISSUED FOR OFFENCES

OFF LEASH AREA LOCATIONS

 OFF LEASH AREA
  PARKING AREA
 * ACCESS POINT

