

Leash laws for dog owners



northern
beaches
council



northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au

Leash requirements

Dogs must be on a leash in all public areas unless in a designated off leash area. Owners must always keep their dog under effective control. Effective control is defined as an adequate chain, cord or leash held by a competent person.

Why it matters:

- NSW has an average of 2,500 dog attack incidents each year, mostly in public places
- Children and pets are most at risk. In 2025 Northern Beaches Council recorded 257 dog attacks
- Leashing reduces risks to your dog, including traffic accidents and fights with other dogs
- Unleashed dogs can disturb or injure native wildlife
- Keeping dogs leashed helps protect other pets and prevents unwanted interactions.

Penalties

A fine of \$330 or more applies for a dog off leash outside a designated leash free park



Scan to check off-leash areas