

## Legal Responsibility of Volunteers

Please remember that the person walking the dog is legally responsible for the dog that is being walked at the time.

The Council will ensure all volunteers involved are provided with adequate training to ensure they are able to comfortably and confidently undertake tasks and minimise risk.

Please ensure the dog remains on the lead until it is safely secured back onto its property and the dog owner is present when this occurs.

In an unlikely event of attack/harassment, this must be reported to Council. Please attempt to get the details of any other dog owners or witnesses to the incident.

In the unlikely instance that an expiation notice is received for any breach while the dog is being walked and in your control, you are responsible for those expiations.

For all concerns, enquiries and general reporting within the program contact:

**City of Charles Sturt**  
**Companion Animal Project Co-ordinator**  
**Phone: 08 8408 1111**

Please contact Council if you have any health concerns for the animal you are visiting and a decision will be made in consultation with the owner regarding treatment.

For general volunteering queries with the City of Charles Sturt contact:

**Volunteer Service Development Officer**  
**Phone: 08 8408 1828**



72 Woodville Road  
Woodville South Australia 5011  
Telephone 8408 1111

[www.charlessturt.sa.gov.au](http://www.charlessturt.sa.gov.au)

# Companion Animal Project

## Information for Volunteers



Volunteers supporting and assisting older people to keep their pets and maintain the positive, beneficial relationship their companion animal provides them.



# Introduction

The Community Care team at the City of Charles Sturt have implemented an exciting program, the Companion Animal Project. This project involves supporting and assisting older people to keep their pets and maintain the positive, beneficial relationship their companion animal provides them.

The project will primarily involve the walking of older people's dogs by volunteers but other tasks may be negotiated if identified, a volunteer is available, and only once approved by the co-ordinator. This project aims to improve both the quality of life and health for the dogs involved and increase the older person's socialisation and access to other services within Community Care.

Pets have been shown to greatly increase quality of life for the elderly, including reduced fatigue and confusion, and increased feelings of enthusiasm and interest. Therefore, making sure this relationship is not 'lost' for them because the older person cannot care for their pet is the major goal of the project.



## Role of the Volunteer

As a volunteer in the City of Charles Sturt's Companion Animal Project, there are several primary duties within this role. These are:

- Visit your matched resident on a regular (generally weekly) basis
- Assist the client with caring for their companion animal. This will be primarily exercising/walking, but may include brushing as well
- Provide the co-ordinator with a record of dates and times of visits
- Report all concerns to the co-ordinator of the project
- Report to the co-ordinator if the client appears to need help in other areas

## Rights & Responsibilities

Respect the rights of residents and exercise duty of care at all times.

Respect the decisions made by the pet's owner.

Report any difficulties or issues that occur during visits to the co-ordinator.

Report to the co-ordinator if asked to undertake any financial or legal responsibilities, or any other tasks outside of the duties of the role description.

Comply with WHS requirements including training requirements.

Volunteers will be reimbursed for out of pocket expenses as approved by the co-ordinator.

Volunteers have the right to end their involvement at any time; however they have a responsibility to advise the co-ordinator if they wish to cease visiting on a temporary or permanent basis.