



Animal Management - Straying Livestock

Responsible ownership

By law, all animal livestock must be securely enclosed on your property.

An enclosure is defined as the area of land on which the livestock is kept and is appropriately sized to effectively and comfortably house the livestock. Livestock is to be kept more than 10m away from neighbouring premises and commercial food manufacturing, preparation or storage for human consumption.

By law, livestock owners have a duty to provide proper enclosures and prevent animals from wandering or escaping. Livestock that stray from your property may be impounded by Cook Shire Council and only released after payment of set fees.

Straying livestock can become distressed and in turn pose safety risks for the animal, neighbours and members of the community. Livestock that are not kept safely enclosed are at risk of being injured or could cause injury to others. They can become a traffic hazard to motorists, can be aggressive, can spread noxious weeds and can cause damage to property.

What can I do if my livestock is straying?

Livestock may stray for various reasons including an urge to roam, searching for food and water, and/or seeking company. If your livestock does escape from its enclosure, all measures should be made to prevent this from happening again.

Several precautions can be made to prevent your livestock from escaping to an unfenced area including regular checks of fencing and repairs if necessary. Having an adequate size fence and enclosure, protects your livestock and the neighbourhood.

As a responsible owner please ensure that your enclosure is suitably fenced:

- High enough that the livestock cannot jump over;
- Low enough that the livestock cannot crawl under;
- Strong enough that the livestock cannot push through it;
- Gates that are self-latching or kept closed and latched.

What should I do if I find straying livestock?

Straying livestock can be restrained by any member of the public for collection by an authorised officer. After restraining the animal, check for any form of identification, if possible, before reporting it to Council's Animal Control Team.

Please do not approach the animal if it shows signs of aggression.

What happens if my livestock is caught straying?

If your livestock is caught straying and is impounded, Council will take all reasonable steps to contact you. If you notice your livestock is missing, refer to Council's website at www.cook.qld.gov.au and follow the appropriate links to the Impounded Animals page.

Photographs and information about all impounded animals are available on Council's website for public viewing.

If you think your livestock is impounded phone Council's Animal Control Team to arrange release. Fees must be paid for the release of all impounded animals. If the animal is unregistered, it will be branded and/or earmarked prior to release. Livestock that isn't claimed from the Council pound will be auctioned to the public. If the auction is unsuccessful the animal may be euthanised.

For further information contact Council's Animal Control Team.