

Responsible Dog Ownership

As a dog owner you have a responsibility to ensure that your dog is well looked after.

In addition, it is important that dog owners respect other people in the community. This can be achieved by keeping dogs adequately confined on their properties, on a leash in public places, preventing aggressive behaviour and controlling excessive barking.

The Dog Act 1976

The *Dog Act 1976* is administered and enforced by local governments within their respective districts. The Act addresses the control and registration of dogs; the ownership and keeping of dogs; and the obligations and rights of dog owners and others.

As of 1 November 2013, amendments to the *Dog Act 1976* come into affect.

These changes have been made to;

- ◆ Improve community safety, through increased controls over dangerous dogs and higher penalties to encourage more responsible dog ownership
- ◆ Enable nuisance behaviour, including barking, to be more effectively dealt with
- ◆ Recognise assistance dogs as an extension of the guide dog provisions
- ◆ Require mandatory microchipping, lifetime dog registrations and impounding provisions.

This brochure includes important information that all current and future dog owners need to know.



 A Dog
IS THE ONLY THING ON EARTH
THAT LOVES YOU MORE
THAN HE LOVES HIMSELF

Where can I get more information?

For more information visit the Department of Local Government and Communities Responsible Dog Ownership web page at:

www.dlgc.wa.gov.au/dogs
or contact the Shire of Lake Grace



Shire of Lake Grace

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Shire of Lake Grace



Important Information for Dog Owners





Your Responsibilities

Registration

A dog owner is legally required to register his or her dog with the appropriate local government if it is more than three months old. The registration period is from 1 November to 31 October the following year. It is an offence not to register your dog .

Registration forms and fees can be found on the Shire of Lake Grace's website, www.lakegrace.wa.gov.au.



Microchipping

As of 1 November 2013 all new dogs registered have to be microchipped.

If you already own a dog and it is currently registered, it must be microchipped by the 1 November 2015.

Having your dog microchipped will help local governments readily identify lost and stray dogs and quickly reunite them with their owners.

Dog Control

You have a legal responsibility to keep your dog under control, either confined within a fenced area on your property or on a leash when in public.

Not having your dog on leash or if caught roaming can result in fines.



Number of Dogs

A maximum of two dogs per household are allowed. Applications in writing to your local government can be made to have this number increased. Special conditions apply.

Dog Health

It is your responsibility to ensure your dog is properly cared for and healthy. Your dog requires fresh water, adequate amount of quality food, exercise and shelter. Dogs do not always show pain like humans. It is important to have you dog regularly checked by a veterinarian to help prevent health problems.

Millions of pets are euthanized each year due to overpopulation. If you are planning on breeding, be a responsible breeder not a backyard breeder. If not planning to breed, be responsible and sterilise your pet.



Removal of Dog Droppings

Dog droppings are a source of annoyance to other users of footpaths and recreation areas.

Most local governments have local laws that require the person in charge of the dog in a public place to remove their dog's droppings and adequately dispose of it. There are penalties for not doing so.

Dog Barking

It is your responsibility to ensure that your dog is not creating a public nuisance by barking excessively. All dogs bark but excessive barking is one of the most disruptive neighbourhood issues.

For more information on excessive barking and solutions to stop barking before it becomes a nuisance please visit the Department of Local Government and Communities Responsible Dog Ownership web page, www.dlgc.wa.gov.au/dogs

Lost Dogs

You should notify your local government as soon as you know your dog is missing. You will need to provide your details, dog description and where and when the dog went missing.

Having your dog registered and microchipped will help identify your dog and reunite them with you quickly.



Dog Attacks

A dog attack is a very serious matter. If your dog attacks a person or another animal, you will be held responsible . A dog attack includes a dog aggressively rushing at or attempting to attack a person or animal, as well as tearing clothing, biting or causing physical injury.

The dog's owner is also liable for any injury or damage resulting from a dog attack.



Dangerous Dogs

Thousands of dog attacks are reported in Western Australia every year. Some result in horrific injuries and trauma. If your dog displays aggressive behaviour, it is important you address it quickly with appropriate training.

Local governments may declare a dog "dangerous" if it attacks, shows a tendency to attack, or repeatedly rushes, threatens or chases people or animals. Once a dog is declared dangerous, it will

have to be muzzled at all times in a public place.



Local governments may also impose further restrictions, such as requiring that the dog be kept on a leash when in dog exercise areas or that it be excluded from specific areas.

Restricted Breeds

Owners of certain breeds of dogs are required to abide by provisions similar to those that apply to dogs declared dangerous. These measures require the display of warning signs where these dogs are kept, stringent fencing requirements, muzzling and restraint at all times in public, age restrictions for owners and handlers, disposal notification, and that these dogs wear dangerous dog collars. They also are required to be sterilised.

Restricted Breeds include Dogo Argentino, Fila Brasileiro, Japanese Tosa, American Pitbull Terrier & Pit Bull Terrier Breeds, Presa Canario and any dogs of mixed breed that visibly contains any of these breeds.

