

Fact sheet - Regulated Dogs

Animal Management (Cats & Dogs) Act 2008

Dangerous, menacing and restricted dogs

Pet owners are responsible and legally liable for the actions of their animals. Severe penalties apply for offences against the *Animal Management (Cats & Dogs) Act 2008* (the Act). We are all aware of the need to protect our community from the danger and fear of dog attacks. People have a right to feel safe in the community and it is the responsibility of pet owners to ensure the protection of others and to keep public areas safe for people to enjoy. Restricted dogs may only be owned with a relevant permit, a Local Government may further restrict ownership under its local laws. If you are the owner of a restricted breed you seek further advice from Council regarding your obligations under the Act.

If an attack occurs and causes the death of or grievous bodily harm to a person or to another animal (domestic or protected animal) the owner or responsible person may be liable to a penalty of up to 300 penalty units (\$34,155.00). If an attack causes bodily harm to a person or animal the owner or responsible person may be liable to a penalty of up to 50 penalty units (\$5,692.50). In some circumstances owners may also be prosecuted for criminal offences, or prosecuted under private civil action.

Understanding responsible pet ownership

- Remember to always supervise children around dogs.
- Dog play can become rough and may sometimes result in a bite.
- Constantly monitor your children when a dog is around and never leave babies or young children alone with a dog.
- Keep children away from a dog if it is sleeping, feeding (especially chewing a bone) or if recovering from an illness or injury.
- Always check to see that your fencing or dog enclosure is secure.
- Keeping your dog confined will greatly lessen the risk to others in the community.
- You must use a leash when walking your dog in public.

The following breeds are restricted dogs

- Dogo Argentino
- Fila Brasileiro
- Japanese tosa
- American Pit Bull Terrier / Pit Bull Terrier
- Presa Canario

Report an attack

If you would like to report a dog attack please contact council in the first instance to provide as many details as possible, such as:

- Date, time and location of attack
- Description of how the attack occurred
- Description and location of the attacking dog, if possible take a photo of the dog

This information is important so that Council officers can positively identify the offending animal and take appropriate action. Without conclusive evidence it can be difficult for Council to take further action. All dog attacks should be reported to Council on (07) 4745 5100.

How victims are impacted

Being bitten or attacked by a dog can produce serious physical, psychological and emotional effects, not only for the person who is attacked but also for the owner of the attacking dog. Even if the victim is not bitten, the threat of the attack can cause lasting trauma.

Declared dangerous and menacing dogs

There are laws to prevent dog attacks. If your dog attacks or causes fear to a person or other animal, Council may declare the animal as a Dangerous or Menacing Dog and the owner must comply with the special conditions prescribed in the Act. When a dog is declared dangerous or menacing the owner must:

- Identify the dog by a microchip implant.
- Have the dog de-sexed (dangerous dogs only).
- Ensure the dog is always muzzled in a public place (dangerous dogs only).
- If the dog is not at the place it usually kept it must also be under the effective control of an adult by holding it by an appropriate leash.
- Display a sign advising of a dangerous or menacing dog on the premises.
- Pay a fee to keep the dog.
- Maintain the dog's registration with Council at all times.
- Provide and maintain a purpose built enclosure within the existing perimeter fencing to prevent the dog from escaping, allowing a child to climb into it or requiring a member of the public having to walk through the enclosure to access the front door.