

Dog Control

The Western Australian Dog Act (1976) is the State legislation administered by local government Rangers concerning dog control.

This Act of Parliament is in place to assist with public safety and management of dogs within the community.



The majority of dogs that Rangers deal with are usually friendly, however they do encounter aggressive and potentially dangerous dogs regularly during their normal duties.

Any breed of dog can be dangerous and the Dog Act provides the necessary legislation to deal with these animals and their owners.

Irresponsible dog ownership may result with dog owners or persons responsible for the care and control of a dog at the time receiving penalties for offences.

Dogs in Public Places



When in any public place in Western Australia, dogs must be tethered or on a leash unless the place is a designated "Dog Exercise Area". Even when in a dog exercise area, owners are still held fully responsible for the control and behaviour of their animals.

Dog Exercise Areas

Local governments make provisions for people to exercise their dogs off leash in designated areas.

If walking your dog to an exercise area they must be on a leash at all times. On arrival at the exercise area, the dog may be released but must still remain under effective control by the person with the dog.

Exercise areas may include parks, sections of bush land and designated dog beaches. In the interests of public health & safety, dogs are prohibited on all other beaches at all times.

Areas where there is a presence of wildlife are not usually suitable as exercise parks.



Infringement Notices

Minor offences contrary to the Dog Act(1976) may incur an infringement notice.

Examples of Offences;

Section	Offence	Penalty
7(1)	Unregistered dog.	\$200
30(2)	Dog in public place without collar or tags.	\$200
31(3)	Dog not held on leash or tethered in certain public place.	\$200
38(1a)	Dog causing a nuisance.	\$200
43A	Failure of alleged offender to give full name and address.	\$200

Courts of Law

In the event of more serious offences, infringement notices may not be issued. Alleged offenders may be summonsed before a Court for offences such as a dog attack, urging a dog to attack or doing harm to a dog.

This may result in penalties of up to \$10,000 and or 12 months imprisonment and in the case of a declared dangerous dog, the above maximum penalties are double of the above.

Fines Enforcement Registry

The Fines Enforcement Registry is a department of the Ministry of Justice in Western Australia. Where an offence has been dealt with by infringement notice and that notice has not been paid within the prescribed time or the alleged offender has not elected to have the matter dealt with by a Court, the matter is then referred to the Fines Enforcement Registry (FER).

Any infringement notice can be lodged with FER, e.g. for offences relating to parking, litter, cats, dogs, firebreaks etc. If the infringement notice remains outstanding and the alleged offender ignores the matter, FER may deal with it by the following alternatives:

- Alleged offender's driver's licence being suspended.
- Vehicle registration may be suspended.
- Bailiff may enter and seize property.
- A community work order may be imposed.
- Imprisonment.



Impounding of Dogs

Under the Dog Act (1976) a dog found wandering in a public place or on a private property without the property owners consent may be impounded by a Ranger and taken to a pound or animal care facility.

If the dog is not readily identifiable, after 7 days if unclaimed the dog will become the property of the respective local government.



The Dog Act is strong legislation with severe penalties which may account for fewer dogs observed wandering the streets of Western Australia, as compared with other countries.

Animal management within the community starts by owners taking a proper attitude towards being responsible with their dogs and educating themselves on all relevant laws.

It is also recommended that dog owner's obtain behavioural training for their animals.

Registration & Microchipping

All dogs over the age of three months must be registered with a local government. Dogs are required to wear a registration tag and owners detail tag on their collar. Mandatory microchipping of your dog also forms part of the registration process.

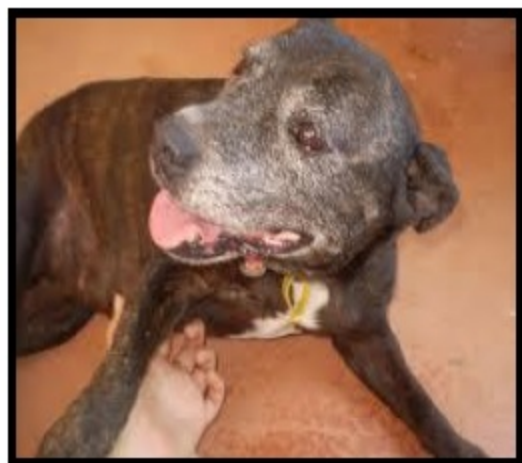
Dog registration renewals are due on 31 October each year, costs include;

Unsterilised Dog	1yr \$50.	3yrs \$120.	Lifetime \$250.
Sterilised Dog	1yr \$20.	3yrs \$42.50	Lifetime \$100.

Having your dog registered and microchipped assists Rangers in returning your dog, should it wander from your property and also with effective animal control within the community.



WA Rangers



Ranger Training

Rangers undertake training to handle and control dogs under most circumstances. Training in the use of special equipment and animal behaviour is obtained through recognised training providers.

