



Dangerous Dogs (Declared)

The *Dog Act 1976* has recently been amended to strengthen the provisions around dangerous dogs. Any dog can be dangerous.

What is a dangerous dog?

The Act identifies three types of dangerous dogs:

- Dangerous dog (restricted breed);
- Dangerous dog (declared); or
- Commercial security dog.

What is a dangerous dog (declared)?

Local governments are able to declare a dog dangerous based on its behaviour.

Reasons that a dog may be declared dangerous include the dog:

- causing injury or damage by an attack, or chasing, a person or animal;
- repeatedly showing a tendency to attack or chase, a person, animal or vehicle; or
- threatening to attack.

How will I know if my dog is a declared dangerous dog?

A local government must give written notice to the owner declaring the dog to be dangerous.

Seven days after the notice is given, the declaration takes effect.

Can I appeal a declaration made by a local government?

An objection to a notice declaring a dog to be dangerous can be made to the local government or the State Administrative Tribunal within 7 days.

If I appeal do I have to put in place the protection measures?

Yes, these must be put in place seven days after the notice is given.

How will the dog be identified?

A dangerous dog (declared) must wear a collar with red and yellow diagonal stripes of 25mm in width. One of these colours must be fluorescent.

The width of the collar is dependent on the weight of the dog.

What protection measures apply?

- It must wear a special collar (see above) identifying it as a dangerous dog.
- A dangerous dog (declared) must be confined to an enclosure that prevents
 - its escape; and
 - its release without permission; and
 - a child less than 7 years old from entering or inserting part of its body.
- There must be a prescribed warning sign at each entrance to the premises (see reverse).
- If not in the enclosure, it must:
 - be muzzled; and
 - held by means of a chain, cord, lease or harness of not more than 2 metres in length by an adult capable of controlling the dog or temporarily tethered in the same way.

Dangerous Dogs (Declared) Fact Sheet:

Important information on how
the dog laws affect you.



What penalties apply?

A maximum court-imposed fine is \$10,000 with a minimum fine of \$500 for each offence.

An authorised officer can issue an infringement notice with a modified penalty of \$400.

Who is responsible for the implementation of the Act?

The relevant local government is.

Where can I get more information?

For more information visit the Department of Local Government and Communities' website at:

www.dlgc.wa.gov.au/dogs

or contact your local government.

For a description of the collar and sign requirements, visit the State Law Publisher's website and access the *Dog Regulations 2013*:

www.slp.wa.gov.au/legislation/statutes.nsf/main_subsisf.html

