

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

Having a dog in your life can be a wonderful experience. You will need to spend time exercising and training your dog. To keep it in good health you will also need to have regular visits to the vet to keep vaccinations up to date. You will also be required to have your dog licensed by your local government.

LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The State Government has specific legislation regarding the licensing of dogs in WA. *The Dog Act 1976* is administered and enforced by local governments. 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.



Everyone who is a dog owner has a responsibility to ensure that their 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.

DOG REGISTRATION FEES

All dogs over the age of 3 months must be registered, and the registration tag and address tag must be attached to the dog's collar. Pensioner concessions may apply to these fees:

	1 Year	3 Years
Unsterilized	\$30	\$75
Sterilised	\$10	\$18
Working	\$7.50	\$18.75

The Registration fee after 31 May in any year, for that registration year, is 50% of the fee payable.

MICROCHIPPING

The Shire of Pingelly supports the microchipping of pets. The barcode on the chip is linked to your contact details and recorded on the Central Database for the life of your pet. This means your animal is permanently identified Australia wide which will assist in its safe return to you if lost. Contact your local vet for assistance.

LOST AND FOUND DOGS

If your dog becomes lost, contact the Staff at the Shire Office and they will advise if your dog has been impounded. If your dog has been impounded there are fees involved for the release of your dog. If your dog is wearing its registration and address tags a member of Staff will attempt to notify you.

REMOVAL OF DOG DROPPINGS

Dog droppings are a source of annoyance to other users of footpaths and recreation areas. Please respect other people and collect your dog's droppings and adequately dispose of it. Any plastic bag may be used to pick up dog droppings. The Shire of Pingelly provides "poo bags" in some public places.

Dog droppings in the garden at home should also be removed daily to reduce fly and health related problems.

PEOPLE AND ANIMALS HAVE RIGHTS

Everyone is entitled to walk in the neighbourhood without being harassed or attacked by uncontrolled and often quite frightening dogs. Even if your dog is well behaved, it can be frightening to other people.

Although you may think your dog is unlikely to attack a person, roaming dogs often approach and sometimes attack other dogs. Responsible pet owners and their dogs are often targets of these attacks.

Dogs in public areas must be kept on a leash and under control. Never let your dog menace anyone on the street.

COLLARS

Dogs are required to wear a collar with the current registration tag together with your name and address attached.

EXERCISING YOUR DOG

Whenever in public—unless in a gazetted "Dog Exercise Area"—dogs must be on a leash.

Specific areas have been provided by the Shire of Pingelly to exercise your dog off it's leash. Whilst in these areas dogs must be supervised at all times by a person capable of controlling it and a lead should be carried.

DOG EXERCISE AREAS

The areas set aside in Pingelly for the exercise of dogs are:

- Linear Park Reserve 34570 – along the water course beside the railway line between Review Street and Brown/Park Street
- Recreation Reserve 23053 – Old School Oval off Balfour Street and Park Street

except for those parts used as a children's playground, car park or being used for sporting or other activities, during the times of such use.

DOG PROHIBITED AREAS

Dogs are strictly not allowed in the following areas:

- (a) a public building, unless permitted by a sign;
- (b) all food premises;
- (c) the public swimming pool.

NEIGHBOURHOOD RESPONSIBILITIES

Barking dogs disturb everyone. If your dog barks at everything and everyone no one will take any notice. If there is a prowler around and your dog barks people will likely ignore this. Check with your neighbours to ensure there are no barking problems when you are not home.

You are required to ensure that your dog is confined within your property. If your dog is found to be roaming you may be fined.



DOG ATTACKS

A dog attack is a very serious matter. If your dog attacks a person or another animal, you will be held responsible (including for any injury or damage) even if you are not there at the time. A person who has been attacked may also take private legal action for any injury or damage.

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.

There are penalties of up to \$10,000 for a dog attack and/or 12 months' imprisonment for inciting a dog to attack.

PROVOCATION

Many people have dogs to help protect their homes. They feel safer when they have a dog and the law recognises their rights in this area. The Dog Act provides a defence, in certain circumstances, for a dog owner to claim that their dog was provoked to attack. For example, provocation may apply if your dog attacks someone who is on your property "without lawful excuse", such as a burglar.

A defence of provocation may be claimed if your dog attacks another animal that enters your property or behaves in a threatening manner towards you. Provocation may also be a defence if your dog is in a vehicle and it attacks someone intruding into or upon the vehicle, or if the dog has been teased or assaulted.

RESTRICTED BREEDS

The Dog Act imposes restrictions and conditions on the keeping of some dogs. These breeds include:

- Dogo Argentino (Argentinean fighting dog)
- Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian fighting dog)
- Japanese Tosa
- American Pit Bull Terrier and Pit Bull Terrier breeds
- Perro de Presa Canario or Presa Canario and any dog of a mixed breed that visibly contains any of these breeds.

Owners of restricted breed 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. Dogs must be muzzled, leashed and controlled by an adult who is physically capable of handling the dog, in any environment except prescribed enclosures. Restricted breed dogs are also required to be sterilised unless there are extenuating circumstances relating to the animal's physical condition or medical treatment.

REGISTRATION TAG COLOURS

Expiring	Colour
31 October 2013	Green
31 October 2014	Yellow
31 October 2015	Red
31 October 2016	Blue

ON-THE-SPOT FINES FOR OFFENCES

These on-the-spot fines are modified penalties. Serious offences must be heard in court with significantly higher penalties and costs.

Unregistered dog	\$100
Dog in a public place without collar or registration tag	\$50
Dog not held by leash in public place	\$100
Owners name and address not on collar	\$50
Dog causing a nuisance	\$100
Dog barking persistently	\$100
Non-control of dog in exercise areas and rural areas	\$100
Keeping more than the prescribed number of dogs	\$100
Failure of alleged offender to give name	\$100



How to Be a Responsible Dog Owner



Shire of Pingelly

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At the time of preparation this information brochure was deemed to be correct. However, as laws and Council Policies are amended from time to time please ensure that you have the most up to date edition of this brochure.