

CITY OF BELMONT

Dangerous Dogs

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Dangerous Dogs

Thousands of dog attacks are reported in Western Australia every year, often resulting in horrific injuries and trauma.

It is the legal responsibility of the dog owner or the person in charge of the dog, to prevent the dog from chasing or attacking any person or animal, whether they are present or not.

Any dog may bite given the opportunity, particularly if it has not been adequately socialised, or is frightened, threatened or dominant. Dogs do not only bite because they have been teased or threatened.

Dangerous Dog Legislation

As a result of serious dog attacks the State Government has introduced legislation that will allow councils to declare individual dogs dangerous for offences such as rushing at, attempting to attack, threatening or chasing people or animals.

**A DOG DOES NOT HAVE TO BITE OR
INJURE TO BE DECLARED
DANGEROUS**

Once a dog is declared dangerous:

- it must be muzzled in a public place.
- it must wear a distinctive collar as prescribed by the Dangerous Dog Act.
- all entrances to the dog's premises must display an approved sign warning that a dangerous dog is kept there.

Councils may also:

- require the dog to be kept on a leash in a dog exercise area.
- exclude the dog from specific areas.
- require self closing gates and doors leading into the dog's property.
- require a minimum standard of fencing.
- impose other restrictions it considers appropriate.
- seek an order for the dog's destruction.

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Penalites

An owner who fails to comply with a declaration order on their dog may be fined up to \$4,000.

A dog owner whose dog attacks a person or another animal may be fined up to \$10,000. A person who incites a dog attack may receive a prison term of up to 12 months.

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

Is your dog at risk of being declared dangerous?

Does it:

- rush out of the property barking?
- lunge at people when being walked on a lead?
- growl, snap, snarl or bite when interacting with people or other animals?

Seek professional assistance when your dog displays the early warning signs of aggression.

When and where is aggression more likely to occur?

- On or near the dog owner's property.
- In the dog owner's vehicle.
- In close proximity to the dog owner or

- the dog owner's children.
- When the dog is cornered or nervous.
- When the dog is eating or near its bed or toys.
- When the dog is touched or grabbed.

Are you taking sufficient precautions to prevent an attack?

Is your dog:

- frequently socialised with other dogs and people?
- adequately trained and always follows its owner's commands?
- properly confined with adequate fencing and all gates kept closed?

Reporting attacks

Any dog wandering at large or dogs which can be identified as being potentially or actually aggressive should be reported to Council.

*EARLY INTERVENTION BY AN
OBSERVANT COMMUNITY CAN PREVENT
FURTHER SERIOUS ATTACKS.*

A COMMUNITY PROJECT DEVELOPED BY
AMREX IN CONJUNCTION WITH
THE AUSTRALIAN VETERINARY
ASSOCIATION