

PEOPLE & 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 if it is roaming unattended.

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.

DOG REGISTRATION

It is a **legal requirement** to register dogs, more than three months old, with your local government. **Penalty: \$200 on-the-spot fine.**

Beverley Shire - Registration Costs:

- Unsterilised male or female - 1yr \$30.00
- Unsterilised male or female - 3yr \$75.00
- Lifetime Unsterilised \$250.00
- Sterilised male or female - 1yr \$10.00
- Sterilised male or female - 3yr \$18.00
- Lifetime Sterilised \$100.00
- Working dogs – 25% of fees
- Pensioner Concession - 50% of fees

(Registrations expire 31st October.)

MICROCHIPPING

On and after 1 November 2015 all dogs over 3 months of age must be microchipped.

Penalty: \$200 on-the-spot fine.

(If the matter goes to court, the penalty could be up to \$5,000.)

If you require Microchipping please contact your Local Vet or our Ranger services can come to your home for a subsidized cost for Shire of

Beverley Residents.

FENCING

Local Laws – Dogs

3.1 Dogs to be confined

(1) An occupier of premises on which a dog is kept must –

- Cause a portion of the premises on which the dog is kept to be fenced in a manner capable of confining the dog;
 - Ensure the fence used to confine the dog and every gate or door in the fence is of a type, height and construction which is (having regard to the breed, age, size and physical condition of the dog) capable of preventing the dog at all times from passing over, under or through it;
 - Ensure that every gate or door in the fence is kept closed at all times when the dog is on the premises and is fitted with a proper latch or other means of fastening it;
 - Maintain the fence and all gates and doors in the fence in good order and condition; and
 - Where no part of the premises consists of open space, yard or garden or there is no open space or garden or yard of which the occupier has exclusive use or occupation, ensure that other means exist on the premises (other than the tethering of the dog) for effectively confining the dog within the premises.
- (2) Where an occupier fails to comply with subclause (1), he or she commits an offence.

Penalty: Where the dog kept is a dangerous dog, \$2,000; otherwise \$1,000.

SHIRE OF BEVERLEY



RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP

2015-2016



PO Box 20
BEVERLEY WA 6304
Tel: 9646 1200
Fax: 9646 1409

Email: admin@beverley.wa.gov.au

Ranger: Matthew Sharpe
0459 678 154

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR A DOG?

Apart from the **owner** of the dog, a responsible person includes the **occupier** of any premises where the dog is ordinarily kept or permitted to live, or a person who, for the time being, has the dog in their possession or control.

DOG CONTROL

If you own a dog you have a **legal responsibility** to keep it under control either within a fenced area on your property or on a leash when in public.

Your dog must be under **effective control** at all times, including exercising in designated areas.

As the owner you can be given an **on-the-spot fine of \$200** for not having your dog on a leash or for allowing it to roam.

If the matter goes to court the penalty could be up to \$5,000.

REMOVAL OF DOG EXCRETA (DROPPINGS)

Dog excreta is a source of annoyance to users of footpaths and recreation areas. Most Local Governments have local laws that require the person in charge of a dog in a public place to remove their dog's excreta and adequately dispose of it. There are **penalties** for not doing so.

Supplies of Doggie 'Poo' bags are available from the Shire Office and the Recreational Grounds, although any plastic bag may be used.

Dog excreta in the garden should also be removed on a daily basis to reduce fly and health related problems.

BARKING DOGS

You are also responsible for ensuring that your dog is not a public nuisance by excessive barking.

Penalty: On-the-spot fine of \$200.

(If the matter goes to court, the penalty could be up to \$5,000.)

Please consider the impact of your dog's behaviour on your neighbours.

DOG ATTACKS

A dog attack is a very serious matter. If your dog attacks a person, or another animal, you will be held responsible even if you are not present at the time. The only exemption is where the dog was provoked to attack.

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 \$10,000 and/or 12 months gaol for inciting a dog to attack.

Local Governments may seek a court order for a dog to be destroyed if it has attacked and caused injury or damage.

Dog owners are also liable for any injury or damage resulting from a dog attack.

A person who has been attacked may take private **legal action** for injury or damage sustained.



DANGEROUS DOGS

Thousands of dog attacks are reported in Perth and country areas every year. Some result in horrific injuries and trauma.

If your dog displays **aggressive behaviour**, it is important you address it quickly with appropriate training.

Local Governments may declare a dog "dangerous" if it attacks, shows a tendency to attack, or repeatedly rushes, threatens or chases people or animals.

Once a dog is declared dangerous, it will have to be **muzzled** at all times in a public place.

Local Governments may also impose further restrictions, such as requiring that the dog be kept on a leash when in dog exercise areas or that it be excluded from specific areas.

An owner who fails to comply with a declaration order on their dog may be fined up to \$10,000.

Owners can appeal to the relevant Local Government or a local court if they believe that such an order is unfair.

A dangerous dog declaration will only be removed by the Local Government if it is satisfied that the dog is safe (i.e. by passing an obedience training course).

The muzzle requirement, or any other restrictions, will then be lifted.

For many offences on-the-spot fines are doubled when the offence involves a declared dangerous dog.