

Responsible Dog Ownership Information Sheet

General

As per the *Dog Act 1976* (Dog Act) all dogs over the age of 3 months must be microchipped (unless exempt), and registered with the Local Government where you live, by 31 October each year.

The fees for dog registrations are as follows -

	Standard Fees per dog			Concession Fees per dog		
	1 Year	3 Years	Lifetime	1 Year	3 Years	Lifetime
Unsterilised Dog	\$50.00	\$120.00	\$250	\$25.00	\$60	\$125
Sterilised Dog	\$20.00	\$42.50	\$100	\$10.00	\$21.25	\$50
Dangerous Dog	\$50.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Concession Fees

For the 50% Concession rate on registrations you must possess and provide a:

- Pensioner Concession Card OR State Seniors Card; or
- WA Seniors Card AND a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card.

If you do not satisfy either of the above criteria, you will not be eligible for the Concession discount on the registration fees.

Please note the following additional important information regarding dogs:

- The registered owner/agent must be 18 years of age or older.
- To be exempt from microchipping you must provide proof of the exemption.
- For 'sterilised' fees to be applicable, proof of sterilisation is required by Veterinary Certificate or Statutory Declaration. A sterilisation tattoo in the ear of the dog is also considered acceptable proof however it must be visually verified by a Registration Officer.
- If you have your dog sterilised after it has been registered, you may be eligible for a partial refund after producing the sterilisation papers to the Town.

New dogs and dogs transferred from other Local Governments are required to fill in a Dog Registration form. Transfers are free of charge and are highly encouraged by our Rangers.

In addition, dogs are required to wear a collar and registration tag, at all times. This will ensure your dog is easily identifiable and therefore can be returned to you if it gets lost.

Keeping your dog safe

As per the Dog Act and the Town's *Dogs Local Law 2019* all dogs must be securely and effectively confined to their property.

The Rangers also recommend sterilisation and taking your dog to dog training classes where it can learn acceptable behaviours, to follow commands and how to socialise with other dogs and people appropriately.

Always ensure that your dog is wearing a collar with its current registration tag on it and your contact details are up to date on the registration and the microchip.

In the case when you are looking after another person's dog, please put a secondary tag on the collar with your contact details on it so that we can call you to return the dog should we collect it.

Nuisance dogs

Dogs often bark as a form of communication or to signify danger or alert us to an intruder. If a dog barks without a reason, the cause may be lack of training, insufficient exercise, loneliness, inadequate shelter, ill health, and deliberate or unintentional provocation by people or roaming dogs.

Should you have a problem with a dog barking, you may wish to first try to establish the reason why it is barking and try to make contact with the owner. Often the owner is not home and not aware of the problem. If you feel comfortable, the Rangers have found in their experience that dog owners are usually more obliging if you have contacted the owner to discuss the issue.

If the problem continues, or if you are unable or unwilling to contact the owner, you can report it to the Rangers and we will supply you with a Barking Dog Complaint Pack. The pack includes the formal complaint form and a barking diary which must be kept for a week before returning it to the Rangers. By assessing the evidence provided we can then determine if there is a nuisance barking problem. If there is, the dog owner will be notified and advised of the times of barking and be required to correct the problem. For further information and details in relation to lodging a barking dog complaint, call the Rangers on 9377 7480.

If your dog may be creating a nuisance by barking, call the Rangers on 9377 7480 who can provide you with some advice on how to resolve the issue.

What do I do if my dog escapes my property?

If you get home and realise your dog is gone, please call the Rangers on 9377 7480 to determine if we have picked up your dog. In cases when the dog is identifiable, the Ranger will make all attempts to contact you, however, if your contact details on your registration or microchip are not up to date (or if your dog is not registered or microchipped) we may not be able to let you know we have your dog.

If your dog is escaping your property and you cannot identify how they are escaping, call the Rangers and we can attend your property to help with finding out the escape route and may be able to give advice on how to prevent it.

What will the Ranger do with my dog if it is collected?

All dogs will be checked for a collar, registration tag, identification tag and microchip as soon as the Ranger is able to safely do so. They will also be given a quick visual check to ensure they are not showing any signs of injury or disease that may require veterinarian attention.

In the case where a dog is identifiable, the Ranger will attempt to contact you on the information available at the time. In the first instance and where possible, the dog may be returned directly to you.

In the case where the dog is not identifiable, if you are not contactable or if the dog has a history of not being contained to the property, the dog may be impounded at our Animal Care Facility. You will be notified of the impounding of your dog, any registration or microchipping requirements to meet and any fees payable to reclaim your dog.

Tips for responsible dog ownership

- Ensure your dog is microchipped and registered with your Local Council.
- Consider sterilising your dog to reduce health issues, reduce the drive to roam and prevent unwanted litters.
- Ensure your dog wears its collar and registration tag so it is easily identifiable.
- Ensure your dog is securely contained to your property.
- Ensure your dog receives appropriate training and socialisation from an early age.
- Ensure your dog is adequately exercised and mentally stimulated to prevent nuisance behaviours.

Number of dogs at a property

The *Dogs Local Law 2019* provides for the limitation on the number of dogs that can be kept at a property.

The current limit is two dogs without permission and three dogs with permission.

If you would like to apply for permission to keep a third dog, contact the Rangers on 9377 7480.

Further information

If you are a dog owner and your dog goes missing, if you would like more information on how to be a responsible dog owner, if you have a nuisance barking issue or if you see a stray dog, please call the Rangers on 9377 7480.