

DANGEROUS DOGS

DOG CONTROL ACT 2000 (TAS)



If a dog has caused or is likely to cause serious injury to a person or animal then council may declare the dog to be a dangerous dog under the Dog Control Act 2000.

Once a dog has been declared a dangerous dog then the owner or person in charge of that dog has to meet stronger control measures which include:

- The dog must be de-sexed.
- The dog must be micro-chipped.
- When in public the dog must be muzzled at all times.
- When walked in public, it must be on a lead not more than 2 metres long and under sufficient control.
- It must be under the control of a person at least 18 years of age.
- It must wear the approved collar at all times.
- When not on a lead and muzzled it must be kept in an approved childproof enclosure.
- Approved warning signs must be erected at each entrance to the property and on the Dangerous Dog enclosure.

Dangerous Dog Enclosures

When not under the control of a person, a dangerous dog must be kept in a childproof enclosure that meets certain requirements. Owners of dangerous dogs should refer to the Dog Control (Regulations) 2010 for the full requirements:

- The childproof enclosure must be a full enclosure and:
 - *have a minimum height of 1.8 metres and a minimum width of 1.8 metres
 - *have a floor area of at least 10 square metres for each dog in the enclosure
 - *have walls, roof and a door or gate and be made of brick, timber, concrete, iron or mesh, or a combination of those materials, of sufficient strength and durability to prevent the escape of a dog
 - *have a sufficient weatherproof sleeping area for each dog in the enclosure
 - *have a sealed, graded concrete floor
 - *be situated so as not to require a person to pass through it to gain access to other parts of the property
 - *if fitted with a door or gate, it must be fitted with a self-closing and self-latching mechanism for the door or gate, be locked from the outside when a dog is inside the enclosure, and have a clearly legible sign saying "Dangerous Dog" displayed on the door or gate, and
 - *be sufficient to prevent any dog in it from escaping

Selling/ Buying a Dangerous Dog

A person who wishes to purchase or become the owner of a restricted breed dog must apply Council for approval to have ownership transferred to them.

A dangerous dog may only be sold or given away after the buyer or new owner has received **prior approval from Council**. The seller must **notify Council within 24 hours** of completion of the sale of the dog and failure to notify Council of such a sale may incur a penalty.

The Council may detain a dangerous dog until a suitable enclosure has been built and the dog owner will be responsible for the costs of holding the dog. If a suitable enclosure is not built, the Council may destroy the dog and recover all costs from the owner.

All dogs declared to be dangerous dogs in other states will be recognised as such in Tasmania and approval will be required before they can be imported into the state.

An owner who changes address in/out of the Municipality must notify Council within 14 days of the new location of the declared dog.

Attack by a Dangerous Dog

If a dog declared to be a dangerous dog attacks a person or animal, the owner is guilty of an offence and may be punished by a fine or imprisonment.

A person found guilty of an attack by an already-declared dangerous dog will be **automatically banned** from owning or being in charge of any dog for a period of **five years**.

Lost, Straying or Death of a Dangerous Dog

If a dangerous dog goes missing, strays or dies then the owner **must notify Council** as soon as possible. **Failure to notify Council may result in a fine.**

Warning Signs

A warning sign that meets certain requirements must be erected at each entrance to a property which houses a dangerous or restricted breed dog. Council can advise where the appropriate signs can be obtained.

