

Rangers Department

Dog Attacks & Dangerous Dogs

The Dog Act has been amended to give local authorities far wider powers in the investigation and prosecution of dog owners where the dog has attacked and caused injuries to a person or other animal.

- ◆ 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 there 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/or 12 months' imprisonment for inciting a dog to attack.
- ◆ Local Governments have the power to seek a court order for a dog to be destroyed if it has attacked and caused injury or damage.
- ◆ The dogs' owner is also liable for any injury or damage resulting from a dog attack. A person who has been attacked may take private legal action for any injury or damage.
- ◆ If a dog has been involved in an attack it should be reported as soon as possible to the Shires Rangers, who will investigate the attack.
- ◆ If necessary, a dog may be placed on a Dangerous Dog Register and declared as being a potential risk.
- ◆ If a dog is declared dangerous, the owner or person in charge of the animal will be required to put a variety of regulations into place.
- ◆ A owner or person in charge of a dangerous dog shall have the animal on a leash, chain or restraining device of a prescribed length (2 Metres) at all times when in a public place.
- ◆ A dog may be required to wear a muzzle in a public place.
- ◆ A restriction that may be applied will stipulate that the animal must be confined when children are at the property where the dog is usually kept.
- ◆ A dog may also be declared dangerous if it has shown a repeated tendency to chase people, other animals or vehicles.
- ◆ If a dog has been declared as being dangerous, the owner or person responsible for the dog may lodge an objection with Council or to the State Administrative Tribunal if they believe such an order is unfair.

To report a dog attack please contact the Shires Ranger Services by telephone (08) 9191 0999, by fax (08) 9191 0997 or via e-mail rangers@sdwk.wa.gov.au

NB: (If after hours or at the weekend, please call 04289 22417 or 0419 922418)