

# Rangers Department

## My Responsibilities as a Dog Owner

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A dog becomes the responsibility of the person claiming ownership on the day that the animal is taken over by that person.

Any person taking on the responsibilities of being a dog owner must be aware that the animal is totally reliant on its owner. The owner is required to ensure the following conditions apply to the proper management of the dog:

- ◆ The dog shall have identification and registration tags on its collar at all times.
- ◆ The dog must be registered at three months of age.
- ◆ Every dog should be treated for potential life threatening diseases associated with an animal's welfare (check with your local vet).
- ◆ The animal should be fed at least once per day and fresh water is to be made available at all times.
- ◆ The property should have adequate protection available for the dog's comfort during the dry and wet seasons.
- ◆ If a dog is to be chained during the absence of the owner, the owner is required to ensure that the chain cannot become entangled in or on any item lying within easy reach of the animal (ensure water container cannot be knocked over).
- ◆ Dogs kept on a chain should be taken on an exercise run for at least half an hour daily.
- ◆ A dog shall not be mistreated in any way or trained to attack any person or other animal.
- ◆ Any damages or injuries accredited to a particular dog are the total responsibility of the owner or person in charge of the dog on the offence date.
- ◆ All veterinarian or doctors fees accrued as a result of a dog attack are the responsibility of the owner of the dog or person in charge of the animal on the offence date, unless it can be substantiated that the dog was acting in the capacity of protecting a person, other animal or property associated with the person responsible for the dog.
- ◆ Taking a dog for a walk in a public place requires the owner or person in charge of the animal to clean up any droppings that the dog may excrete. The dog should also be on a lead unless in a gazetted dog exercise area.
- ◆ If the owner is going on an extended holiday, ensure that a responsible person is left in charge of the dog. This person will be considered responsible for any indiscretions of the animal. There have been many cases where the dog has been forgotten and it is reported to the Shire as a neglected animal.

Additional information can be obtained by contacting the Shires Ranger Services on (08) 9191 0999 or through information brochures available from the Department of Local Government & Regional Development. Phone 1800 620 511 or their website [www.dlgrd.wa.gov.au](http://www.dlgrd.wa.gov.au)