

RESTRICTED DOG BREEDS



Ranger Services

Forrest Road, PO Box 369,
CAPEL WA 6271

Ph: (08) 97272030

Fax: (08) 9727 2603

E-Mail: ranger@capel.wa.gov.au

Website: www.capel.wa.gov.au

All dogs must be registered with Council from the age of three months.

WHAT IS THE RESTRICTED DOG BREEDS REGULATIONS?

The State Government has recently introduced new legislation aimed at controlling dogs that are known to be dangerous breeds. The Dog (Restricted Breed) Regulations 2002 came into operation on 22 April 2002. The regulations will be in force for 12 months.

During this time the State Government will undertake a comprehensive review of the Dog Act 1976. The restricted dog breeds regulations will be incorporated in the reviewed Dog Act.

SO WHAT IS A RESTRICTED DOG BREED?

A 'restricted dog breed' is a breed whose importation into Australia is prohibited under the Commonwealth Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956. At present the 'restricted dog breeds' are:

- ◆ Dogo Argentino (Argentinian Fighting Dog);
- ◆ Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Fighting Dog);
- ◆ Japanese tosa;
- ◆ American Pit Bull Terrier; and
- ◆ Pit Bull Terrier.

The regulations also provide that a 'restricted dog breed' also includes a dog of a mixed breed that visibly contains any of the above prohibited breeds

WHAT AM I REQUIRED TO DO IF MY DOG IS OF A RESTRICTED BREED?

The restricted dog breed regulations provide that the owner (or person in control) of a restricted dog breed must:

- ◆ Be over the age of 18 years;
- ◆ Ensure that the dog wears the specified dangerous dog collar at all times;
- ◆ Ensure that at every entry to any property where the dog is kept, a prescribed dangerous dog sign is displayed to notify persons of the presence of a restricted dog breed;
- ◆ Install escape proof and child proof fencing at any property where the dog is kept;
- ◆ Ensure that the dog is leashed and muzzled at all times in a public place;
- ◆ Not keep more than two restricted breeds on a property without the prior written consent of the relevant Council;
- ◆ Notify a prospective new owner that the dog is a restricted breed; and
- ◆ Notify the local government as soon as possible if the dog escapes, dies or if there is a change in ownership.

The dangerous dog collars and signs are prescribed by legislation. The collars and signs must comply with the regulations. Information regarding these signs and collars is available from Ranger Services.

PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE

If at any time an owner or a person in charge of a restricted dog breed fails to comply with the regulations an authorized officer may seize the dog. The dog will be held in the pound for a period of eight days while the owner of the dog rectifies the breach of the regulations. If the breach is rectified the dog will be returned to the owner. The regulations provide that where a breach is not rectified within the eight day period, the dog may be destroyed.

HOW CAN RANGER SERVICES HELP YOU?

Rangers are able to offer you advice that may help you to comply with the new regulations. The Shire of Capel can supply the prescribed dangerous dog collars and signs at cost. Prices are available by contacting Ranger Services.