

# FACT SHEET – DANGEROUS DOGS



There may be public concern regarding individual dogs which pose a threat to the safety of the public, particularly when a dog has a history of attacking, or attempting to attack people.

In circumstances where a dog attack is subject to a court hearing as a result of charges being laid against the owner of a dog, the Court Magistrate may decide to declare that dog as a 'dangerous dog'.

## **Restricted Dogs**

Certain breeds are prescribed in the regulations as 'restricted dogs'. These include: Pit bull Terries, American pit bull terriers, Japanese tosas, Argentinean fighting dogs, Brazilian fighting dogs.

## **Dangerous Dogs**

Dogs declared 'dangerous' are to be recorded on a state-wide register. Council Officers have the power to seize dangerous dogs (including on private property, not only on public land) in circumstances where the dog is an immediate threat to public safety. Courts have the power to impose a lifetime ban on a dangerous dog. Under the Companion Animals Act, associated fines may be doubled if a dog displays unsociable behaviour.

## **Requirements for restricted breeds/dangerous dogs**

- Must be kept in a childproof enclosure when at home
- Must not be left under the charge of a person under the age of 18
- 'Warning Dangerous Dogs' signs to be displayed around property
- Must at all times be on leash and muzzled when in a public area
- When taken to temporary accommodation, all of the above applies
- Not to be sold to a person under 18 years of age
- Council to be notified within 24hrs if the dog attacks
- Council to be notified within 24hrs if the dog is lost
- Council to be notified if the dog dies as soon as possible after death.