

Transferral of ownership - before a person sells or transfers ownership they must inform that person in writing that the dog is a dangerous dog. You cannot sell or transfer ownership of a restricted breed.

Compulsory notification to the local government A person liable for the control of a dangerous dog must immediately inform their local council in writing after becoming aware that the dog is missing, deceased or has changed premises.

Owner and/or person in charge of the dog must be over 18 years old
A maximum of 2 dangerous dogs per property.

For more information you can get a copy of factsheets on dangerous dogs (declared), dangerous dogs (restricted breeds) and dangerous dog (commercial security) from the DLGC website under the heading Publications.

Check list

- Current registration year by year
- Micro chipped
- Restricted breed to be sterilised
- Dangerous Dog Collar and Muzzle
- Fences constructed to an adequate height and material capable of confining your dog, including gates and doors
- Fences must be childproof
- All entrances to the property where the dog is normally kept, signposted with the correct sign

Change of Details

- You are required to inform your Local Government immediately of any change of ownership, change of address or if the dog has died.
- If you have moved Local Governments, you are required to register the dog at the new Local Government.

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DANGEROUS DOGS AND RESTRICTED BREEDS

What owners need to know



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What is a dangerous dog?

As defined in the Dog Act 1976:

Dangerous dog (declared) is a dog who

- Has caused injury or damage by an attack on, or chasing, a person, animal or vehicle
- Has repeatedly shown a tendency to attack, chase a person, vehicle or animal even though no injury has been caused by the behaviour, or to threaten to attack.
- Is a commercial security dog.
- There may also be other behaviour that meets the criteria to declare a dog 'dangerous'.

Dangerous dog (restricted breed) These breeds are prescribed as restricted breeds for the definition of dangerous dog (restricted breed) in section 3(1)

Dogo Argentino, Fila Brasileiro, Japanese tosa, American pit bull terrier, Pit bull terrier, Perro de presa Canario or Presa Canario

- Is a mix of 2 or more breeds, one being classified as a restricted breed.

Declaring a dog dangerous

A local government must give notice to the owner declaring a dog to be dangerous. The owner must put in place the protection measures for a dangerous dog within seven days.

You can object to a notice declaring your dog to be dangerous to your local government or the State Administrative Tribunal (SAT) within seven days of getting the notice.



What are the responsibilities of dangerous dog owners?

The dog must wear a prescribed collar with information attached to or endorsed on the collar in accordance with the regulations.

Enclosure requirements - the owner must ensure that the enclosure within which the dog is confined, whether or not the enclosure is at the premises where the dog is ordinarily kept or ordinarily permitted to live, is constructed to:

- Prevent the dog from escaping
- Prevent the dog from being removed or released from the enclosure without the permission of the person liable for the dog's control
- Prevent a child who has not reached 7 years of age from entering or inserting any part of their body into the enclosure.

Prescribed warning signs at each entrance where the dog is held, these must:

- Be a white rectangle measuring 200mm by 300mm
- Be made of a durable material
- Contain the word 'WARNING' in white capital letters 30mm high on a red rectangular panel measuring 190mm by 45mm near the top of the rectangle referred to in paragraph (a)
- Contain below the panel referred to in paragraph (c) a red circle 160mm in diameter containing a picture of the black head and neck of a dog 100mm high wearing a collar mentioned in regulation 29(2) (whether in colour or black and white)
- Contain below the circle referred to in paragraph (d) the words 'DANGEROUS DOG' in capital letters 20mm high.



Dangerous dogs must be muzzled and held on a leash at all times in public places. You can be fined up to \$10,000 by a court with a minimum fine of \$500 for each offence. An authorised officer can issue an infringement notice with a modified penalty of \$400 for each offence.

Compulsory sterilisation (restricted breed) - If your dog is over 3 months old, unless you satisfy the court that there are extenuating circumstances relating to the animal's physical condition or medical treatment.