



### Additional resources

For more information, including tips for being a responsible dog owner, visit the **Department of Local Government** and Communities Responsible Dog Ownership web page at: [www.dlgc.wa.gov.au/dogs](http://www.dlgc.wa.gov.au/dogs) or contact 1800 620 511

Legal Aid WA - 1300 650 579  
[www.legalaid.wa.gov.au/InformationAboutTheLaw/Homes/neighbours/Pages/Dogs.aspx](http://www.legalaid.wa.gov.au/InformationAboutTheLaw/Homes/neighbours/Pages/Dogs.aspx)

*This brochure is an overview guide only. Please consult the legislation for full details and penalties:*  
[www.slp.wa.gov.au](http://www.slp.wa.gov.au)



### City of Karratha Ranger Services

Contact: (08) 9186 8555

[enquiries@karratha.wa.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@karratha.wa.gov.au)

[www.karratha.wa.gov.au](http://www.karratha.wa.gov.au)



## Responsible Dog Ownership

Owning a dog in the City of Karratha comes with basic responsibilities that should be followed at all times.

### Where can I take my dog off-leash?

If your dog is easily controlled when off leash, you may take them to the following parks:

- Tambrey Oval – Nickol
- Mara Guthara Park – Baynton
- Millars Well Oval – Millars Well
- Pegs Creek Oval – Pegs Creek
- Old KEC Oval – Bulgarra

Dogs are required to stay on the leash during sporting events and training and are not allowed to enter children's play areas.



## Responsible dog owner checklist:

Make sure you are able to answer yes to each of the following questions:

- **Registration:** Is your dog registered?
- **Tags:** Is your dog wearing a current registration tag?
- **Microchipped:** Is your dog microchipped with your current address and relevant contact information?
- **Escape:** Are your fences and gates good enough to stop your dog going under, over or through them?
- **Behaviour:** Does your dog socialise well with other dogs and people?
- **Poo Patrol:** Do you pick up your dog's poo when it does its business in public?
- **Exercise:** When you are out and about do you have your dog on a leash in public or under your control in dog exercise areas?
- **Health:** Is your dog free of parasites and in good condition for its age/breed?
- **Home:** Does your dog always have sufficient shelter, cooling, water, food and attention?

Irresponsible dog owners face significant penalties under the Dog Act 1976 and may have their dog seized by Rangers for failure to comply.

## Registration and microchipping

Registration forms can be obtained by contacting Ranger Services on 9186 8555, the City of Karratha Administration Office on Welcome Road, Karratha, from the Roebourne Library and from [karratha.wa.gov.au](http://karratha.wa.gov.au).

Your local vets will be able to provide you with sterilisation and microchipping services.

You are limited to two dogs at your property; however you may apply for an exemption by contacting the City of Karratha on (08) 9186 8555.



## The Dog Act 1976

The *Dog Act 1976* applies to any dog in Western Australia. It outlines the rights and obligations of people in relation to dogs and safeguards the wellbeing of the public. Rangers and the local Police are authorised to carry out the requirements of the Act in the City of Karratha.

A copy of the Act and its regulations can be obtained from the State Law Publishers by calling (08) 9426 0000 or via [www.slp.wa.gov.au](http://www.slp.wa.gov.au).

## Modified penalties

Failure to register a dog	\$200
Dog not wearing a registration tag	\$200
Dog causing a nuisance	\$200
In public place without leash	\$200
Dog in private place without consent	\$200
Not under control in an exercise area	\$200
Keeping more than two dogs	\$200
Dog in a prohibited area	\$200

\*Penalties double for dangerous or restricted dogs

## Troublesome dogs

You must report all dog attacks to the City of Karratha Ranger Services on (08) 9186 8555. For serious offences a dog can be seized.

Any behaviour that disturbs the public, including wandering and problem barking, may be considered a nuisance and the dog can be seized and impounded.

Problem dogs can be declared dangerous resulting in stringent control orders including muzzling and sterilisation.

Failure to obey the Dog Act 1976 may result in modified penalties, or prosecution in the courts. The courts can order the destruction of a dog and imprisonment for the owner.

## How to deal with problem dogs

**Training:** Socialisation and teaching basic commands are essential.

**Sterilisation:** This will stop unexpected puppies and limit a dog's desire to roam.

**Get fit:** Heading out for regular exercise is great for you and your dog. A leash is needed in public areas.

**Attention:** Your dog is now part of your family - treat it with affection.

**Kennelling:** Can't find a house sitter when you go away? Consider a boarding kennel. Separation anxiety is a nuisance.

**Seek help:** There are plenty of specialised animal welfare and behaviour organisations to help you choose, train and look after your dog.