

Responsible Dog Ownership

The Dog Act 1976



The *Dog Act 1976* is administered and enforced by local governments within their respective districts. It addresses the control and registration of dogs, the ownership and keeping of dogs and the obligations and rights of dog owners and others.

The *Dog Act 1976* outlines measures to improve community safety which includes allowing for nuisance behaviour to be more effectively dealt with and recognition of assistance dogs.

As a nation of pet lovers we rely on dog owners to care for their dogs responsibly to ensure we all live together peacefully and without fear. This brochure outlines the responsibilities you have as a dog owner within the Shire of Gingin.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

You are Required by Law to Register your Dog

Dogs over the age of three months are required to be registered with a local government which is, in this case, the Shire of Gingin.

More details on the registration process and associated fees may be found in the **Frequently Asked Questions** section overleaf.

Registration Tag

All dogs are required to wear a collar with a registration tag in public places. This tag will be issued by the Shire of Gingin when you register your dog. It is an offence for your dog not to wear a collar and tag and a \$200 penalty will apply.

Penalties for Non-Registration

It is an offence to keep an unregistered dog over the age of three months. The maximum fine is \$5,000 with a modified penalty of \$200. Higher penalties apply if your dog is classified as a dangerous dog.

If your dog is unregistered and subsequently impounded, you may be liable for additional fees. The Shire of Gingin may exercise its right to impound your dog until you pay both the registration fee and the pound fee.

Confining and Controlling your Dog

As a dog owner you have a legal responsibility to keep your dog under control, either within a fenced area on your property or on leash when in public.

When registering your dog you are required to make a declaration to certify that the property where the dog is kept is capable of confining it within those premises. Please note that tethering is not considered a suitable means of confinement.

False declarations may attract a penalty of up to \$5,000.

Nuisance Barking

If you own a dog you are responsible for ensuring it does not create a public nuisance by barking excessively. Nuisance barking also covers public places adjoining your property.

Dog Attacks

A dog attack is a very serious matter. If your dog attacks a person or another animal, you will be held responsible even if you are not there at the time.

Penalties range from \$3,000 to \$20,000 and/or potential imprisonment.

Keeping Greyhounds and Dangerous Dogs

There are special conditions for keeping and registering greyhounds and breeds of dog classified as 'dangerous'.

For more information please contact the Shire's Community Rangers on (08) 9575 5140 or email mail@gingin.wa.gov.au.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why do I have to Register my Dog?

If your dog goes missing, having it registered drastically improves your chances of getting it back. A registration tag helps Shire Rangers and members of the community identify your dog so that they can return it to you as quickly as possible.

Additionally, it is worth noting that the cost of registration may be far less than the penalty for being caught without one. If a Shire Ranger finds your dog without a registration tag you could be fined \$200 on the spot.

How do I Register my Dog?

To register your dog you will need to complete and sign an Application for Certificate of Registration form which is only available from the Shire.

For new registrations, we have made this process easy by providing the registration form at the back of this brochure and one can also be downloaded from our website www.gingin.wa.gov.au. Please note that microchipping your dog is required as part of its registration (see next question below).

A person under the age of 18 years may not register a dog.

Do I have to Microchip my Dog?

Yes. All domestic dogs in Western Australia must be microchipped as per the *Dog Act 1976*.

The *Dog Act 1976* requires dog owners to ensure that their dog is microchipped once it has reached three months of age. Unlike a collar or tag, a microchip cannot be lost.

Owners will need to prove the dog has been microchipped by providing the Shire of Gingin with the microchip number when registering their pet. This number is provided on a microchipping certificate or record issued by your vet. A penalty of \$200 will apply if a dog is not microchipped.

A dog may be exempt if the owner has a vet's certificate stating the animal's health and welfare may be at risk if chip implantation takes place.

How much will it cost to Register my Dog?

All registrations are due on 1 November each year and can be renewed for either one or three years. Lifetime registration is also available.

A breakdown of fees is provided below:

REGISTRATION FEE	1 YR	3 YRS	LIFETIME
Sterilised			
Standard	\$20	\$42.50	\$100
Pensioner Concession	\$10	\$21.25	\$50
Unsterilised			
Standard	\$50	\$120	\$250
Pensioner Concession	\$25	\$60	\$125

Am I eligible for a Concession or Discount?

Concessions and discounts are available for the following:

- **Pensioners** who have approved concession cards are entitled to a reduction in fees (as shown in the table above).
- **Sterilised dogs** - proof of sterilisation from a veterinarian is required (see fees table above).
- **Working dogs** - only 25% of the registration fee is payable. The definition of a 'working dog' is one that is used for the droving or tending of stock.
- **Part-year registration** - a 50% discount is applicable to dogs registered after 31 May in any given year. This covers up to six months to the end of the registration period, being 31 October of that year.

For further information on dog ownership and registration within the Shire of Gingin please contact the Community Rangers on (08) 9575 5140 or email mail@gingin.wa.gov.au.



APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION

Dog Act 1976

CEO	A. Cook	Due Date		Current Year		Assessment No.	
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Applicant's Details

Owner's Name	Owner's Postal Address
Residential Address (where the dog is ordinarily kept)	
Phone No	Email

Details of the Dog(s)

1	Reg No.	Sterilised	Age	Sex	Microchip No
			Y/N		M/F
Dog's Name		Breed	Colour		Microchip Company

2	Reg No.	Sterilised	Age	Sex	Microchip No
			Y/N		M/F
Dog's Name		Breed	Colour		Microchip Company

Fees Payable

	1 Year	3 Years	Lifetime
Sterilised	\$20	\$42.50	\$100
Unsterilised	\$50	\$120	\$250

CONCESSION
You can claim a Concession (proof req).
 Pensioner (50% of full registration fee)
 Working Dog (25% of full registration fee)

Have you been convicted of any offence against the *Dog Act 1976* or *Animal Welfare Act 2002* in the past 3 years? Y / N

If yes provide details: _____

Declaration

I (the above name) of (the above address) being the owner (or authorised agent of the owner) of the dog(s) whose details appear above **DECLARE THAT:**

- (a) I am/the owner is not under the age of 18 years of age and the details provided in this application are true;
- (b) The dog(s) described in this application is/are ordinarily kept at the above address;
- (c) Means exist on the premises detailed above to effectively confine the dog within the premises; and
- (d) I have read and understand the conditions on the reverse side of this application form.

Signature (Owner/Authorised Agent)	Date

Office Use Only

Date of Issue	Registration Officer
Documents Sighted	<input type="checkbox"/> Pensioner Card <input type="checkbox"/> Sterilisation Certificate <input type="checkbox"/> Microchip Certificate

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR DOG OWNERS

In 1987 extensive changes were made to the *Dog Act 1976* in an effort to address increasing problems associated with the keeping of dogs in our communities.

The most important of these changes is that dog owners must provide means on their property to effectively confine their dog. Please note - means for effectively confining the dog within the premises does not include tethering. It is recommended that dogs not be tethered for more than 2 hours in any 24 hour period.

Another important change is the very significant difference in the registration fees for sterilised and unsterilised dogs (as indicated below) and you are therefore urged to consider the long-term financial benefits of having your dog sterilised.

Submitting this Form

- Please make sure you are returning the entire form (not just the top or bottom section).
- Please make sure that the dog's owner or authorised agent has completed and signed the declaration on the first page of this form.

Payments by Mail

Please return entire form (with copy of your Pensioner Concession Card and Sterilisation Certificate if applicable) with your cheque or money order made payable to the Shire of Gingin and post to PO Box 510, Gingin WA 6503.

Credit Card Payments

Please return the entire form (with copy of your Pensioner Concession Card and Sterilisation Certificate if applicable) via mail@gingin.wa.gov.au to the Shire of Gingin.



Please Note

- The definition of a **WORKING DOG** for concessional registration purposes is a "Dog used for the driving or tending of stock."
- The definition of a **PENSIONER** for concessional registration purposes is as follows:
 - a) A person issued with a Pensioner Concession Card or State Concession Card; or
 - b) A person issued with a Seniors Card AND Commonwealth Seniors Health Card.
- The maximum number of dogs (over the age of 3 months) to be kept on any premises is two (2). Dispensation can be given to keep more than 2 dogs on rural properties.

To register a dog under sterilised concessional rates, an owner or agent should either have a veterinarian's certificate or be prepared to sign a statutory declaration to that effect.

Refunds on Sterilisation

A dog owner who has paid the registration fee and subsequently has their dog sterilised in that year, may claim a refund for the difference in the registration fee for a sterilised and an unsterilised dog for the whole of that period.

The refund will apply to a concessional 3 year/Lifetime registration. This amendment is prorata and has been promoted by various local governments to the public. It is a further incentive for dog owners to sterilise their dogs as soon as possible.

Dog owners are also reminded that dogs 3 months and over must be registered at all times. Council also requests that dog owners inform Council immediately of any change of ownership, the death of a dog or change of address.

Failure to register a dog may result in a penalty under the *Dog Act 1976*.

Please tick the amount you are paying.

✓	Registration	Cost	✓	Registration	Cost
	Sterilised 1 year	\$20		Unsterilised 1 year	\$50
	Sterilised 3 Years	\$42.50		Unsterilised 3 years	\$120
	Lifetime	\$100		Unsterilised Lifetime	\$250

Tick either of the following if applicable: Working Dog being 25% of fee Pensioner Concession being 50% of fee

Complete this section ONLY IF PAYING BY CREDIT CARD.

The Shire of Gingin will not retain your details once your payment has been processed and this section of the form will be detached and shredded.

Card Owner Name		Contact No.	
Signature	Date	Amount	

✂

Card No.		Expiry Date		CCV	
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