



Collars & Discs

When your dog (or a dog that you are in charge of) is in a public place, you must ensure that it is wearing a collar with the dog's registration disc attached to it. This does not apply to guide dogs or hearing dogs.

Kennel Licences

If you want to keep more than 2 dogs at your property, you must apply for a Kennel Licence with Council. You apply for a Kennel Licence by completing an application form. If Council grants a Kennel Licence, you are required to renew it each year. There may also be conditions on the Licence that you will be required to comply with.

Dangerous Dogs

What is a Dangerous Dog?

A 'dangerous dog' is a dog that Council has declared to be dangerous under the *Dog Control Act 2000*. Council will usually declare a dog to be a dangerous dog if:

- the dog has attacked a person or another animal and has caused serious injury, **and/or**
- Council has reasonable cause to believe that the dog is likely to cause serious injury to a person or another animal (for example, it escapes and has attacked, or tries to attack people or animals, or shows signs of aggression).

There are special (and stricter) rules that apply to keeping a dangerous dog. These rules are set out on the next page.

Effective Control of Dangerous Dogs

Public Places

All dogs in public places must be kept under 'effective control' at all times. When a dog which has been declared to be a dangerous dog is in a public place, it will only be deemed to be under the 'effective control' if-

- the person in charge of the dog is 18 years or older; and
- the dog is wearing a muzzle which is fitted appropriately so the dog can't bite anything; **and**
- the dog is either:
 - on a lead that is not more than 2 metres long and is adequate to restrain it and is being held in your hand (i.e. not tied to anything); **or**
 - in a vehicle (which includes the tray of a ute) and restrained so that it can't escape and/or attack; **and**
- the dog is wearing an approved collar.

You must not have more than 1 dangerous dog in your charge in a public place at any time. If you are in charge of more than 1 dangerous dog, the dogs will not be under 'effective control'.

Private Premises

Dangerous dogs must also be under effective control when they are not in a public place (for example, when they are at home). When it is at home, a dangerous dog must meet the following requirements for it to be under 'effective control': -

- the dog must be wearing an approved collar; **and**
- the dog must be kept in an enclosure that complies with the specific requirements for dangerous dogs; **or**
- if the dog is not in an approved enclosure, it must be:
 - on a lead that is not more than 2 metres long which is adequate to restrain it and is being held in the hand of a person over the age of 18 (i.e. not tied to anything), **and**
 - wearing a muzzle which is fitted appropriately so the dog can't bite anything.

Need More Information or Assistance?

- Visit Council's website at www.gcc.tas.gov.au
- Send an email to gccmail@gcc.tas.gov.au
- Call us on (03) 6216 6800 between 8.30am – 5pm Monday to Friday



GLENORCHY CITY
Where ideas happen.



Your Dog & The Law

The information in this brochure has been prepared by Glenorchy City Council to help you understand and comply with the laws that apply to your dog, and to help you be a responsible dog owner.



What is the Dog Control Act?

The *Dog Control Act 2000* contains the laws which apply to dogs in Tasmania. The Act is intended to provide for the common good by reducing the negative impacts that uncontrolled, aggressive or nuisance dogs can cause.

If you own a dog, or are otherwise in charge of a dog (for example, if you are looking after it), you are responsible for the dog's actions at all times. If the dog does something that breaches the law, you could be liable for a fine of between \$82 and \$652. For more serious offences (for example, if a dog attacks a person or another animal) you may have to go to Court and could face a fine of up to \$8,150. The fines for offences under the Act have gone up significantly over the past few years.

What the Law Expects of You

Registering Your Dog

If you have a dog you are required to register it with your local council when it turns 6 months old.

In Glenorchy, you can do this by completing an Application for Registration form and lodging it with the set fee with Council.

You are required to renew your dog's registration annually and we will issue you with a Registration Renewal Notice every year close to when your registration is due.

You must also notify Council within 14 days if:

- a dog changes owner or moves to a different address,
- a dog dies, becomes lost or you otherwise no longer own it,
- a dog is transferred to another council.

You should also notify us of any changes to your contact details (such as your mobile phone numbers or email address). This is important so that if your dog escapes your property, becomes injured, or is picked up by our officers, you can be contacted and your dog may be returned home to you.

Where you can and can't take your dog

Council has declared certain areas where you are either prohibited from taking your dog or in which dogs have restricted access.

You must not take your dog into a prohibited or restricted area, otherwise than in accordance with the area's declaration.

Prohibited areas

Dogs are prohibited in the following areas unless they are assistance dogs (i.e. a guide dog or hearing dog):

- any grounds of a school or crèche (unless the person in charge of the place has given their permission)
- any shop or shopping centre (other than a vet, pet shop, dog groomer or somewhere else where it is permissible for a dog to go)
- the grounds of a public swimming pool
- the playing area of a sports ground
- any area within 10 metres of a child's playground.

There are also other areas of Council property where dogs are prohibited. These are some parks, reserves or other public places where it is not appropriate to allow dogs, whether they are on a lead or not.

Off-lead areas

In an off-lead dog exercise area you are allowed to exercise your dog off its lead as long as you comply with any specific conditions that apply to the area. When your dog is off its lead in an off-lead area, it must remain under 'effective control' at all times. This is to say that it must be close to you, you must be able to see it, and it must respond to your commands.

On-lead areas

Your dog is allowed to be in an on-lead dog exercise area, as long as it stays on its lead.

On-lead areas are usually parks and reserves where it is unnecessary to fully prohibit dogs, but it is also inappropriate to allow dogs to be off their leads (for example, because it is a wildlife sensitive area).

Keeping a Domestic dog under 'effective control'

Public places

All dogs in public places must be kept under 'effective control' at all times. Your dog will be under effective control in a public place if it is on a lead not more than 2 metres long and is either being held in a person's hand so that it can't escape or attack, or it is securely restrained in or on a vehicle. A dog is also under effective control if it is on a lead and is tethered to a fixed object (like a fence or pole). However, it must not be tied up for more than 30 minutes.

If you take dogs into a public place, you must not have more than 2 dogs under your control if you are on a footpath, or more than 4 dogs under your control if you are in another public place.

Private premises

If a dog is on private premises (such as a house or yard) it will be under effective control if the dog is securely confined to that premises and cannot escape.



Effective Control of Greyhounds (new amendments)

Like dangerous and restricted breed dogs, there are specific rules which apply to greyhounds when they are in public places.

If you have a greyhound in a public place, it will only be deemed to be under effective control if -

- the greyhound is either:
 - on a lead that is not more than 2 metres long which is adequate to restrain it, and the lead is being held in your hand (i.e. not tied to anything); or
 - in a vehicle (which includes the tray of a ute) and restrained so that it can't escape or attack anything; and
- the greyhound is wearing a muzzle. However, a greyhound does not have to wear a muzzle in public if it has successfully completed an approved greyhound suitability program.

As with other dogs (other than dangerous dogs) if you are looking after greyhounds in a public place, you must not have more than 2 greyhounds under your control if you are on a footpath, or more than 4 greyhounds under your control if you are in another public place.

Nuisances and noisy dogs

A dog owner (or person in charge of a dog) is responsible to make sure that a dog does not create a nuisance by noise or otherwise.

A dog will generally be deemed to create a nuisance if it barks (or makes other noise such as whining or howling) persistently or excessively and it disturbs the peace or comfort of other people (such as your neighbours).

If a dog creates a nuisance you may be liable for a fine.

