



Dog Act 1976 – editorial for local governments

From **1 November 2013**, amendments to the *Dog Act 1976* came into effect. The amendments introduce microchipping for domestic dogs as well as a range of other measures to improve community safety and controls relating to dangerous dogs, encourage responsible dog ownership, and recognise assistance dogs.

Microchipping of all dogs is compulsory from the following dates:

- From 1 November 2013, dogs must be microchipped when they are registered for the first time or when a change of ownership occurs.
- By 30 November 2013, all dangerous dogs, including restricted breeds and commercial security dogs, must be microchipped.
- By 1 November 2015, all other dogs must be microchipped.

Local Government Minister Tony Simpson said the introduction of microchipping is important for a number of reasons including the easy return of lost dogs to their owners.

“The amendments are also about meeting the changing community expectations in areas such as lifetime dog registrations, stricter controls on dangerous dogs and impounding provisions.”

Implementation and enforcement of the Act remains the responsibility of local governments.

For more information on the *Dog Act 1976* and how it will affect you and your dog, visit the Department of Local Government and Communities [Responsible Dog Ownership](http://www.dlgc.wa.gov.au/dogs) webpage at www.dlgc.wa.gov.au/dogs

Responsible dog ownership checklist

As a responsible dog owner you are encouraged to:

Microchip your dog.

Sterilise your dog.

Vaccinate your dog.

Properly exercise your dog.

Ensure your dog does not engage in nuisance barking.

Ensure your dog is on a leash in public places so it does not attack people or other animals.