Dangerous Dogs Fact Sheet – NSW

The Companion Animals Act 2008 (NSW) demands that all dog owners of declared dangerous dogs, declared menacing dogs and restricted dogs must comply with legislation requirements or face a court imposed fine for each offense.

Below are a few facts to act as a guide for a dog owner in NSW if they have a restricted dog breed or a declared dangerous dog.

What is a Dangerous Dog?
Any dog can be dangerous. The Act defines 3 types of dangerous dogs:
- Declared Dangerous Dog
- Declared Menacing Dog
- Restricted Dogs

What Breeds are Restricted?
- dogo Argentino
- fila Brasileiro
- Japanese tosa
- American pit bull terrier
- Pit bull terrier
- Perro de Presa Canario

This includes banned breeds by the Customs Act 1901 of the Commonwealth. Your local council in New South Wales can assist.

Can I Breed my Pit Bull Terrier?
All restricted dog breeds are required to be sterilised. If you have a restricted breed dog, it is compulsory that you notify your local council of it.

Selling, buying or advertising to sell a restricted dog breed is also an offense.

Dangerous Dog Products

How are Dogs Declared Dangerous or Menacing?
Any breed of dog can be declared dangerous if they:
- Cause injury or damage by an attack on a person, animal or vehicle.
- The dog has repeatedly or shown a tendency to attack.
- The dog attacks or chases a person, animal or vehicle even without causing injury or damage.

How do I Identify a Dangerous Dog?
The main identifier of a dangerous dog is the special collar that they are required to wear. These collars have red and yellow diagonal stripes where one of these colours must be fluorescent. The width of the collar varies depending on the weight of the dog. Other than that, some of the requirements of an owner will also help identify a dangerous dog.

What is required for the Owner?
If you own a declared dangerous, menacing or restricted dog, you must comply with these requirements or face large fines.
- A dangerous dog must wear a special collar to indicate that it is a dangerous dog. Available in 3 sizes as required in.
  - 25mm for dogs between 10kg and 20kg
  - 40mm for dogs between 20kg to 40kg
  - 50mm for dogs weighing 40kg or more
- A special warning sign must be prominently displayed around the premises.
- The dog must always be muzzled and on leash when in public and handled by a capable adult.
- A dangerous dog must be confined in an enclosure that complies with the requirements of clause 24 of the Companion Animals 2008.

Where can I get more Information?
Get specific information about the Dog Laws from your local government.

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