

## Environment and Public Affairs Committee

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**From:** Jennifer Williamson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 24 November 2021 1:26 PM  
**To:** Environment and Public Affairs Committee  
**Subject:** EF21248217 - IM.FOI.75 - Legislative Council Committee Office of WA-Dog Act and

Good Afternoon

In response to your request for information relating to Petition No. 020 Dog Act, your reference A924606, please find below the responses in red:

1. In the last five years, in relation to the City of Albany, how many:

- Dog attacks have been reported?

Over a period of 5 years from 01.07.2016 to 30.06.2021 a total of 365 dog attacks were reported to the City of Albany Ranger Team

- How many infringement notices have been issued for offences related to dog attacks?

Total 336 infringements issued for the 5 year period, however 61 infringements were issued for either:

- \* Dog attack or chase causing physical injury
- \* Dog attack or chase causing no physical injury
- \* Dangerous dog: Not held or tethered
- \* Dangerous dog: Warning signs about dangerous dogs not displayed
- \* Dangerous dog: Dog attack or chase causing no physical injury

- What fines have been imposed and what were the circumstances of the offences?

The circumstances involved with the offences are as follows:

- \* Dog attack on person(s)
- \* Dog attack on animal; dog, cat or other animal/pet (rabbit, bird, guinea pig, etc.)
- \* Dog attack on livestock; sheep, cattle, horse, pig, goat, etc.
- \* Dog may attempt to attack but not make contact with a person or animal but cause fear in a reasonable person

- How many prosecutions have been brought?

In the last 5 years there have been two (2) dog attacks where prosecution has been brought

- How many dogs have been declared dangerous?

30 dogs have been declared dangerous over the 5 year period, of which 12 are still current. The other dogs declared dangerous, the City of Albany Ranger Team has been notified they are now deceased or they were involved in another attack and they were destroyed/euthanized either by the owner or the City of Albany.

- How many dogs have been seized and/or destroyed in response to a dog attack?

\* 01.07.2016 – 30.06.2017 = 5 dogs impounded of which 1 was destroyed

- \* 01.07.2017 – 30.06.2018 = 11 dogs impounded of which 3 were destroyed
- \* 01.07.2018 – 30.06.2019 = 14 dogs impounded of which 7 were destroyed
- \* 01.07.2019 – 30.06.2020 = 21 dogs impounded of which 3 were destroyed
- \* 01.07.2020 – 30.06.2021 = 5 dogs impounded of which 3 were destroyed

- How many dogs have been seized but returned to their owners following impoundment as a result of a reported dog attack?

- \* 01.07.2016 – 30.06.2017 = 5 dogs impounded of which 4 were returned to their owner
- \* 01.07.2017 – 30.06.2018 = 11 dogs impounded of which 8 were returned to their owner
- \* 01.07.2018 – 30.06.2019 = 14 dogs impounded of which 7 were returned to their owner
- \* 01.07.2019 – 30.06.2020 = 21 dogs impounded of which 18 were returned to their owner
- \* 01.07.2020 – 30.06.2021 = 5 dogs impounded of which 2 were returned to their owner

- How many owners, if any, have been compelled to attend training courses?

\* Nil

- Of the dogs who have previously attacked, what follow-up (if any) occurs to ensure owners are continuing to comply with their obligations (for example, in relation to signage, fencing and muzzling).

Of the dogs that have been declared dangerous, the City of Albany Ranger Team conduct annual audits to ensure that owners are complying with the regulations of owning a dangerous dog. These consist of checks of yearly registrations, fencing requirements, signage, collar and muzzle (when out in public).

## 2. What process is available to local residents to report dog attacks?

The City of Albany Ranger Team is available 24/7 via telephone to take reports of dog attacks occurring at the time of the offence.

The public can also use the Report It form on the City's website.

The City of Albany Ranger Team will ask a series of questions in relation to the dog attack, request statements, photographs and any other evidence that may be required which all will be discovered through the duration of the investigation.

## 3. Any other information which may assist the Committee with its enquiries.

- Of the 336 infringement issued the balance of 275, where issued for a combination of infringements which can be also issued for dog attacks, but this was hard to determine which ones were specifically issued in relation to a dog attack.
  - The other infringements that where issued where:
    - Dog Not Held Or Tethered In Certain Public Places
    - Being the owner or person responsible for a dog. Did fail to register it with the local authority
    - Did permit a dog to be in a public place not wearing a collar to which the registration tag is securely affixed
    - Dog in exercise areas, rural area offences
    - Fence not adequate to confine a dog of the species, age, size and physical condition of the dog
    - Dog in place without consent
    - Failure to ensure dog microchipped
    - Keeping more than the prescribed number of dogs
    - Failing to keep gate or door closed when the dog is at the premises
    - Failure to notify Local Government, microchip database owner of infringement changes

- Being the owner or occupier of a property on which livestock or a dog is kept failed to cause the property or a portion of the property to be fenced in a manner capable of confining the livestock or dog, to that portion where the livestock or dog kept

Kind regards



Jennifer Williamson / Team Leader – Records and Council Liaison



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