



## Fact Sheet

### Pets

There are many health benefits in having a pet. Pets can decrease stress, improve heart health, and even help children with their emotional and social skills.

Pets can also help manage depression and loneliness by providing companionship.

#### **Can we have a pet at a MRAC property?**

Generally the answer is yes except if you live in a unit, flat or apartment where the Body Corporate rules do not allow pets. Please check with MRAC if you live in these types of properties to see if you can have a pet.

#### **Keeping dogs**

In WA, all dogs over three months old must wear a collar, be microchipped (with the current owner details) and have your local Council or Shire registration tag attached when in a public place.

The *Dog Act 1976* prescribes the following as restricted breeds under the definition of *dangerous dog (restricted breeds)* being:

- Dogo Argentino;
- Fila Brasileiro;
- Japanese tosa;
- American pit bull terrier;
- Pit bull terrier;
- Perro de presa Canario or presa Canario; or
- Any other breed of dog the importation of which is prohibited absolutely by the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956 (Commonwealth)*.

Tenants are only allowed two dogs in each property in WA unless you apply to your local Council or Shire for an additional dog.

MRAC does not allow dogs inside MRAC properties. Dogs can damage property, and potentially spread fleas and ticks. Dogs must be tied up when MRAC undertakes property inspections.

Please keep your pets confined to your property and do not allow them to foul or damage neighbouring gardens or communal areas.

Please make sure you clean up any animal waste as it is a health hazard to you, your family, your visitors, and your neighbours. Make sure your dogs are not continually barking.

#### **Cats**

In WA, only three cats are allowed per property and the law requires all domestic cats six months and older to be sterilised, microchipped and to wear a tag in a public place.

Unlike dogs, The Cat Act (yes, there is a dog act and a cat act), local laws are in place regarding cats.

Some areas can issue an order to stop your cat trespassing and if you don't comply, you can be fined. Some Councils require cats to be confined to their owner's home during certain hours. Please check with your local Council or Shire.

#### **Other pets**

If you wish to have any other type of pet, please contact MRAC to see if it is allowed.