

# Restricted Breed Dogs

The following information is provided to assist with understanding the current legislation in Western Australia relating to restricted breeds of dogs. This information is general only, confirmation of this information can be obtained from the Department of Local Government and Communities.

If you are contemplating obtaining a dog that may be a restricted breed or disposing of a dog you may already own, contact your Local Government Authority for advice and assistance.

The Government of Western Australia introduced regulations relating to restricted dog breeds in 2002. This legislation has now been amalgamated into the Dog Act (1976).

The following information is to assist Rangers, Animal Control Officers and the general public identify these breeds and legal requirements regarding the keeping of these dogs.

Under the legislation, a "restricted breed dog" is defined as a breed whose importation into Australia is prohibited under the Commonwealth Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956.

At present this includes: either pure or cross breeds of the following;

- **Dogo Argentino**
- **Fila Brasileiro**
- **Japanese Tosa**
- **American Pit Bull Terrier**
- **Perro de Presa Canario.**

Below is a profile on each of the legislated Restricted Breed Dogs;

## RESTRICTED

### Dogo Argentino (Argentinian Fighting Dog)



#### Breed History

One of the few breeds developed in South America, the Dogo Argentino is the result of a breeding programme undertaken in the 1920s by an Argentinian breeder, Dr. Antonio Nores Martinez, to produce a puma and jaguar hunter.

#### Key Facts

First use: Game hunting, dog fighting  
Use today: Companion.  
Life expectancy: 10-11 years.  
Weight range: 36-45 kg.  
Height range: 61-69 cm.

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### Filo Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff / Brazilian Fighting Dog)



#### Breed History

One of Brazil's two native breeds (the other one being the rare Brazilian Tracker), this powerful mastiff was developed from Spanish and Portuguese mastiffs and Bloodhounds in order to track and control livestock and large game.



#### Key Facts

First use: Tracking, large game hunting.  
Use today: Companion, security.  
Life expectancy: 9-11 years.  
Weight range: 41-50 kg.  
Height range: 61-76 cm.

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### American Pit Bull Terrier (Pit Bull Terrier, American Pit Bull)



#### Breed History

Throughout the World dogs have, at one time or another, been bred to fight. This breed descends from the Staffordshire Bull Terrier crossed with other fighting dogs, including the extinct fighting Bulldog.



#### Key Facts

First use: Dog fighting.  
Use today: Companion.  
Life expectancy: 12 years.  
Weight range: 14-36 kg.  
Height range: 46-56 cm.

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### Tosa Inu (*Tosa Fighting Dog / Japanese Fighting Dog*)



#### Breed History

Initially bred in Japan's Kochi Prefecture, from crosses between native Shikoku fighting dogs and imported mastiffs, Great Danes, bulldogs, and bull terriers, this breed was once called the Japanese Mastiff.

#### Key Facts

First use: Dog fighting.  
Use today: Companion.  
Life expectancy: 9-11 years.  
Weight range: 89.5-90.5 kg.  
Height range: 62-65 cm.

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### Perro de Presa Canario (Canary Dog)



#### Breed History

The Canario has recently been reborn, although once near extinction. The Canary Islands belonging to Spain were actually named for the fierce dogs found there, not for its little yellow singing birds. From the Latin came the "Island of the Dogs." These tough, smooth-coated, livestock and farm dogs, called Bardino Majero, were probably similar to the Perro de Pastor Mallorquin and the Cao de Castro Labor-eiro and were present before Hispanic times.

#### Key Facts

Country: Spain.  
Weight: 84-110 pounds maximum.  
Height: 21 1/2-25 1/2 inches.  
Coat: Short, smooth, but coarse.  
Colour: Brindles, fawn; some white permissible.  
Other Names: Canary Dog.  
Group: Mastiff.

#### **Keeping a Restricted Breed Dog**

The legislation also provides for a restricted breed dog to include any dog of a mixed breed that visibly contains any of the above prohibited breeds.

*The provisions relating to legislation include;*

- Dogs to wear specified collars indicating a restricted breed dog and property access points to display signs indicating a dangerous dog;
- Dogs are to be housed in an escape-proof and child-proof enclosure;
- A requirement for the owner to leash and muzzle the dog while in public places;
- Persons in charge in public places must not be under 18;
- A maximum of two restricted dogs can be owned per person;
- Owners must be 18 or over;
- Compulsory notification of a prospective owner that the dog is a restricted breed dog;
- Compulsory notification to local government if the dog escapes, dies or there is a change of ownership;
- Greater powers for seizure
- Compulsory sterilisation and micro-chipping.

## Signage and Collars

Further requirements include that the owner of a restricted breed dog must;

- Display a sign/s conforming to specifications as listed in the *Dog Regulations (2013)* at all entrances to the premises where the dog is ordinarily kept.

***Example below of the specific restricted breed dog signage;***



- The dog owner shall ensure that at all times the dog wears a distinctive collar of the kind prescribed in of the *Dog Regulations (2013)*

***Example below of the specific restricted breed collar;***

