



BACKGROUND PAPER ANTI SOCIAL DOGS AND DANGEROUS DOGS

Please read in conjunction with AWLA Policy Statement on anti-social dogs and dangerous dogs.

This background information is intended to explain the underlying principles of the Companion Animal Network Australia anti-social dogs' policy statement.

Some dogs considered to be **anti-social dogs** develop behaviour that is regarded as inappropriate for harmonious interaction with people. This can range from relatively minor behavioural problems to severe attacks considered dangerous.

As the range of behavioural problems is so broad, the responses to these also need to be broad and appropriate for the circumstance.

Children should always be supervised near dogs.

The Companion Animal Network Australia policy is based on four core principles:

Core Principle One

Owners of dogs are responsible for the behaviour of their dogs.

Core Principle Two

A dangerous dog determination should never be made on the basis of breed or type, but on the specific observed behaviour of the dog in question.

Core Principle Three

The determination of a 'dangerous dog' with implicit potentially serious consequences should be made by an expert in the field of dog behaviour.

Core Principle Four

Prevention is better than cure.