

## **Sensible solutions for dangerous dogs.**

### **12. USA Humane Society & Table 5.**

Dangerous dog legislation in 2006.

Incorporating the approach of identifying 'potentially dangerous dogs.

Dangerous dog means.

1. Causes a serious injury to a person or animal that is less severe than a serious injury.

2. Dogs that may reasonably be assumed to pose a threat to public safety.

3. Without provocation, chasing or menacing a person or domestic animal in an aggressive manner.

3. Running at large and impounded or owners cited by the Animal Control Authority two (2) or more times within any 12-month period.

4. Acts in a highly aggressive manner within a fenced yard/enclosure and appears to a reasonable person able to jump over or escape.

The consequences of both designations are broadly similar, with the notable exception that a dog determined to be "potentially dangerous" can have that status removed after three years following appropriate temperament testing.

The important commonality across all these examples is the ability of animal management authorities to identify and intervene with animals prior to an attack occurring.

Early identification and intervention.

The legislative framework set in this paper can be found in Appendix 1.

It is a synthesis of the approaches discussed above that adapts them for Australian jurisdictions and is based on early identification and intervention for potentially dangerous dogs.

### **Dangerous or potentially dangerous dog.**

The animal management authority, would have the role and authority to classify individual dogs as either dangerous or potentially dangerous.

These determinations occur after an investigation triggered by a range of circumstances detailed in Table 5.

Potentially dangerous dog.

Any dog that may reasonably be assumed to pose a threat to public safety as demonstrated by.

1. Causing an injury to a person or domestic animal that is less severe than a serious injury.

2. Without provocation, chasing or menacing a person or domestic animal in an aggressive manner.
3. Running at large and impounded or owners cited by the Animal Control Authority two (2) or more times within any 12-month period.
4. Acts in a highly aggressively manner within a fenced yard/enclosure and appears to a reasonable person able to jump over or escape.
5. Fails a temperament assessment test conducted by a person approved by the Authority.
6. Exhibits unacceptable aggression without actually biting.
7. Inflicts a single (not serious) bite wound in a situation where provocation of the dog has been established as a significant causal factor.

**Any dog that:**

Causes a serious injury to a person or domestic animal;  
Has been designated as a potentially dangerous dog and engages in behavior that poses a threat to public safety as described in the “potentially dangerous dog” definition.

1. Inflicts a single (not serious) bite wound without provocation.
2. Inflicts multiple bite wounds in a situation where provocation of the dog has been established as a significant causal factor.
3. Inflicts multiple bite wounds without provocation.
4. Inflicts a life-threatening attack.
5. Kills a person or domestic animal.

**Table 5 – Proposed model for dangerous and potentially dangerous dog classification.**

Once classified as a potentially dangerous dog or a dangerous dog, the following requirements are placed on the care and ownership of the animal.

1. The owner must be 18 years of age or older.
2. Owners must have a valid license for the potentially or dangerous dog as required by the jurisdiction.
3. Dogs must wear a collar identified as potentially dangerous or dangerous dogs, as prescribed by the authority.
4. Dogs must be kept in a proper enclosure preventing entry of any person or animal, preventing the dog from escaping as per the prescribed standard by the authority.
5. Owners must pay an annual fee to be determined by the Authority or their designee, in addition to regular dog licensing fees, registering the dog.

6. The dog must be spayed or neutered.
7. Microchipping compulsory.
8. Owners of such dogs shall enter the dog in a socialization/ behavior program offered by the jurisdiction.
9. Dogs outside its home enclosure, it must be under effective control, muzzled, restrained by a suitable lead not exceeding 1.3 meters in length.
10. Owners or carer must notify the relevant Authority immediately if the dog is on the loose, unconfined, attacked another domestic animal, attacked or a human being.
11. Owners or carer must notify the relevant Authority within five (5) business days if the dog has died or within 24 hours if the dog has been sold / given away.
12. Owners or carer must advise the Authority intentions to dispose of such a dog, the prospective new owner must obtain a license before taking possession of or responsibility for such a dog.
13. Owner or carer must comply with any other requirement set out by the Authority.

**That's it – Gawie Manjaro – MK.**

