

DOGS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS POLICY



HALE
SCHOOL

1. Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide guidelines for ensuring that dogs (and other pets) do not adversely impact the well-being of people at the School.

Dogs are an important part of life for many in our community and, as such, are likely to be seen on campus, e.g. dogs belonging to campus residents or staff, dogs accompanying School families during student drop-off or pick-up and dogs being walked by neighbours. The School appreciates this inclusion and values pet ownership. At the same time, though, we must be mindful that some people are fearful of dogs and that dogs can pose a threat to people's health and safety. Importantly, too, dogs on the campus are required to be managed in accordance with relevant shire Local Laws, the *Dog Act 1976* and the *Health Act 1911*.

2. Definitions

- i. **Public place:** Any place to which the public may lawfully have access.
- ii. **Competent person:** A person who is liable for the control of the dog, has attained the age of 18 years, can control the dog and he or she is carrying and capable of attaching to the dog for the purpose of controlling it, a chain, cord, leash, or harness of sufficient strength and not exceeding the prescribed length (no longer than 2 metres)

3. Background

- i. **Control:** Although Hale School is not considered a public place which is maintained by the local government, within the *Dog Act 1976*, there is still a requirement for owners to control their dogs when not confined within their own home environment, or in areas other than public places. It requires dogs to be on a leash and to be accompanied by a competent person to ensure there is no risk to others, be it through injury or harassment. Severe penalties apply for breaches of the Act.
- ii. The City of Stirling Rangers have jurisdiction to respond to any requests by the School to assist when dogs are reported as not being managed in accordance with these requirements.
- iii. **Health Issues:** The City of Stirling "Dogs Local Law 2008" forbids dogs to be allowed to excrete:

- a) *on any thoroughfare or other public place and*
- b) *on any land which is not a public place without the consent of the occupier."*

- iv. **Boarding:** In the interests of all persons using Hale School facilities, dog owners are required to uphold the standards of the School including those within AS5725:2015 "Boarding Standard for Australian Schools and Residences". Any visiting dogs are to be managed in accordance with the General Guidelines for dogs in school buildings as listed below.

4. Guidelines

Other than within the confines of a residence on the campus:

- i. Dogs are not permitted inside School buildings, including boarding houses, unless permission is granted by the Headmaster.
- ii. Dogs must be on a leash and under the control of a "competent person" always (see definition above).
- iii. The person in charge of the dog must ensure that the following hygiene requirements are adhered to:
 - a) Any excrement deposited by the dog is immediately and appropriately cleaned up,
 - b) Every effort possible must be made to prevent the dog from urinating in inappropriate locations such as inside buildings, on pathways, on School equipment, etc. If this cannot be avoided, the person in charge of the dog must immediately and appropriately clean it up.
 - c) Dogs must not be permitted into play areas such as sandpits or playgrounds.
- iv. Dogs are not permitted in the swimming pool area at any time.
- v. Only dogs having a temperament suited to being around children and crowds are permitted on the campus.
- vi. Sick dogs which have the potential to transmit disease are not permitted on the campus.

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- vii. The owner or person in charge of the dog on the School grounds is entirely responsible for the dog's behaviour and for dealing with any issues caused by the dog.
- viii. A flyer is available through the Safety Systems Officer for distribution by the School Caretaker or event organisers at public events to remind visitors of their responsibilities when attending with dogs.

Related Legislation

- The Dog Act 1976
- Dog Regulations 2013
- The Health Act 1911
- City of Stirling Dogs Local Law 2008 and subsequent amendments
- City of Stirling Health Local Law 2009

Related Policies

- Duty of Care for Students

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Policy Version
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Changes Made
Addition of reporting to the City of Stirling Ranger and Relevant School Policy