

# The Control Of Dogs

Different rules apply in different areas and as a dog owner it is your responsibility to find out what the control requirements are. As a general rule, dog exercise and leash control areas are signposted. However, if in doubt then you should leave your dog on the leash.



## Leash Control

**Do leashed dogs get ample exercise and stimulation?** As we all know, the more and intense the exercise the better. Off leash exercise is desirable and you should exercise your dog daily. Check out the rules and make sure your dog is leashed in 'leash control' areas. The more exercise your dog gets, the more balanced it will be, mentally and physically (not to mention the benefit you get from exercising with it).



Be extra cautious because leashed dogs, although physically restrained, may feel vulnerable because they cannot flee a perceived threat, which could result in a defensive reaction. Provided you are aware of this then it is not a big deal. If people ask to approach the dog (and you are okay with this) ask them to approach slowly. It is not unusual for a child to briskly approach a dog in a fearless manner. As a safeguard you can fit a comfortable muzzle on the dog with very little fuss.



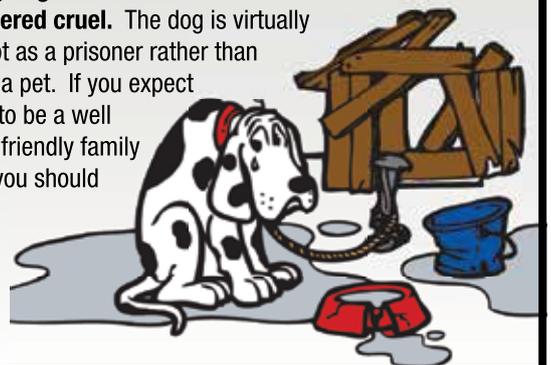
## Tethering

**Long term tethering or chaining of dogs is not recommended** - Dogs should not to be tethered or chained in such a manner that constitutes its' main means of restraint. Tethering should only be used on a temporary basis. Note, always watch out for obstacles that may tangle with the restraint or result in the dog jumping over them and accidentally hanging itself.

**Tethered dogs are likely to be more aggressive** because they cannot run away from a perceived threat. The threatening environment conditions the dog to be constantly on the alert, defensive and in a position where it feels forced to fight. Being alert and defensive soon becomes part of the dog's nature.

### **Tethering dogs as a main means of restraint is considered cruel.**

The dog is virtually being kept as a prisoner rather than raised as a pet. If you expect your dog to be a well adjusted, friendly family pet then you should avoid any form of tethering.



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## Free Running

You can never eliminate a dog's urge to chase a moving object. Although your dog may have a friendly disposition, it is unreasonable to allow your dog to rush up to people or other dogs.

Free running exercise should be limited to times only when it is considered safe and there are no other unfamiliar dogs in the immediate vicinity.

When dogs approach each other there are numerous signals which communicate dominance and submission. We may not recognise or even understand many of these signals. However, where a display



of dominance is not met by a response of submission there may be a confrontation.

When a fight breaks out it is virtually impossible to determine which dog started it. It is unfair to blame one dog simply based on breed. If both dogs are free running then both dogs may be at fault. For this reason, enforcement action may be difficult to take against one dog owner and not the other. It is extremely dangerous to try and break up fighting dogs.

Ensure that your dog is always in your sight and that you are always in a position to leash your dog immediately.



## Confined on the Property

You should, **always** ensure that your dog is either:

- (a) under the direct control of a person; or
- (b) confined in such a manner that it cannot freely leave the property.

You can never trust a dog to stay on the property – even when it appears to be in the same place it was when you left it. By nature dogs love to explore, friendly dogs follow the

school children, some dogs like to chase cats. You can never eliminate the natural urge to roam.

Ensure your dog is caged, or even better still, has an adequately secured area where it can run around freely. Ideally the dog should not be able to interfere with people entering your property, providing clear access to the door. Ensure the gate into the enclosure is spring loaded so that it closes automatically. Ensure that there is plenty of shade in the hot summer days and shelter from the rain.