

## **Dogs A.C.T Regulations – Part 17 - Aggressive Dogs.**

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### **17.1 Responsibilities of Owner or Handler:**

Each owner, exhibitor or handler at a Show or Trial must take all action necessary to ensure that any dog under their control or responsibility does not behave in an aggressive manner.

### **17.2 Reporting incidents of an Aggressive Dog:**

- a) Any person at a Show or Trial observes an incident where a dog has acted in an aggressive or savage manner causing actual damage or unreasonable danger to any person or exhibit, should report the incident to the Show Secretary as soon as possible after the incident.
- b) In the case of a Judge, Steward or a Club Official conducting the event, this is obligatory.

### **17.3 Inquiry Committee:**

- a) Upon receipt of such a report the Show Secretary or Trial Manager must appoint an Inquiry Committee which must meet immediately to consider the matter.
- b) The Inquiry Committee must consist of at least three people who are financial members of a Dogs Australia Canine Controlling Body but not Executive Members of the Club hosting the Show or the Show Secretary for the day; or any Exhibitor in the same Group as the exhibit or a Council Member.
- c) The Inquiry must look at all relevant evidence relating to the incident.
- d) The person making the report must give oral and written evidence (statement) and witnesses may give oral and written evidence (statement).
- e) The owner or person responsible for the dog has the right to be in attendance at all times and be allowed to question witnesses and make statements in defence of the dog.
- f) If the Inquiry Committee is satisfied that the incident involving the dog attacking or attempting to attack any person at a Show or Trial, or another dog, or other sufficiently aggressive behaviour, the Inquiry Committee may declare the dog to be an aggressive dog, providing the Committee believes that no justified provocation occurred.
- g) The Inquiry Committee shall then advise in writing the person responsible for the care and control of the dog of its declaration as such.

### **17.4 Declaration of an Aggressive Dog:**

- a) Where the Inquiry Committee declares a dog to be an aggressive dog;
  - 1. The person responsible for the dog shall immediately remove the dog from the show ground; and
  - 2. The dog shall thus be disqualified from further exhibition or trailing at the current event or any Show or Trial until and if the disqualification is raised by Dogs A.C.T Council.

3. During the period of such disqualification the dog shall not be allowed to enter or remain on any Show or Trial ground within the jurisdiction of Dogs Australia.
- b) The Show Secretary at the Show or Trial shall ensure that all the above procedures in respect of a complaint of an aggressive dog are followed.
- c) Where the Inquiry Committee declares the dog to be an aggressive dog; the Affiliate concerned, must within the next seven days, provide Dogs A.C.T Administrator:
  1. With a written report of the incident, and;
  2. The Inquiry Committee's minutes and decision, and;
  3. Copies of all statements in writing concerning the incident, and;
  4. A copy of the advice referred to in 3.6 above, and;
  5. The relevant catalogue pages and any other relevant documents.

**17.5 Responsibilities of Dogs A.C.T:**

- a) At the next available Dogs A.C.T Council meeting the Council shall:
  1. Consider the reports and,
  2. If satisfied that the dog is likely to constitute a danger to persons, dogs or property at a Show or Trial,
  3. May suspend, disqualify or otherwise debar the dog from competition, or
  4. May impose conditions concerning the exhibition or trailing of the dog;
  5. In either event for such period as Council deems necessary.
- b) If the Council has not finally dealt with the matter within two months of the incident, the owner of the dog may apply in writing to Dogs A.C.T for the removal of the disqualification.
- c) Upon such an application the Council shall forthwith either;
  1. Grant the application; or
  2. Reach a decision about the matter.
  3. If a decision is not reached within one month of receipt of the application, the application shall be deemed to have been granted.

**17.6 Re-assessment of aggressive dogs:**

- a) A dog which is required to be re-assessed to return to Dogs A.C.T's environment is to be assessed by a recognised professional, who is acceptable to Dogs A.C.T.
- b) All documents and reports of previously reported aggressive acts and subsequent remedial actions if available should be provided to the assessor.
- c) All costs involved with the provision of re-assessment, indemnity and subsequent or related costs will be born by the owner.

**17.7 Enforcement of suspension of a dog declared to be an aggressive dog pursuant to the Regulations of another Dogs Australia Member Body.**

The precise terms and conditions of a suspension, disqualification or ban imposed upon any dog which has been declared aggressive pursuant to the Regulations of another Dogs Australia Member Body shall be applied to that dog as if the suspension, disqualification or ban had been imposed by Dogs A.C.T and irrespective of the State or Territory in which the dog is registered.