Code of Practice
for the keeping of security dogs in South Australia
Prepared by The South Australian Animal Welfare Advisory Committee
10th December 2012
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Preface

Purpose
The purpose of this document is to provide guidance for the humane and secure holding of security dogs and to assist the keepers of security dogs to abide by the law.

Introduction
This code is designed for everyone involved in the business of providing and managing security dogs primarily kept to protect premises, goods or persons. It is not a complete manual on animal husbandry, and may be revised to take account of advances in the understanding of animal physiology and behaviour, technological changes, changing industry standards, and the community’s attitudes and expectations about the welfare of animals.

Scope
This Code of Practice for the Keeping of Security Dogs in South Australia relates to all security dogs within this jurisdiction. It applies to guard dogs, which protect property in the absence of a handler, patrol dogs which protect property in the company of a handler and the establishments which hold and breed these dogs.

Security Dogs are dogs primarily kept to protect:
- premises
- goods kept on premises
- a person or persons guarding premises and goods but not including flock guardian dogs (such as Maremmas).

Security dog establishments include:
- any business which is conducted for the purpose of providing or training security dogs
- premises which are used for the accommodation of security dogs aged over three months.

Guarded premises include any place where a dog is used to protect:
- premises
- goods kept on premises
- a person or persons guarding premises or goods; except where the premises belong to or are occupied by the owner of the dog and are the place where the owner lives.

A security dog is not a dog which is primarily a pet which guards a private dwelling, nor does it apply to a dog which the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 defines to be:
- a dingo (or dingo cross) or
- the subject of a council order, or
- attack-trained or
- a prescribed breed.

If a security dog is any of the above categories, additional legal provisions may apply.

Structure
This Code is divided into sections relating to the considerations required to ensure the welfare of security dogs and public safety. Each chapter contains a heading; an objective, standards and guidelines.

The Objective
The objective is the intended outcome(s) for each section of the standards and guidelines.

The Standards
The Standards are emphasised by being in boxes at the beginning of each section. The Standards are a collation of the legal requirements of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 and the Animal Welfare Act 1985 as they apply to the keeping of security dogs. As such they are the legal requirements and are enforceable. However, this Code, is not a legal instrument in its own right and readers are advised to refer to the legislative instruments themselves.
The Guidelines

The Guidelines are the recommended practices to achieve desirable animal welfare and management outcomes. The guidelines complement the standards. Guidelines use the word ‘should’. The guidelines have been adapted from the New South Wales Animal Welfare Code of Practice (number 9) Security Dogs, published by the Department of Primary Industries NSW as published on the Australian Security Industry Association Limited website.

Throughout this Code:

• AWA means the Animal Welfare Act 1985 and is followed by the relevant section number
• AWR means the Animal Welfare Regulations 2012 and is followed by the relevant regulation number
• DCMA means the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 and is followed by the relevant section number
• DCMR means the Dog and Cat Management Regulations 2010 and is followed by the relevant regulation number

Note

Provisions relating to the Dog and Cat Management Act do not apply to dogs owned by the Crown (e.g. Police and Customs dogs) or privately owned dogs which are used by the Crown (e.g. SES search and rescue dogs)
## Staff responsibilities

### Objective

People responsible for the care and management of security dogs are identified, are aware of and are accountable for their responsibilities.

### Standards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legislation</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AWAs13(1)</td>
<td>S1.1</td>
<td>A person must not ill-treat a security dog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWAs13(3)(a)</td>
<td>S1.2</td>
<td>A person must not unreasonably or recklessly cause harm to a security dog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWAs13(3)(c)</td>
<td>S1.3</td>
<td>If a person causes a security dog harm, whether or not he or she is the owner of the dog, he or she must take reasonable steps to mitigate that harm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWAs13(3)(d)</td>
<td>S1.4</td>
<td>A person must not kill a security dog in a manner which causes it unnecessary pain. If a person kills a security dog, it must be done in a way which causes death or unconsciousness (followed by death) as quickly as possible.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Guidelines

#### The Manager

G1.1 The Manager of a security dog establishment is responsible both at the security dog establishment and at guarded premises for:

- (a) provision of accommodation and equipment which suits the physical and behavioural requirements of the dogs held
- (b) the protection of dogs from people, other animals or adverse environmental conditions
- (c) provision of sufficient space for dogs to stand, move freely, stretch fully and rest
- (d) provision of sufficient quantities of appropriate feed and water to maintain good health
- (e) protection of dogs as far as possible from disease, distress and injury
- (f) provision of prompt veterinary or other appropriate treatment in cases of illness or injury
- (g) maintenance of hygiene of the security dog establishment and the kennel and exercise areas of guarded premises
- (h) maintenance of the health of the dogs
- (i) supervision of regular exercise, daily feeding, watering and inspection of dogs to ensure their well-being
- (j) supervision of all staff
- (k) ensuring that the requirements set out in these standards are met at guarded premises to provide for:
  - the welfare of dogs held at the premises
  - the safety of those working with security dogs
  - public safety
  - the display of required signage
- (l) provision for the manager or his nominee to be contactable outside business hours
- (m) collation and maintenance of relevant records.

#### Staff

G1.2 Staff should have the skills, training, knowledge and experience in handling large dogs or be under the supervision of such a person. Formal training such as a technical college qualification in animal care may be beneficial.

G1.3 Staff should be aware of their responsibilities and be competent to carry them out.
Food and water

Objective
Security dogs are provided appropriate nutrition to maintain health and vitality

Standards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AWAs13(3)(b)(i)</th>
<th>S2.1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| A person with custody or control of a security dog must provide it with appropriate, and adequate, food and water. Appropriate and adequate food means a palatable, uncontaminated and nutritionally balanced diet meeting the requirements for the breed, age and activity level of the dogs.

Guidelines

Water
G2.1 Fresh water must be available at all times.

Food
G2.2 Adult dogs should be fed daily.
G2.3 Pups up to 6 months of age should be fed at least twice a day.
G2.4 Food and water containers should not be chewable or spillable. They must be readily accessible to the dogs, positioned to avoid contamination by urine or faeces, and cleaned at least daily.
Security dog kennels

Objective
Security dogs are provided with secure, comfortable living conditions.

Standards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AWAs13(3)(b)(i)</th>
<th>S3.1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A person with custody or control of a security dog must provide it with appropriate, and adequate living conditions (whether temporary or permanent)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Guidelines

Conditions
G3.1 Kennelling should be provided if a guard dog is on the premises for more than six hours and is not accompanied by a handler.

Location
G3.2 Security dog Kennels should be located away from sources of noise or pollution that could cause injury or stress to dogs.
G2.3 Kennels should be sited in areas that protect from excessive damp, heat and draught.

Construction
G3.4 Enclosures should be designed and maintained to avoid injury, disease, theft, or escape of the dogs or interference with them by unauthorised persons.
G3.5 Where dog kennels are sited outdoors they should protect dogs from rain and wind and be adequately shaded.
G3.6 Where kennels are constructed indoors, temperature, humidity and ventilation should be considered.
G3.7 Guard dog enclosures should allow for easy observation of dogs while kennelled without the opening the enclosure.
G3.8 Food and water containers should be non-chewable and non-spillable.

Size
G3.9 Each kennelled security dog should be housed in a kennel at least 3.7 metres long, 1.8 metres wide and 1.8 metres high. Guard dogs should have access to kennel of these dimensions.
G3.10 Where dogs are housed in compatible pairs, the kennel should be at least 7.4 metres long, 3.6 metres wide and 1.8 metres high.

Drainage
G3.11 Kennel floors should be sloped to enable urine and water to run off. A collection drain should be provided.
G3.12 Kennel drains in security dog establishments should be fitted with fine mesh baskets to trap hair and faeces and be cleaned daily.

Temperature
G3.13 Dogs should be protected from extremes of temperature.
G3.14 Kennels should be adequately insulated to provide protection against excessive heat and cold. Metal kennels are not acceptable unless adequate insulation and shade over the kennel are provided.

Lighting
G3.15 Lighting should be as close as possible, in duration and intensity, to natural conditions.
G3.16 Sunlight is the preferred means of lighting, provided shaded areas are available.

Ventilation
G3.17 Ventilation should be adequate to keep kennels free of dampness, and noxious odours, without draughts.

Bedding
G3.18 All kennels should be provided with a raised sleeping area.
G.3.19 Any bedding provided for dogs should be changed frequently and kept clean and dry.

Isolation
G3.20 Security dog establishments and property protected by guard dogs should have facilities to isolate dogs which require special treatment of that may be infectious.
Security and confinement to Premises

Objective
Security dogs are confined in a humane manner.

Standards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AWA15 AWR8(1)</td>
<td>S6.1</td>
<td>A person must not apply a collar capable of producing an electric shock to a security dog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCMAs43(1)</td>
<td>S6.2</td>
<td>A person with the care and custody of a security dog must take all reasonable steps to prevent the dog from wandering at large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCMAs45D(1)(c)</td>
<td>S6.3</td>
<td>The dog, while on private property, must be kept indoors, in a secure enclosure, or perimeter fence capable of preventing the dog from escaping.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Guidelines

G4.1 A security barrier at least 2 metres high must be constructed to prevent escape of animals or unauthorised entry. The kennel compound wall may form part of the security barrier.

G4.2 The security barrier must be fitted with at least one self-closing lockable gate.

Security Dog Establishments and Premises

G4.3 Kennel buildings should be securely lockable.

G4.4 Each individual kennel should be fitted with a secure closing device that cannot be opened by dogs.

G4.5 Any security methods used should allow for ready access to dogs and ready exit of staff and dogs from the premises in the event of an emergency.

Security of Dogs Guarding Premises

G4.6 Guard dogs must be kept under adequate control. Methods of control are:

- securing or enclosing the dog so that it cannot escape from the premises, or
- ensuring that the dog is accompanied by and under the control of a person who is on the premises.

Exercise

Objective
Security dogs are provided with sufficient exercise to be fit and healthy while not posing a public safety threat.

Standards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AWA13(3)(b)(i)</td>
<td>S6.1</td>
<td>A person with custody or control of a security dog must provide it with appropriate, and adequate, exercise</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Guidelines

G5.1 Dogs must have the opportunity for exercise to:

- allow them to urinate and defecate if they are confined for extended periods.
- give them contact with humans and, if appropriate, with other dogs
- allow them to be checked over
- let them stretch their limbs.

Exercise can be provided by allowing dogs access to an exercise area for a minimum of 30 minutes twice daily and/or by walking dogs on a lead for a minimum of 15 minutes twice daily.
Health, hygiene and disease prevention

Objective

Security dogs are kept in hygienic, healthy conditions

Standards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AWA13(3)(b)(i)</th>
<th>S7.1</th>
<th>A person with custody or control of a security dog must provide it with appropriate, and adequate living conditions (whether temporary or permanent)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AWA13(3)(c)</td>
<td>S7.1</td>
<td>If a person causes a security dog harm, whether or not they are the owner of the dog, they must take reasonable steps to mitigate that harm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWA13(3)(d)</td>
<td>S7.2</td>
<td>A person must not kill a security dog in a manner which causes it unnecessary pain. If a person kills a security dog, it must be done in a way which causes death or unconsciousness (followed by death) as quickly as possible.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Guidelines

G6.1 All special requirements such as administration of medication, should be attended to as necessary.

Health Checks

G6.2 Each dog should be checked at least twice a day to monitor its health and comfort, including weekends and public holidays.

G6.3 The person checking dogs should note whether each dog is eating, drinking, defecating, urinating, moving and behaving normally with no apparent injuries, a normal coat and normal appearance.

G6.4 Any changes in health status should be acted on promptly and, if required, veterinary attention sought as soon as practicable.

Cleaning and disinfection

G6.5 Faeces should be removed at least once a day.

G6.6 Kennels should be hosed out at least once a day.

G6.7 Kennels should be disinfected at least once each week, before new dogs are introduced and after an outbreak of infectious disease.

Pest Control

G6.8 Efforts should be made to effectively control pests, including fleas, ticks, flies, lice, mosquitoes and wild rodents.

Waste Disposal

G6.9 Waste disposal should be in accordance with the requirements of the local government authority.
Veterinary procedures and euthanasia

Objective
Security dogs receive appropriate veterinary care and, if necessary, are euthanized humanely

Standards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AWAs13(3)(c)</td>
<td>S8.1</td>
<td>If a person causes a security dog harm, whether or not they are the owner of the dog, they must take reasonable steps to mitigate that harm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWAs13(3)(d)</td>
<td>S8.2</td>
<td>A person must not kill a security dog in a manner which causes it unnecessary pain. If a person kills a security dog, it must be done in a way which causes death or unconsciousness (followed by death) as quickly as possible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWAs13(3)(i) AWR6</td>
<td>S8.3</td>
<td>A person (other than a veterinarian) must not dock a dog’s tail or crop its ears or surgically debark the dog. A veterinarian may only dock the dog’s tail or crop its ears for therapeutic purposes and may only debark it for therapeutic purposes or if there is no other practical way to stop the dog from barking excessively.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Guidelines

G7.1 Security dogs should be vaccinated against common infectious diseases and treated regularly for parasites such as worms and fleas.

G7.2 The security dog establishment manager should establish liaison with a veterinary surgeon who is able to attend to dogs in his or her care.

G7.3 Routine veterinary examination of each dog should be undertaken annually.

G7.4 Veterinary attention should be sought for any dog showing any significant abnormality. This includes but is not limited to one or more of the following signs:
- runny nose
- runny, discharging or inflamed eyes
- repeated sneezing
- coughing
- vomiting
- severe diarrhoea, especially if bloodstained
- lameness
- inability to stand or walk
- bleeding or swelling of body parts (other than the vulva of bitches on heat)
- weight loss
- no appetite
- apparent pain
- fits or staggering
- bloated abdomen
- inability to urinate or defecate.

G7.5 Except on veterinary advice, dogs displaying any of these signs should not be used for security work and should be housed at the security dog establishment.

Desexing

G7.6 Desexing of female dogs is recommended to minimise the risk of the dog trying to escape her compound (or yard) or male dogs attempting to enter.

Euthanasia

G7.7 Euthanasia should be carried out by a veterinarian.
Registration

Objective
Security dogs are registered.

Standards

| DCMA33  | S9.1 | Every security dog of or over 3 months of age must be registered (either as an individual registration or a business registration) unless:  
|         |      | • the person has owned or become responsible for the dog for less than 14 days  
|         |      | • the dog is travelling with the person from interstate and the owner can show that the dog is registered in its home state  
|         |      | • the dog is being boarded in a council approved kennel  
|         |      | • the dog has not been kept in the council area from more than an aggregate of 14 days |

| DCMA37  | S9.2 | The person in whose name the security dog is registered must inform the council as soon as practicable if:  
|         |      | • the dog has moved with the intention of it being kept in a new location  
|         |      | • the dog dies  
|         |      | • the dog has been missing for more than 72 hours  
|         |      | • the ownership of the dog has changed.  
|         |      | • The business is transferred to another person  
|         |      | • The owner or operator ceases to carry on the business |

| DCMA38  | S9.3 | If the ownership of the security dog changes, the registered owner must give the new owner the certificate of registration and registration disc last issued to the dog |
Identification and records

Objective

Security dogs are identified and accurate records of individual dogs are established and maintained.

Standards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DCMA 45 D(1)(d)</td>
<td>S10.1</td>
<td>A security dog must, at all times, wear a collar that complies with the requirements of the Board unless the dog is suffering from injury, disease or sickness and wearing the collar would be injurious to the health of the dog or it is participating in an organised activity and is under the effective control of a person</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| DCMA 40 DCMR 6(1) | S10.2 | If taken outside the premises in which the security dog is housed, a security dog must wear a collar with its most recent registration disc attached if the dog is individually registered. If the dog is used in connection with a business registration, the collar must have marked on it, or on a tag attached to it, the name and telephone number of the owner or operator of the business or other means of establishing that the business has been approved by the council in which it is registered; This does not apply if the security dog is:  
  • effectively confined to premises occupied by a person who owns or is responsible for the control of the dog; or  
  • being trained for, or participating in, an organised activity being a race, trial, class or show or in retrieving, hunting or other sporting exercise customarily involving the running of 1 or more dogs; or  
  • suffering from injury, disease or sickness to the extent that the wearing of a collar would be injurious to the health of the dog |
| DCMA 45 D(1)(a) | S10.3 | Security dogs must be microchipped |

Guidelines

Record Keeping

G9.1 The following information should be recorded for each dog:
  - name
  - sex
  - breed and type
  - distinguishing features
  - dates of vaccination
  - dates of veterinary checks and the name of the veterinary surgeon
  - heartworm medication - type and dates of administration
  - worming medication - type and dates of administration
  - other medication - type and dates of administration

G9.2 The following information should be recorded for each placement:
  - business name, address and telephone number of the premises where a dog is placed.
  - name, address and telephone number of the owner of the premises if different from above
  - date of placement
  - date of collection
  - the dog’s condition and body condition score on placement
  - the dog’s condition and body condition score on collection
  - where dogs are housed at guarded premises for more than one week, a weekly record of the dog’s body condition score
Fighting and attacking

Objective

Security dogs do not fight or attack other dogs or people except in the lawful and reasonable defence of property or life.

Standards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AWAs13(3)(d)</td>
<td>S11.1</td>
<td>A person must not use a security dog in an organised animal fight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWAs13(3)(f)</td>
<td>S11.2</td>
<td>A person must not cause a security dog to kill, or be killed by another animal (unless, at the time of the offence, the dog was being genuinely used in the reasonable defence of a person or property, or removing an animal found trespassing).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWAs14(1)</td>
<td>S11.3</td>
<td>A person must not organise or promote, or participate in organising or promoting, an organised animal fight.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWAs14(2)</td>
<td>S11.4</td>
<td>A person must not keep a security dog wholly or partly for the purpose of the dog being used (whether by that person or another person) in an organised animal fight.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWAs14(3)</td>
<td>S11.5</td>
<td>A person must not have in his or her possession or control anything made or adapted to attach to a dog to inflict injury to another animal whilst fighting, or to train, incite or assist it to fight another animal (including drugs unless prescribed by a veterinarian and used in accordance with the directions provided).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWAs14(4)</td>
<td>S11.6</td>
<td>A person must not knowingly allow premises or a vehicle which they own, occupy, or control to be used for the purposes of conducting an organised animal fight, or for housing or transporting an animal that is to be used in an organised animal fight.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWAs14(4)</td>
<td>S11.7</td>
<td>A person must not without lawful excuse be present at an organised animal fight; or be in a place at which an organised animal fight is taking place.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCMAs45A(1)</td>
<td>S11.1</td>
<td>The person responsible for a security dog confined to a property must not permit the dog to injury a person lawfully entering those premises or to damage their property.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCMAs44(1)</td>
<td>S11.2</td>
<td>The person responsible for a security dog must not urge a dog to attack, harass or chase a person or an animal or bird owned by or in the charge of another person (whether or not actual injury is caused) unless the dog was being genuinely used in the reasonable defence of a person or property, or removing an animal found trespassing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCMAs44(2)</td>
<td>S11.3</td>
<td>The person responsible for a security dog must not allow the dog to attack, harass or chase or otherwise endangers the health of a person or an animal or bird owned by or in the charge of another person (whether or not actual injury is caused) unless, at the time of the offence, the dog was being genuinely used in the reasonable defence of a person or property, or removing an animal found trespassing.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Guidelines

G10.1 In the interests of occupational health and safety, dogs that display excessive or uncontrollable aggression should not be used as security dogs.
Transportation

Objective
Security dogs are transported in a manner which is safe for them and the public.

Standards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DCMAs45(1)</td>
<td>S12.1</td>
<td>The driver of a utility, truck or other similar vehicle must physically restrain a security dog being transported in the open tray.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWAs13(3)(b)(i)</td>
<td>S12.1</td>
<td>A person with custody or control of a security dog must provide it with appropriate, and adequate conditions during transport</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Guidelines

G11.1 Security dogs should be transported in the shortest practicable time.

G11.2 Security dogs should not be held in parked vehicles in conditions which are likely to impact on the health and welfare of the dogs. This may necessitate leaving air conditioning on in hot weather; leaving a heater on in cold weather; parking in shaded areas or the use of ventilation devices.

G11.3 Any vehicle (including trailers) especially designed or regularly used for transporting dogs should:
- protect dogs from injury
- have non-slip floors - direct contact with metal flooring is to be avoided
- provide easy access and operator safety
- protect against extremes of temperature
- provide adequate ventilation
- protect against unauthorised release of dogs
- be easy to clean and disinfect
- be supplied with clean, secure cages or with separate compartments or partitions
- be kept clean.
Security dogs in public places

Objective

Security dogs are managed responsibly in public places.

Standards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DCMAs45D(1)(d)</td>
<td>S13.2</td>
<td>The security dog must, except while on the property it is guarding, be under held on a lead no more than two metres long, unless the dog is participating in an organised activity and is under the effective control of a person.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCMAs45A(4)</td>
<td>S13.1</td>
<td>The person responsible for a security dog must not allow it to rush at or chase a vehicle (other than on premises of which the person is the occupier).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCMAs45A(6)</td>
<td>S13.1</td>
<td>If a security dog defecates in a public place, the person responsible for the dog must immediately remove the faeces and dispose of them in a lawful and suitable manner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCMAs45A(2)</td>
<td>S13.1</td>
<td>The person responsible for a security dog must not take it into the grounds of a school, kindergarten, child care centre or pre-school centre without the permission of the person in charge of that place.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCMAs45A(3)</td>
<td>S13.2</td>
<td>The person responsible for a security dog must not take it into a shop, other than a pet shop, grooming parlour or veterinary practice, without the permission of the shopkeeper.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Noise and barking

Objective
Security dogs do not disturb neighbours through barking or other vocalisations.

Standards

| Code of practice for the keeping of security dogs in South Australia 16 |
|---|---|
| DCMA45A(5) | S14.1 |
| The person responsible for a security dog must not allow the dog to create a noise, by barking or otherwise, to the extent that it unreasonably interferes with the peace, comfort or convenience of a person. (whether the dog is barking alone or with other dogs, whether or not in the same ownership) |
## Warning signs and council notifications

### Objective

Councils and the public are aware of the location of security dogs and can contact the person responsible for their care and management.

### Standards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DCMAs45D(1)(f)</th>
<th>S15.1</th>
<th>The person responsible for a security dog must erect warning signs which comply with the requirements of the Board prominently at all entrances to premises where the dog is usually kept warning people that a security dog is used on the premises.</th>
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| DCMR7(1)       | S15.2 | Within 24 hours of a guard dog being obtained to guard premises, the registered owner must provide the relevant council with:  
(i) the address of the premises; and  
(ii) the times and periods during which the dog will be kept at the premises for that purpose; and  
(iii) a telephone number on which a person who is responsible for the dog can be contacted at any time.  
If the notification is verbal, a written confirmation must be provided within 48 hours. |
| DCMR7(1)       | S153  | The registered owner of a guard dog must ensure that, while the dog is on the premises, there is a sign displayed in a conspicuous position providing a telephone number on which a person responsible for the dog can be contacted at any time. |
Dog body condition scores

Emaciated
- Individual ribs, spine and pelvis prominent and evident from a distance.
- Lack of muscle mass.
- Little or no body fat.
- Rump hollow.
- Waist prominent when viewed from above.
- Abdomen obviously tucked up.
- Neck thin.
- No fat on tail.

Veterinary advice must be sought.

Thin
- Ribs, spine and pelvis bones visible and easily felt.
- Little body fat.
- Neck thin.
- Abdomen tucked up.
- Little fat on tail.
- Obvious waist when viewed from above.

Increase feeding and worm dog if not wormed recently. (Ensure all-wormer used – some products do not cover all worms). Seek veterinary advice if dog remains underweight or unsure of feeding or worming regime.

Ideal
- Ribs and spine can be felt, last few ribs may be visible.
- Dog should have a waist when viewed from above.
- Belly is tucked up when viewed from side.
- Good muscle mass.
- Rump well muscled.
Overweight
- Ribs and spine not visible but can be felt.
- Fat deposit on tail.
- Little or no waist when viewed from above, rounded appearance, back appears broadened.
- Dog squarish along back line when viewed from side.
- Abdomen not tucked up, may appear rounded underneath.
- Reduce feed intake or provide lower calorie feed. Increase exercise. Seek veterinary advice if unsure of appropriate diet or concerns over exercise regime.

Obese
- Ribs and spine not visible and difficult to feel.
- Tail has obvious fat deposit.
- No waist and back broadened when viewed from above.
- Belly obviously rounded and possibly distended.
- Dog square or rounded up along back line when viewed from side.

Seek veterinary advice on diet and exercise regime.

Definitions

DCMAs4 *attack trained dog* means a dog trained, or undergoing training, to attack a person on command;

AWAs13(6) *cause*— (for the purposes of this section) a person’s act or omission causes the death of, or harm to, an animal if the act or omission substantially contributes to the death or harm.

DCMAs4 *dangerous dog* means a dog in relation to which—
(a) a council has made a Control (Dangerous Dog) Order; or
(b) a court has made an order the terms of which generally correspond to a Control (Dangerous Dog) Order;

DCMAs4 *dog* means an animal of the species *Canis familiaris* but does not include a dingo or cross of a dingo;

DCMAs4 *effective control* of a dog—see section 8;

DCMAs8 *effective control of a dog by means of physical restraint* if—
(a) the person is exercising effective control of the dog by means of a chain, cord or leash that does not exceed 2 metres in length restraining the dog; or
(b) the person has effectively secured the dog—
(i) by placing it in a cage, vehicle or other object or structure; or
(ii) by tethering it to a fixed object by means of a chain, cord or leash that does not exceed 2 metres in length.

DCMAs4 *guard dog* means a dog that is kept on premises primarily for the purpose of guarding or protecting a person or property at those premises;

*Kennel* means a compound, shed or other enclosure inside the perimeter fence in which one or more security dogs are housed while not in use.

AWAs4 *owner* includes—
(a) in relation to an animal, a person who has the custody and control of the animal; and
(b) in relation to real or personal property—a person entitled to possession of the property;

DCMAs5 *Owner of a dog* means—

(1) In proceedings for an offence against this Act, if it appears from a register under this Act or a corresponding law that a dog was registered at or before the time of the alleged offence, the person in whose name the dog was last registered in that register will be taken to have owned the dog at the time of the alleged offence unless it is proved that the dog was subsequently (but before that time) registered in the name of another person in another register under this Act or a corresponding law.

(2) In proceedings for an offence against this Act, if a dog (whether registered or unregistered) is shown to have been habitually in the apparent ownership of a person, that person will, in the absence of proof to the contrary, be taken to have owned and to continue to own the dog.

DCMAs4 *patrol dog* means a dog that, under the control of a person, patrols premises for the purpose of guarding or protecting a person or property at those premises;

*Living environment* means

DCMAs5 *physically restrained* while being transported in the open tray of a utility, truck or other similar vehicle means the dog is being transported within a cage or other like enclosure; or it is securely tethered to the vehicle so it cannot fall or escape from the vehicle.

AWAs4 *premises* means any land, building or structure (including a moveable building or structure);

DCMAs4 *prescribed breed* means any of the following breeds:
(a) American Pit Bull Terrier;
(b) Fila Brasiliiero;
(c) Japanese Tosa;
(d) Dogo Argentino;
(e) Presa Canario;
DCMA s4  responsible for the control of a dog—see section 6;

DCMA s6  (1)  For the purposes of this Act, a person is responsible for the control of a dog while the person has possession or control of the dog.

(2)  In proceedings for an offence against this Act, if it is proved that immediately before the alleged offence the dog was in company with or had been seen continuously and closely following a person, the person will, in the absence of proof to the contrary, be taken to have had possession or control of the dog at the time of the alleged offence.

(3)  In proceedings for an offence against this Act, an occupier of premises in which a dog was kept or permitted to live at the time of the alleged offence will be taken to have had possession or control of the dog at that time unless it is proved that another person of or over 16 years of age had possession or control of the dog at that time.

Security dog means a guard dog or patrol dog

DCMA s4  wandering at large in relation to a dog—see section 7.

DECMAs7  (1)  For the purposes of this Act, a dog will be taken to be wandering at large while—

(a)  the dog is in a public place (other than a park) or a private place without the consent of the occupier, and no person is exercising effective control of the dog by means of physical restraint; or

(b)  the dog is in a park and no person is exercising effective control of the dog either—

(i)  by means of physical restraint; or

(ii)  by command, the dog being in close proximity to the person and the person being able to see the dog at all times.

(2)  However a dog will not be taken to be wandering at large while—

(a)  the dog is being used in the droving or tending of stock or is going to or returning from a place where it will be, or has been, so used; or

(b)  the dog is being trained for, or participating in, an organised activity being a race, trial, class or show or in retrieving, hunting or other sporting exercise customarily involving the running of one or more dogs; or

(c)  the dog is in a vehicle.