

7 April 2020

Owners responsible for their dogs at all times

Despite Australia having one of the highest rates of dog ownership in the world, many dog owners are unaware that if their dog causes injury or damage to others, the owner can be held fully responsible – regardless of whether they are with the dog at the time of the offence.

The City of Nedlands has recently prosecuted the owner of a dog that attacked another dog resulting in its death. At the time of the attack, the dog in question was being walked by a hired dog walker.

Although not present at the time of the attack, the dog's owner was deemed responsible for the dog's actions, pleaded guilty to the charge of *Dog attack or chase causing physical injury* under the Dog Act 1976 and was ordered by the Court to pay a fine of \$1500 and costs of \$977.40 totalling \$2477.40.

Nedlands CEO, Mark Goodlet, said responsible dog ownership and sociable dog behaviour is a major priority for the City because of its high rate of dog ownership and the many on-lead and off-lead dog exercise areas available locally.

"The outcome of the trial is a reflection of the gravity of the offence and the need for a significant deterrent," Mr Goodlet said.

"This is an important message to the community that dog owners are responsible for their dog's deeds and behaviour at all times, regardless of whether the owner is present at the time of the offence."

ENDS

About the City of Nedlands

The City of Nedlands is situated 7km from the Perth CBD and stretches from the banks of the Swan River to the white sands of the Indian Ocean. Covering the suburbs of Nedlands, Dalkeith, Mt Claremont, Swanbourne, Karrakatta and parts of Floreat and Shenton Park, the City of Nedlands is home to a population of approximately 21,000 residents.

For further information please contact communications@nedlands.wa.gov.au or 9273 3500