

# Domestic Animals (Dog Control Areas) Declaration 2025

## Disallowable instrument DI2025–317

made under the

**Domestic Animals Act 2000, s 40 (Declaration—exercise areas) and s 41 (Prohibited areas)**

## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

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The *Domestic Animals Act 2000* (the *Act*) provides the legislative framework for controlling and the keeping of dogs in the ACT.

Sections 40-45 of the Act provide for the control of dogs on public and private premises in the Territory. The two dog control categories are: Dog Prohibited Area, Dog Exercise Area (off-leash). Public areas outside of prohibited and exercise areas are default dog on-leash areas under the Act.

Section 40 of the Act provides the Minister with the power to declare specified areas as dog exercise areas. Such areas may be on water or land and must be declared by a disallowable instrument.

Section 41 of the Act permits the Minister to declare an area of land or water to be an area where dogs are prohibited.

The dog exercise map at schedule 1 of the instrument indicates the following:

- Areas marked in red are declared dog prohibited areas. Under section 41 (5) of the Act, it is an offence to take a dog into a prohibited area.
- Areas marked in green are declared exercise areas. Dog exercise areas are also known as ‘off-leash areas’ and they allow the keeper or carer of a dog to exercise the dog without it being restrained by a leash, a situation that would normally be an offence under section 44 (1) of the Act.

The schedule 1 map can also be found on the domestic animals overlay map on the ACTmapi website located at [www.actmapi.act.gov.au](http://www.actmapi.act.gov.au). The web version of this map allows interaction, for example, rescaling of the map should this be required for easier community use and accessibility.

This instrument consolidates recent decisions about the location of dog exercise areas and prohibited areas.

This instrument also revokes the following instruments:

- (1) *Domestic Animals (Exercise Areas) Declaration 2024 (No 1)* (DI2024-215);
- (2) *Domestic Animals (Prohibited Areas) Declaration 2024 (No 1)* (DI2024-216).

### **Human rights**

Declaring dog exercise and prohibited areas promotes the right to freedom of movement under section 13 of the *Human Rights Act 2004* and the right to a healthy environment under section 27C.

Dog exercise areas allow individuals to walk their dogs off-lead within certain areas of the ACT which promotes those individuals to exercise their right to move freely within the ACT.

Prohibiting dogs' access to certain areas, in particular prohibiting access to nature reserves, promotes the right to a healthy environment. Dog prohibited areas prevent dogs from harassing native species that may be present in the area and thus promote biodiversity within the area.