THE KENNEL CLUB
Making a difference for dogs

Information Guide

Do you know dog law?

www.thekennelclub.org.uk

Animal Welfare

Why do I need to know about dog law?

As a responsible dog owner, you need to know about dog laws – your rights and responsibilities, in order to protect yourself, your dog and others around you. At the Kennel Club, we are constantly lobbying the government to ensure that the law benefits responsible owners.

For further advice please contact
01296 318540 or email
kcdog@thekennelclub.org.uk

The Kennel Club also provides many services which will help you to be a law abiding, responsible owner – from microchipping your dog to training him or her to be a good citizen.

On the following pages, you can read about the laws which affect you and your dog the most.

Animal Welfare

Animal Welfare Act 2006

The Animal Welfare Act was introduced on April 6th 2007. The Act increased and introduced new penalties to tackle acts of cruelty, neglect, mutilation, tail docking, animal fighting and giving pets as prizes. In addition to this it introduced a duty of care for all pet owners to provide for their animals a suitable environment, a suitable diet, the ability to exhibit normal behaviour patterns, protection from pain, suffering, injury and disease and consideration of the animal's needs to be housed with, or apart from, other animals.

The Animal Welfare Act 2006 also applies in Wales. In Scotland the **Animal Health & Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006** makes similar provisions, as does the **Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 2011**.

Access

The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005

Under this Act, you could be fined up to £1,000 for breaching Dog Control Orders. Dog Control Orders were introduced by some local authorities for offences including: failing to remove dog faeces, not keeping a dog on a lead, not putting and keeping a dog on a lead when directed to do so, permitting a dog to enter land from which dogs are excluded and taking more than a specified number of dogs on to land.

To find out whether your local authority has introduced these orders sign up to the Kennel Club's dog owners group KC Dog, by contacting **kcdog@thekennelclub.org.uk**, visiting **www.kcdog.org.uk** or **01296 318540.**

The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act also updated the law on stray dogs by transferring the responsibility for strays from the police to the local authorities.

Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

Since October 2014, Dog Control Orders have been replaced by Public Space Protection Orders introduced under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. The local authorities will have similar powers to introduce orders except there will be no requirements to advertise PSPO consultations in local newspapers. Defra has advised in guidance that local authorities consult with dog owners groups such as KC Dog prior to introducing Public Space Protection Orders.

To join KC Dog email: **mailto:kcdog@thekennelclub.org.uk" kcdog@thekennelclub.org.uk**

Dog Control Orders and Public Space Protection Orders do not apply in Scotland. Scotland is covered by different legislation that covers most land north of the border; in England and Wales specific areas are designated instead.

Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953

Your dog must not worry (chase or attack) livestock (cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, horses and poultry) on agricultural land, so keep your dog on a lead around livestock. If your dog worries livestock, the farmer has the right to stop your dog (even by shooting your dog in certain circumstances). For advice on how you can enjoy the countryside with your dog please visit: **www.nfuonline.com/love-your-countryside-dog-walking-poster**

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Breeding

Breeding and Sale of Dogs (Welfare) Act 1999

Breeders who breed five or more litters per year must be licensed by their local authority. Breeders with fewer litters must also be licensed if they are carrying out a business of breeding dogs for sale.

Licensed breeders must:

a) Not mate a bitch less than 12 months old.

b) Not whelp more than six litters from a bitch.

c) Not whelp two litters within a 12 month period from the same bitch.

d) Keep accurate records.

e) Not sell a puppy until it is at least eight weeks of age, other than to a keeper of a licensed pet shop or Scottish rearing establishment.

The Animal Welfare (Breeding of Dogs) (Wales) Regulations 2014

Updated breeding came into force in April 2015. The regulations set standards that breeders are expected to comply with which go beyond licensing requirements. Licensed a breeders in Wales must implement an approved socialisation and enrichment programme for their animals, and not sell their puppies until they are eight weeks old.

Dog Identification

The new standards oblige the licence holder to take all reasonable steps to protect dogs from pain, suffering, injury and disease. In addition to this, a dog breeding licence is required for people keeping three or more breeding bitches on their premises.

The Kennel Club's Assured Breeder Scheme

This scheme promotes good breeding practice and, as a breeder, you should consider joining. There are a number of basic principles that Assured Breeders must agree to follow, which encourage the breeding of healthy, well-adjusted puppies. The Kennel Club is the only organisation accredited by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) to certify dog breeders under the Kennel Club Assured Breeder Scheme.

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UKAS PRODUCT CERTIFICATION 4602

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ASSURED BREEDER SCHEME

For more information and to join online visit **www.assuredbreeders.org.uk** or call **01296 318540**

Dog Identification

The Control of Dogs Order 1992

This mandates that any dog in a public place must wear a collar with the name and address of the owner engraved or written on it, or engraved on a tag. Your telephone number is optional (but advisable). The Kennel Club can provide tags.

Certain dogs are exempt from having to wear a collar with a dog tag. They are:

- Any dog registered with the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.
- Any dog while being used in emergency rescue work.
- Any dog while being used on official duties by a member of Her Majesty's Armed Forces, HM Customs and Excise or the police.
- Any dog while being used for driving or tending cattle or sheep.
- Any dog while being used for the capture or destruction of vermin.
- Any dog while being used for sporting purposes.
- Any pack of hounds.

Contact **01296 318540** or visit **www.thekennelclub.org.uk** for further information.

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Microchipping of Dogs (England) Regulations 2015

Governments across the UK announced a package of measures to promote responsible dog ownership. In England this includes the introduction of compulsory microchipping for all dogs as of April 2016. From this time all dogs currently not microchipped will have to be chipped and registered with a database compliant with the new regulations, such as Petlog, and all breeders will need to microchip their puppies by the time they are eight weeks of age, and before they are transferred to a new keeper. The new keeper will also be responsible for updating the microchip with their details.

petlog®
MANAGED BY THE KENNEL CLUB

Contact Petlog on **01296 318540** or visit **www.petlog.org.uk** to find out more.

Failure to comply with the new regulations could result in a fine of up to £500.

Compulsory microchipping is also being introduced in Wales and Scotland.

In Northern Ireland compulsory microchipping was introduced under the Dogs (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.

Nuisance and Dangerous Dogs

Byelaws on noisy animals

If your dog's barking causes a serious nuisance to neighbours, the local authority can serve a noise abatement notice, which if unheeded can result in you paying fines and legal expenses.

Animals Act 1971

You could be liable for damage caused by your dog under this Act or under some degree of negligence. It is highly advisable to have third party liability insurance to cover this, something that is included in most pet and some household insurance policies.

Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 (section 3)

It is a criminal offence (for the owner and/or the person in charge of the dog) to allow a dog to be 'dangerously out of control' in a public place, a place where it is not permitted to be, and some other areas. A 'dangerously out of control' dog can be defined as a dog that has injured someone or a dog that a person has grounds for reasonable apprehension that it may do so. Something as simple as your dog chasing, barking at or jumping up at a person or child could lead to a complaint,
so ensure that your dog is under control at all times.

If your dog injures a person, it may be seized by the police and your penalty may include a prison sentence and/or a ban on keeping dogs. There is also an automatic presumption that your dog will be destroyed (unless you can persuade the court that it is not a danger to the public, in which case it may be subject to a control order). You may also have to pay a fine, compensation and costs.

Dangerous Dogs (Amendment) Act 1997

The 1991 Act was amended by the Dangerous Dogs (Amendment) Act 1997. The 1997 Act removed the mandatory destruction order provisions on banned breeds and re-opened the Index of Exempted Dogs for dogs which the courts consider would not pose a risk to the public. The courts were given discretion on sentencing, with only courts able to direct that a dog be placed on the list of exempted dogs.

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Dogs of the following type are banned under the Dangerous Dog Act:

- The Pit Bull Terrier
- Fila Brasiliero
- Dogo Argentino
- Japanese Tosa

Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

The Government recently introduced legislative changes to the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 and introduced the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act to:

- Extend section 3 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in order that it covers incidents that take place on private property (as well as in public places)
- Remove the mandatory requirement for police to seize and kennel prohibited dogs which they do not consider to be of risk to the public
- Introduce Control Orders to prevent incidences of dog aggression.

Similar legislation exists in other jurisdictions in the UK.

The Control of Dogs (Scotland) Act 2010

In Scotland, the Control of Dogs (Scotland) Act 2010 came into force in February 2011 and is enforced alongside the Dangerous Dogs Act to tackle irresponsible dog ownership through the introduction of Dog Control Notices. The legislation also allows for prosecutions to be made in cases where an incident has occurred on private property, as well as in public places and removes any reference to a dog's 'size and power' when determining whether or not it is out of control.

The Dogs (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

In Northern Ireland the Dangerous Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 was recently updated with the Dogs (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. This Act:

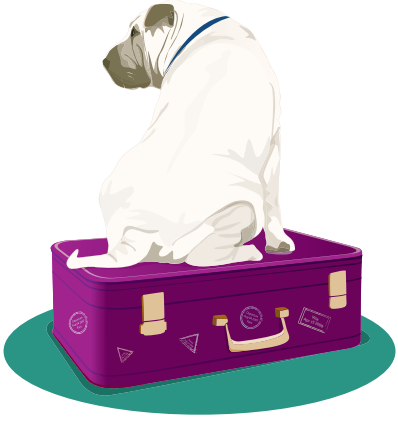
- Makes the microchipping of dogs compulsory
- Allows for dog wardens to attach conditions to a dog licence where a dog's behaviour has led to a breach of the Dogs Order (similar to a Dog Control Notice)
- Extends dangerous dogs legislation to cover private property
- Increases the dog licence fee to £12.50 (with some exceptions)
- Makes it an offence to have a dog that attacks and injures another person's pet

Following the Welsh Referendum in 2011, the Welsh Government can now look to update and improve substandard dog control legislation without needing prior permission from the UK Parliament. However the Welsh Assembly has announced it will not pursue its own Control of Dogs Act because it wants to unify legislation on dangerous dogs with Westminster.

- See more at: **www.thekennelclub.org.uk/our-resources/kennel-club-campaigns/dangerous-dogs**

Travelling with Your Pet

Pet Travel Scheme



In January 2012, the UK harmonised its pet travel rules with the rest of the European Union (EU) to allow for easier pet travel.

The changes for anyone travelling within the EU or non-EU listed country require the owner to ensure that their dog has:

- A microchip
- A rabies vaccination (with a wait of 21 days before travelling) following microchipping
- A pet passport or an official third country veterinary certificate
- Tapeworm treatment (with an exception for Finland, Ireland, Malta and Norway).

For anyone travelling into the UK and EU from an unlisted country, their pet requires:

- A microchip
- A rabies vaccination following microchipping
- A blood test 30 days after the rabies vaccination and at least three months before travelling
- Tapeworm treatment.

Prior to travelling, the vet must provide a copy of the results showing that the vaccination was successful. However, owners do not have to wait for three months if their pets were vaccinated, blood tested and given a pet passport for the EU before travelling to an unlisted country. In both cases, owners must use an authorised carrier and an approved route when travelling with pets.

- See more at: **www.thekennelclub.org.uk/our-resources/kennel-club-campaigns/pet-travel**

Full details of the changes to the Pet Travel Scheme, please visit Defra's website: **www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-pets/pets/travel/pets/pet-owners**

Non-Commercial Transportation of Pets

In 2010 the European Commission outlined concerns that the commercial transport of pets (specifically transporting puppies to puppy dealers for sale in other countries) was possibly being disguised as non-commercial movement of pets.

In a bid to tackle this issue, the Commission adopted a new Regulation which states that the number of pets (dogs, cats and ferrets) that can be moved between EU Member States – including into and out of the UK – is limited to five per person accompanying them, unless they are taking part in a competition, show or sporting event.

Dogs being transported for the purpose of a show, or to participate in dog-sledding or other competitive sports events, require a specific health certificate issued by the **Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency**. Applications for the certificate should be made at least 10 working days prior to the date of travel. The certificate will be issued direct to a person's nominated veterinarian for completion within 10 days of the travel date.

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In order to complete the certificate, the veterinarian will require:

- Evidence that the animals are entered in or registered to appear in a show, event or competition.
- To undertake a clinical examination of the animals within 24 hours of travel.

The health certificate is valid for four months or until the date of expiry of the anti-rabies vaccination shown in section IV of the dog's Pet Travel Scheme passport (whichever is earlier).

Each dog travelling will still require a completed and valid pet passport and to follow the Pet Travel Scheme entry rules. The health certificate is not evidence in its own right that the animals meet these rules.

The Road Traffic Act 1988

It is an offence to have a dog on a designated road without it being held on a lead. Local authorities may have similar byelaws covering public areas. Dogs travelling in vehicles should not be a nuisance or in any way distract the driver during a journey.

If a dog is injured in a car accident, the driver must stop and give their details to the person in charge of the dog. If there is no person in charge of the dog, the incident must be reported to the police within 24 hours.

NEW WEBSITE!

From April it will be compulsory for all dogs to be microchipped

CHIP IT. CHECK IT.

PROVIDES YOU EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT COMPULSORY MICROCHIPPING INCLUDING HELPFUL DOWNLOADS AND VIDEOS

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For more info visit
www.chipitcheckit.co.uk

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As a dog owner, you should be aware of laws which affect you and your dog. Enclosed are some useful guidelines to help you keep within the dog law!

The Kennel Club is the best place for advice on these issues and provides many services to help you to be a law abiding, responsible dog owner.

THE KENNEL CLUB

Clarges Street, London W1J 8AB
Telephone 01296 318540
www.thekennelclub.org.uk

Join the conversation:
twitter **@kclovesdogs** facebook **.com/kclovesdogs**

THE KENNEL CLUB

Making a difference for dogs

The Kennel Club works to protect and promote the health and welfare of all dogs in the UK. We want happy, healthy dogs living long lives with responsible owners. All profits from the organisation go straight into funding the many programmes run in the best interest of dogs and dog owners and to support the Kennel Club Charitable Trust to re-invest into a wide variety of welfare and health programmes.

Anyone can register their dog with the Kennel Club. By registering you will demonstrate your commitment to your dog's well-being and to the health and welfare of all dogs. You can register online today at **www.thekennelclub.org.uk/dogregistration**.

What ever your dog's needs, the Kennel Club is here to help and support you.

Find out more by contacting us on **01296 318540**, or visit our website at **www.thekennelclub.org.uk** to find out more about the wonderful world of dogs.

Additional guides on a wide range of subjects are also available to download from our website at www.thekennelclub.org.uk:

- Asthma and your dog
- Breeding for health
- Breeding from your dogs
- Choosing and bringing home the right dog for you
- Common canine poisons in the house and garden
- DNA profiling and parentage analysis services
- Do you know how to look after your dog in its senior years?
- How to get involved in fun activities and competitions with your dog
- How to get started with dog training
- How to register your dog with the Kennel Club
- Introducing dogs to children or babies
- Kennel Club endorsements
- Managing your dog's weight
- Moving house with your dog
- Pet Insurance Guide for dog owners
- Puppy Socialisation
- Road travel with your dog
- So you are thinking of working with dogs?
- Thinking of showing your dog in the UK?
- Travelling abroad with your dog
- Why should I Microchip my pet?

KC/INF/IG01/02/16

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