



### Training your dog

- 3.7** Social training is important from an early age. It is easier to change the behaviour of a puppy that nips than to deal with a dog that bites. Training a dog of any age should begin with simple tasks such as teaching it to respond to its name and to come when called. It is important to be consistent and positive when training your dog; using the same words as commands and responding to it in the same way every time will help it to learn more quickly and will avoid confusion.
- 3.8** Reward good behaviour with something that your dog finds enjoyable (such as play, food or attention) and make sure that you respond immediately. These positive training methods are based on a dog's natural willingness to obey. You should avoid punishment when training your dog as it teaches response out of fear; this is bad for its welfare and can cause behavioural problems later in its life.
- 3.9** As puppies have very short attention spans, it is best to train them for short periods on a regular basis. All dogs respond far better to cheerful voice tones rather than threatening orders. Take every opportunity to praise your dog for good behaviour.
- 3.10** Good dog training classes can show you positive training techniques that can prevent and correct different types of unwanted behaviour. There are a number of suitable training schemes.





### Exercise

- 3.11** The amount of exercise your dog needs will vary according to its age and breed. For example, as your dog gets older it may prefer a more sedentary life, or your vet may recommend a restricted exercise regime, where toys for mental stimulation perhaps replaces physical exercise.
- 3.12** If you over-exercise a growing puppy, you can damage its developing joints, but obviously puppies need sufficient exercise to provide outlets for their physical and mental energy. If you are in any doubt about what exercise your puppy needs, seek professional advice.
- 3.13** Your puppy is not fully protected from disease when it is first vaccinated. Always ask your vet when it will be fully protected, and do not exercise it outside your home until then.
- 3.14** The law requires for you to keep your dog on a lead in a built-up area and when near livestock; not only are there dangers from the traffic, but also from other dogs. Let it off the lead only when you are sure that it is safe and legal to do so, and it is also important to train it when off the lead to return to you when called.
- 3.15** You should also avoid walking your dog during the hottest part of the day. Early morning or in the evening are the best times to walk your pet during periods of hot weather.

### Boredom and frustration

- 3.16** Dogs are social animals with active minds and so they need mental stimulation to be happy. This can be provided by contact with humans or another dog, by providing toys to play with or an environment where a lot is going on. However, this should not be too overwhelming.
- 3.17** Interacting with your dog by playing games using appropriate toys will provide the best mental stimulation for it. It is not advisable, however, to leave it alone with flimsy toys, especially if it chews very vigorously, as if it swallows small parts of them it may develop serious intestinal problems. Toys should be checked regularly to ensure they are not dirty or damaged. Changing them often means that your dog will not become bored with an individual toy.



### Signs of stress

**3.18** Dogs will generally convey contentment through looking calm and relaxed; they will be happy to approach and interact with people, dogs and other animals. It is important that you recognise any changes in the behaviour of your dog as this may indicate stress, which can vary from dog to dog. Signs of stress include:

- panting, salivation, licking of the lips;
- excessive activity, such as pacing around;
- fouling or urinating indoors;
- barking;
- excessively seeking out contact, both with people and other pets;
- hiding or cowering;
- flattening the ears and lowering the tail; and
- yawning, unless tired.

Some of the above may also be signs of illness, however, and if you are concerned, you should contact your vet who will be able to advise you on the best course of action. This may include referring your animal to an animal behaviourist.



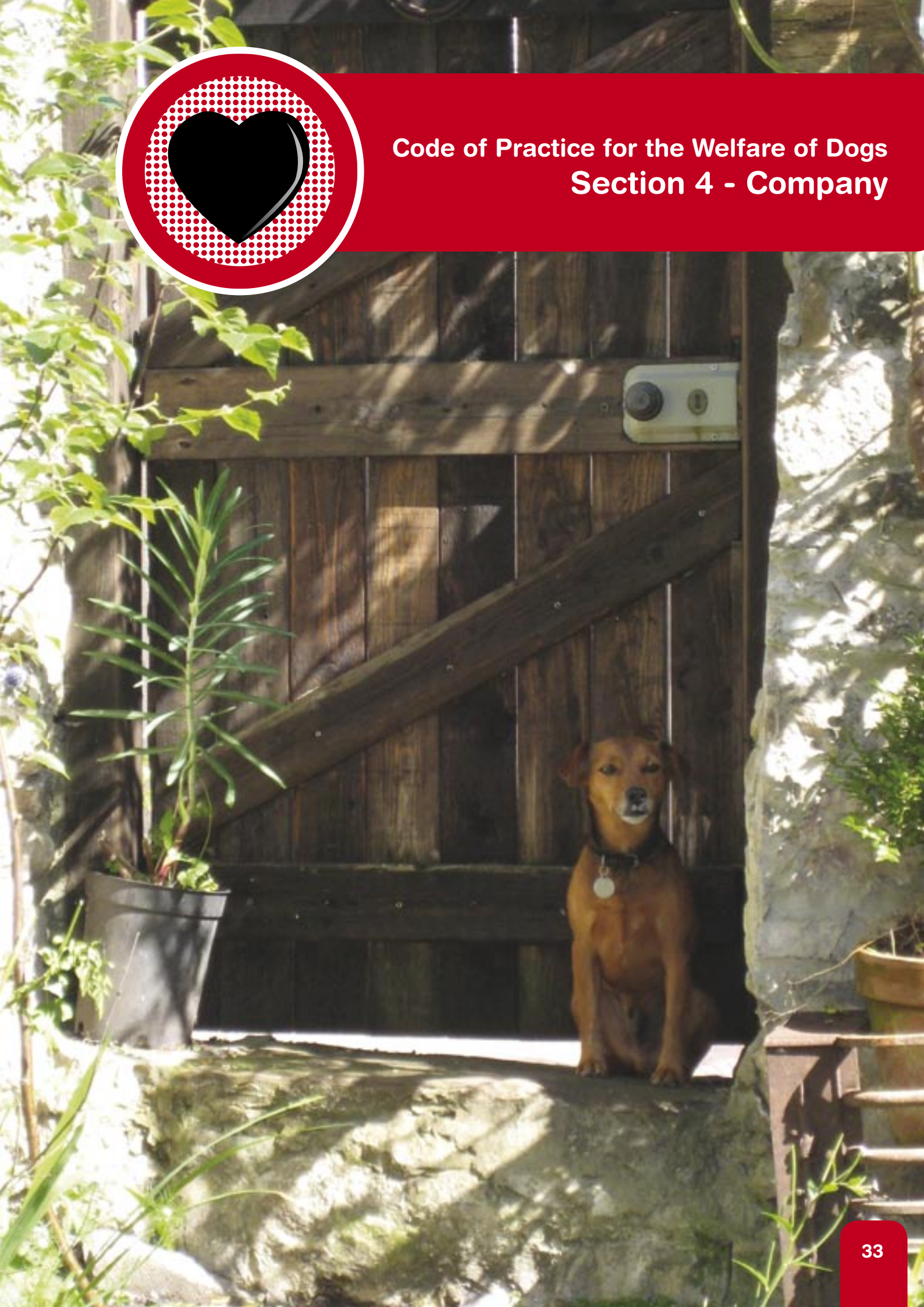


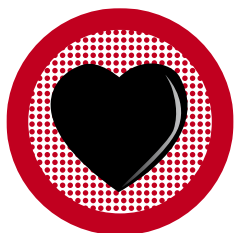
### Going to the toilet

- 3.19** Toilet training is an essential part of early learning. If your dog is introduced to a suitable outdoor location early on, and is rewarded for using this as a toilet area, it will use it as a matter of routine. Do not punish your dog when it makes a mistake as this can make it fearful and lead to problems later on in its life. Submissive urination, which can be caused by a number of emotions including excitement or intimidation, should not be mistaken for normal urination. This is common in small puppies, especially bitches. There are many available sources of useful information about toilet training your puppy (see Appendix 2 - Sources of Information).
- 3.20** A dog owner, or the person responsible for the dog, has a legal obligation to clean up after it (use either a 'pooper scooper' or a plastic bag) when in a public place under both the Dogs Fouling of Land Act 1996 and the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environments Act 2005.



## Code of Practice for the Welfare of Dogs Section 4 - Company





## Company

**Any need it has to be housed with, or apart from, other animals**

**4.1** This section offers guidance on providing your dog with suitable company.

### Socialisation

- 4.2** Dogs learn 'good manners' by interacting with other dogs. All dogs learn social skills from other dogs, which is why it is important for your puppy or dog to socialise with good tempered adult dogs, within a secure and safe environment.
- 4.3** You should also be aware of how your dog responds to unfamiliar dogs, cats and other animals and keep it under suitable control if it does not mix well with other pets.

### Relations with other animals and people

- 4.4** Your dog should have plenty of things to stimulate it mentally which can be provided by contact with humans or another dog and by playing with safe and suitable toys.
- 4.5** Children and adults who are not familiar with dogs, need to know that a dog should not be disturbed when resting, sleeping or eating, nor should it be forced to play or be carried around.

### When you are away from home

- 4.6** You have a responsibility to make sure that your dog is cared for properly if you are unable to take it with you. This may be done by a dog sitter who lives in your home while you are away, somebody licensed to board dogs or by taking your dog to stay with a friend or relative who knows how to look after it. When someone else is looking after your dog they are legally responsible for its welfare and you should ensure that they understand its needs and any special requirements that it may have.



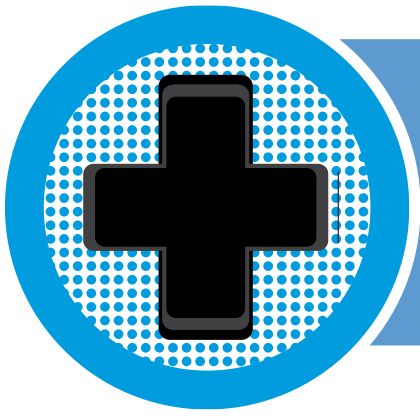
- 4.7** Dogs should not be routinely left on their own for more than a few hours during the day as they are likely to become bored, leading to barking or destructive behaviour. Many animal welfare organisations recommend a maximum of four hours. A possible solution if you are regularly away from home is to employ a responsible dog walker. Remember that it is an offence to allow your dog to roam.

### Number of animals

- 4.8** Owners should think carefully about the size of their property and the financial and time implications of having more than one dog. It is also important to take into account your dog's likely acceptance of other dogs within its home territory. Your vet or pet care specialist will be able to offer further advice on this. Keeping another dog is not an alternative to providing regular exercise outside the living area. All dogs should be exercised routinely.







## Code of Practice for the Welfare of Dogs Section 5 - Health & Welfare





## Health & Welfare

I need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease

5.1 This section offers guidance on the health and welfare of your dog.

### Health care

5.2 Good health is an essential part of good dog welfare. Your dog's vet is the best person to advise you about routine health care, such as neutering, vaccination and internal and external parasite control, as well as any health problems it may have.

**As the person responsible for your dog's welfare you need to consider:**

- prevention of disease. There are various vaccinations that are designed to protect your dog from certain diseases;
- prevention of parasite problems. All dogs need regular worming. Dogs that are kept in rural areas or visit there frequently should also be treated for Hydatid tapeworm. Many worming and flea preparations are available and your vet or pet care specialist will be able to advise you on which are most suitable as they do not all work against all worms;
- provision of a healthy, balanced diet (see section 2);
- provision of the right environment that minimises the risk of injury and disease (see section 1);
- prompt action if your dog becomes ill or begins to behave in an unusual way;
- good dental hygiene.

### Illness

5.3 It is important that you are aware of the signs of illness in your dog, and that you consult a vet promptly if these occur.

**Indications of illness include:**

- sickness and diarrhoea;
- significant weight change (in either direction) over a short period;
- lack of appetite;
- drinking much more or less than normal;
- lack of energy;
- unusual swellings;
- skin conditions;
- limping;
- coughing;



- unusual bleeding;
- signs of pain, such as sensitivity to touch.

This list is not exhaustive and any change in your dog's behaviour should alert you to the possibility that it may be ill. If you think that there is anything wrong with your dog, call your veterinary practice for advice.

### Obtaining a dog

- 5.4** The future health and welfare of your dog may be affected by the circumstances under which it was bred. Not all dogs are bred with appropriate care for their physical and behavioural well-being and health. It is best to take advice from your vet or other relevant organisations (see Appendix 2) about where to obtain your dog. This will help to ensure that it is fit, healthy and of good quality.

**You should check as far as is possible with the breeder, pet shop, rescue centre or sanctuary:**

- that the dog's parents have been appropriately screened for inherited defects commonly found in the breed (for example hip scores for hip dysplasia or eye screening for inherited eye conditions); and
- the dog's medical history and background where available to ensure that you are able to meet its needs. Some rescue dogs, for example, require special care.

Where possible, you should ask to see the puppy with its mother, and see its father too. This gives a good guide to temperament and the size to which the dog may grow! You should be aware that this information is less likely to be available for dogs from sanctuaries and rescue shelters.

- 5.5** Take your new dog or puppy to a veterinary surgeon for general health care advice within a couple of days of welcoming it into your home. Follow your vet's advice about continuing healthcare throughout its life.





### Grooming

- 5.6** A long-haired dog will need more coat attention than a short-haired one and will need grooming daily to keep its coat free from matts and tangles. However, all dogs need regular grooming and occasional bathing to keep their skin and coats well maintained. You will need a brush and comb suited to your dog's type of coat. A pet care specialist will be able to advise you about coat care.



### Neutering

- 5.7** One particularly important consideration is preventing the birth of unwanted puppies. You should, therefore, consider having your dog neutered. Your vet will be able to advise you about the best age to have this done. Although there is much debate as to whether it is appropriate to neuter a dog, there is evidence that neutering has some positive health benefits:
- neutered bitches will not develop a life threatening womb infection called pyometra;
  - neutered bitches are thought to be less prone to mammary tumours;
  - neutering male dogs prevents testicular cancer;
  - neutering male dogs reduces the incidence of problems with the prostate gland
  - neutering male dogs may help prevent some unwanted behaviours such as inappropriate mounting, aggression and straying; and
  - un-neutered animals which are prevented from breeding may suffer frustration leading to behavioural problems.

If you decide not to have your dog neutered and wish to breed from it, there are a number of considerations to be taken into account which include:

- finding suitable homes for the puppies; and
- health screening to ensure that the parents do not carry any inherited defects which may be passed on to their offspring.

You will also need to consider the potential problem of unplanned matings.

Help is often available from various charities who offer neutering at a discounted rate for those on benefits or low incomes.

The pros and cons of whether to neuter your dog, as well as timing, should be discussed with your veterinary surgeon to decide whether it is in the best interest of your dog.

### Dental care

- 5.8** Care of your dog's teeth should be part of its routine grooming schedule. Special canine toothpaste and brushes are recommended for daily use and are now widely available from vets and pet shops. There are also special dental chews and toys that can also help keep your dog's teeth and gums healthy.



### Identification

- 5.9** Your dog must wear a collar and identity tag when in a public place and should also be permanently identified. There are many different collars and leads available and it is important you choose a collar that fits your pet correctly. By law (Control of Dogs Order 1992) the collar must carry a tag with your name and address and, if possible, a contact telephone number on it.
- 5.10** It is also recommended that you have your dog microchipped by a suitably qualified person. The 'chip' provides unique indelible identification so that if your dog is lost or stolen, when it is found the 'chip' can be scanned by a vet, dog warden or rescue centre and this will assist in re-uniting you and your pet. Your dog will still have to wear a collar and tag, however.





### What to do if your dog is missing

**5.11** You should contact local authority dog wardens who are responsible for dealing with stray dogs, vets, local rescue centres as well as those in a wider area as dogs can travel for some distance if lost; you can also put up notices locally.



# Appendix 1

## Code of Practice for the Welfare of Dogs The Law



# Code of Practice for the Welfare of Dogs





## The Law

### The Animal Welfare Act 2006

The following sections of the Act are referred to in the code and are set out here for ease of reference:

The boxes below contain extracts from the relevant sections of the Act.

The box shaded grey summarises the relevant offences and penalties in the Act.

Section 3 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 provides:

#### **Responsibility for animals**

- (1) In this Act, references to a person responsible for an animal are to a person responsible for an animal whether on a permanent or temporary basis.
- (2) In this Act, references to being responsible for an animal include being in charge of it.
- (3) For the purposes of this Act, a person who owns an animal shall always be regarded as being a person who is responsible for it.
- (4) For the purposes of this Act, a person shall be treated as responsible for any animal for which a person under the age of 16 years of whom he has actual care and control is responsible.

Section 4 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 provides:

#### **Unnecessary suffering**

- (1) A person commits an offence if:-
  - (a) an act of his, or a failure of his to act, causes an animal to suffer,
  - (b) he knew, or ought reasonably to have known, that the act, or failure to act, would have that effect or be likely to do so,
  - (c) the animal is a protected animal, and
  - (d) the suffering is unnecessary.



- (2) A person commits an offence if:-
  - (a) he is responsible for an animal,
  - (b) an act, or failure to act, of another person causes the animal to suffer,
  - (c) he permitted that to happen or failed to take such steps (whether by way of supervising the other person or otherwise) as were reasonable in all the circumstances to prevent that happening, and
  - (d) the suffering is unnecessary.
- (3) The considerations to which it is relevant to have regard when determining for the purposes of this section whether suffering is unnecessary include:-
  - (a) whether the suffering could reasonably have been avoided or reduced;
  - (b) whether the conduct which caused the suffering was in compliance with any relevant enactment or any relevant provisions of a licence or code of practice issued under an enactment;
  - (c) whether the conduct which caused the suffering was for a legitimate purpose, such as:-
    - (i) the purpose of benefiting the animal, or
    - (ii) the purpose of protecting a person, property or other animal;
  - (d) whether the suffering was proportionate to the purpose of the conduct concerned;
  - (e) whether the conduct concerned was in all the circumstances that of a reasonably competent and humane person.
- (4) Nothing in this section applies to the destruction of an animal in an appropriate and humane manner.

Section 9 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 provides:

### **Duty of person responsible for animal to ensure welfare**

- (1) A person commits an offence if he does not take such steps as are reasonable in all the circumstances to ensure that the needs of an animal for which he is responsible are met to the extent required by good practice.
- (2) For the purpose of this Act, an animal's needs shall be taken to include:-
  - (a) its need for a suitable environment,
  - (b) its need for a suitable diet,
  - (c) its need to be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns,
  - (d) any need it has to be housed with, or apart from, other animals, and
  - (e) its need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease.



- (3) The circumstances to which it is relevant to have regard when applying subsection (1) include, in particular:-
  - (a) any lawful purpose for which the animal is kept, and
  - (b) any lawful activity undertaken in relation to the animal.
- (4) Nothing in this section applies to the destruction of an animal in an appropriate and humane manner.

Section 14 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 provides:

### **Codes of Practice**

- (3) A person's failure to comply with a provision of a code of practice issued under this section shall not of itself render him liable to proceedings of any kind.
- (4) In any proceedings against a person for an offence under this Act or an offence under regulations under section 12 or 13:-
  - (a) a failure to comply with a relevant provision of a code of practice issued under this section may be relied upon as tending to establish liability, and
  - (b) compliance with a relevant provision of such a code of practice may be relied upon as tending to negative liability.

### **Offences and Penalties**

A person who is convicted of an offence under section 4 of the Act may be imprisoned for a maximum period of 51 weeks\* and/or fined up to £20,000. If they are convicted of an offence under section 9 (failing to ensure the animal's welfare) they can be imprisoned for the same maximum period and fined up to level 5 on the standard scale.

Proceedings may be brought up to 3 years after the offence was committed. Prosecutions under the Act are brought by the local authority in the Magistrates Court.

**\* The maximum period of imprisonment will be 51 weeks when section 281(5) of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 comes into force.**



### Other legislation affecting dogs

As well as the Animal Welfare Act 2006 there are a number of other laws that affect the way you keep your dog. The ones most likely to affect the owner or keeper of a pet dog are summarised below.

#### Breeding and Purchase

The **Breeding of Dogs Act 1973** and the **Breeding and Sale of Dogs (Welfare) Act 1999** provide that anyone who is in the business of breeding and selling dogs needs to be licensed. The aim of the Acts is to control 'puppy farming' where dogs are bred in poor conditions. If you think the person from whom you are buying a puppy may be breeding dogs on a large scale and not just as a hobby you should ask to see their licence or ask the local Council if they have one. If dogs are being sold commercially, such as in a pet shop, the seller also has to have a licence under the **Pet Animals Act 1951**.

#### Controlling your dog

Although the dog licence was abolished in 1987, it is still a legal requirement under the **Control of Dogs Order 1992** for a dog to wear a collar with the owner's name and address on it. Two other pieces of legislation, the **Dogs Act 1871** and the **Dangerous Dogs Act 1991**, require you to have proper control of your dog. The penalties if you do not have proper control of your dog include a fine, imprisonment and the possible compulsory destruction of the dog. The Dangerous Dogs Act also makes it illegal to own, sell or give away a dog of four types that have been traditionally bred for fighting: Pit Bull Terrier, Japanese Tosa, Dogo Argentino and Fila Brasileiro.

Local Councils now have the power under the **Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005** to introduce Dog Control Orders. The Orders may specify that dogs must be kept on a lead or be banned from designated areas, that the person in charge of a dog must pick up any faeces, that an authority officer can order a dog to be put on and kept on a lead and that the Council may place a limit on the number of dogs that can be walked by a person at any one time. Where Orders are in force there should be clear signs so you should keep an eye open for them.

The 2005 Act also transferred all responsibility for **stray dogs** from the police to local authorities. A local authority may impose a fine on the owner of a dog picked up as a stray and also charge the owner kennelling costs. A stray dog that is not identified and re-claimed within seven days may be sent to a re-homing agency or destroyed.

Under the **Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953** a dog owner commits an offence if their dog worries (attacks or chases) livestock on agricultural land. In the case of a field or enclosure where there are sheep, dogs must be on a lead, or otherwise under close control.



The **Animals Act 1971** creates liability (subject to certain defences) for damage done by dogs to livestock or other forms of damage done by an unrestrained dog under certain circumstances.

The **Guard Dogs Act 1975** imposes certain requirements on those responsible for guard dogs including the need to keep them under control or secured at all times and for a warning notice to be displayed at all entrances to the guarded premises.

### Your dog during holidays

If you are away from home and need to put your dog in kennels, you should check that the kennel has been licensed by the local Council under the **Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963**. The Act can also apply to people taking dogs into their homes if they do so for reward (usually referred to as 'home boarding').

If you wish to take your dog with you on a holiday abroad, other than to the Republic of Ireland, there are very strict rules about what treatment your dog will need before it can return to the UK. It takes 7 months minimum to comply with the rules so you need to plan well ahead. You should ask your vet about the details of what you have to do or look at the DEFRA website on the Pet Travel Scheme (PETS) page (see Appendix 2).

Under Article 4 of the **Welfare of Animals (Transport) (Wales) Order 2007** it is an offence to transport any animal in a way which causes, or is likely to cause, injury or unnecessary suffering to that animal.

### Working dogs

The docking of dogs' tails has been banned in Wales since 27th March 2007 under **The Docking of Working Dogs' Tails (Wales) Regulations 2007**. There are exemptions from the ban for certain types of working dog, that allow for the dog's tail to be docked by a vet when the dog is not more than 5 days old. The vet will issue a certificate to prove the dog has been docked legally and the dog must be microchipped before it is 3 months of age. The types of dogs that can be docked (upon production of evidence that it will be used as a working dog) are:

- Spaniels:** English Springer Spaniel;  
Welsh Springer Spaniel; and  
Cocker Spaniel
- Terriers:** Jack Russell Terrier; Cairn Terrier;  
Lakeland Terrier; and  
Norfolk Terrier
- Hunt Point Retrieve:** Braque Italian; Brittany; German Long Haired Pointer;  
German Wirehaired Pointer; Hungarian Vizsla;  
Hungarian Wire Haired Vizsla; Italian Spinone;  
Spanish Water Dog; Weinmaraner; Korthals Griffon;  
Slovakian Rough Haired Pointer; Large Munsterlander; and  
Small Munsterlander

# Code of Practice for the Welfare of Dogs



## Appendix 2

### Code of Practice for the Welfare of Dogs

#### Sources of Information



# Code of Practice for the Welfare of Dogs





### Sources of information

- Your vet.
- The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, Belgravia House, 62-64 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AF: [www.rcvs.org.uk](http://www.rcvs.org.uk) The website has a 'find a vet' facility.
- Local libraries and bookshops for up to date books on dog care.

#### Websites such as:

- Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors: [www.apbc.org.uk](http://www.apbc.org.uk)
- Blue Cross: [www.thebluecross.org.uk](http://www.thebluecross.org.uk)
- Dogs Trust: [www.dogstrust.org.uk](http://www.dogstrust.org.uk)
- PDSA: [www.pdsa.org.uk](http://www.pdsa.org.uk)
- Petlog: [www.petlog.co.uk](http://www.petlog.co.uk)
- Pet Care Trust: [www.petcare.org.uk](http://www.petcare.org.uk)
- Pet Health Council: [www.pethealthcouncil.co.uk](http://www.pethealthcouncil.co.uk)
- Pet Food Manufacturers Association: [www.pfma.org.uk](http://www.pfma.org.uk)
- RSPCA: [www.rspca.org.uk](http://www.rspca.org.uk)
- The Kennel Club: [www.thekennelclub.org.uk](http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk)
- Welsh Assembly Government website for information on the Animal Welfare Act and to download a copy of the Code of Practice for the Welfare of Dogs: [www.wales.gov.uk/animalwelfare](http://www.wales.gov.uk/animalwelfare)





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