



The law on dogs

Dog owners have a legal responsibility for their pets.

Dog owners are required to:

- provide an adequate diet with fresh, clean water always available
- protect the dog from ill health
- allow the dog to express natural behaviour
- provide suitable housing and living conditions free from hazards
- protect the dog from fear and suffering

Penalty for failing to comply with these requirements under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 can result in a prison sentence or a fine of up to £20,000 and a ban from keeping animals.

- have the dog wearing a collar and tag in a public place, with the tag showing the name and address of the owner

Penalty for failing to comply with this requirement under the Control of Dogs Order 1992 can result in a fine of up to £5,000.

- have the dog under proper control: an offence can be committed even without an injury occurring so long as there is reasonable concern that someone could be injured

Penalty for failing to comply with this requirement under the Dangerous Dog Act 1991 can result in a prison sentence of up to six months, a fine of up to £5,000, a control order placed on the dog requiring a lead and/or muzzle to be on the dog at all times whilst out in public and/or an order requiring the dog to be neutered. Both the owner and the person in charge of the dog at the time may be liable.



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Tenanted accommodation

If you are living in tenanted accommodation, find out if you need to obtain written permission from your landlord.

Landlord conditions

A landlord will want you to take reasonable care of your pet and may set conditions such as having:

- only up to two animals in any one property
- a private garden
- details of your dog recorded by photograph/tracing methods like chipping
- your dog on a lead and under control at all times in communal areas

In addition, you will be required to prevent your dog:

- causing a nuisance, such as by making excessive noise
- frightening or hurting people
- damaging your home or any council property

Permission may be withdrawn if any of the above conditions are breached.



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