



THE KENNEL CLUB GOOD CITIZEN DOG SCHEME  
**CANINE CODE**



[www.gcds.org.uk](http://www.gcds.org.uk)

## INTRODUCTION

The Canine Code supports the Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme award levels and helps to educate owners to be responsible.

The aim of this booklet is to highlight the responsibilities of dog ownership and to give both owners and prospective owners guidance in developing an enjoyable and rewarding relationship with their dog. It aims to emphasise the many considerations, which must be made to ensure that a dog is healthy, happy and under our control.

Dogs give us love and companionship and, in return, we must care for them, train them and understand the unique bond that develops between us and them. The emphasis throughout this booklet is on **RESPONSIBILITY** – the owner’s responsibility both to their dog and also to society in general.

The Kennel Club has designed a wide variety of schemes, and provides information to help you with all your canine queries and to help you build a strong and rewarding relationship with your dog. From an early age children in the family should be taught to care for and respect their canine friends, and to do so safely. As well as companionship, dogs provide valuable emotional support for us all, especially the sick and the elderly.

Dogs give so much and if you give enough in return, you will gain a loyal friend and a new family member.

### NO SUCH THING AS A BAD DOG

There is no such thing as a bad dog, just an untrained owner! Buying a dog is the only time you will ever get to choose a member of your family, so your choice must be the right one if things are going to work out. A very important factor to consider when buying a dog is your lifestyle and how you can choose and train your dog to fit into that. Enabling a dog to adapt to you doesn’t come naturally to many people and so we need teaching just as much as we in turn need to teach our dogs.

## WHERE TO START

The big question we all ask ourselves when we are looking to buy a dog is where to start? The Kennel Club offers a wealth of information on all canine matters and can be of valuable assistance when choosing your new family member.

A good match between owner and dog is essential for a happy long term partnership. Whether it is a puppy, pedigree, crossbreed, rescue or adult dog - the right dog for your lifestyle is very important. Seek out responsible breeders; the Kennel Club operates an Assured Breeder Scheme and full details can be found on the Kennel Club website [www.thekennelclub.org.uk/breeding/assured-breeder-scheme](http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/breeding/assured-breeder-scheme). Those with puppies currently for sale are also available through the Find a Puppy service on the Kennel Club website [www.findapuppy.org.uk](http://www.findapuppy.org.uk)

The Kennel Club will give you information on the breeds you are interested in and the contact details of secretaries of breed clubs and welfare and rescue organisations through its puppy pack service. Canine welfare and rescue organisations always have dogs and puppies available that need good homes. Both pedigrees and crossbreeds can be obtained in this way e.g. Dogs Trust, RSPCA, Blue Cross, breed rescue and veterinary surgeries are an excellent source of information. Staff involved in these organisations will also give you general guidance on how to make your choice as well as what to do next.

Just like humans, some breeds of dog can be affected by inherited conditions. The Kennel Club and the British Veterinary Association offer canine health schemes, which aim to detect and monitor these. It is important that you are aware of these conditions and know the right questions to ask before buying a puppy. There are DNA tests available to help determine whether a dog is free of certain inherited diseases. Please contact the Kennel Club Health and Breeder Services department via [www.thekennelclub.org.uk](http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk) for more details.

## WHAT WAS YOUR DOG ORIGINALLY BRED FOR?

Each breed group (Working, Pastoral, Gundog, Toy, Terrier, Hound, Utility) has its own characteristics – i.e. whether it has a desire to guard your property, to run and run after scents or sights, round up sheep, chase and kill vermin or to bring items back to you in its mouth. The breed characteristics that your dog inherits will have an influence on his personality and this in turn will affect his exercise requirements, training needs and his ability to learn.

If you understand these characteristics and match them with your personality and lifestyle, it is much more likely that you will have a happy and fulfilling relationship with your dog. Remember that crossbreed dogs will have the characteristics of more than one breed.

## PUPPY SOCIALISATION

**Socialise your puppy** – Puppies need to meet and have pleasant, supervised and controlled encounters with a wide variety of adults, children and other animals. Begin when they are very young, taking care not to overwhelm them. Do a little every day, especially during the early weeks. Many owners think that puppies should be able to run and play freely with other dogs as part of their socialisation but this is not the case and if not handled sensitively, is likely to set up the puppy to develop problems with dog to dog encounters in the future. Attending a well-run puppy training class will help keep your puppy sociable with other dogs.

**Educate and teach good manners** – Puppies need to know where their boundaries lie just as children do. Decide what is acceptable to you and your family and how you want them to be when they are an adult dog. Teach your puppy gently, but firmly, what is acceptable and what is not and be consistent. Help your puppy find his/her place in their new family. Puppies, like children, are very impulsive, and some will take longer to learn to control their impulses, and what is expected of them, than others. Be consistent, set them up to succeed, be patient. Training (by rewarding them for all the things they do right – with attention from you, a game with a toy with you, or a titbit), can begin as soon as your puppy has settled into the household. Always set your puppy up to succeed – move temptations out of the way or distract them from doing the wrong thing and show him or her what you want them to do instead. Don't expect too much too quickly – all young animals need time to learn what we expect of them.

**Teach your puppy to be left alone** – Dogs are social creatures – meaning that they like the company of other people or animals, and so our puppies need to be taught to cope with being alone. Closing doors briefly, between your puppy and you when it is very young, is the way to start. From there you can build up slowly – don't make a big thing about leaving, nor about coming back – and on returning, reserve your greeting until your puppy has calmed down.

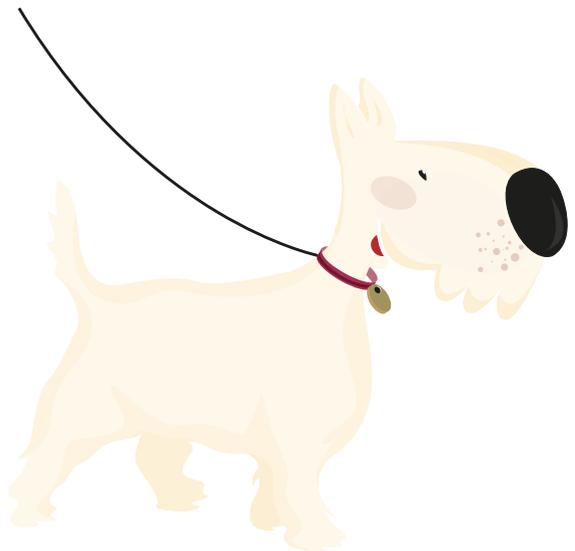
**Coping with chewing** – Puppies chew while teething and during adolescence. Provide plenty of suitable chews and toys and change them often. Teach your puppy what to chew and what to leave alone, try not to leave your puppy in a place where it can damage your things or itself. Prevention is better than cure.

**Be prepared for adolescence** – Adolescence can be a difficult time, during which your puppy's behaviour may deteriorate considerably. Try not to worry, it soon passes, but always be consistent with training through adolescence, and if necessary, take him back a stage, and reward him for getting it right, before you try to move forward again.

**Don't be afraid to ask** – If you are experiencing difficulties, ask your vet or experienced trainers for advice. Problems with puppies are usually easily solved so ask for advice sooner rather than later.

## BE A RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNER WHEN OUT WALKING WITH YOUR DOG

- 1.** Supervise your dog at all times and be aware of what he is doing. Be mindful of potential problems and take action accordingly.
- 2.** Don't let your dog off lead unless you can demonstrate a really reliable recall. If you cannot call your dog back to you instantly, you do not have full control.
- 3.** Do not allow your dog to approach dogs that are with their owners and under control on a lead. Your own dog may well be friendly but you should never assume that the owner and dog it is approaching would welcome close attention from your dog.
- 4.** When walking on public footpaths or pathways, remember you should keep your dog in sight all of the time. Out of sight means out of your control. If you cannot see the path ahead then your dog should be walking closer to your side or else on the lead.
- 5.** Only allow your dog off lead to play with other dogs if the other owners have agreed to this and all owners can demonstrate good control over their own dogs.
- 6.** Reserve dog treats for your own dog. Never feed other people's dogs unless asked to as it may encourage a dog to bother strangers in the hope of being fed.
- 7.** Be polite, keep your dog under close control, and on a lead if necessary, when you see another person approaching either with or without another dog, so that your dog is under control as you pass by.



## BE A RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNER WHEN OUT WALKING WITH YOUR DOG

**8.** Respect the rights of others to use public areas for recreation. Never allow your dog to bother others. Train your dog to be under good control both on and off the lead.

**9.** Find out what public areas do not allow dogs and, those which impose lead restrictions. Abide by these laws and bylaws. Your local dog warden should be able to advise you.

**10.** When walking your dog in town, always position your dog closest to the building line when possible, with you closest to the centre of the pavement. This allows other pedestrians to pass freely without having to manoeuvre past your dog.

**11.** When walking on the lead and passing other dogs always position your dog on the side of you that is furthest away from the approaching dog so that the dogs avoid face to face contact and you and other owner can pass each other freely.

**12.** Please take with you some means of cleaning up after your dog but **DO NOT** take your dog into a public area in the hope of him toileting there rather than on your own property. Always dispose of fouling in an appropriate bin or take it home for deposit.

**13.** Encourage and enjoy interactive play with your dog. It is not necessary for he or she to play with other dogs when out for a walk. Your dog's recall skills need to be of a good standard before it is allowed off lead in an open space.



## FINDING THE RIGHT DOG TRAINING CLASS

Whether you have acquired a puppy or an older dog, training classes can be invaluable to help owners get the most from their dog – and it is not true that you cannot teach an old dog new tricks!

The Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme is designed to help owners to train their dogs to be well behaved in everyday situations, by breaking exercise down into easier bite sized pieces to help to shape the dog's overall behaviour. The scheme is not competitive and is aimed at all dogs: young, old, pedigree and crossbreed.

When deciding to join training classes, follow these guidelines:

- Visit the scheme's website for a full list of local dog training classes - [www.gcds.org.uk](http://www.gcds.org.uk)
- Ring a local training club and speak to the course co-ordinator or Secretary.
- Don't take your dog to the first club visit. If possible visit other dog training organisations, so that you choose the class and instructor you feel most comfortable taking your dog to.
- Ensure that the training is suitable for your dog's needs.

Achieving a good partnership with your dog will prove to be one of the most rewarding partnerships you will ever enter.



## DOG IDENTIFICATION

### COMPULSORY MICROCHIPPING

Microchipping is compulsory in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Owners are required to keep their contact details up to date on the appropriate microchip database. This does not remove the legal requirement for all dogs to also bear the correct identification details on the collar or tag. Please refer to the Defra website for the most up-to-date information.

Petlog is the largest reunification scheme in the UK. The Petlog Premium service can even alert local vets and dog owners when an owner reports when and where their pet was lost. This can be done by telephone, SMS text message, or via the Petlog website. However, it is vital to the effectiveness of this service that owners keep their records up to date by informing Petlog of any change in circumstances.

Contact Petlog on [www.petlog.org.uk](http://www.petlog.org.uk)

### CONTROL OF DOGS ORDER 1992

Every dog while in a highway or place of public resort must wear a collar with the name and address of its owner inscribed on it or a plate or badge attached to it. The Channel Islands have a dog licensing system that requires all dogs to be licensed with their local parish. The respective local parish will provide further information as to what is required by law on the identification tag. The Isle of Man also has similar requirements.



**Side 1**  
Complies with the law



**Side 1**  
Complies with the law



**Side 2**  
Note: Side 2 information is optional but highly recommended by the Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme

## DOG RELATED LAWS

### DOG FOULING LEGISLATION

Using powers given by the Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014, the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 and other pieces of legislation, local authorities can introduce laws to fine people who do not pick up after their dogs, please see your local authorities website for more details.

## **DOG FOULING (SCOTLAND) 2003**

This legislation applies to Scotland to replace section 48 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982. This act makes it an offence to fail to clear up after a dog rather than of simply allowing a dog to foul. It also allows local authorities and police constables to issue fixed penalty notices to persons suspected of committing the offence.

## **DANGEROUS DOGS ACT 1991**

Introduced to control the breeding of designated dangerous dogs (Section 1) or to penalise owners of dogs that are dangerously out of control or showing aggressive tendencies in a public place (all breeds) (Section 3).

## **VEHICLE TRAVEL**

If a dog interferes with the driver of a vehicle whilst being carried within that vehicle, and this subsequently affects the way in which the vehicle is being driven, then an offence under the Road Traffic Act 1991 may be committed. Ref: Road Traffic Act 1991 (c40. sec 2A(4)).

## **WHAT TO DO IF YOUR DOG IS MISSING OR STOLEN**

1. Report it to the police and make sure you ask for a Crime Reference Number.
2. Report it to your local authority's dog warden service.
3. If your dog is microchipped, report it to one of the Defra compliant databases which are: i.e. Petlog, Anibase, PETtrac, PetProtect, SmartChip etc. If your dog is tattooed, report it to the National Dog Tattoo Register.
4. Check with the branch of your local animal rescue centres.
5. Inform your vets, and inform as many local practices as you can.
6. Get online – there are a number of search and rescue sites which may be able to help.
7. Check with your local community – neighbours, postal workers, shops, post offices, and other businesses.
8. Hand out flyers/posters in your local area – someone may have seen something.
9. Don't be afraid to approach the local media – newspapers, radio stations and even television could help to publicise your missing dog.
10. If you know your dog has been stolen, get in touch with the Citizens Advice Bureau. You may need to get some legal assistance.
11. Make sure you keep an up-to-date photograph of your dog. Remember puppies and adults of the same breed look different as they get older. Also with longer hair can look totally different with a haircut!
12. Keep your details up to date on your dog's ID and on the database it is registered with. Are your phone numbers correct? Have you changed your address, phone number or mobile number recently?  
Refer to the Dog Theft Action website for more information [www.dogtheftaction.com](http://www.dogtheftaction.com)

The following are a list of points that accompany the Good Citizen Dog Scheme Award levels, and form part of the Responsibility and Care.

## **RESPONSIBILITY AND CARE - SECTION 1**

### **A DOG'S NEEDS**

A dog owner must be aware of a dog's needs and they are:

1. Water - A dog needs a constant supply of clean drinking water.
2. Meals - One or two meals a day are suitable for most dogs.
3. Food - Feed the dog regularly a nutritionally balanced diet.
4. Exercising - All dogs need exercise and where possible they should be taken to places where they can safely run free appropriate to their age.
5. Family unit - All dogs need to be able to feel part of the family unit.
6. Leadership - A dog knows there will be leaders within the family unit. Leaders should not include the dog.
7. Company and affection – Dogs need company and affection without being excessive.
8. Sleeping arrangements – A dog needs its own place to sleep, so provide somewhere suitable.
9. Veterinary care - Register your dog with a veterinary practice and discuss with your veterinary surgeon the necessary vaccinations, frequency of boosters, worming, flea prevention and health checks.
10. Stimulation – Dogs need to be stimulated through play, training and interaction.

### **ILLNESS**

A dog should display the same demeanour from day to day. So should any of the following occur you should seek veterinary advice:-

11. A dog with a normal healthy appetite refuses to eat and appears unwell.
12. A normally active dog becomes lethargic or does not want to get up.
13. A dog that vomits and shows signs of distress.
14. A dog's motions are very loose, it has diarrhoea, or is straining.
15. A dog has a loss of blood.
16. A dog that has heatstroke.
17. A dog is unconscious.
18. A dog that is having or has had a fit or seizure.
19. A dog that appears lame or shows discomfort in one or more limbs.
20. A dog that is showing discomfort by excessive external irritation.

Note: It is recommended that you research the symptoms of common illnesses and ailments in dogs. Looking at the individual circumstances, some conditions will require more urgent attention.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF OWNERSHIP**

21. Any dog in a public place must wear the name and the address of the owner either inscribed on the collar or name or plate/disc attached to it.
22. Ensure your dog is legally compliant by having a microchip , which is registered on a Defra approved database in the UK.
23. A dog needs its own bowl and should never feed from your plate.
24. Regular examination by rubbing your hands over the dog's body will check for burrs, thistles, ticks or lumps and bumps.
25. Your dog needs to be regularly groomed and kept clean. Never let the dog's coat become matted.
26. Bathing is sometimes necessary and should be done in moderation.
27. Do not allow your dog to become a nuisance to people and other dogs. Ensure close control is maintained at all times.
28. Some dog owners keep their dogs on a lead in a public space for a reason. Do not allow your dog to approach. Respect other dog owners and their dogs.

29. Remember that not everyone is a dog lover and may dislike even a friendly approach from your dog.
30. Where there are other animals such as horses or livestock keep your dog on a lead but pay close attention to the country code. Always consider the safety of yourself and your dog.
31. Be mindful of other users of public spaces.
32. Your dog should not be allowed out on its own.
33. Do not allow the dog to foul in inappropriate places. Be mindful of legislation regarding dog fouling in your area. If fouling does occur, always clean up after the dog and dispose of considerately.
34. Remember that continual barking is a nuisance to others.
35. Obey the rules of eating establishments and never take the dog into the kitchen or food preparation area.
36. Do not leave your dog unattended if you stay away from home or go on holiday.
37. Your vet and your own contact details should be known by the person looking after your dog. Consider the identification details of your dog if it is away from home for any reason.
38. Discuss neutering with your veterinary surgeon to avoid unwanted puppies. Make an informed decision.
39. If you want your bitch to have puppies, seek the advice of a veterinary surgeon.
40. Be aware of toxic substances such as plants, foods and chemicals in your dog's environment. Take appropriate steps to avoid exposure.

## **RESPONSIBILITY AND CARE - SECTION 2**

### **OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES**

#### **41. Socialisation**

Dogs should be gradually socialised to other strange dogs, people and children and be familiarised with traffic. Not doing so can cause apprehension. Withdrawing a dog from something that frightens it will only make apprehension worse in the long run. Never make eye contact with an unfamiliar dog. All socialisation should be carried out in a careful manner.

#### **42. More than one dog**

If owning more than one dog, do not initially try to train two or more together. It has to be remembered that, not only will one dog distract the other but when one is admonished, or praised, this will also apply to the other and will be confusing. Always train a dog on a one to one basis with the other out of the way. When both are well behaved individually they can be handled together.

#### **43. Dogs off lead**

No matter how well trained or under control a dog might be, it should never be walked off lead in environmentally unsuitable areas or those that do not permit dogs to be off lead.

#### **44. Equipment**

A dog's lead should be totally secure and attention should always be paid to worn stitching or a clip that may not be reliable. There are many different types of collar, head collar and body harness available and handlers should ensure that the one they choose to use is in good condition and will not break under strain. Also it should always be adjusted so that, in the event of panic, it would be impossible for the dog to get free. It remains a legal requirement for the dog to wear a collar with legally compliant identification.

#### **45. Babies, children and dogs**

When the family has a baby it is natural that much attention will be given to the new arrival. It is therefore important that the dog does not become jealous. Owners should try to ensure that the dog continues to receive the same love and affection.

### **CHILDREN**

Children are usually less predictable than adults and they should be warned: -

46. Never to make sudden movements close to a dog.

47. Never to scream or suddenly yell close to a dog.
48. Never to lunge at a dog, particularly when it is asleep.
49. Never to put their face close to a dog's face.
50. Never to eat food close to a family dog.
51. Never to tease or pull a dog's body or coat.
52. Never to ignore a dog's warning growl.
53. Never touch a dog whilst it is eating.
54. Always wash their hands after playing with a dog.
55. Always ask permission before touching a dog they do not know.

Note: Children should be reminded to respect all dogs and follow The Kennel Club Safe And Sound Code.

## **BARKING**

Excessive barking at home can be a nuisance, and the way the dog is kept at home may inadvertently encourage the problem.

### 56. Territorial reasons

Dogs barking for territorial reasons might do so at the front door or a window where they can see people or dogs approaching. In the garden they may do so at the garden gate or a fence. Excluding them from such areas helps to reduce the habit factor.

### 57. Predatory or chase instinct

Allowing a dog to constantly indulge in this habit in the garden will exacerbate this problem.

### 58. Reasons of insecurity

Constant company and excessive reassurance and touching given to an insecure dog may cause stress when left without the company of people. The result may be barking, whining or howling.

### 59. At night

If it is necessary to vocally command a noisy dog at night, it should be done at a distance. This avoids the dog learning how to call its owner back.

## **DOGS AND STATIONARY VEHICLES**

### 60. Ventilation for a dog left in a car

Dogs must always be given ample ventilation when left alone in a vehicle. However, during hot weather even windows left wide open and/or shaded may not give sufficient ventilation. In such conditions dogs should not be left in vehicles.

### 61. Approaches to a vehicle from strangers

Most dogs are territorial when in their vehicle and may become aggressive if strangers put part of their body in through a window or door. Therefore this should always be prevented.

## **VEHICLE TRAVEL**

The psychology of vehicle travel: -

### 62. Dogs should not be a distraction to the driver

63. Dogs or puppies should gradually be accustomed to vehicle travel by taking the dog out in the vehicle for very short training journeys.

64. Dogs learn to enjoy vehicle travel if they are often taken by vehicle to a place where they have a pleasurable experience.

65. Dogs learn to dislike vehicle travel if they are only taken by vehicle to places where they have an unpleasant experience.

66. How a dog behaves in a vehicle on the first few journeys will form its habits for the future.

When travelling in a vehicle a dog: -

67. Should not be constantly moving around.

68. Should be secure so that, in the event of an accident, injury to canine or human passengers is minimised.

69. Should not travel with his head out of the window.

## RESPONSIBILITY AND CARE - SECTION 3

### HEALTH

#### 70. Vaccinations

Most veterinary surgeons will administer the first vaccinations at eight/nine weeks. They will advise when the dog can be allowed on the street, parks or to mix with other dogs. Discuss with your veterinary surgeon the necessary vaccinations and frequency of boosters.

#### 71. Fleas

Fleas are usually found around the neck and abdomen of a dog. Owners should regularly look for signs of fleas or their droppings, which appear to be black and no bigger than a grain of sand. There are various products which will effectively deal with fleas, and veterinary advice should be sought.

### WORMING

Roundworms and tapeworms are common in dogs.

#### 72. Roundworms

There are many kinds of roundworms but *Toxocara* is the most common. They are a round white worm between three and six inches long. When born nearly all puppies carry *Toxocara canis* as their mother will have transferred it to them. Badly infected puppies may pass worms in their faeces or vomit and often appear to be pot bellied. The eggs of *Toxocara canis* survive for years, therefore great care should be taken in cleaning up after a worm infected puppy or dog.

#### 73. Tapeworms

Tapeworms are not so common and are less often found in puppies. However, they should also be treated. Tapeworms can be very long and are formed of small segments, which resemble cucumber pips, and may be found in the faeces.

#### 74. Other types of worms

There are other types of worms that dogs are susceptible to. Veterinary advice should be sought.

#### 75. Medication

When worms are evident the dog must quickly be given the right medication. Take veterinary advice about dosing and about preventing infestation in the future, to protect the health of you and your dog, other people, livestock and wildlife.

### THE COUNTRY CODE

#### 76. Chasing

Never allow a dog to chase or worry livestock or wildlife as it raises its predatory instinct and can cause distress, injury and death.

#### 77. Awareness

Ensure that you know where your dog is and what he is doing at all times. Also be alert to any possible situation where the dog can cause a problem.

#### 78. Arable land

Provided a dog's owner keeps it on a lead and on the footpath, dogs are allowed on all public rights of way even if the land either side of the footpath is cultivated.

#### 79. Gates

Always leave gates as you find them unless instructed otherwise.

#### 80. Country lanes

These are as dangerous as urban roads and your dog should be on lead.

#### 81. Leaving the countryside

Neither you nor your dog should leave anything behind including the dog's faeces.

### MISCELLANEOUS

Dog owners and non-dog owners have the right to live side by side. There are, however laws which must be followed. They are made to safeguard the environment for the benefit of everybody.

## 82. Identification

All dogs must wear a collar with the name and address of the owner when in a public place (including the car). Dogs must be microchipped and are required to have a microchip which is registered on a Defra-approved database in the UK (check exemptions).

## 83. Fouling

Local authorities have the power to make it an offence if the owner or walker does not clear up dog faeces. This offence is punishable by a fine.

## 84. Nuisance and public health

It is an offence for a dog to be kept in such a place or manner as to be prejudicial to public health or a nuisance.

## 85. Sticks and branches

It is not recommended to let your dog play with sticks as severe injury can result.

## 86. Pet Passport

If travelling outside the UK your pet will require a Pet Passport. There are various dog health and administration requirements.

## **FRIGHTENING, OUT OF CONTROL AND BITING**

If a dog is dangerously out of control in a public place, the owner, or the person in charge of the dog, is guilty of an offence. It is not necessary that the dog injures, merely that there are reasonable grounds for believing that it will injure.

Penalties may be as follows:

87. An order that the dog is kept under proper control.

88. A fine.

89. Destruction of the dog.

90. A ban on keeping dogs in the future.

91. Imprisonment.

## 92. Dangerous dogs

Dogs under licence must be kept on a lead by someone who is sixteen or over and must be muzzled in public and registered with the police and neutered. Dogs under licence are also required to adhere to other relevant restrictions.

## 93. In the country

If a dog worries livestock on any agricultural ground, the owner, or the person in charge of the dog, is guilty of an offence. Even letting your dog walk off a lead in the same field as livestock may be considered 'worrying'. A farmer may legally shoot a dog they consider to be 'worrying' their livestock. Note: there are conditions attached to the exercise of this right by any person.

## 94. Stray dogs

Every local authority appoints an officer responsible for the seizure of stray dogs. Where the officer has reason to believe that any dog found in a public place is a stray dog, he can seize and detain it. While the dog is detained it must be properly fed and maintained. If the owner is known they must be notified. Any dog not claimed within seven days of the seizure (or the owners notification of the seizure) may be sold or destroyed.

## 95. Local Dog Control Measures

In England and Wales, local authorities are empowered to make local rules known as Public Space Protection Orders or Dog Control Orders to replace old local bylaws. These orders can require that dogs be held on lead in certain areas when directed to do so by an authorised officer. The orders can also give authority to ban dogs altogether from certain places, limit the number of dogs that can be walked by one person at any one time, and require you to clean up after your dog. In Scotland it is an offence not to pick up after your dog in a public place. These orders and laws are punishable by fines.

## 96. Unnecessary suffering

It is an offence for an owner to cause unnecessary suffering to their dog or cause or permit anyone else to do so. This includes failing to provide food, water and necessary veterinary attention.

### 97. Abandoning

Temporary and/or permanent abandonment of a dog that causes suffering is an offence.

### 98. Dogs and food outlets

By law, dogs are not allowed into an area of restaurants or shops where food is prepared. Dogs are allowed where food is served at the discretion of the proprietor; there is no law banning dogs from areas where food is served. It is understood that owners will keep their dogs under control, and may be required to leave by management.

### 99. Medical treatment

It can be an offence for someone other than a veterinary surgeon to provide medical treatment to a dog other than emergency first aid.

### 100. Dogs knocked down by vehicles

Any motorist that knocks down a dog must report the incident to the police within 24 hours.

### 101. Third party claims and insurance

If a dog causes injury or damage to a person or property, the injured party can make a claim against the owner of the dog. Often household contents policies cover third party claims against the dog but it is wise to check. You may wish to consider additional insurance cover for veterinary bills.

## THE PSYCHOLOGY OF LEARNING

Learning by habit:

102. A dog learns by habit, therefore he is likely to repeat an experience that was pleasurable and avoid an experience that was not.

103. Every time he does something the habit becomes more ingrained. Therefore we should encourage and praise the good habits, and discourage the bad habits.

104. Inconsistency causes confusion. If a dog learns by habit, our praise or discouragement allied to the dog's habit must be prompt and consistent to advance the learning process. When play and learning are linked the result is a happy dog.

### 105. Analysing problems

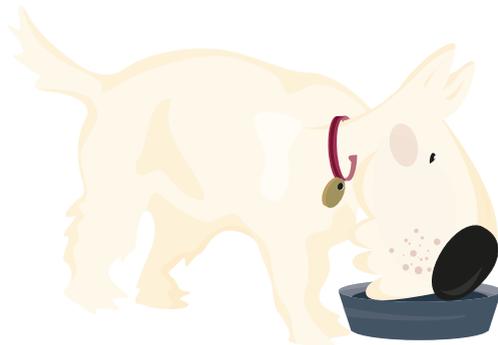
When there is a problem with your dog's training do not immediately work at the symptom. Instead try to think like a dog to find the cause of any problem before attempting to reverse it.

### 106. Teaching disobedience

If dogs learn by habit then it is easy to teach disobedience. To continually repeat commands that a dog disobeys is therefore to teach disobedience to that command.

### 107. Natural learning

When a dog performs naturally an act which is desirable to us, i.e. sitting when we stop walking. If we consistently add the appropriate command to the dog's natural action, the dog will learn to obey the command as a matter of course.



## USEFUL CONTACTS

### **Safe and Sound**

Promotes the safe interaction between children and dogs.

[www.thekennelclub.org.uk/training/safe-and-sound](http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/training/safe-and-sound)

### **Be Dog Friendly Awards**

Recognising the best dog friendly places and businesses in the UK.

[www.bedogfriendlyawards.com](http://www.bedogfriendlyawards.com)

### **KC Dog**

Protecting dog owner's rights and ensuring fair access for all dog owners.

[www.kcdog.org.uk](http://www.kcdog.org.uk)

### **Kennel Club Pet insurance**

Provides lifetime cover for your dog.

[www.kcinsurance.co.uk](http://www.kcinsurance.co.uk)

### **Petlog**

The UK's largest database for microchipped pets.

[www.petlog.org.uk](http://www.petlog.org.uk)

### **The Kennel Club Assured Breeder Scheme**

Promotes good breeding practice and aims to work together with breeders and buyers to force irresponsible breeders out of business.

[www.assuredbreederscheme.org.uk](http://www.assuredbreederscheme.org.uk)

### **Breed Rescue**

Find a rescue dog. Every year there are approximately 24,000 pedigree dogs seeking new homes. Can you rescue a dog? Have you got the time and love to give?

[www.findarescuedog.org.uk](http://www.findarescuedog.org.uk)

### **The Kennel Club Accreditation Scheme for Instructors in Dog Training and Canine Behaviour (KCAI Scheme)**

Provides dog owners with a wide and accessible choice of competent and qualified dog training instructors and canine behaviourists.

[www.kcai.org.uk](http://www.kcai.org.uk)

### **The Young Kennel Club**

The Young Kennel Club engages and supports young people in all dog related activities by providing an enjoyable, challenging and rewarding programme centred on a love of dogs.

[www.ykc.org.uk](http://www.ykc.org.uk)

*Managed by*



**THE KENNEL CLUB**

The Good Citizen Dog Scheme, The Kennel Club, Clarges Street, London W1J 8AB  
Tel: 020 7518 1011 Email: [gcds@thekennelclub.org.uk](mailto:gcds@thekennelclub.org.uk) Web: [www.gcds.org.uk](http://www.gcds.org.uk)