

**Hereby amended, the Dog Law Consolidation Act No. 259 of 12 April 2005 with the changes imposed by § 4 of Act No. 554 of 24 June 2005, § 17 of Act No. 538 of 8 June 2006, and § 1 of Law No 717 of 25 June 2010.**

§ 1– The owner of a dog shall ensure that the dog, before it is 8 weeks old, is marked and registered. Said owner must also ensure that the dog, from age 4 months old, bears a collar and identification indicating the owner's name and address.

Part. 2 The Minister for Food, Agriculture Fisheries lays down detailed rules on labeling, registration and fee and the design of the identification. The Minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries may decide that the marking and registration system is to be administered by one or more private organizations, and the owner of a dog shall provide the necessary information and pay the fee to these chosen organizations.

Part. 3 The police may acquire a dog tag and register a dog and send the bill to the owner if the dog is not marked and registered, in contravention of part 1

§1a– The possession and breeding of the following dogs is prohibited:

- 1) Pitbull terrier.
- 2) Tosa Inu.
- 3) American Staffordshire terrier.
- 4) Fila brasileiro.
- 5) Dogo argentino.
- 6) American bulldog.
- 7) Boerboel.
- 8) Kangal.
- 9) Central Asian Ovtcharka.
- 10) Caucasian Ovtcharka.
- 11) Sydrussisk Ovtcharka.
- 12) Tornjak.
- 13) Sharplanina.

Part. 2 The prohibition in §1a, shall also apply to hybrids of the prohibited dog breeds.

Part 3 Commercial importation of dogs that are covered by paragraph §1 or §1 par 2 is prohibited.

§ 1. b Dogs kept or imported in violation of § 1.a, are to be euthanized by police order

Part. 2 If there is doubt about whether a dog belongs to one of the prohibited breeds or crosses, which are covered under § 1 a, the police may require that the owner documents the dog's breed or type.

Part. 3 If the owner can not immediately submit sufficient evidence, according to part. 2, the police can take action to temporarily confiscate the dog from the owner.

Part. 4 If the owner has not submitted sufficient evidence that the dog does not belong to one of the breeds or crosses thereof, which are covered in § 1 a, the dog is then considered to be kept in violation of § 1a

§ 2– It is forbidden to keep a dog in areas that are not inhabited, such as the garden allotments, unless police have signaled their approval. Such permission may only be granted when assurance is given and it is deemed that the dog will be cared for properly, the permit may at any time be withdrawn.

§ 3– In cities with urban areas it is forbidden to let dogs walk on streets, roads, trails or places etc. that are open to general traffic, without being either put on a leash or accompanied by a person who has full control of their dog. A dog is not considered to be under supervision, just because it is being watched on the owners residential or business premises. If a dog is on a leash, this must be so short that the dog is kept close to the attendant. If the dogs on those sites are running loose without being accompanied by a person who has full control over them, the police will pick up the dog and inform the owner. If the dog is not chipmarked and registered, an announcement will be made. This does not apply if the dog carries a dog collar and ID as mentioned in paragraph § 1.

Part. 1 If the owner has not, within three days after the notification or the announcement has occurred, redeem the dog by paying the expenses incurred by the police, the police may dispose of the dog or have it euthanized. Any surplus upon disposal revert to the owner if he applies within 3 months and proves his right, otherwise it is transferred to the Treasury. The Minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries may lay down additional rules concerning the transfer of captured dogs.

Part. 2 Local councils may decide, that their municipality or more enumerated areas of their municipality, to apply a duty to always keep a dog on a leash on streets, roads, trails or places etc. in cities and urban areas which are open to general traffic. The leash must be kept so short that the dog is close to the attendant walking the dog.

Part. 3 Outside cities and urban areas it is the owner of a dog's duty to ensure that it does not roam.

Part. 4 Loose ferocious dogs may not be used for guarding the property without police permission.

Part. 5 The Minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries may lay down rules that some dogs are not covered by the provisions of the leash obligation established, pursuant to paragraph. 2

§ 4– A dog that disturbs neighborhoods calm with repeated or persistent barking or whining, and a complaint is made to the police, the owner will be ordered to keep the dog confined or, if this measure does not help, or the dog is already confined, have them removed. The Minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries may, in so far as it concerns dogs of professional breeders confined in kennels or otherwise, waive this provision in cases where a list kennels construction and interior have taken every reasonable building precaution in terms of the conditions.

§ 5– It is forbidden to constantly keep a dog tied up.

Part. 2 When a dog is tied, its chain must be at least 5 meters long, and it must have access to a room that can give it safe shelter from rain, wind and cold. If this room is comprised of a dog house, it must be large enough and with enough height that the dog can stand upright.

§ 6– It is up to the owner of a dog to take the measures deemed necessary, under the circumstances, to prevent their dog from causing others injury.

Part. 2 If a dog has injured a human or other substantial injury, if the dog or owners conduct is of such a nature that they are creating fear in their surroundings, or if there are any other grounds for believing that the the dog can be dangerous to its surroundings, the Chief Constable can

- 1) give the owner an order that the property where the dog is kept must be enclosed by a fence of up to 1.8 meters in height, which shall be provided with a sluice gate
- 2) give the owner an order that the dog may only be aired/walked by the owner or other named persons over the age 18 and should not be aired/walked with other dogs,
- 3) give the owner an order that the dog when not confined, must be kept on a leash, including an order that the dog must be kept on a leash that is not more than 2 meters long, or shall be equipped with heavy duty, closed muzzled or both, or
- 4) decide to let the dog be euthanized

Part. 3 The Police Director may give the owner orders referred to in Part 2, No. 1-3, if the dog has a habit of attacking humans or animals on streets,

roads, trails or places etc. that are open to general traffic, there is a danger that said dog may pursue them or molest livestock in property or in a field.

Part. 4 If a notice under part 2, No. 1–3 or part 3 is violated, the police commissioner, can decide to let the dog be euthanized.

Part. 5 If a dog has savagely assaulted a human or another dog, the police commissioner can let the dog be euthanized.

Part. 6 The Police Director shall bear the costs of letting a dog be euthanized according to part 2, No. 4, or part 4 or 5, but may require reimbursement from the owner.

Part. 7 If a dog is transferred to another owner, subject to a notice under part 2, No. 1–3 or part 3 or a decision on euthanizing according to part 2, No. 4, or part 4 or 5, the decision is transferred to the new owner.

§6a- At police request an owner of a dog required to submit to an expert examination of the dog's behavior before making a decision according to § 6 part 2, No. 4, for the euthanization of the dog.

Part. 2 The owner may require an expert opinion to be made referred to in paragraph, prior to the police director acting in accordance with § 6 part 2, No. 4, for the euthanization of the dog.

Part. 3 The Police Director shall bear the cost of the dog's investigation but may require reimbursement from the possessor.

§6b – police may decide to place the dog in a kennel until a decision is made according to § 1b part 1 or § 6 part 2, No. 4 or part 4 or 5, for the euthanization of a dog, and until the judgement that the dog be euthanized is enforceable.

Part. 2 The police, if necessary, on proof of identity, and without a warrant, confiscate a dog or dogs, for the implementation of a decision made under part 1

Police may, if necessary, take an expert advisor with them.

Part. 3 Complaints about police decisions to put a dog in a kennel shall not have suspensory effect.

Part. 4 The Police Director bears the cost of the dog's boarding, but may require reimbursement from the owner.

§ 6c- The deadline to appeal a decision made by the Chief of Police, to the Copenhagen Police Director according to paragraph § 1b, part 1, or paragraph § 6, part 2, No. 4 or part 4 or 5, is 10 days after the decision

has been communicated to the owner. If the appeal period expires on a Saturday, Sunday, a public holiday or Constitution Day, the deadline is extended to the following Monday.

Part 2 An appeal received before the deadline has a suspensive effect unless the National Commissioner of Police decides otherwise.

§ 6d- It is forbidden to own or possess, or to allow a dog to participate in dog fights. It is also forbidden to hold dog fights.

§ 7- (Repealed)

§ 8- The owner of a dog is liable to compensate for the damage their dog causes. If the injured party has contributed to the damage, the compensation may be reduced or terminated.

Part 2 The owner of a dog must have the liability insurance. The insurer is directly liable for compensation to the injured party for damages under subsection. 1 Exemptions from compulsory insurance, are dogs kept by state authorities, state institutions or municipalities.

Part 3 The Minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, after negotiations with the 'Insurance and Pension organization will adopt a procedure for implementing the provisions of part 2

§ 9- If an injured party files an action against an insurance company, the insurance company shall summon the owner of the dog for any court hearing, on prior notice according to the Code of Civil Procedure § 175 which applies to witnesses in civil cases. The summons shall include the provisions of part 2

Part 2 The person summoned under subsection. 1 , may, when making application to the court, intervene as a party in the case. If the owner does not appear before the court, the decision of the compensation issue by judgment or settlement will be binding.

§10- If a case is filed for the prosecution of any injurious offense, which under § 8 may result in liability, the victims shall have the opportunity to claim compensation. If there is no agreement on compensation, the compensation claims will be adjudicated during the proceedings, even if punishment is not imposed on the defendants. Admissibility can be decided before or after a decision of the question of punishment. Where the legal claim relates to property damage, and is of complex nature, the court may, after unsuccessful conciliation deny the claim proceedings during a criminal proceeding.

Part 2 The insurance company, in which there is liability insurance for the offending dog, is considered liable for damages and as a party to the proceedings shall be summoned to any court proceedings, with prior notice, which applies to the witnesses in criminal cases according to the Judicial Code § 175.

Part 3 Are charges brought against anyone other than the offending dog's owners, the owners must also be summoned to any court for the purposes mentioned in part 2 the before mentioned notice. The provisions of § 9 part 2 shall apply.

Part 4 When the compensation issue is adjudicated in the proceedings, the court, in accordance with the provisions of the Judicial Code Chapter 30, may impose court costs if the matter had been dealt with in a civil procedure. The value of the cost is determined in this case by the judgment.

§ 11- Upon Appeal of a criminal case under which the compensation issue has been dealt with, means any person who has been involved in a case in which, and liability costs for damages that have been decided, will be in the appealed case, as well as a party to the appeal, in so far as the question of compensation is inadmissible.

Part 2 The Code of Civil Procedure § 996 providing access to an appeal in a civil procedure, is open to anyone that has been a party in the proceedings with respect to the compensation issue. The terms of an appeal are pursuant to paragraph § 10. part 1, if there has been a separate trial of criminal charges or damages, this shall constitute a separate judgment. Code of Civil Procedure § 995, last paragraph shall then not apply in the present case.

§ 12- A fine will be given to any person who:

- 1) violates paragraph § 1 . part 1, paragraph§ 2, paragraph§ 3, part. 1, 1st-3rd section., paragraph § 3, part. 3 or 4, paragraph § 5, and paragraph § 6, part. 1, paragraph § 8, part. 2,
- 2) violation of rules established by the municipal council in accordance with paragraph § 3 part. 2, or
- 3) violation of an order issued pursuant to paragraph § 4 and § 6, part. 2, No. 1-3 or part 3

Part -2 In setting the fines for violation of paragraph § 1 part. 1, paragraph § 3, part 1, 1st-3rd section., paragraph § 3, part 4, paragraph § 6, part 1,

and paragraph §8, part. 2 ,according to the rules set up by the local council in accordance with paragraph § 3 part 2, or an order issued pursuant to paragraph § 6 part 2, No. 1-3 or part 3 a sharpened fine will be meted out . The same penalty applies to someone that incites a dog to attack someone or fails to keep his dog held back when the dog is assaulting someone.

Part 3– Any person who violates paragraph § 6d is liable to a fine or imprisonment up to 1 year.

Part 4– A fine or imprisonment up to 6 months will be imposed on anyone dealing personally with dogs, after having had the right to do so disqualified in accordance with § 12a, part 1

Part 5– A fine, or under aggravating circumstances imprisonment for up to four months, will be given to any person who, with knowledge that a person is disqualified to deal personally with dogs according to § 12 a, part 1, leaves a dog in their custody.

Part. 6 In rules or regulations issued pursuant to paragraph § 1 part 2, there may be stipulated fines for violation of these rules or regulations.

§ 12a– The right to deal personally with dogs, on conviction of an offense, may be disqualified permanently or for a specified period of time, if someone has:

- 1) used a dog to attack or threat to humans or animals,
- 2) failed to keep his dog held back when he noticed that the dog attacked humans or animals,
- 3) who owns or possesses, or has let a dog take part in a dog fight,
- 4) has organized dog fighting or
- 5) was repeatedly punished for violation of paragraph § 3, part 1, 1st-3rd section., paragraph § 3, part 4, paragraph § 6, part 1, as laid down by the council, pursuant to paragraph § 3 part 2, or an order issued pursuant to paragraph § 6 part 2, No. 1-3 or part 3, or pursuant to paragraph § 12 part 1

Part 2– If the right to deal with dogs is disqualified for longer than 5 years according to part 1, the question of recovering this right may be put before the court within the suspension period expires. A request can be made under the provisions of the Penal Code § 78 part 3, and can not take place before two years of the suspension period have elapsed. The Court can only be requested to suspend when exceptional circumstances exist. Has someone been previously disqualified to deal personally with dogs

according to part 1, the ending of the suspension period will only expire under exceptional circumstances.

§ 12b –may also be imposed on companies etc. (Legal persons) under the rules of the Criminal Code chapter 5.

§ 12c – Reimbursement of expenses incurred pursuant to paragraph § 1 part 3, paragraph § 6, part 6, paragraph § 6a part 3, and paragraph § 6b part 4, can be liened.

§ 13 – This law shall enter into force on the 1st of January 1938. An addendum to the Act No. 127 of the 18th of April 1925 of dog tax, punishment and compensation for damage caused by dogs.

§ 14 – The Act does not apply to the Faroe Islands and Greenland. Act No. 335 of the 14th May 1992 entered into force on the 1st of January 1993. The law relating to § 1, § 6 and § 12

Law No. 1064 of the 23rd December 1992, entered into force on the 1st of January 1993. The law relating to § 1, § 3 and § 12

Act No. 385 of the 28th of May 2003 entered into force on the 1st of July 2003. The law relating to § 1, § 6, § 6a-6d, § 12, § 12a-12 c and § 14

Act No. 717 of the 25th June 2010 entered into force on the 1st of July 2010. The Act amended paragraph § 1, part 1 and 3, § 1 a and 1 b § were added. § 3, part 2 and 3, was repealed and a new part 2, 4-6 becomes part 3-5. § 3, part 6, part 5 has been changed. § 6 part 2, 3 and 4 shall be amended. § 6 part 5 repealed and replaced by the new part 5-6. § 6 part 6, which becomes part 7 was changed. § 6a part 1 and 2, § 6b, part 1 and 2, and § 6c part 1 and 2 are modified. § 7 was repealed. § 8 part 3 was changed. § 12 shall be replaced again. § 12a, part 1, No. 3 and 4, was modified and No. 5 is added. § 12c was changed. The Act contains the following commencement and transitional provision:

### § 3

Part 1 –This Act shall come into force on 1 July 2010.

Part 2– At the commencement of the Act, the Order No. 748 of the 14th of November 1991 prohibiting the keeping of particularly dangerous dogs is repealed.

Part 3– The provision of § 1 part 1, 1st section., The Law on dogs as amended by this Act § 1, No. 1, for the dogs, who were born after the implementaion of the new Act.

Part 4– Persons who, from before the 17th of March 2010, have dogs covered by § 1a part 1, No. 3–13 of the Act on dogs as amended by this Act § 1, 3, or crosses in which these disallowed dogs are included, can continue to own them. Such dogs may not be transferable. On streets, roads, paths, squares, etc., which are open to the general public, the dogs must be placed on a leash and be equipped with sound, closed muzzle. The requirement that the dogs must be kept on a leash, does not apply in forests where the owner of the forest has given permission for the dogs go without a leash. The leash must be a flat line with a maximum length of 2 m.

Part 5– Any person who violates part 4 will be fined

Part 6– Persons who prior to 17 March 2010 have an established business in the breeding of dogs covered by § 1a part 1, No. 3–13 of the Act on dogs as amended by this Act in § 1, 3, or crosses of these dogs in which these breeds are included, can continue those activities until the 30th of June 2015.

**Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, 8 March 2013,  
Mette Gjerskov**