

Other laws about dogs

The issue: Dog identification

The law: All dogs allowed outside must have a collar and tag with their owner's name and details.

Enforced by: Local authority (dog warden).

The issue: Quarantine (rabies)

The law: Dogs must spend six months in quarantine before being brought into the UK, to ensure that they don't have rabies or other infectious diseases. Dogs can travel in Europe and return to the UK without being quarantined if they have a pet passport and have been microchipped and vaccinated against rabies.

Enforced by: Customs and Excise officers.

The issue: Stray dogs

The law: Local councils are now fully responsible for dealing with stray dogs, seven days a week, 24 hours a day. The dogs are kept for seven days and then usually made available for rehoming or put to sleep.

Enforced by: Local authority (dog warden).

The issue: Dogs as laboratory animals

The law: Before anyone experiments on animals they must have a licence from the Home Office.

Enforced by: Home Office inspectors.

The issue: Dog fur used for clothing

The law: It is not illegal to own a coat made of dog fur. However, fur farming, with animals kept for fur, has been banned in the UK.

The issue: Dogs barking

The law: A dog that keeps barking is not illegal, but local authority officers can prosecute owners for loud, persistent noise levels.

Enforced by: Local authority environmental health officers.