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# Dangerous Dogs Law Guidance for Enforcers



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Cover Image: Pit Bull type dog, photo courtesy of the RSPCA.

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The purpose of this guidance is to assist police forces and local authorities in dealing with incidents brought to their attention involving dangerous dogs and allegations of people owning or breeding dogs prohibited under section 1 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991. It explains what the law is and assists each agency in defining their responsibilities and the areas where a joint approach would be advisable.

The guidance has been prepared by Defra in partnership with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), representatives of local authorities and the RSPCA. In preparing the guidance we have drawn on the experience of several forces who have established proven policies and procedures through good practice and developing multi-agency agreements with local authorities and the RSPCA.

## General Guide

### The key legislation:

This guide is intended to give a brief overview of the key pieces of legislation. For more detailed information, see the annex at the end of this document or the Home Office circulars listed at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/welfare/domestic/dogs.htm>

### Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 (DDA)

Prior to this legislation there were no criminal offences available to enforcers directly to protect people from injury, or fear of injury by dogs. Therefore it is vital to understand that the intention of Parliament was the protection of people. This Act is used to deal with the most serious incidents and generally it will be the police who instigate proceedings.

#### Section 1

Section 1 prohibits the ownership of certain types of dogs, unless they are exempted on the Index of Exempt Dogs, and was intended to have a preventative effect. Prosecutions can be brought before a Court based on just the physical characteristics of the dog<sup>1</sup> (i.e. what it looks like). In any incident dealing with a potential prohibited dog it may be worth contacting the Index of Exempted Dogs (IED) for advice and guidance at an early stage on 07000 783651 or 07721 036354

#### Section 3

Section 3 creates a criminal offence of allowing **any** dog (i.e. of any breed or type) to be dangerously out of control in a public place or a place to where it is not allowed. A dog can be regarded as being dangerously out of control on any occasion where it causes fear or apprehension to a **person**<sup>2</sup> that it may injure them. Furthermore, if that dog does injure a person then the offence is aggravated. Legal action may be taken against the owner and/or the person in charge of the dog at the time.

This section should only be used in the most serious incidents investigated by enforcers, and generally it would be the police that would instigate proceedings under this section, however local authorities are able to act under this legislation also.

1 For further information about identifying Pit Bull Terriers please see Annex 2 which provides some general guidance

2 NB. Where a dog or dogs have been set on another animal if an owner of the animal or a bystander is in fear of their own safety this may be sufficient for seizure of the dog or dogs by the police and a prosecution under s3 of the DDA.

## **Dogs Act 1871**

Although over 100 years old now this Act is possibly the most effective piece of dog control legislation available to enforcers. Civil proceedings are brought at a Magistrates' Court and this can be done by the police, local authorities, or individual members of the public.

This legislation should always be taken into consideration when enforcers are investigating any incidents relating to dogs or when concerns are raised over an allegation of irresponsible dog ownership. Furthermore, it can be particularly effective when dealing with attacks on other domestic pets or livestock.

### *Section 2*

Section 2 requires that the owner is brought before a Magistrates' court on a complaint and if the Magistrate is satisfied that the complaint is justified they can make any order they feel appropriate to require the owner to ensure that the dog is kept under proper control or in extreme cases destroyed. Importantly this is regardless of whether the dog is in a private or public place. Note proceedings must be commenced by way of a complaint.

## **Dangerous Dogs Act 1989**

In addition to any civil order made under the 1871 Act, the 1989 Act allows a Magistrate to disqualify an owner from having custody of a dog for any period the Court thinks fit. The 1989 Act also provides enforcement provisions for breaches of any control order imposed on an individual under the 1871 Act.

## **Metropolitan Police Act 1839 and Town Police Clauses Act 1847**

These provide for offences for anyone to allow an unmuzzled ferocious<sup>3</sup> dog to be at large<sup>4</sup> (i.e. not under proper control in a public place) and attack, worry, or put in fear any person, horse or other animal in any thoroughfare or public place in the metropolitan police district<sup>5</sup>, or any street in a town<sup>6</sup>.

## **Offences Against the Person Act 1861**

This Act makes it an offence to maliciously wound or cause grievous bodily harm (GBH) to another with or without a weapon or instrument<sup>7</sup>. Section 47 also creates an offence of assault occasioning actual bodily harm (ABH). These offences should only be considered in the most extreme circumstances due to the severity of the penalties.

With all prosecutions it is important that enforcement authorities share intelligence and information where possible and update each other on outcomes.

3 There is a distinction between a dangerous and ferocious dog *Kedde v Payn* [1964] 1 All ER 189

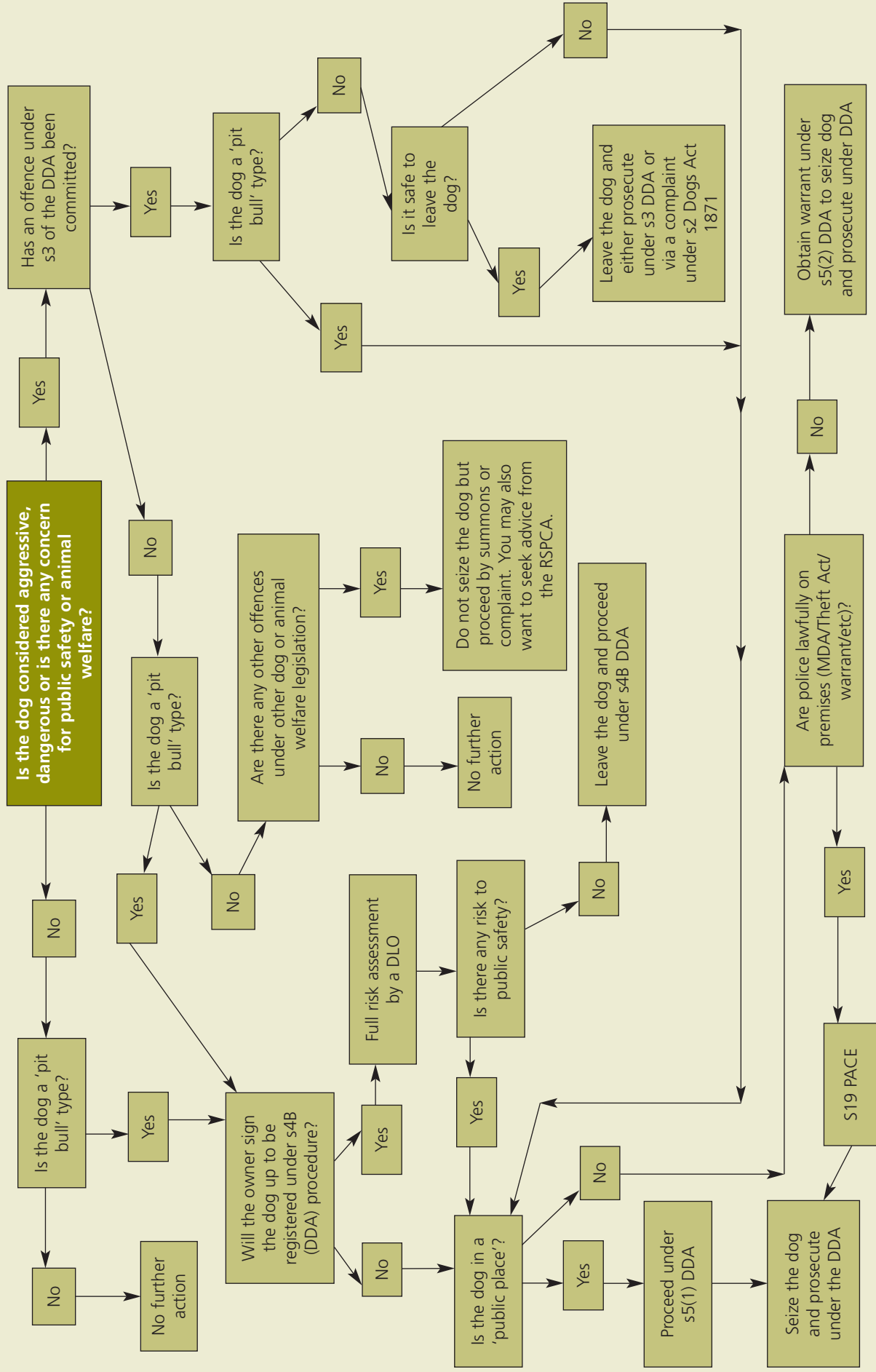
4 A dog on a lead is not at 'large' *Ross v Evans* [1959] 2 QB 79

5 S 54 Metropolitan Police Act 1839

6 S 28 Town Police Clauses Act 1847

7 Ss18 and 20 Offences Against the Person Act 1861

**Flowchart – suggested considerations for dealing with ‘dangerous dog’ incidents**



## The Police

**It is vital that every police service within the UK has a good, robust strategy and policy for dealing with dangerous dogs.**

The policy must include identifying secure kennels that can be contracted by police should it be necessary for a dangerous dog to be seized prior to any prosecution.

Experience has shown that the costs to the police service can be considerable and therefore it is essential there is a standard operational procedure in place. The welfare of any dog seized is also a factor the police need to consider and they should note their duty to ensure the welfare of animals under their control (s9 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006).

If procedures are not set in place to ensure that both the animal and the progression of cases are monitored closely, costs will escalate and the animal's welfare may suffer.

The following forces of varying sizes have good established policies in place (which can be considered good practice) and could be used as a template for creating a force policy:

- Metropolitan Police
- Merseyside Police
- Thames Valley Police
- Bedfordshire Police

**Enforcers should be aware that often there is a link between people involved in the irresponsible ownership of dogs or illegal breeding and selling of s1 prohibited dogs and other anti-social or criminal behaviour or activities. Therefore the police service is best placed to investigate allegations and suspected offences under this Act.**

It should be noted that under s1 of the DDA the burden of proof is reversed and it is the owner, or person in possession at the time of the offence, who must prove to the Court that the dog is not of the prohibited type.

That said, experience has shown that there must be an element of (or access to) knowledge and expertise, within the police/dog warden (or equivalent) service responsible for the seizure and prosecution of the prohibited types of dogs.

## The Dog Legislation Officer (DLO)

It is advisable for every police service to have a trained police DLO. If this is not possible, every police service must have agreed procedures in place to gain access to a police DLO in order to facilitate this guidance. Experience has shown that each police service should have an officer/person skilled/trained in depth in all dog-related legislation and have a good knowledge of the identification of the prohibited types.

Generally these officers are dual-skilled and experience has shown that this position is best suited to an operational dog handler or an operational officer who has had experience in this field. He/she must also have good people skills and is likely to have knowledge and experience of dogs outside of the job.

# Guidance to Enforcers

Currently there are two Police Services running seminars for the role of DLOs:

- Metropolitan Police email: [statusdogs@met.police.uk](mailto:statusdogs@met.police.uk)
- Merseyside Police email: [Dangerous.Dogs@merseyside.police.uk](mailto:Dangerous.Dogs@merseyside.police.uk)

**It is essential that DLOs are given the skills to function as a single point of contact (SPOC) to guide and assist enforcers in the investigation of dog-related allegations of crime.**

Experience has shown that constables are not always aware of the workings of dangerous dogs law. Therefore early guidance from a DLO can in many cases resolve trivial and minor incidents by words of advice to owners. Where there is clear evidence of a serious offence the DLO is best placed to help and guide any investigation.

## The DLO's main responsibilities

- To be able to identify dogs that are alleged to be of a prohibited breed/type.  
*Identification of prohibited types has always been a difficult area under the 1991 Act. This legislation gives power to any constable or authorised local authority officer to seize any dog they believe to be prohibited. DLOs need to have expertise to make judgements as to whether or not a dog that is considered to be a banned type should be retained by its owner until court proceedings, therefore saving police costs and concerns over the dog's welfare whilst in custody. This should be done via a risk assessment of all the relevant factors.*  
*Many DLOs have become expert witnesses recognised by the Courts. Nevertheless, where a prosecution is instigated and an expert witness is required, the DLO may find it necessary to contact an experienced expert from within another force or from outside the police service.*
- To oversee case management and ensure that proceedings are brought expeditiously where dogs are held in kennels.  
*Where a dog is being held in kennels the court must be made aware of that fact because delay will place heavy costs on police budgets and can impact on the animal's welfare. There have been many examples where this fact has been forgotten and opportunities to expedite court proceedings were missed.*
- Dog legislation officers should take responsibility and be consulted, wherever practical, prior to any dog being seized.  
*There are many occasions where it is not necessary to seize a dog. The DLO would be best placed to make an assessment on the decision to seize.*
- To establish good working relationships with local authority officers, the RSPCA and local animal welfare organisations.  
*There are many occasions where concerns are brought to the attention of police but are not directly related to police priorities or responsibilities. Minor incidents should be dealt with by local authority officers, possibly with the support of animal welfare organisations where the situation can be rectified through advice and education. It is important to establish early on the roles and responsibilities depending on the circumstances of each case.*



*Whenever it becomes apparent that animal welfare offences may be being committed i.e. anything from a welfare offence, to cruelty or dog fighting, the RSPCA should be consulted at the earliest possible stage. They are the lead organisation on the investigation of animal welfare issues. They will assist and guide police and in some cases will take over and institute their own proceedings but it must be accepted that if there are no animal welfare issues involved the RSPCA will not become involved in straightforward s1 prosecutions. Those investigations will remain the responsibility of the police service.*

### **Local Authorities**

Local Authorities now have sole responsibility for stray dogs under s68 of the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005 (CNEA). Further guidance is available on:  
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/localenv/dogs/pdf/straydogs-guidance.pdf>

Ss55-67 of the CNEA also provides local authorities with powers through Dog Control Orders (DCO). These powers include the ability to place restrictions on access to or exclude dogs from, open spaces to which the public have access, as well as the power, to make owners place dogs on leads. Local authorities may issue Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) for those who do not adhere.

Police Community Support Officers are also able to issue Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) under this Act. Further guidance can be found at:  
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/Environment/localenv/legislation/cnea/dogcontrol-orders.pdf>

Many local authorities have chosen to adopt the powers under Ss55-67 and if used sparingly and properly enforced, DCOs can be used to effectively tackle minor offences, which may cause a nuisance within communities. However, local authorities should ensure effective wide-ranging consultation prior to the use of such orders and without adequate enforcement the responsible dog owning majority may be penalised without actually tackling the minority causing the problems.

It should also be noted that many local authorities who have effectively tackled anti-social behaviour with dogs, have done so without the need to adopt DCOs.

Particularly with minor anti-social issues with dogs, it is important that local authorities consider what education/ information can be made available to the public to help reduce the incidents of anti-social behaviour.

Both the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and Dogs Act 1871 are useful tools for tackling the more serious problems (see Annex 1). Local authorities should ensure that the relevant officers are fully authorised and trained in the use of these pieces of legislation and also in practical skills in dog behaviour and handling. It may be worth liaising with the local police service and other partners to see what opportunities there are for such officers to attend DLO and animal welfare training courses.

Local authority housing providers and other landlords can play an important role in addressing anti-social behaviour in areas where they have jurisdiction. There are preventative steps that can be taken, including having a clear and positive policy towards dogs with sanctions and consequences if a tenant fails to adhere. A willingness by officers to enforce this policy is essential in making any tenancy agreement effective.

## Guidance to Enforcers

This approach can resolve/successfully tackle some of the minor anti-social issues such as fouling, barking or frequent straying by dogs.

To respond to an offence that may be deemed a “breach of the peace”<sup>8</sup> (e.g. a dog acting aggressively and/or owner not in control, etc), an application for a control order under the Dogs Act 1871 (see Appendix 1) can be sought via a Magistrates’ Court.

It may also be possible to use more familiar powers with Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs) and Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) particularly with those who are using their dogs in an intimidating or threatening fashion. However, these require greater multi-agency working (namely the police) and therefore can be more resource intensive.

It is hoped that with a good working relationship between the police, local authorities and other bodies with defined responsibilities and possibly setting up of service level agreements that:

- Serious incidents involving dogs and owners who commit criminal offences will be investigated by the police, and
- Minor incidents and stray dogs can be dealt with by local authorities (and where appropriate housing providers).

There are currently some very good examples of multi-agency approach in operation and these schemes should be closely examined to see whether this best practice can be adopted for other local authority/ policing areas.

Currently there are initiatives in the following Authorities:

### **Borough Action for Responsible K9s (BARK)**

London’s first multi-agency partnership forum, BARK was officially launched in September 2007 to tackle the irresponsible ownership of dogs in the borough of Brent.

The group formed of animal welfare officers from Brent Council, the Metropolitan Police Safer Neighbourhood team officers, the Mayhew Animal Home and the RSPCA, was formed following the increased collaboration between the partners on dog-related incidents in the local area over the previous 12-months.

The joint partnership is already working together with the aims of educating the community on dog welfare and responsible pet ownership, reducing the incidents where dogs are misused and investigating anti-social behaviour linked with the misuse of dogs. This is being done through a combination of each party using reassurance, intelligence, prevention and enforcement.

For further information: <http://www.brent.gov.uk/eh.nsf/Animal%20welfare/LBB-60>

<sup>8</sup> Definition: The state that occurs when harm is done or likely to be done to a person or (in his presence) to his property, or when a person is in fear of being harmed through an assault, affray, or other disturbance. At common law, anyone may lawfully arrest a person for a breach of the peace committed in his presence, or when he reasonably believes that a person is about to commit or renew such a breach. (Oxford, Dictionary of Law, 2003)

## **London Borough of Wandsworth – The Action Plan**

An incident in which two Pit Bull-type dogs attacked and killed a Staffordshire Bull Terrier in October 2007 was the catalyst for Wandsworth Council to bring together the work they had been doing on issues concerning dangerous dogs and anti-social behaviour, into one strategic document titled 'The Action Plan'.

The Action Plan set out the Council's current policy, legislative powers and procedures, together with action already being implemented, and proposals for further measures. Most importantly though it establishes each department's and outside agency's role in tackling particular aspects of dangerous dogs and anti-social behaviour with dogs.

The document was created in consultation with departments and members across the Council, including children services, housing department, youth offending team and dog wardening service. The collaborative approach is reflected in the document.

For further information:

<http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/Home/EnvironmentandTransport/Dogs/default.htm>

## **South Northampton District Council – dealing with dangerous dogs**

South Northampton District Council is a rural authority and has not had many dealings with 'status' dogs. However the Council has taken a proactive role in dealing with dogs that may be dangerous.

The Council responds to all complaints regarding dangerous dogs whether they concern a dog attacking another animal or a human. There is a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the Council and the police regarding this work (although the police retain lead responsibility for dealing with any prohibited types of dogs under the DDA and the more serious complaints). However the proactive nature of this work by the Council aims to help educate dog owners to be responsible and thus prevent future incidents.

In February 2007 the Council obtained a control order (under the Dogs Act 1871) for a dog which was not kept under proper control. The dog (a retriever) had escaped from its property and attacked a Jack Russell that was being walked nearby. The Jack Russell received extensive injuries.

For further information: <http://www.southnorthants.gov.uk/>

## **Multi-Agency Approach**

The problems caused by irresponsible dog ownership and control cannot be resolved by either the police service, local authorities or indeed housing providers working independently and it is therefore imperative that all agencies work together to make areas safer for the common good.

Firstly both the police and local authorities must be aware of their statutory obligations under current legislation.

There has recently been a change in the legislation concerning responsibilities for stray dogs. This has been transferred solely to local authorities. This document seeks to clarify some of the issues and responsibilities.

## Guidance to Enforcers

With the recent introduction of neighbourhood policing nationwide and the concerns of the community raising police awareness of anti-social behaviour of youths with dogs and minor dog-related incidents, this area can only be tackled by a multi-agency approach. A good working relationship with the local authority officers is essential as is an agreed understanding of areas of responsibility for all stakeholders.

The best forum to determine and debate a good statement of understanding is through the local policing partnership schemes, but to make this work coherently there has to be a good understanding of each other's responsibilities and willingness on both sides to co-operate on middle ground. For example, the police deal with the most serious offences and the local authority to deal with minor incidents.

A joint approach where local authorities, police and other agencies work closely together to address community concerns involving anti-social behaviour with dogs is a useful tool to prevent incidents with dogs escalating.

As with any multi-agency approach, it is important that the details of successful prosecutions under the Dangerous Dogs Acts, control orders made under the Dogs Act 1871 and Anti-social Behaviour Contracts (ABCs) or orders are known to all parties. Ideally this information could be accessed on a central database.

## The Main Acts

### Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 (as amended 1997)

The DDA prohibits certain types of dogs and allowing a dog of any type to be dangerously out of control in a public place or a private place where it is not allowed to be. The law also provides for such dogs to be seized.

#### *Offences (prohibited breeds or types)*

- *Section 1(1)* sets out which types of dogs the prohibitions in the sub-sections apply to – namely Pit Bull Terriers (PBTs)<sup>9</sup>, Japanese Tosas, Dogo Argentinos and Fila Brazilieros.
- *Section 1(2)* prohibits the breeding, sale, exchange, advertising, or gift of any dog listed in section 1(1). It also prohibits such dogs from being in a public place without being muzzled and kept on a lead. Furthermore, it also prohibits the abandoning or allowing to stray of such dogs.
- *Section 1(3)* prohibits the ownership of any type listed under s1(1) unless it is exempted on the Index of Exempted Dogs as per s1(5).

#### *Offences (any breed or type)*

- *Section 3(1)* provides for the owner or the person in charge of a dog (at the time of the offence) to be guilty of an offence if they allow a dog of any breed to be 'dangerously out of control'<sup>10</sup> in a public place<sup>11</sup>. This offence is aggravated if the dog injures a person whilst out of control.

#### *Enforcement provisions*

- *Section 5(1)* allows for a dog in a public place to be seized by a police constable or authorised<sup>12</sup> officer of a local authority if it is of a type as set out in s1(1) or is of any type or breed that appears to be dangerously out of control at the time (as per s3(1)).
- *Section 5(2)* provides for a warrant to be sought for the seizure of dogs on private premises if they are evidence of any offence under the Act.

#### *Further consideration*

- Dogs may also be seized from private premises when a police constable is lawfully on the premises if they are evidence of an offence under *s19 Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1986* (PACE). For example, where a drugs warrant is executed and a PBT type dog is found on the premises.
- *Statutory presumption* – If a police officer alleges that a dog is a PBT type then it is assumed to be such a dog until the defence proves otherwise. It is good practice for police forces to have their own experts to ensure the seizing officer's opinion is correct in order to save costs and benefit the welfare of the dog. For further advice on this please see above under 'best practice' for police.

9 For the determination of a dog as being 'of the type known as a pit bull terrier' see *R v Crown Court at Knightsbridge ex p Dunne* [1993] 4 All ER 491

10 See s10(3) for definition of 'dangerously out of control'. Also the act of a dog causing injury to a person is itself conduct giving grounds for reasonable apprehension of injury, there is no requirement for the apprehension to precede the injury (*Rafiq v DPP* [1997] 161 JP 412 DC)

11 See s10(2) for definition of 'public place'. It is taken to mean anywhere the public is allowed.

12 If the local authority has designated such an officer.

## Dogs Act 1871

The strength of this piece of legislation is that, because it provides a civil remedy to which the civil standard of proof applies, proceedings can be taken even when a criminal offence has not been committed. Thus it provides a remedy in a wide range of circumstances for dangerous dogs. A particular advantage of the Act is that it applies everywhere, even in and around a private dwelling, which is why it is especially appropriate for action on behalf of people like postmen and women who are regularly at risk from dogs in front gardens.

### Offences

- *Section 2* provides for any Magistrates' court to hear a complaint that a dog is dangerous<sup>13</sup> and not kept under proper control<sup>14</sup>.

### Enforcement provisions

- A complaint must be made to the Magistrates' court<sup>15</sup>.

### Further consideration

- If the Magistrate is satisfied that the dog is dangerous, he or she may order that the dog be kept under proper control by the owner or destroyed.

## Animal Welfare Act 2006

The Animal Welfare Act 2006 (AWA) covers England and Wales and reforms the law relating to the protection of animals. It introduces several welfare related offences and the most significant are set out below.

### Offences

- *Section 4* creates offences of causing unnecessary suffering which in many ways is simply a replacement for s1(1)(a) of the Protection of Animals Act 1911. It creates two offences; firstly for an individual to cause unnecessary suffering to an animal by an act or failure to act, secondly whereby a person responsible<sup>16</sup> for an animal permits or fails to take steps to prevent unnecessary suffering by an act or failure to act by another person.
- *Section 8* creates a number of offences associated with animal fights, the organisation of animal fights and its associated activities, such as betting on and videoing<sup>17</sup> animal fights.
- *Section 9* creates a new offence and places a duty of care on those responsible for animals to ensure the welfare needs<sup>18</sup> of an animal are met. It encompasses those who abandon animals, as by doing so they cannot be said to have taken all reasonable steps to ensure the animal's needs have been met.

13 The meaning of dangerous includes dangerous to animals, including other dogs (*Henderson v McKenzie [1876]*).

14 This is not confined to a public place but extends to the owner's private property where other people have the right of access (*Philip v Wright [1940]*). For example a postman in a front garden. Whether a dog is under control or not is a question of fact, not of law (*Wren v Pockock [1876]*)

15 Proceedings will be invalidated if the owner of the dog is not informed of the time and place of the complaint (*R v Trafford Magistrates Court ex p Riley [1996]*)

16 As defined by s3 of AWA

17 NB. The part concerned with video recordings has not been brought into force yet.

18 The welfare needs of an animal are set out in the Act and include the need: for a suitable environment (place to live), for a suitable diet, to exhibit normal behaviour patterns, to be housed with, or apart from, other animals (as applicable), to be protected from pain, injury, suffering and disease.

### *Enforcement provisions*

- *Section 10* enables an inspector<sup>19</sup> appointed under the Act to issue a statutory improvement notice to someone if they do not meet the welfare needs of their animal as set out in s9. (The RSPCA issues non-statutory advice notices as well.)
- *Section 18* provides police constables or an inspector appointed under the Act with various powers to deal with an animal in distress.
- *Section 19* provides for a right of entry to deal with an animal in distress as per s18. It does not provide a power of entry for the purposes of removing anything other than the animal in distress.
- *Section 22* provides a power of entry, search and seizure for police concerning animals involved in fighting offences under s8. Note this does not apply to any part of a building used as a private dwelling. However a warrant may be obtained to enter a private dwelling.
- *Section 23* allows for a warrant to be issued to search for evidence in relation to offences created by s4, s8 and s9.
- *Section 24* amends s17(1)(c) PACE. It provides a specific power for police constables only to enter premises for arrest in relation to s4, s8(1) and s8(2) only. There is no power of entry for offences created by s9 for the purpose of arrest.

### *Further consideration*

- For further information and advice about any offences under the AWA please contact your local RSPCA inspector – this is an area of the law they have a great deal of expertise in.

<sup>19</sup> This does not refer to an RSPCA inspector.

### Identifying Pit Bull Terrier (PBT) types

**The following information is aimed to provide a starting point for identifying Pit Bull Terrier (PBT) types. It should not be seen as an exhaustive list of characteristics and further expert advice and guidance must be sought at an early stage.**

There are no photographs provided to assist with this as these animals can look very different yet have a substantial number of characteristics present and be considered a PBT.

If you cannot obtain advice from your local DLO and need assistance in identifying an alleged s1 dog you may contact the Status Dogs Unit at the Metropolitan Police at [statusdogs@met.police.uk](mailto:statusdogs@met.police.uk)

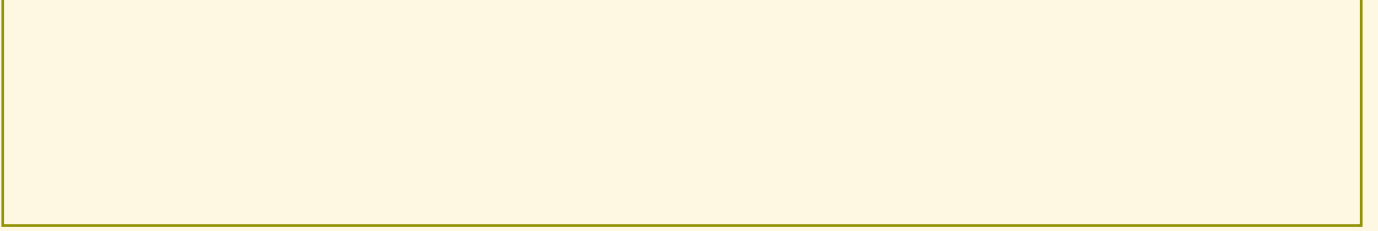
The standard used to identify a PBT is set out in the American Dog Breeders Association standard of conformation as published in the Pit Bull Gazette, vol 1, issue 3 1977 – please refer to this for the full description and also relevant cases<sup>20</sup> as this is only a brief overview. Although the law does not require a suspected PBT to fit the description perfectly, it does require there to be a substantial number of characteristics present so that it can be considered 'more' PBT than any other type of dog.

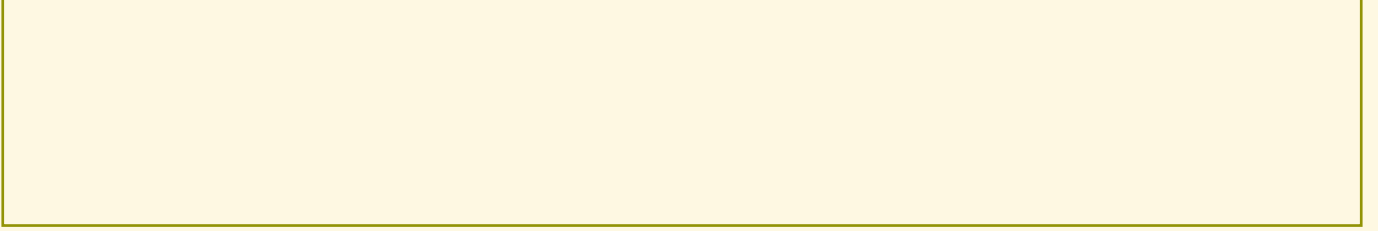
- When first viewing the dog it should appear square from the side, and its height to the top of its shoulders should be the same distance as from the front of its shoulder to the rear point of its hip.
- Its height to weight ratio should be in proportion.
- Its coat should be short and bristled, (single coated).
- Its head should appear to be wedge shaped when viewed from the side and top but rounded when viewed from the front. The head should be around 2/3 width of shoulders and 25 per cent wider at cheeks than at the base of the skull (this is due to the cheek muscles).
- The distance from the back of the head to between the eyes should be about equal to the distance from between the eyes to the tip of its nose.
- The dog should have a good depth from the top of head to bottom of jaw and a straight box-like muzzle.
- Its eyes should be small and deep-set, triangular when viewed from the side and elliptical from front.
- Its shoulders should be wider than the rib cage at the eighth rib.
- Its elbows should be flat with its front legs running parallel to the spine.
- Its forelegs should be heavy and solid and nearly twice the thickness of the hind legs just below the hock.
- The rib cage should be deep and spring straight out from the spine, it should be elliptical in cross section tapering at the bottom and not 'barrel' chested.
- It should have a tail that hangs down like an old fashioned 'pump handle' to around the hock.
- It should have a broad hip that allows good attachment of muscles in the hindquarters and hind legs.
- Its knee joint should be in the upper third of the dog's rear leg, and the bones below that should appear light, fine and springy.
- Overall the dog should have an athletic appearance, the standard makes no mention of ears, colour, height, or weight.

<sup>20</sup> See also R v Knightsbridge Crown Court ex p Dunne; Brock v DPP [1993]









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