

To Interested Parties on the attached list.

7 February 2008

Dear Sir or Madam

CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT DOG WELFARE CODE OF PRACTICE

I have enclosed a draft of our proposed welfare code on dogs and would welcome any comments or suggestions you may have. The purpose of this consultation is to ensure that the advice contained in the code is accurate, practical and realistic. The aim of the code is to provide basic information and guidance to those responsible for dogs on how to care for them.

I am very grateful to those individuals and organisations who have assisted in the preparation of the code.

This consultation seeks views on the style, layout and content of the code and the information, advice and guidance it contains. It is important that you give as much information and evidence as possible to support your opinion. This will help us improve the accuracy and quality of the code. Comments are welcome on any part of the code.

Comments on the draft code must be sent to the following address by **1 May 2008**.

Scott McDowell
Animal Welfare Policy Team
Room 350
Pentland House
47 Robb's Loan
EDINBURGH
EH14 1TY

By email to: animal.health@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

By fax to: 0131 244 6616

We need to know how you wish your response to be handled and, in particular, whether you are happy for your response to be made public. Please complete and return the Respondee Information Form (only required if you are providing a response) as this will ensure that we treat your response appropriately. If you ask for your response not to be published, we will regard it as confidential and we will treat it accordingly. All respondents should be aware that The Scottish Government is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. We would therefore have to consider any request made under that Act for information relating to this consultation exercise.

If you have any queries about this consultation please email or fax us as above, or call 0131 244 6182. Please let us know if you think anyone else should be consulted or feel free to copy and circulate the consultation to other interested parties or individuals.

If you would like further copies of this consultation, or the document in an alternative format, such as large print, Braille, audiotape or disc, or in a community language please use the contact details above. I expect that most respondents will find it easier to send in a written response, but if you would find it easier to respond in some other way (such as by telephone, audiotape or at a meeting) please contact us to make the necessary arrangements.

This consultation and all other Scottish Government consultation exercises can be viewed at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations>. You can telephone Freephone 0800 77 1234 to find out the location of your nearest Public Internet Access Point.

The Scottish Government now has an e-mail alert system for consultations (SEconsult). This system allows stakeholder individuals and organisations to register and receive a weekly e-mail containing details of all new consultations (including web links). SEconsult complements, but in no way replaces SE distribution lists, and is designed to allow stakeholders to keep up-to-date with all SE consultation activity, and therefore be alerted at the earliest opportunity to those of most interest. I would encourage you to register.

Consultation is an essential and important aspect of The Scottish Government working methods. Given the wide-ranging areas of work of The Scottish Government, there are many varied types of consultation. In general, however, consultation exercises aim to provide opportunities for all those who wish to express their opinions on a proposed area of work, to do so in ways which will inform and enhance that work. While details of particular circumstances described in a response to a consultation exercise may usefully inform the policy process, consultation exercises cannot address individual concerns and comments, which should be directed to the relevant public body.

The views and suggestions detailed in consultation responses are analysed and used as part of the decision making process. Depending on the nature of the consultation exercise, the responses received may:

- Indicate the need for policy development or review;
- Inform the development of a particular policy;
- Help decisions to be made between alternative policy proposals; and
- Be used to finalise legislation before it is implemented.

Where respondees have given permission for their response to be made public (via the Respondee Information Form) these will be made available to the public in The Scottish Government Library 20 working days after the close of the consultation. All responses, where agreement to publish has been given, will be checked for any potentially defamatory

material before being logged in the library or placed on the website. The library is located at Saughton House, K Spur, Broomhouse Drive, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD and you can make arrangements to view the responses by contacting the SE library on 0131 244 4565. Responses can be copied and sent to you but a charge may be made for this service.

If you have any comments about how this consultation exercise has been conducted, please send them to the response address above.

Yours faithfully



Ian W Strachan
Head of Animal Welfare Team

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT DOG CONSULTATION LIST

Aberdeen Assoc. for Prevention of Cruelty Animals
Aberdeen Canine Training Society
Aberdeen City Council, Chief Executive
Aberdeen City Council, Environmental Health
Aberdeenshire Council
Aberdeenshire Council, Chief Executive
Acorn Pet Centres Ltd
Action of Churches Together in Scotland (ACTS)
Advie Gundogs
Advocates for Animals
Afghan Hound Club of Scotland
AFTC (Animal Filming & Training Commission)
Aird Boarding Kennels
Airedale Terrier Club of Scotland
Akita Club of Scotland
Allandale Animal Sanctuary
Allers Farm Kennels
Amazing Animals
American Cocker Spaniel Club of Great Britain
Angus & Kincardineshire Canine Association
Angus Council, Chief Executive
Angus Council, Environmental & Consumer Prot.
Animal Aid
Animal Concern
Animal Consultants & Training Association
Animal Defenders
Animal Health Divisional Offices Scotland
Animal Health Trust
Animal Protection Agency
Animal Welfare Trust
Annan & District Dog Training Club
Annandale Canine Society
Anti-Docking Alliance
Aquithie Boarding
Arbroath Dog Obedience & Training Club
Argyll & Bute Council, Chief Executive
Argyll & Bute Council, Environmental Health
Argyll & Bute Council, Rothesay Harbour
Argyll Animal Aid
Arkelton Canine Training Services
Associate Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare
Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland
Association of Dog and Cat Homes
Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors
Association of Pet Dog Trainers (APDT)
Australian Shepherd Club of the United Kingdom
Australian Silky Terrier Club of Great Britain
Australian Terrier Club of Great Britain
Avon (Lanarkshire) Dog Agility Club
Ayrshire Collie Club
B. A. R. R. K
Balhall Riding Stables & Boarding Kennels
Bandeath Stray Dogs Shelter
Banff Aberdeen Rescue & Rehoming Kennels
Banff, Moray & Nairn Canine Rescue
Barns Pet Rescue Service
BASC Scotland
Basset Hound Club of Scotland
Beagle Club
Bearded Collie Club
Bearded Collie Club (Scottish Branch)
Bearded Collie Club of Scotland
Bearsden Dog Training Club
Bearsden Milngavie & District Dog Club
Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Scotland
Bernese Mountain Dog Rescue
Berwick Animal Rescue Kennels (B. A. R. K.)
Blaikiewell Animal Sanctuary
Blantyre Boarding Kennels
Blue Cross Animal Hospital
Bluebell Animal Rescue
Bon Accord Kennel Association
Border Terrier Club
Borders Animal Welfare Association
Borders Dog Training Club
Boston Terrier Club of Scotland
Bouvier Des Flandres Club of Great Britain
Bowhouse Dog Training Club
British Boxer Club
British Council of Docked Breeds
British Dog
British Greyhound Racing Board
British Greyhound Racing Fund
British Rottweiler Association
British Society of Animal Protection
British Society of Animal Science

British Society of Animal Science (BASA)
 British Utility Breeds Association
 Brittany Club of Great Britain
 Brooke Hospital for Animals
 Brown Street Kennels
 Broxburn Dog Training Club
 Bulldog Club of Scotland
 Bullmastiff Society of Scotland
 Burnbank Dog Training Club
 Burnside Farm
 C N O C Animal Agency
 Cairn Terrier Club
 Caithness Canine Club
 Caledonian Bulldog Club
 Caledonian Canine Society
 Caledonian Dandie Dinmont Terrier Club
 Cambuslang Dog Training Club
 Canine Concern Scotland Trust
 Canine Crisis Council
 Canine Lifeline UK
 Canine Partners
 Carrick District Canine Club
 Catholic Parliamentary Office
 Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club
 Cavalier Rescue
 Central Scotland Police
 Chihuahua Club of Scotland
 Chow Chow Club of Scotland
 Church of Scotland
 City of Edinburgh Council
 City of Edinburgh Council, Chief Executive
 Clackmannanshire Canine Club
 Clackmannanshire Council
 Clackmannanshire Council, Chief Executive
 Clumber Spaniel Club
 Clyde Valley German Shepherd Club
 Clydebank & District Canine Club
 Coatbridge Dog Training Club
 Cocker Spaniel Club of Scotland
 Collie Association
 Collie Rescue (Rough and Smooth)
 Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Chief Executive
 Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Health
 Companion Animal Behaviour Therapy Study Group
 Companion Animal Welfare Council
 Companion Care Ltd (Edinburgh)
 Companion Care Ltd (Livingston)
 Condorrat Dog Training Club
 Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA)
 Cowall and Mid Argyll Dog Training Club
 Crookfur Pet Health Centre
 Cumnock & District Canine Club
 Cupar Animal Trust Shelter
 Dalmation Club of Scotland
 Dandie Dinmont Terrier Club
 David Finlay Pet Health Care Centre (Grangemouth)
 Deerhound Club
 Deveron Dog Training Club
 Dobermann Club
 Dog Action Working Group Scotland (DAWGS)
 Dog Aid Society of Scotland
 Dog Breeders Association
 Dog House
 Dog Rescue Service
 Dog Training UK
 Dog Wodd Ltd
 Dogfence
 Doggoodies
 Dogs Aid (assistance in disability)
 Dogs Trust
 Dogs Trust (Harby)
 Dogs Trust (West Calder)
 Dogs Trust Glasgow
 Dogtra
 Drongan & District Canine Society
 Drumchapel Dog Training Club
 Dumfries & Galloway Canine Rescue Centre
 Dumfries & Galloway Canine Society
 Dumfries & Galloway Council
 Dumfries & Galloway Council, Chief Executive
 Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary
 Dumfriesshire Greyhound Rescue
 Dumyat Kennels
 Dundee Alsatian & Training Club
 Dundee Canine Club
 Dundee City Council, Chief Executive
 Dundee City Council, Environmental & Trading
 Dunfermline & District Dog Training Club
 Dyffor Dog Training Class
 East Ayrshire Council
 East Ayrshire Council, Chief Executive
 East Dunbartonshire Council
 East Dunbartonshire Council, Chief Executive
 East Dunbartonshire Council, Consumer Services
 East Kilbride Dog Training Club

East Lothian Council, Chief Executive
 East Lothian Council, Environmental
 Health
 East Lothian Dog Training Club
 East of Scotland Cocker Spaniel Club
 East Renfrewshire Council, Chief
 Executive
 East Renfrewshire Council, Environment
 East Scotland Canine Club
 Eastern St. Bernard Club
 Easterton Stables
 Edelfhof Kennels
 Edinburgh & District Dog Training Club
 Edinburgh and Lothian Kennels
 Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home
 Electronic Collar Manufacturers
 Association (ECMA)
 English Setter Rescue
 English Setter Society of Scotland
 English Springer Spaniel Club
 Eurogroup for Animal Welfare
 Fair City Dog Training Club
 Falkirk & District Canine Club
 Falkirk Council, Chief Executive
 Falkirk Council, Environmental Health
 Farplace Animal Rescue
 Federation of Companion Animal Societies
 Federation of Small Businesses
 Field Spaniel Society
 Fife Constabulary
 Fife Dog and Cat Register
 Fife Dog Rescue Society
 Fife German Shepherd Dog Club
 Fife Kennel Association
 Flatcoated Retriever Club of Scotland
 Forth and Tay Pekingese Club
 Fox Terrier Club
 Fox Terrier Club of Scotland
 Galashiels & Border District Canine
 Society
 Garnock & District Canine Club
 German Shepherd Dog Club of Scotland
 German Shepherd Dog Rescue for
 Scotland
 German Shorthaired Pointer Association
 German Shorthaired Pointer Club
 German Wirehaired Pointer Club
 Giant Schnauzer Club
 Give a Greyhound a Home
 Glasgow City Council, Chief Executive
 Glasgow City Council, Environmental
 Protection
 Glasgow Obedience Dog Training Club

Glen of Imaal Terrier Association
 Golden Retriever Club
 Golden Retriever Club of Scotland
 Good Citizen Dog Scheme,
 Gordon and District Gundog Club
 Gordon Setter Association
 Gordon Setter Club of Scotland
 Govan & District Dog Training Club
 Grampian Dog Sanctuary
 Grampian German Shepherd Dog
 Association
 Grampian Police
 Grantown Dog Rescue and Help a Pet
 Greenock & District Kennel Association
 Greyhound Action
 Greyhound Action Scotland
 Greyhound Awareness League
 Greyhounds UK
 Griffon Bruxellois Breeders Association
 GSD Club of Scotland
 Guide Dogs for the Blind association
 Gundog Breeds Association of Scotland
 Hamilton Canine Club
 Hamilton Dog Obedience Club
 Hawick & District Canine Society
 Hearing Dogs for Deaf People
 Hearing Dogs for the Deaf
 Helensburgh & District Canine Club
 Help Fife Animals
 Help for Abandoned Animals Sanctuary
 Highland Canine Association
 Highland Council, Chief Executive
 Highland Council, TEC Services
 Highland Gundog Club
 Highland Trekking & Trail Riding
 Holyrood Dog Obedience Training Club
 Home a Dog Association
 Home a Dog Campaign Association
 Hound Association of Scotland
 Independent Weimaraner Rescue
 Institute for Animal Health
 International Sheep Dog Society
 Inverclyde Council, Chief Executive
 Inverclyde Council, Environmental &
 Consumer
 Inverclyde Dog Training Club
 Inverdee Dog Training Class
 Irish Red and White Setter Club of
 Scotland
 Irish Setter Club of Scotland
 Irish Terrier Association
 Irish Terrier Club of Scotland
 Irish Water Spaniel Association

Irish Wolfhound Society
 Irvine & District Canine Club
 Irvine Valley Dog Training Society
 Italian Spinone Club of Great Britain
 Italian Spinone Society of Scotland
 Julie's Animal Rescue
 Just For Dogs
 Kennel Club
 Kerry Blue Terrier Association of NI
 Kerry Blue Terrier Club of England
 Kilmarnock & District Canine Club
 King Charles Spaniel Club
 Kirk Dog Training Club/Ladies' Kennel
 Kirkcaldy & District Canine Club
 Kirkwall Dog Training Club
 Knightswood Dog Training Club
 Labrador Club of Scotland
 Labrador Rehoming Co-ordination Service
 LACORS/COSLA
 Lakeland Terrier Club
 Lanarkshire Canine Training Society
 Land O' Burns Canine Club
 Larkhall & District Canine Club
 Last Chance Animal Rescue
 Leven & District Dog Training Club
 Lhasa Apso Club of Scotland
 Livingston Canine Society
 Lochaber & District Canine Society
 Lochindorb English Springers
 Lockerbie Dog Training Club
 Loreburn Dog Training Club
 Lothian and Borders Gundog Association
 Lothian and Borders Police
 Lothian Canine Club
 Lothian Dogs Home
 Lowland Counties Alsatian & Training Club
 MacDonald, Margo MSP
 Machars Canine
 Maltese Club of Scotland
 Mancunian Boxer Club
 Mansfield Woodhouse Fox Terrier Club
 Marchig Animal Welfare Trust
 Martin, David MEP
 Maxwelltown Dog Training Club
 Midland Counties German Shepherd Dog Assoc.
 Midlothian Council, Chief Executive
 Midlothian Council, Environmental Health
 Midlothian Dog Training Club
 Millvalley Australian Terriers
 Miniature Pinscher Club
 Miniature Schnauzer Club
 Monreith Animal World
 Moray Council, Chief Executive
 Moray Council, Environmental Health
 Moray Firth Spaniel & Ret. Training Club
 Mossburn Animal Centre
 Mountain Rescue Dogs
 Mountains Animal Shelter
 Mrs Murrays Home For Stray Dogs & Cats & Rehoming
 Munloch Animal Aid
 Musselburgh Dog Training & Agility Club
 National Animal Welfare Trust
 National Gundog Association
 National Office of Animal Health
 National Terrier Club
 National Working and Pastoral Breeds Society
 National Working Terrier Federation
 Neil, Alex MSP
 Neopolitan Mastiff Club
 Newfoundland Club
 Norfolk Terrier Club of Great Britain
 North Ayrshire Council, Chief Executive
 North Ayrshire Council, Trading Standards
 North Lanarkshire Council
 North Lanarkshire Council, Chief Executive
 North Lanarkshire Council, Planning & Environ.
 North of England Bearded Collie Club
 North of Scotland Gundog Association
 North of Scotland Pekingese Club
 North of Scotland S.B.T. Club
 North of Scotland S.B.T. Rescue
 North of Scotland Sheepdog Club
 North of Scotland Toy Dog Society
 Northern Belgian Shepherd Dog Club
 Northern Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Society
 Northern Constabulary
 Northern Constabulary, Orkney Area Command
 Northern Ireland Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club
 Northern Newfoundland Club
 Northern S.B.T. Rescue
 Northern Samoyed Society
 Norwegian Elkhound Association of Scotland
 Norwich Terrier Club
 Notts and Derby District Bull Terrier Club
 Old English Sheepdog Club
 Old English Sheepdog Club of Scotland
 Orkney Canine Association

Orkney Islands Council, Chief Executive
 Orkney Islands Council, Environmental Health
 Orkney Islands Council, Harbours Department
 PAC Collars
 Paisley District Canine Society
 Parson Russell Terrier Club
 Parti-Coloured Cocker Spaniel Club
 Paterson, M (Mr)
 PAWSI
 Pennine Great Dane Club
 People's Dispensary for Sick Animals (PDSA)
 Perth & Kinross Council, Chief Executive
 Perth & Kinross Council, Environment Service
 Perth & Kinross Council, Trading Standards
 Perthshire Abandoned Dog Society Ltd
 Perthshire Canine Club
 Pet & Animal Welfare Support Service (PAWSS)
 Pet Advisory Committee
 Pet Care Trust
 Pet City
 Pet Fostering Service Scotland
 Pet Fostering Service Scotland/ H.S.A
 Pet Health Council
 Pet Training Courses
 PetFence Ltd
 Petplan
 Pets As Therapy
 Pets at Home Ltd
 Petsearch
 Petsearch UK (Solihull)
 Pets'n'Vets
 Pet-Supermarket
 Pet-Tacular
 Pointer Club of Scotland
 Polish Lowland Sheepdog Club
 Political Fund for Animal Welfare
 Poodle Club
 Poodle Club of Scotland
 Prevent Unwanted Pets
 Puppy Rescue
 Purvis, John MEP
 Pyrenean Mountain Dog Rescue Scotland
 Pyrenean Sheepdog Club of Great Britain
 RAF Leuchars
 Renfrewshire Council, Chief Executive
 Renfrewshire Council, Public & Environmental
 Rescue, Rehoming & Research in Bedlington
 Respect for Animals
 Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of Scotland
 Ross & Cromarty Canine Club
 Rottweiler Club
 Rough Water Retrievers, Bruce MacPherson
 Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies
 Royal (Dick) Veterinary School
 Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland
 Rural Affairs and Environment Committee
 S B & Co.
 Sam G. Thomson, Farrier Services
 Samoyed Association
 Samoyed Association (Scottish Branch)
 Samoyed Breeders & Owners League
 Samoyed Rescue
 Schnauzer Club of Great Britain
 Scotia Dog Training Club
 Scottish Beagle Club
 Scottish Border Collie Club
 Scottish Border Collie Rescue
 Scottish Border Terrier Club
 Scottish Borders Council
 Scottish Borders Council, Chief Executive
 Scottish Borders Council, Corporate Resources
 Scottish Borders Council, Trading Standards
 Scottish Boxer Club
 Scottish Breeds Canine Club
 Scottish Bull Terrier Club
 Scottish Canine Consultative Council
 Scottish Cavalier K C Spaniel Club
 Scottish Churches Parliament Office
 Scottish Collie Club
 Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party
 Scottish Countryside Alliance
 Scottish Dachshund Club
 Scottish Equestrian Association
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 Scottish Government Veterinary Division
 Scottish Great Dane Club
 Scottish Green Party
 Scottish Gundog Association
 Scottish Inter Faith Council
 Scottish Kennel Club
 Scottish Labour Party

Scottish Liberal Democrats
 Scottish National Party
 Scottish Newfoundland Club
 Scottish Parliament European Committee
 Scottish Pekingese Association
 Scottish Pointer Rescue
 Scottish Police Federation
 Scottish Pomeranian club
 Scottish Pug Dog Club
 Scottish Rottweiler Club
 Scottish Rottweiler Rescue
 Scottish S.B.T Rescue
 Scottish Shetland Sheepdog Club
 Scottish Shetland Sheepdog Rescue
 Scottish Siberian Husky Club
 Scottish Socialist Party
 Scottish SPCA
 Scottish Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club
 Scottish Staffordshire Bull Terrier Rescue
 Scottish Terrier Club (Scotland)
 Scottish Toy Dog Society
 Scottish Utility Breeds Club
 Sealyham Terriers Breeder Association
 Search and Rescue Dog Association
 Second Chance Animal Trust
 Second Chance Association
 Second Chance Kennels
 Selkirk and District Canine Association
 Shetland Animal Health Trust
 Shetland Dog Club
 Shetland Islands Council
 Shetland Islands Council, Chief Executive
 Shih Tzu Club of Scotland
 Shotts All Breeds Training Club.
 Siberian Husky Club of Great Britain
 Skye Terrier Club
 Smooth Collie Club of Great Britain
 Society for Companion Animal Studies
 Society of Border Leicester Sheep
 Breeders
 Society of Chief Officers of Trading
 Standards in
 Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of GB
 Solid Colours Cocker Spaniel Association
 South Ayrshire Council- Animal Health
 South Ayrshire Council, Chief Executive
 South Ayrshire Council, Environmental
 Health
 South Ayrshire Council, Trading Standards
 South Lanarkshire Council, Chief
 Executive
 South Lanarkshire Council, Consumer &
 South of Scotland German Shepherd & All
 Breeds
 South of Scotland GSD & ABTC
 South West Scotland Gundog Association
 Southern Counties Canine Association
 Spey Valley Dog Training Club
 SPICe (5 Copies)
 St Andrew Animal Fund Ltd
 St Andrews Cupar & District Canine
 Society
 St Bernard Club of Scotland
 St Mirren Dog Training Club
 Staffordshire Bull Terrier Rescue
 Stevenson, Struan MEP
 Stewartry Dog Training Club
 Stihler, Catherine MEP
 Stirling Council, Chief Executive
 Stirling Council, Environmental Health
 Stirling Council, Environmental Health
 Stranraer & District Animal Trust
 Strathclyde Police
 Strathkelvin Dog Training Club
 Strathmore Working Gundog Club
 Strathspey Canine Club
 Sussex Spaniel Association
 Swedish Vallhund Society
 Tay Valley Gundog Association
 Tayside Lochee & District Canine Club
 Tayside Police
 Terrier Club of Scotland
 The Griffon Bruxellois Club of Scotland
 The Scottish Doberman Club
 The Scottish Shetland Sheepdog Club
 The Scottish Spaniel Club
 The Welsh Doberman Club
 Thoroughbred Breeders Association
 Tibetan Spaniel Club of Scotland
 Training Collars Owners Group (TCOG)
 Tweedbank Dog Training Club
 UK National German Shephard Dog Help
 Line
 United Gordon Setter Rescue
 United Kingdom Toydog Society
 Universities Federation for Animal Welfare
 University of Aberdeen
 University of Aberdeen, School of Law
 Upperward of Lanarkshire Canine Society
 Waverley Gundog Association
 Weimaraner Association
 Weimaraner Club of Great Britain
 Weimaraner Club of Scotland
 Welsh Corgi Club
 Welsh Corgi League/Scottish Section

Welsh Springer Spaniel Club
Welsh Terrier Club
West Dunbartonshire Council, Chief
Executive
West Dunbartonshire Council,
Environmental Service
West Highland White Terrier Club
West Lothian Canine Society
West Lothian Council, Chief Executive

West Lothian Council, Environmental
Health
Whippet Club of Scotland
Willows Animal Sanctuary
Wire Fox Terrier Association
Wood Green Animal Shelters
World Animal Net
Yorkshire Terrier Club of Scotland

RESPONDENT INFORMATION FORM: DRAFT DOG WELFARE CODE OF PRACTICE

Please complete the details below and return it with your response. This will help ensure we handle your response appropriately. Thank you for your help.

Name:

Postal Address:

1. Are you responding: (please tick one line)

(a) as an individual go to Q2a/b and then Q4

(b) **on behalf of** a group/organisation go to Q3 and then Q4

INDIVIDUALS

2a. Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in The Scottish Government library and/or on The Scottish Government website)?

Yes Go to Question 2b

No we will treat your response as confidential. Go to Question 4.

2b. **Where confidentiality is not requested**, we will make your response available to the public on the following basis (please tick one of the following boxes)

Yes, make my response, name and address all available

Yes, make my response available, but not my name or address

Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address

ON BEHALF OF GROUPS OR ORGANISATIONS:

3. The name and address of your organisation **will be made available to the public** (in The Scottish Government library and/or on The Scottish Government website). Are you also content for your **response** to be made available?

Yes

No We will treat your response as confidential

SHARING RESPONSES/FUTURE ENGAGEMENT

4 We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for The Scottish Government to contact you in the future in relation to this consultation response?

Yes No

Consultation on the Draft Dog Welfare Code of Practice

A Consultation Document issued by the Rural Directorate of the Scottish Government

7 February 2008

**Consultation on the Draft Dog Welfare Code
of Practice**

**A Consultation Document issued by the Rural
Directorate of the Scottish Government**

7 February 2008

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Preface

The aim of this code is to help you to look after your dog properly. Under the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 (“the Act”), if you own or are in charge of an animal, you have a legal duty to take reasonable steps to ensure its welfare. This code explains what you need to do to meet the standard of care the law requires. The legislation quoted in boxes at the end of this document is included to highlight the relevant legal requirements.

If you are a parent or guardian of a child less than 16 years old, you are responsible for the child’s animals, even if the animals are registered in the child’s name.

Breach of a provision of the code, whilst not an offence in itself, can be used in evidence where somebody has been accused of an offence under the Act. Equally the code can be quoted by anyone who has acted in accordance with its provisions, as a defence against any prosecution under the Act. You should also be aware that failure to meet your ‘duty of care’ may result in unnecessary suffering, which could lead to the more serious offence of cruelty under the Act.

This code applies in Scotland only and has been issued by the Scottish Ministers, following its approval in draft by the Scottish Parliament. It covers all domestic dogs.

A dog under veterinary supervision may have additional or special needs resulting from treatment which will supersede the requirements of this code.

You will also find reference in the code to ‘pet care specialists’. These are people who, through qualification or experience, can provide expert advice on welfare and some aspects of health for one or more types of pet animal. Examples are animal behaviourists, veterinary nurses and dedicated welfare organisations.

To find out more about the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 and details of your responsibilities under it, see Appendix 1 at the end of this code. For further links, including links to other sources of information, see Appendix 2.

You should be aware that the legislation cited in the code and Appendix 1 is correct at the date of issue but may be subject to subsequent change.

This preface is not part of the code but is intended to explain its purpose and broad aims. Similarly Appendix 1, which provides information on the relevant legal requirements and Appendix 2, which lists some additional sources of information, are not part of the code itself.

CODE OF PRACTICE

Introduction

1. This code of practice is issued under section 37 of the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 (the “Act”)

2. Section 24 of the Act states that:

“A person commits an offence if the person does not take such steps as are reasonable in the circumstances to ensure that the needs of an animal for which the person is responsible are met to the extent required by good practice”.

Thus animal owners and keepers have a legal duty of care for the animals for which they are responsible.

3. The duty of care placed on an animal owner or keeper is based on the ‘Five Freedoms’ and include:

- its need for a suitable environment;
- its need for a suitable diet;
- its need to be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns;
- any need it has to be housed with, or apart from, other animals, and
- its need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease.

4. These needs are explained in more detail in this code, however, your dog may have other needs that should also be met to ensure its welfare. If you are unsure what these might be, seek advice from a veterinary surgeon, a pet care specialist or a professional organisation such as the Scottish SPCA, the Dogs Trust or one of the other dog welfare charities. Some of the main organisations are listed in Appendix 2.

5. People are responsible for an animal if they own or are in charge of it. An owner has ongoing responsibility for their animal even if it is in the care of another person. If you are the parent or guardian of a child under 16 years old, you are responsible for any animal that youngster is in charge of or owns. This ensures that an adult can normally be identified as having responsibly for an animal.

6. Responsibility for an animal includes having an understanding of the specific health and welfare needs of the animal and having the appropriate knowledge and skills to care for the animal. Those responsible for animals will also have to be aware of and comply with the legislation and codes, and to know when to seek qualified advice and help.

7. Every animal is different and as you get to know your dog, you will recognise familiar characteristics. Observing your dog enables you to judge whether it is relaxed, healthy and comfortable. It is important that you are able to recognise any changes in behaviour, as these might show that your dog is distressed, ill, or is not having its needs met in some other way.

8. You control your dog's lifestyle, such as the amount of time it spends indoors and the exercise it receives. It is your responsibility to make sure that its needs are met, whatever the circumstances.

9. If you are worried about your dog, or you would like further advice about how to look after it and any future health care programme, vets or professional organisations are the best source of advice to help you.

SECTION 1

THE NEED FOR A SUITABLE ENVIRONMENT

1.1. This section offers guidance on providing your dog with a suitable place to live.

Sleeping and resting areas

Provide a resting area with constant access and where your dog will feel secure

1.2. Dogs need:

- their own bed, with comfortable bedding, to which they can retire and which should be sited in a quiet place;
- their bed to be placed in a dry, draught-free area;
- their bedding to be regularly cleaned, washed or removed and replaced;
- a bed with no sharp corners or splinters as these may cause injury.

Keeping a dog outside

1.3. If your dog is to be kept outside the home there are a number of additional considerations that should be taken into account. These include:

- security;
- adequate comfort and shelter;
- companionship and interaction;
- injury;
- nuisance to neighbours.

1.4. The environment that your dog is kept in should be absolutely secure with good quality fencing to prevent it from escaping or roaming and to prevent the intrusion of other animals, unwelcome visitors, or even theft. You should not keep your dog tethered other than for short periods where this proves necessary.

1.5. When considering the type of fencing, consideration should be given to the size and weight of your dog and its ability to escape by jumping, climbing or digging. Gates should be secured with good quality fixings to ensure that they cannot be accidentally unfastened. Further, there should be no sharp edges on any surface that could cause your dog injury.

1.6. Outside housing should consist of a kennel and run and there should be protection from adverse weather conditions including heat, cold and damp. The kennel should be large enough for your dog to lie comfortably both in and beside its bed and it should be provided with clean comfortable bedding.

1.7. Any area that you provide for your dog should be large enough for it to stretch, walk and turn around and the run should be large enough for it to be able to relieve itself without needing to walk through the soiled area to return to its kennel. All faeces and urine should be removed at least daily and the run should be regularly cleaned.

1.8. Dogs that are kept outside and away from people or other animals, and denied mental stimulation, can suffer emotional problems such as excessive chewing or other unusual behaviours. Therefore, care should be taken to ensure that your dog is provided with enough company, exercise or other stimulation to ensure that it remains well balanced and free from stress. You should also regularly visit your dog to ensure that it receives social interaction and to check on its welfare.

1.9. Company may be provided by keeping a second dog. You should, however, give this careful thought before taking such action as some dogs do not like or seek the company of other animals. Keeping another dog is not an alternative to providing regular exercise outside the living area.

1.10 You should also remember that dogs kept outside may react to sights and sounds that they may not normally see or hear inside the home. Your dog may bark, howl or cry for extended periods if it is bored or stressed and this can cause a nuisance to your neighbours.

Exercise

Your dog should receive a suitable amount of exercise

1.11. The amount of exercise your dog needs will vary according to its age and breed. For example, as your dog gets older it may prefer a more sedentary life, or your vet may recommend a restricted exercise regime, where physical exercise may be replaced by toys for mental stimulation.

1.12. If you over exercise a growing puppy, you can damage its developing joints, but obviously puppies need sufficient exercise to provide

outlets for their physical and mental energy. If you are in any doubt about what exercise your puppy needs, seek professional advice.

1.13. Your puppy is not fully protected from disease when it is first vaccinated. Always ask your vet when it will be fully protected, and do not exercise it outside your home until then.

1.14. It is important to keep your dog on a lead in a built-up area and when near livestock; not only are there dangers from the traffic, but also from other dogs. Only let it off the lead when you are sure that it is safe and legal to do so. It is also important to train it to return to you when called.

1.15. You should also avoid walking your dog during periods when it is particularly hot. Early morning or in the evening are the best times to walk your pet during periods of hot weather.

Hygiene

1.16. Part of providing a suitable environment is making sure that it is safe, clean and hygienic. It is good hygiene practice to clean up after your dog at home using a plastic bag or 'pooper scooper' and to dispose of any faeces in the waste bin, particularly where there are children around. This not only makes the environment cleaner, but also helps to prevent the potential spread of disease.

Boredom and frustration

Your dog should have plenty of things to stimulate it mentally

1.17. Dogs are social animals with active minds and so they need mental stimulation to be happy. This can be provided by contact with humans or another dog, by providing toys to play with or an environment where a lot is going on. However, this should not be too overwhelming.

1.18. Interacting with your dog by playing games using appropriate toys will provide the best mental stimulation for it. It is not advisable, however, to leave it alone with flimsy toys, especially if it chews very vigorously, as swallowing small parts of them could lead to serious intestinal problems. Toys should be checked regularly to ensure they are not dirty or damaged. Changing them often means that your dog will not become bored with an individual toy.

Household hazards

1.19. Dogs, and especially inquisitive puppies, may eat things that are poisonous to them. Some examples are:

- poisonous plants. Such plants should be avoided or placed where your dog cannot reach them. Make sure that any large plants are in a stable container that cannot be knocked over;
- poisonous chemicals. A dog may drink or eat poisonous substances either by accident or because they find them palatable. Such chemicals should be kept out of reach and any spillages cleaned up immediately. For example, some commonly used slug pellets are poisonous but may be attractive to dogs;
- medicines intended for people or other animals. It is important that your dog is only given medicines that have been specifically prescribed or advised by your vet.

You should always consult your vet if you are concerned that your dog has come into contact with anything that could be harmful.

When travelling

Make sure your dog is transported safely

1.20. Dogs are regularly transported by car or other vehicles.

During transportation:

- when in a vehicle make sure your dog(s) are suitably restrained so they cannot distract you while you are driving or injure you, or themselves, if you stop quickly. A seat belt harness, dog cage of adequate size and good ventilation or dog guard are ways of restraining animals in cars. You should ensure, however, that when securing your dog in a restricted area, it is not constantly subjected to direct sunlight;
- on long journeys you should regularly offer your dog water and where necessary food. Remember to give your dog the opportunity to relieve itself.

Your dog should never be left alone in a vehicle in warm weather

1.21. Dogs should **never** be left unattended in a car or other vehicle in warm weather. **This can be life threatening.** The temperature in the vehicle can become very high extremely quickly even when the car windows are left open and cause heat stroke or death. However, when using specifically designed boot gates the car boot can safely be left open allowing full air circulation.

When you are away from home

You must arrange for your dog to be cared for if you are away from home

1.22. You have a responsibility to make sure that your dog is cared for properly if you are unable to take it with you. This may be done by a dog sitter who lives in your home while you are away, somebody licensed to board dogs or by taking your dog to stay with a friend or relative who knows how to look after it.

1.23. When someone else is looking after your dog they are responsible for its welfare and you should ensure that they understand its needs and any special requirements that it may have.

1.24. A dog should not be routinely left on its own for more than a few hours during the day as they are likely to become bored, leading to barking or destructive behaviour. Many animal welfare organisations recommend a maximum of four hours. A possible solution if you are regularly away from home is to employ a responsible dog walker and you should remember that it is an offence to allow your dog to roam. However, the length of time which dogs can be left will depend on the individual dog. Therefore, it is important for you to get to know your dog and when it shows signs of stress.

SECTION 2

THE NEED FOR A SUITABLE DIET

Your dog must have a balanced diet that meets its nutritional needs

2.1. To keep your dog healthy it is essential to provide it with a nutritionally balanced diet from early in its life. This will ensure it receives essential nutrients in the correct quantities. A good diet can help prevent the effects of many diseases.

2.2. Dogs need a high quality protein, fat and carbohydrate diet which can either be given in the form of prepared foods or home-made meals. When feeding prepared foods, you should follow the food manufacturer's instructions closely and avoid feeding your dog between meals.

2.3. An alternative to a prepared dog food is a home-made diet. Unlike cats, dogs are not totally carnivorous and will, therefore, enjoy some green vegetables added to their food. Providing a home-made diet requires a good understanding of your dog's nutritional needs and if you choose to feed it this way you should obtain advice from your vet or pet-care specialist.

2.4. Dogs should not be given more food than they need as overeating leads to obesity. Remember that if you are using food rewards for training purposes you may unwittingly overfeed your pet. You will need to adjust the amount of food your dog has at meal times to take this into account.

2.5. It is important that your dog has the correct diet in appropriate portions and, if you have more than one dog, that each is fed according to its needs. You should also clear away any uneaten food after each mealtime.

2.6. Leave your dog in peace while it is eating as disturbing it or repeatedly taking its food bowl away can cause anxiety and may lead to food related aggression.










A dog's healthy weight

Your dog should not be too fat or too thin

2.7. **An obese dog is an unhealthy dog** and pet obesity is the most frequent nutritional problem seen by vets. If a dog eats too much and exercises too little, it will put on weight leading to a reduced quality of life. Obesity can also lead to health problems such as heart disease and diabetes.

2.8. An underweight dog may also be ill so you should know the best weight for your pet and try to make sure that this stays approximately the same throughout its adult life. Ideally you should just be able to feel its ribs and clearly see its waist when viewed from above. Below is a body scoring chart that may help you but, if in doubt, ask your vet whether your dog is within its correct weight range.

BODY CONDITION SYSTEM

| | | | | |
|------------------|----------|---|--|----------|
| TOO THIN | 1 | Ribs, lumbar vertebrae, pelvic bones and all bony prominences evident from a distance. No discernible body fat. Obvious loss of muscle mass. |  | 1 |
| | 2 | Ribs, lumbar vertebrae and pelvic bones easily visible. No palpable fat. Some evidence of other bony prominence. Minimal loss of muscle mass. |  | 2 |
| | 3 | Ribs easily palpated and may be visible with no palpable fat. Tops of lumbar vertebrae visible. Pelvic bones becoming prominent. Obvious waist and abdominal tuck. |  | 3 |
| IDEAL | 4 | Ribs easily palpable, with minimal fat covering. Waist easily noted, viewed from above. Abdominal tuck evident. |  | 4 |
| | 5 | Ribs palpable without excess fat covering. Waist observed behind ribs when viewed from above. Abdomen tucked up when viewed from side. |  | 5 |
| TOO HEAVY | 6 | Ribs palpable with slight excess fat covering. Waist is discernible viewed from above but is not prominent. Abdominal tuck apparent. |  | 6 |
| | 7 | Ribs palpable with difficulty; heavy fat cover. Noticeable fat deposits over lumbar area and base of tail. Waist absent or barely visible. Abdominal tuck may be present. |  | 7 |
| | 8 | Ribs not palpable under very heavy fat cover, or palpable only with significant pressure. Heavy fat deposits over lumbar area and base of tail. Waist absent. No abdominal tuck. Obvious abdominal distention may be present. |  | 8 |
| | 9 | Massive fat deposits over thorax, spine and base of tail. Waist and abdominal tuck absent. Fat deposits on neck and limbs. Obvious abdominal distention. |  | 9 |

The BODY CONDITION SYSTEM was developed at the Nestlé Purina Pet Care Centre and has been validated as documented in the following publications:
 Muehle D, Ritzges JM, Mayer J, et al. Comparison of body fat estimates by dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry and dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry in client-owned dogs. *Compendium* 2011; 23 (NA): 20
 Leflornis DP. Development and Validation of a Body Condition Score System for Dogs. *Canine Practice* July/August 2007; 22:10-15
 * Grub, et al. Effects of Diet Restriction on Life Span and Age-Related Changes in Dogs. *JAVMA* 2002; 228:1715-1720

PURINA
PROPLAN

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How often to feed your dog

2.9. The number of meals will depend upon the age of your dog and how much work or exercise it takes. Generally, it is better to feed an adult dog twice a day rather than the traditional once. This is because:

- a dog will be less hungry after 12 hours compared to 24 and therefore will eat its food more slowly;
- a second meal adds interest to the day, reducing boredom;
- having two meals a day generally reduces the number of extra titbits given;
- two meals will be easier for your dog to digest than one.

2.10. If you do feed your pet twice a day, the food may be divided up into two equal portions, or a third and two-thirds division. Part of the diet may also be offered in dried food 'puzzle feeders' that release food gradually and so provide mental stimulation for dogs indoors.

2.11. If you have more than one dog it is important to give each animal sufficient room so that it can eat without being disturbed.

2.12. If your dog stops eating it may be a sign of illness. You should consult your vet if the problem persists or if there are other signs of disease.

Other dietary needs

2.13. Dogs that are pregnant, feeding their puppies, ill, old or young may well have different dietary needs from the average healthy adult dog. Specially formulated life-stage foods are available on the market to address these varying nutritional needs. Your vet is the best person to advise you about the care of your dog in these circumstances.

2.14. Puppies require about two and half times as many calories per kilogram bodyweight as an adult dog while they are growing. Food for this age group should be higher in calories, protein and other necessary nutrients.

2.15. You should avoid feeding your dog immediately before travelling, to avoid travel sickness, or within an hour before or after vigorous exercise as this can lead to bloating.

2.16. If you need to change your dog's diet, do it gradually, over a week or so, unless your vet tells you otherwise.

Your dog should have access to fresh water at all times

2.17. Your dog should always have access to fresh clean water from a clean bowl. This is essential for all dogs unless your vet tells you differently. Many dogs may not drink large amounts but their thirst may increase in hot weather or if you feed dried food. Changes in the amount of water your dog drinks may also indicate illness

SECTION 3

THE NEED TO BE ABLE TO EXHIBIT NORMAL BEHAVIOUR PATTERNS

Puppies: early experiences and socialisation

3.1. Socialisation with people, dogs and other animals is an essential part of early learning. The important period of learning is from approximately 3 weeks to 8 weeks of age and therefore it is essential that you obtain your puppy from an environment where its behavioural needs have been well catered for. The first few weeks when your puppy is in your home are also very important in terms of it learning how to react to other dogs, people and the environment. It will also learn to interact and understand how dogs communicate with each other by mixing with them, and your vet will tell you when it is safe to allow this. Your dog should continue to have a range of social and environmental stimuli throughout its life.

3.2. Your puppy should be carefully introduced to as wide a range of noises, objects, other animals and people as possible. If puppies learn at an early age that these items are not a threat, then they will probably be happy in their presence for the rest of their lives. However, it is important not to overwhelm your puppy, and you should always allow it an escape route from things that it finds frightening and stressful. Forcing your puppy to interact may lead to behavioural problems so it is important to make situations as relaxed and positive as possible so that it wants to investigate and interact.

3.3. A puppy needs long periods of rest to develop a healthy body and temperament. A sleeping puppy should not be disturbed but allowed to awaken naturally.

3.4. The veterinary practice where you have chosen to register may run 'puppy parties' for owners to seek advice about how to care for their new puppy and you could ask about this at your first appointment.

Training your dog

Your dog should be well trained

3.5 Social training is important from an early age. It is easier to change the behaviour of a puppy that nips than to deal with a dog that bites.

3.6. Training a dog of any age should begin with simple tasks such as teaching it to respond to its name and to come when called. It is important to be consistent and positive when training your dog; using the same words as commands and responding to it in the same way every time will help it to learn more quickly and will avoid confusion.

3.7. Reward good behaviour with something that your dog finds enjoyable (such as play, food or attention) and make sure that you respond immediately. These positive training methods are based on a dog's natural willingness to obey. You should avoid punishment when training your dog as it teaches response out of fear; this is bad for its welfare and can cause behavioural problems later in its life.

3.8. As puppies have very short attention spans, it is best to train them for short periods on a regular basis. They also respond far better to cheerful voice tones rather than threatening orders. Take every opportunity to praise your puppy for good manners.

3.9. Good dog-training classes can show you positive training techniques that can prevent and correct different types of unwanted behaviour. There are a number of suitable training schemes.

Toilet training

3.10. Toilet training is an essential part of early learning. If your dog is introduced to a suitable outdoor location early on, and is rewarded for using this as a toilet area, it will use it as a matter of routine. Do not punish your dog when it makes a mistake as this can make it fearful and lead to problems later on in its life. There are many available sources of useful information about toilet training your puppy (see Appendix 2 - Sources of Information).

3.11. A dog owner, or the person responsible or in charge of the dog, has a legal obligation (the Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003) to clean up after their dog (use either a 'pooper scooper' or a plastic bag) when in a public place and dispose of dog faeces in bins provided.

Signs of stress

Observe your dog closely for signs of stress or changes in behaviour

3.12. Dogs will generally convey contentment through looking calm and relaxed; they will be happy to approach and interact with people, dogs and other animals. It is important that you recognise any changes in the behaviour of your dog as this may indicate stress, which can vary from dog to dog.

3.13. Signs of stress include:

- panting, salivation, licking of the lips;
- excessive activity, such as pacing around;
- fouling or urinating indoors;
- barking;
- excessively seeking out contact, both with people and other pets;
- hiding or cowering;
- flattening the ears and lowering the tail;
- yawning, unless tired.

3.14. Some of the above may also be signs of illness, however, if you are concerned, you should contact your vet who will be able to advise you on the best course of action. This may include referring you to an animal behaviourist.

Identification, Collars and Leads

Your dog must wear a collar and identity tag when in a public place and should also be permanently identified

3.15. There are many different collars and leads available and it is important you choose a collar that fits your pet correctly. Your dog must wear a collar and the collar must carry a tag with your name and address and, if possible, a contact telephone number on it (Control of Dogs Order 1992).

3.16. It is also recommended that you have your dog microchipped by a suitably qualified person. A microchip is a tiny computer chip, about the size of a grain of rice, that contains a unique indelible identification number. It is injected under the skin of an animal by a vet or a trained pet care specialist and the owner's details are kept on a database. If your dog is lost or stolen, when it is found the 'chip' can be scanned by a vet, dog warden or rescue centre and this will help you to be re-united with your pet. However, even if microchipped, your dog will still have to wear a collar and tag.

What to do if your dog is missing

3.17. You should contact the police and local authority dog wardens who are responsible for dealing with stray dogs. As dogs can travel for some distance vets and animal rescue centres in a wide area should be contacted. It may also be worthwhile putting up notices in the area.

Reproductive Behaviour

You should give careful consideration to the pros and cons of neutering your dog

3.18. Reproduction is one aspect of a dog's natural behaviour. You should, however, consider whether or not to have your dog neutered and you will need to decide how to avoid unwanted pregnancies if you decide not to neuter your pet. Your vet will be able to discuss the best course of action with you, including alternatives to neutering, taking into account all of the different factors associated with your dog's care (also see section 5).

SECTION 4

ANY NEED TO BE HOUSED WITH, OR APART FROM OTHER ANIMALS

Relations with other dogs

Your dog should be able to interact safely with dogs and other pets

4.1. Dogs learn 'good manners' by interacting with other dogs. All dogs learn social skills from other dogs which is why it is important for your puppy to socialise with good-tempered adult dogs, within a secure and safe environment.

Owning more than one dog

4.2. Owners should think carefully about the size of their property and the financial and time implications of having more than one dog. It is also important to take into account your dog's likely acceptance of other dogs within its home territory. Your vet or pet-care specialist will be able to offer further advice on this.

Relations with other animals and the environment

Be aware of how your dog reacts to people and other animals

4.3. Children, and adults who are not familiar with dogs, need to be aware that a dog should not be disturbed when resting, sleeping or eating, nor should it be forced to play or be carried around. Such interaction can encourage aggressive behaviour. There are various programmes available to teach children how to interact and play correctly with dogs (See Appendix 2).

4.4. You should also be aware of how your dog responds to unfamiliar dogs, cats and other animals and keep it under suitable control if it does not mix well with other pets.

SECTION 5

THE NEED TO BE PROTECTED FROM PAIN, SUFFERING, INJURY AND DISEASE

Make sure you receive regular health care advice about your dog

5.1. Good health is an essential part of good dog welfare. Your vet is the best person to advise you about routine health care, such as neutering, vaccination and internal and external parasite control, as well as any health problems it may have.

5.2. As the person responsible for your pet's welfare you need to consider:

- prevention of disease. There are various vaccinations that are designed to protect your dog from certain diseases;
- prevention of parasite problems. Many worming and flea preparations are available and your vet or pet care specialist will be able to advise you on which are most suitable;
- provision of a healthy, balanced diet (see section 2);
- provision of the right environment that minimises the risk of injury and disease (see section 1);
- prompt action if your dog becomes ill or begins to behave in an unusual way;
- good dental hygiene.

Obtaining a dog

Always obtain your dog from a reputable source

5.3. The future health and welfare of your dog may be affected by the circumstances under which it was bred. Not all dogs are bred with appropriate care for their physical and behavioural well-being and health. It is best to take advice from your vet or other relevant organisations (see Appendix 2) about where to obtain your dog. This will help to ensure that it is fit, healthy and of good quality.

5.4. You should check as far as is possible with the breeder, pet shop, rescue centre or sanctuary:

- that the dog's parents have been appropriately screened for inherited defects commonly found in the breed (for example, hip scores for hip dysplasia or eye screening for inherited eye conditions); and
- where available, the dog's medical history and background.

This will give you information to help you be sure that you are able to meet its needs. Some rescue dogs for example require special care. However, this information is less likely to be available for dogs from sanctuaries and rescue shelters.

5.5. Take your new dog or puppy to a veterinary surgeon for general health care advice within a couple of days of welcoming it into your home. Follow your vet's advice about continuing healthcare throughout its life.

Illness

Be aware of the signs of illness and
if you notice any of them contact your vet

5.6. It is important that you are aware of the signs of illness and that you consult a vet if your dog shows these or a change in its behaviour.

A healthy dog or puppy will:

- be alert, active and bright eyed, responsive to sounds and the world around it;
- have no signs of discharge around its eyes, mouth and nostrils;
- be breathing quietly and regularly with no coughing;
- have a clean skin, with no lumps, bumps or sores;
- have a coat that is clean, glossy and free from parasites, loose hairs and dirt;
- have no signs of diarrhoea around its tail;
- show no signs of limping;
- have healthy gums and clean teeth, free from tartar

Indications of illness include:

- sickness and diarrhoea;
- lack of appetite;
- drinking much more or less than normal;
- lack of energy;
- unusual swellings;
- skin conditions;
- limping;
- coughing;
- unusual bleeding;
- signs of pain, such as sensitivity to touch.

5.7. This list is not exhaustive and any change in your dog's behaviour should alert you to the possibility that it may be ill. If you think that there is anything wrong with your dog, call your veterinary practice for advice.

Neutering

5.8. This subject is discussed in section 3. Although there is much debate as to whether it is appropriate to neuter a dog, there is evidence that neutering has some positive health benefits:

- neutered bitches will not develop a life threatening womb infection called pyometra;
- neutered bitches are thought to be less prone to mammary tumours;
- neutering male dogs prevents testicular cancer;
- neutering male dogs may help prevent some unwanted behaviours such as inappropriate mounting, aggression and straying;
- un-neutered animals which are prevented from breeding may suffer frustration leading to behavioural problems.

5.9. If you decide not to have your dog neutered and wish to breed from it, there are a number of considerations to be taken into account which include:

- finding suitable homes for the puppies;
- health screening to ensure that the parents do not carry any inherited defects which may be passed on to their offspring.

You will also need to consider the potential problem of unplanned matings.

You should ensure your dog's coat and teeth are properly maintained

Grooming

5.10. A long-haired dog will need more coat attention than a short-haired one, and will need grooming daily to keep its coat free from matts and tangles. However, all dogs need regular grooming and the occasional bath to keep their skin and coats well maintained. You will need a brush and comb suited to your dog's type of coat. A pet care specialist will be able to advise you about coat care.

Dental care

5.11. Care of your dog's teeth should be part of its routine grooming schedule. Special canine toothpaste and brushes are recommended for daily use and are now widely available from vets and pet shops. There are also special dental chews and toys that can also help keep your dog's teeth and gums healthy.

Euthanasia

5.12. It may be necessary, in the event of incurable illness, old age or, more suddenly, in the event of an accident, to arrange the euthanasia of your dog. The dog's welfare must always come first. Therefore, in the interests of your dog, you must give the issue your full consideration well before the time comes to make a decision to prevent your dog suffering unnecessary pain and distress. Where, in the opinion of a veterinary surgeon, your dog will not respond to treatment for any serious injury or condition involving significant pain, or is in such a condition that it would be cruel to keep it alive, the animal should be humanely destroyed without delay.

5.13. In a non-emergency situation, where your dog is permanently unsound or has a recurring or permanent and steadily worsening condition, a rational decision must be made with due regard for the animal's future and welfare. In some cases it will be kinder to have your dog painlessly destroyed by a vet.

The Law

The Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006

The following sections of the Act are referred to in the code and are set out here for ease of reference:

Unshaded boxes contain quotes from the legislation.

The box shaded in grey contains a summary of relevant provisions in the Act.

Section 18 of the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 provides:

Responsibility for animals

- (1) In this Part [the welfare part of the Act], references to being responsible for an animal mean being responsible for it on a permanent or temporary basis.
- (2) In this Part, references to being responsible for an animal include being in charge of it.
- (3) For the purposes of this Part, a person who owns an animal is always to be regarded as being the person who is responsible for it.
- (4) For the purposes of this Part, a person ("person A") is to be regarded as responsible for any animal for which a person who is under 16 years of age, of whom person A has the actual care and control, is responsible.
- (5) For the purposes of this Part, a person does not relinquish responsibility for an animal by reason only of abandoning it.

Section 19 of the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 provides:

Unnecessary suffering

(1) A person commits an offence if –

- (a) the person causes a protected animal unnecessary suffering by an act, and
- (b) the person knew, or ought reasonably to have known, that the act would have caused the suffering or be likely to do so.

(2) A person who is responsible for an animal commits an offence if-

- (a) the person causes the animal unnecessary suffering by an act or omission, and
- (b) the person knew, or ought reasonably to have known, that the act or omission would have caused the suffering or be likely to do so.

(3) A person (“person A”) who is responsible for an animal commits an offence if-

- (a) another person causes the animal unnecessary suffering by an act or omission, and
- (b) person A-
 - (i) permits that to happen, or
 - (ii) fails to take steps (whether by way of supervising the other person or otherwise) as are reasonable in the circumstances to prevent that happening.

(4) The considerations to which regard is to be had in determining, for the purposes of subsections (1) to (3), whether suffering is unnecessary include –

- (a) whether the suffering could reasonably have been avoided or reduced,
- (b) whether the conduct concerned was in compliance with any relevant enactment or any relevant provisions of a licence or code of practice issued under an enactment,
- (c) whether the conduct which caused the suffering was for a legitimate purpose, such as –
 - (i) the purpose of benefiting the animal, or
 - (ii) the purpose of protecting a person, property or other animal,
- (d) whether the suffering was proportionate to the purpose of the conduct concerned,
- (e) whether the conduct concerned was in the circumstances that of a reasonably competent and humane person.

(5) This section does not apply to the destruction of an animal in an appropriate and humane manner.

Section 24 of the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 provides:

Ensuring welfare of animals

- (1) A person commits an offence if the person does not take such steps as are reasonable in the circumstances to ensure that the needs of an animal for which the person is responsible are met to the extent required by good practice.
- (2) The circumstances to which, for the purposes of subsection (1), regard is to be had include-
 - (a) any lawful purpose for which the animal is kept,
 - (b) any lawful activity undertaken in relation to the animal.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (1), an animal's needs include-
 - (a) its need for a suitable environment,
 - (b) its need for a suitable diet,
 - (c) its need to be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns,
 - (d) any need it has to be housed with, or apart from, other animals, and
 - (e) its need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease.
- (4) This section does not apply to the destruction of an animal in an appropriate and humane manner.

Section 29 of the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 provides:

Abandonment

- (1) A person commits an offence if, without reasonable excuse, the person-
 - (a) abandons an animal for which the person is responsible, and
 - (b) does so in circumstances likely to cause it unnecessary suffering.
- (2) A person commits an offence if, without reasonable excuse, the person-
 - (a) leaves unattended an animal for which the person is responsible, and
 - (b) fails to make adequate provision for its welfare.
- (3) The considerations to which regard is to be had in determining, for the purposes of subsection (2), whether such provision has been made include-
 - (a) the kind of animal concerned and its age and state of health,
 - (b) the length of time for which it is or has been, left,
 - (c) what it reasonably requires by way of-
 - (i) food and water,
 - (i) shelter and warmth.

Section 37 of the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 provides:

Animal Welfare Codes

.....

(8) A person's failure to comply with a provision of an animal welfare code does not of itself render him liable to proceedings of any kind.

(9) In any proceedings for an offence under this Part, or under regulations made under section 26 or 27–

(a) failure to comply with a relevant provision of an animal welfare code may be relied upon as tending to establish liability,

(b) compliance with a relevant provision of an animal welfare code may be relied upon as tending to negative liability.

Offences and Penalties

A person who is convicted of an offence under section 19 of the Act may be imprisoned for a maximum period of 12 months and/or fined up to £20,000. If they are convicted of an offence under section 24 (failing to ensure the animal's welfare) or section 29 (abandonment) they can be imprisoned for a maximum period of 6 months and fined up to level 5 on the standard scale – the maximum is currently £5,000.

Other legislation affecting dogs

As well as the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 there are a number of other laws that affect the way you keep your dog. The ones most likely to affect the owner or keeper of a pet dog are summarised below.

Breeding and Purchase

The **Breeding of Dogs Act 1973** and the **Breeding and Sale of Dogs (Welfare) Act 1999** provide that anyone who is in the business of breeding and selling dogs needs to be licensed. The aim of the Acts is to control 'puppy farming' where dogs are bred in poor conditions. If you think the person from whom you are buying a puppy may be breeding dogs on a large scale and not just as a hobby you should ask to see their licence or ask the local Council if they have one. If dogs are being sold commercially, such as in a pet shop, the seller also has to have a licence under the **Pet Animals Act 1951**.

Controlling your dog

Although the dog licence was abolished in 1987, it is still a legal requirement under the **Control of Dogs Order 1992** for a dog to wear a collar with the owner's name and address on it. Two other pieces of legislation, the **Dogs Act 1871** and the **Dangerous Dogs Act 1991**, require you to have proper control of your dog. The penalties if you do not have proper control of your dog include a fine, imprisonment and the possible compulsory destruction of the dog. The Dangerous Dogs Act also makes it illegal to own or keep (unless specifically exempted), sell or give away a dog of four types that have been traditionally bred for fighting: Pit Bull Terrier, Japanese Tosa, Dogo Argentino and Fila Brasileiro.

The **Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003** makes it an offence for the person in charge of a dog to fail to pick up and dispose of any faeces.

The **Environment Protection Act 1990** states that a stray dog handed to the local authority what is not identified and re-claimed within seven days may be sent to a re-homing agency or destroyed.

Under the **Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953** a dog owner commits an offence if their dog worries (attacks or chases) livestock on agricultural land. In the case of a field or enclosure where there are sheep, dogs must be on a lead, or otherwise under close control.

The **Animals Act 1971** creates liability (subject to certain defences) for: damage done by dogs to livestock or other forms of damage done by an unrestrained dog under certain circumstances.

The **Guard Dogs Act 1975** imposes certain requirements on those responsible for guard dogs including the need to keep them under control or secured at all times and for a warning notice to be displayed at all entrances to the guarded premises.

Your dog during holidays

If you are away from home and need to put your dog in kennels, you should check that the kennel has been licensed by the local Council under the **Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963**. The Act can also apply to people taking dogs into their homes if they do so for reward (usually referred to as 'home boarding').

If you wish to take your dog with you on a holiday abroad, other than to the Republic of Ireland, there are very strict rules about what treatment your dog will need before it can return to the UK. It takes a minimum of 7 months to comply with the rules so you need to plan well ahead. You should ask your vet about the details of what you have to do or look at the Scottish Government website on the Pet Travel Scheme (PETS) page (see Appendix 2).

Appendix 2

Sources of information

- Your vet.
- The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, Belgravia House, 62-64 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AF: www.rcvs.org.uk. The website has a 'find a vet' facility.
- The Scottish Kennel Club, Eskmills Park, Station Road, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ. www.scottishkennelclub.org
- The Kennel Club, 1-5 Clarges Street, Piccadilly, London W1J 8AB <http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk>
- Local libraries and bookshops for up-to-date books on dog care.
- Websites such as:
 - Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors: www.apbc.org.uk
 - Blue Cross: www.thebluecross.org.uk
 - The Blue Dog: www.thebluedog.org
 - Dogs Trust: www.dogstrust.org.uk
 - PDSA: www.pdsa.org.uk
 - Pet Care Trust: www.petcare.org.uk
 - Pet Health Council: www.pethealthcouncil.co.uk
 - Pet Food Manufacturers Association: www.pfma.com
 - Scottish SPCA: www.scottishspca.org
 - The Scottish Government – Animal Health and Welfare Division for advice about the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 and travelling with your pet: www.scotland.gov.uk

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