



Animal Welfare Regulations - Dog



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Jämtland County
Administrative Board

About the animal welfare regulations

In this brochure you can read about how to take care of your dog. We are not providing information on all animal welfare regulations, only the most important rules and frequently asked questions. The complete regulations can be downloaded from the Swedish Board of Agriculture's website.

Your animals depend on you to follow the animal welfare regulations. The regulations establish a minimum level and outline the core requirements that must be fulfilled for your dog to feel well and be able to behave in a natural way.

New rules

Since 1 May 2008, there are several new rules for keeping a dog, including the following:

- » You or someone else must attend to your dogs at least twice a day. Young, sick or injured animals must be attended to more frequently.
- » Dogs must have their need for social contact satisfied.
- » Dogs that are kept indoors must regularly be walked outside and consideration must

be given to the dog's age and health.

- » Dogs that are permanently kept in exercise yards must be walked daily at another location.
- » Dogs may not be kept tied up indoors. Outdoors, dogs may only be tied up for a maximum of two hours per day.
- » Dogs may not be kept in cages except on special occasions (at exhibitions, competitions and examinations, training for a competition, in conjunction with hunting and transport).
- » The tables that specify the regulated dimension for dog yards and boxes, determine the dog's withers height.

Animal welfare for dogs

You must treat your dog well and protect it from unnecessary suffering and disease. Your dog must be kept and cared for in a good environment and in a way that is good for the animal's health and allows it the opportunity to behave naturally.

Dogs must have their need for social contact satisfied. You can provide social contact through

the company of other dogs, cats or people. Contact with people should take place a few hours each day through activation, exercise or other occupation.

If your dog becomes ill or injured, you should urgently ensure that the animal receives the necessary care.

It is important that you keep your dog satisfactorily clean and that you take care of its coat.

The spaces where the dog is housed must also be kept satisfactorily clean.

Animals that are unfamiliar with each other must not be brought together in enclosed spaces unattended. Aggressive animals must never be brought together in enclosed spaces. Dogs may not be pitted against each other or against other animals.



Caring for dogs

Dogs are typical herd animals and should have company during most hours of the day. Social contact with people is particularly important. Contact with people for a few hours each day through activation, exercise or other occupation is a good way to satisfy your dog's social needs.

PUPPIES

As long as puppies need their mother's milk and care, they may not be separated from her other than temporarily, and not before 8 weeks of age. In addition, puppies may not leave the breeder before they are at least eight weeks of age, unless there are special

reasons for doing so.

If you have a puppy that is under four months old, you can only leave it alone for short periods. Furthermore, puppies that are younger than six months may only be tied up for short periods.

It is not appropriate for puppies under six months to be kept in quarantine.

FOOD AND WATER

Every day you should give your dog good quality food. The food must ensure that your dog receives adequate and balanced nutrition. You must also make sure that your dog does not become over- or underweight. If several animals are fed together, ensure that all of them have the



opportunity to eat in peace without being disturbed by each other. If you keep your dog indoors, it must have access to drinking water. For dogs that are constantly kept in an exercise yard, make sure the dog gets lukewarm water at least twice a day. Do it in such a way that ensures that it does not immediately freeze, if the dog does not have access to water from a frost free water hydrant or similar.

WALKING

Daily exercise and regular walking is essential for all dogs.

If you keep your dog indoors, you need to regularly walk it outdoors, taking into account the dog's age and health. Dogs should be walked at least every six hours during the day, and more often for puppies and older dogs. It is not advisable for dogs to be left alone for a whole day without being walked until the owner comes home at the end of the day. It is important that for dog owners to solve the walking issue in a satisfactory manner.

Dogs that are permanently kept in a dog yard must be walked elsewhere in order for them to get out of the dog yard at least once a day.

Can my dog run free?

Between 1 March and 20 August, you must keep your dog under such supervision that it is prevented from running free where there may be wildlife. During the rest of the year you must keep an eye on the dog and prevent it from pursuing or harassing wildlife, unless the dog is used for hunting. It is stated in the Hunting Ordinance, when hunting with unleashed dogs is permitted. In some areas, such as nature reserves, there may be stricter leash requirements for dogs.

TETHERING

You may not tie your dog up indoors. If you need to subdue an unruly dog, you can keep it on a leash for a while.

Outdoors, you may not keep your dog tied up permanently. This also applies when using a running line. You are allowed to briefly tether a dog outdoors, but not for more than two hours per day, and then only in such a way which cannot harm the dog. Puppies under six months may only be tethered for short periods.

Dogs may not be tied to the vehicle, unless a special tethering device is used to prevent the vehicle leaving the premises until the

tethering device is removed. Dogs must not be walked or trained with the help of a car.

MUZZLE

Tight-fitting muzzles that prevent dogs from heavy panting may only be used temporarily. When a dog engages in heavy panting, this means that it pants up to 200 to 400 times per minute. The dog does this to cool down the body since it cannot sweat.

SHOCK COLLAR AND PRONG COLLAR

Shock collars and prong collars may not be used on dogs. A shock

collar is a collar that gives the dog electric shocks. A prong collar is a collar with barbs that reinforce the effect of the collar.

ELECTRIC FENCING

Invisible electric fences must not be used for dogs. Invisible electric fencing refers to a buried cable that forms a boundary. When the dog crosses the boundary it receives an electric shock through, for example, a special collar with a receiver.

Visible electric fencing may be used for dogs if the fenced-off area is sufficiently large. Visible electric fencing refers to fencing that



delivers an electric shock when the animal comes in direct contact with the fence.

To be allowed to use visible electric fencing, the area enclosed by the fence must be at least 50 times greater than the minimum dimensions permitted for an exercise yard for a dog with a withers height below 45 centimeters. Dogs with a withers height above 45 centimeters require an area of at least 800 m², in order for visible electric fencing to be used.

Areas for dogs

Dogs must be kept and cared for in

a good animal environment and in a way that is good for their health and provides them the opportunity to behave naturally. The fittings and equipment in dog areas must not risk injury to your dog or otherwise pose a risk to the animal's health. Therefore fittings that can harm the animal must be fitted with suitable protection.

Rooms and other spaces where you dog is kept must be adapted to the number of animals being kept in the space. All dogs must have access to a dry, clean and soft place to lie down. All animals must also be able to lie down in a natural



position. Dogs should also be given the opportunity to be able to bed down. Lactating bitches must have access to a quiet and undisturbed place for themselves and the puppies.

The dimensions that are specified for exercise yards, boxes or other enclosed spaces are minimum measurements. The spaces may preferably be bigger but never smaller than the specified measurements in each table.

ENVIRONMENT

If you keep your dog indoors, the areas must be ventilated and insulated so that the space maintains a temperature and humidity that is suitable for the animals kept there. The indoor temperature in dog kennels should be +10–21 °C depending on the age and breed. Old and very young dogs usually need the ambient temperature to be a little warmer.

Dogs may only temporarily be exposed to air pollutants which exceed the following values:

- » ammonia 10 ppm (parts per million)
- » carbon dioxide 3,000 ppm

Enclosed spaces for dogs should be designed so they are easy to inspect as well as clean and disinfect.

WINDOWS AND LIGHTING

Spaces for dogs must have a window to let in natural light. They must also be equipped with lighting that is regulated and directed so that the animals kept in the room are not subjected to discomfort.

SPECIFIC AREAS

In larger facilities for dogs there should be specific areas provided for:

- » feeding and feed management
- » bathing and tending to the animals
- » isolating and caring for sick animals

FIRE SAFETY

In dog kennels, there must be opportunities to save the animals in the event of fire.

EXERCISE YARD

In outdoor exercise yards for dogs, there must be different places for the dog to spend time in during different weather conditions. The dog must be able to choose a place in the sun, in the shade or under the

shelter of a roof during rain and snow. There must also be a place to lie down which is elevated from the ground, at least by 0.5 meter. Small breeds and dogs with reduced mobility must have a gangway or stairs to access this resting place if they are not able to jump up themselves. The dog must also have access to an indoor space adjacent to the exercise yard, or to a doghouse that protects the dog against wind and weather.

If you keep your dogs in an exercise yard permanently, ensure that there is environmental enrichment for the dogs. You also need to remember that dogs should be walked outside the dog yard at least once a day.

The table shows the minimum dimensions for exercise yards, depending on the number and size of dogs kept there.

If two dogs of different sizes are kept in the same exercise yard, the size of the yard must be calculated for two dogs of the larger size according to the table.

If there are additional dogs of different sizes kept in the same yard, the area must at least be increased according to the following:

1. The smallest and the biggest dog are counted as two dogs of the biggest size, in accordance with the table above.
2. Additional dogs are to increase this area according to the last row in the table.

Further regulations regarding exercise yards are found on the Board of Agriculture's website.

Size of dog exercise yards (m ²)						
Number of dogs	The dog's withers height					
	<25 cm	25–35 cm	36–45 cm	46–55 cm	56–65 cm	> 65 cm
1	6	10	15	16	18	20
2	8	14	18	20	24	28
For each additional dog the area must be increased by	4	6	8	10	12	14



BOXES

In kennels or the like, the walls between the boxes must have sight barriers at least half the length of the dividing wall. The sight barriers allow the dogs seclusion from other dogs. The box construction should also allow some level of visual contact between the dogs.

The table shows the minimum dimensions for boxes, depending on the number and size of dogs kept there. Boxes must be of normal ceiling height.

If two dogs of different sizes are kept in the same box, the size of the box must be calculated for two dogs of the larger size in accordance with the table above.

If additional dogs of different sizes are kept in the same box, the area must at least be increased according to the following:

1. The smallest and the biggest dog are counted as two dogs of the biggest size, according to the table.
2. Additional dogs are to increase this area according to the last row in the table.

Further regulations regarding boxes are found on the Board of Agriculture's website.

Size of boxes (m ²)						
Number of dogs	The dog's withers height					
	<25 cm	25–35 cm	36–45 cm	46–55 cm	56–65 cm	> 65 cm
1	2	2	2,5	3,5	4,5	5,5
2	2	2,5	3,5	4,5	6	7,5
For each additional dog the area must be increased by	1	1	2	2	3	3

NURSERY BOX

The minimum measurements for nursery boxes.	
The bitch's withers height (cm)	Box's size (m ²)
< 25	2
25–30	3
30–40	4
40–50	6
50–60	8
60–65	9
> 65	10

DOGHOUSE

A doghouse must be insulated and well ventilated. It must be able to protect against wind, direct sunlight, rain, cold and damp. The doghouse should be equipped with a windbreaker or shield so that the wind cannot blow straight into the house.

The table shows the minimum dimensions of the interior at the ground level in doghouses for one dog.



If several dogs are using the same doghouse, it must be big enough for all dogs to lie down in a natural position at the same time.

Doghouse size		
Length	Width	Height
The dog's length, from the point of its nose to the insertion of its tail multiplied by least 1,1.	The dog's withers height (m) multiplied by 1,1.	the dog's withers height (m) multiplied by 1,2.

CAGES

Dogs may not be kept in cages aside from on specific occasions.

- » During exhibitions, competitions and examinations, as well as during training for competitions. The cages must then be covered on at least two sides and the dogs must be walked at least every two hours.
- » In connection with hunting, dogs may be kept in cages for a maximum of eight hours per day if they are walked at least every three hours.
- » Dogs may be kept in a cage during transport. However, this storage period may not exceed three hours when the car is standing still.

Dogs are allowed to be kept overnight in transport containment when being transported to and from competition and training sites. Then you must be extra careful to ensure that the dog can rest safe and secure in the transport containment. The dog must have sufficient water, food and air, but must also be protected from, for example, heat and noise. In this situation, special consideration should be given to security at the overnight location.

More information about cage storage, spatial dimensions and transport rules is available on the Board of Agriculture's website.

Transport of dogs

Your dog must be transported in a safe manner. Animals must not be at risk of harm or suffering during transport. The means of transport you use to transport your animals must be appropriate for the purpose.

When transporting animals, you must ensure that the animals are protected against heat and cold, and against impact, abrasion and the like. If the dog is transported in a container or cage, this must be designed and positioned in such a way that the animal is afforded shade and good ventilation.

Dogs may only be transported in a passenger car boot if you can attend to your dog from the passenger space during the duration of the transport. Measures should be taken to secure the animals during braking. Therefore, the animals should be transported in a secure travel cage or, in the case of dogs, in a specially adapted seatbelt.

- » Dogs may not be left unattended in a vehicle when the temperature in the cargo space can be feared to exceed +25°C or drop below -5°C.

- » Dogs must not be kept permanently in a means of transport.

- » Each dog must have the following minimum space, when transported in a container or cage used for transporting a dog in a passenger car:

- **Length:** the dog's length, measured from the point of its nose to the insertion of its tail when standing in a normal position, is multiplied by at least 1.10 times

- **Width:** the dog's chest width multiplied by at least 2.5 times. The dog must

be able to lie down and turn around freely

- **Height:** the top of the dog's head when standing in an upright position. The roof's height cannot be more than five per cent shorter than the specified length measurement.

- » If several dogs are transported in one cage, the width increase for each dog must be that of the largest dog's chest width.

- » During transport, the dog must be walked and offered water at least every six hours and be fed with no less than 24-hour intervals.

- » Bitches in heat must be transported separately from male dogs.

- » Apart from in the event of urgently transporting an injured or sick animal to the vet, you may not transport:

- pregnant dogs during the two weeks preceding the expected date of delivery if the transport distance exceeds 50 kilometers
 - puppies younger than one week

- bitches during the first week after birthing.

The complete rules on the transport of animals can be found on the Board of Agriculture's website.

In addition to the rules mentioned above for dogs, the following applies for the transport of dogs in commercial transportation or during regular transport in a professional capacity.

- » Vehicles intended for use in the commercial transport of dogs, or for the regular transport of dogs in a professional capacity, must have space specifically designed for dogs.
- » The area must be separated from the passenger space with bars or mesh.
- » The space must be shielded against sunlight and be mechanically ventilated with a fan that works even when the vehicle's engine is turned off.
- » Evacuation must be possible through more than one escape route without inconvenience or delay.
- » Working dogs, such as service dogs and draught dogs, which are only trans-

ported short distances (under 2 hours) and then work or exercise, may be transported in a space with these minimum dimensions:

- length: at least 0.9 meter
- width: at least 0.6 meter
- height: at least 0.7 meter

- » However, the dog must always be able to lie down in a comfortable manner.
- » For other dogs, the regular space requirements for dog transport apply:
- » **Length:** the dog's length measured from the point of its nose to the insertion of its tail when standing in a normal position, is multiplied by at least 1.10 times
- » **Width:** the dog's chest width multiplied by at least 2.5 times. The dog must be able to lie down and turn around freely.
- » **Height:** the top of the dog's head when standing in an upright position.
- » If several dogs are transported in one cage, the width increase for each dog must be that of the largest dog's chest width.

More information about the professional transport of dogs is available on the Board of Agriculture's website.

Dog breeding

When breeding dogs, consideration must be given to the anatomical, physiological and behavioural characteristics which may put the health and wellbeing of the mother or offspring at risk.

The Swedish breeding regulation clarifies what is acceptable in terms of animal welfare when it comes to breeding dogs. It also provides support for the control programmes that deal with hereditary defects, which are currently implemented at many breeder clubs.

Breeding that could cause suffering to your dog is prohibited. The dog may not be used for breeding if it, for example:

- » has a disease or disability that can be inherited
- » carries or is likely to carry certain genetic predispositions to disease
- » has behavioural problems such as excessive fear or unprovoked aggression

- » lacks the ability to propagate naturally

A bitch should not be paired until at least her second fertility period and not earlier than 18 months of age. Forced pairing may not occur. A bitch that has given birth twice by caesarean section may not be used again for breeding.

The complete rules on dog breeding can be found on the Board of Agriculture's website.

Surgical procedures on dogs

If your dog needs to undergo a surgical procedure, this should be done by a veterinarian. Other treatments that are performed to alleviate or cure disease should also be carried out by a veterinarian if the treatment can cause the animal suffering.

The general rule is that an operation can only be done if it is necessary for medical reasons. This means, for example, that it is not allowed to surgically remove the vocal cords of a dog to prevent it from barking. It is not permitted to make holes in the ears of a dog for the purpose of, for example, earrings. Tail docking and ear cropping is not allowed unless it is justified for medical reasons.



There are some procedures that are exceptions from the ban. These include the neutering of pets and ID marking with, for example, a microchip or tattoo. These procedures are allowed but must be performed by veterinarians or specially trained persons.

Identification marking of dogs

According to the Act on Supervision of Dogs and Cats, dogs must be ID marked and registered to an owner.

The Act covers all dogs that permanently reside in the country. The Act means that a dog owner must ID mark their dog with a microchip or tattoo so that it can be identified.

The dog owner must also register their ownership in a central national register. The Board of Agriculture administers the Central Dog Register (Centrala hundregistret).

All dogs brought in from abroad must be ID marked, among other things. From 3 July 2011, a microchip is the only approved method of ID marking for animals traveling within the EU. A tattoo will still be an accepted method of ID marking for animals that will stay in Sweden.

More information about identification marking and the import of dogs is available on the Board of Agriculture's website.

Permits for activities involving dogs

You may in certain cases need a permit from the County Administrative Board to conduct an activity involving dogs. Dog hotels and dog daycare centres are some examples or activities that require a permit. Breeders and other dog owners that have many dogs may also be subject to permit requirements.

A permit is required for a person who

- » has 10 or more dogs older than 12 months
- » breeds 3 or more litters per year
- » hires out 3 or more dogs per year (e.g. hiring out of draught dogs or guard dogs)
- » sells dogs from 3 or more homebred litters per year
- » sells 3 or more dogs per year from another's breeding operation
- » looks after or feeds 4 or more dogs (e.g. dog daycare centre and dog hotels)
- » professionally hires out, breeds, sells, looks after or feeds dogs.

The responsibility for having the necessary permits is always on the operator. You are required to make sure that the keeping of animals complies with current regulations. Those that have not applied for a permit are in violation of the Animal Welfare Act and risk receiving a notification of prosecution.

More information about permits is available on the Board of Agriculture's website.

SALE AND RAFFLE

Dogs may not be sold in pet shops, at markets or the like. Nor may they be used as prizes in raffles, contests or similar.

If the rules are not followed

If you do not comply with the animal welfare regulations, the control authorities, i.e. the County Administrative Board's animal welfare inspector or the police, can impose injunctions and prohibitions. The County Administrative Boards can decide to take animals into custody and can impose bans on keeping and caring for animals. If you intentionally or negligently violate the animal welfare regulations, you can be fined or imprisoned for up to two years.

Legislation

The brochure is a summary of the Animal Welfare Act, the Animal Welfare Ordinance and regulations and general advice on dogs and cats. If you wish to read the complete rules, they can be found in:

- » The Animal Welfare Act (SFS 1988:534)
- » The Animal Welfare Ordinance (SFS 1988:539)
- » The Act (2007:1150) on Supervision of Dogs and Cats
- » The Ordinance (2007:1240) on Supervision of Dogs
- » The Swedish Board of Agriculture's regulations and general advice (SJVFS 2008:5) on the keeping of dogs and cats
- » The Swedish Board of Agriculture's regulations and general advice (SJVFS 2010:2) regarding the transport of live animals
- » The Animal Welfare Agency's (Djurskyddsmyndigheten) regulations (DFS 2004:5) on permit requirements under Section 16 of the Animal Welfare Act

- » The Swedish Board of Agriculture's regulations (SJVF 2009:85) on surgical procedures as well as obligations of keepers and staff within animal health and medical care.
- » The Swedish Board of Agriculture's regulations (SJVFS 2008:41) on the identification marking and registration of dogs

You can find the statutes at www.jordbruksverket.se

Contact us:

To submit reports, questions or statements, contact:

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