



Jersey

DOGS (JERSEY) LAW 1961

Official Consolidated Version

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DOGS (JERSEY) LAW 1961

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Jersey

DOGS (JERSEY) LAW 1961¹

A **LAW** relating to dogs.

Commencement [[see endnotes](#)]

PART 1

INTRODUCTORY

1 Interpretation²

In this Law –

“agricultural land” means land used as arable, meadow or grazing land, or for the purposes of poultry farming, pig farming or market gardening, or as allotments, nursery grounds or orchards;

“animal shelter” means a business licensed as an animal sanctuary under Article 15 of the [Animal Welfare \(Jersey\) Law 2004](#);

“applicant” means a person who applies for a licence;

“collar” includes a harness;

“dangerous dog” has the meaning given in Article 1B;

“dangerous dogs register” means the register of dangerous dogs maintained under Article 5A;

“dangerous dog registration number” means the registration number of a dog listed on the dangerous dogs register;

“dangerously out of control” has the meaning given in Article 1C;

“dog licence register” means a register kept by a Connétable under Article 4C;

“licence” means a licence issued under Article 4;

“licence holder” means a person to whom a licence has been issued;

“licence number” means the registration number of a licence on a dog licence register;

“livestock” means cattle, sheep, goats, swine, horses or poultry; and for the purposes of this definition “cattle” means bulls, cows, oxen, heifers and calves, “horses” includes asses, mules and hinnies;

“Minister” means the Minister for the Environment;

“neuter” means –

- (a) surgical castration in relation to a male dog; and
- (b) surgical spaying in relation to a female dog;

“owner” has the meaning given in Article 1A;

“poultry” means domestic fowls, turkeys, geese and ducks;

“public place” means any place to which the public or any section of the public has access, whether on payment or otherwise, and whether the access is as a matter of right or by virtue of express or implied permission;

“registered owner”, in relation to a dangerous dog, means the owner named in the dangerous dogs register;

“States Police Force” has the meaning given in Article 1 of the [States of Jersey Police Force Law 2012](#);

“States Veterinary Officer” means the States Veterinary Officer appointed under Article 5 of the [Animal Health \(Jersey\) Law 2016](#);

“worrying livestock” means attacking livestock, or chasing livestock in such a way as may reasonably be expected to cause injury or suffering to the livestock or in the case of females, abortion, or loss of or diminution in their produce.

1A Meaning of owner³

- (1) In this Law, a person owns a dog if they are aged 16 or over and are the person with whom the dog usually lives.
- (2) Unless the contrary is proved, a person is considered to be the owner of a dog if the dog is found or seen in that person’s custody, charge, possession, house or premises.
- (3) If a dog is training to work, or is working, as an assistance dog, the owner is the organisation responsible for the dog’s training and its allocation to the person it assists.
- (4) If the dog is on the dangerous dogs register, the owner is the registered owner.

1B Meaning of dangerous dog⁴

- (1) A dog is a dangerous dog if –
 - (a) it is of the type commonly known as –
 - (i) the Dogo Argentino;
 - (ii) the Fila Brasileiro (also known as the Fila Brasileiro or the Brazilian Mastiff);

- (iii) the Japanese Tosa (or Tosa);
 - (iv) the Pit Bull Terrier; or
 - (v) the XL Bully;
 - (b) it is of any other type that appears to have been bred for fighting; or
 - (c) it is of a type for which a licence for importation or exportation is required.
- (2) When a person is considering whether a dog is of a type listed in paragraph (1), that person must have regard to guidance (if any) about the dog type published by the States Veterinary Officer.
- (3) The Minister may by Order amend the list of dangerous dogs in paragraph (1).

1C Dangerously out of control dog⁵

A dog is regarded as being dangerously out of control if it is not being kept under control effectively by an individual and –

- (a) it is causing or has caused death, injury or other harm to a person, a domestic animal or livestock; or
- (b) its behaviour gives, or has given, rise to reasonable alarm or apprehension on the part of a person for –
 - (i) the person's own safety;
 - (ii) the safety of another person; or
 - (iii) the safety of a domestic animal or livestock.

PART 2⁶

LICENCES

2 Requirement to have licence to own dog

- (1) A person must not own a dog unless a licence has been issued to the owner in respect of that dog in accordance with Article 4.
- (2) An application for a licence must be made –
 - (a) to the Connétable of the parish in which the owner resides; and
 - (b) in the manner and form that the Connétable requires.
- (3) When applying for a licence, the applicant must declare whether the dog is a dangerous dog and, if the dog is a dangerous dog, provide –
 - (a) the dog's dangerous dog registration number; and
 - (b) proof of insurance complying with Article 5C.
- (4) A person who contravenes paragraph (1) commits an offence and is liable to a fine of level 2 on the standard scale.

- (5) An applicant who falsely states without reasonable excuse that a dog is not a dangerous dog or provides false proof of insurance commits an offence and is liable to imprisonment for a term of 2 years and to a fine.

3 Exemptions from licensing requirement

- (1) A licence is not required in respect of –
- (a) a dog under the age of 6 months;
 - (b) a dog used solely by a blind person for that person's guidance; or
 - (c) a dog that –
 - (i) is used by a deaf person; and
 - (ii) has been trained by an organisation that exists to train dogs for that purpose, to assist that person to overcome disabilities caused by their deafness.
- (2) The States may by Regulations specify other exemptions from the requirement to have a licence.

4 Issue of licences

- (1) The Connétable of the parish in which the owner resides must issue a licence, unless paragraph (2) applies.
- (2) The Connétable must refuse to issue a licence if –
- (a) the applicant is under the age of 16 years; or
 - (b) the dog is a dangerous dog and –
 - (i) the dog is not registered under Article 5A;
 - (ii) the dog is not covered by insurance complying with Article 5C; or
 - (iii) the applicant is not the person named as the owner in the register of dangerous dogs.
- (3) Unless paragraph (4) applies, a licence remains in force until the 31 January following the day on which it was issued.
- (4) A licence issued on or after 1 January and before 1 February remains in force until the 31 January in the year following the year in which it was issued.
- (5) The Comité des Connétables may by Order prescribe a fee for the issuing of a licence.
- (6) A licence must not be issued until the prescribed fee is paid.
- (7) The prescribed fee must be credited to the General Account of the parish that issues the licence.

4A Revocation of licence

- (1) The Connétable may revoke a licence if –
- (a) the dog has been seized under Article 7, 8 or 11;

- (b) the dog is a dangerous dog and the licence holder did not declare this when applying for the licence; or
 - (c) the Connétable has reason to believe that Article 5B, 5C, 5D, 5E, 5F or 5G has not been complied with.
- (2) If a licence is revoked under paragraph (1), the owner must hand the dog to which the licence applied to a person specified by the Connétable, within the period of time specified by the Connétable.
- (3) If the owner does not hand the dog to the person specified within the time specified, the owner commits an offence and is liable to imprisonment for a term of 6 months and to a fine.

4B Change of licence holder's address

- (1) If a licence holder moves to a new address, they must notify the Connétable of the parish in which the licence was issued within 7 days beginning on the day after they move (in addition to any requirement under Article 5B to notify the States Veterinary Officer if the licence relates to a dangerous dog).
- (2) The notification must be made in the manner required by the Connétable.
- (3) If the licence holder moves to a different parish, the licence remains valid for that parish until the licence expires.
- (4) A person who contravenes paragraph (1) commits an offence and is liable to a fine of level 2 on the standard scale.

4C Register of licences

- (1) The Connétable of each parish must keep a register of all licences issued in the parish under this Part.
- (2) The dog licence register must specify –
 - (a) the name, address and telephone number, and the email address, if any, of the person to whom the licence is issued;
 - (b) if provided on the application, the name of each dog in respect of which a licence is issued;
 - (c) identifying features of each dog, which may include –
 - (i) the breed or type of the dog;
 - (ii) the sex of the dog;
 - (iii) the year of birth of the dog;
 - (iv) whether the dog has an identifying microchip or whether any other feature that may assist with accurate identification is attached to the dog;
 - (v) if the dog's DNA is recorded and where it is recorded;
 - (d) if the dog is a dangerous dog, the dangerous dog registration number and any conditions imposed by the States Veterinary Officer.

4D Review of decision to refuse or revoke licence

- (1) A person who is aggrieved by a Connétable's decision to refuse to issue a licence under Article 4(2) or to revoke a licence under Article 4A may give notice in writing to the Connétable that the person wishes to have the decision reviewed by the Comité des Connétables.
- (2) The notice must –
 - (a) be given within 21 days starting on the day after the Connétable notifies the person of the decision, or within such further time as the Connétable allows; and
 - (b) include a statement of the grounds on which the review is sought.
- (3) On receiving the notice the Connétable must, within a reasonable time, notify the chair of the Comité des Connétables who must convene a panel of 3 Connétables to review the decision.
- (4) If the Connétable who receives the notice is the chair of the Comité des Connétables, they must immediately notify the vice-chair of the Comité des Connétables, who must convene a panel of 3 other Connétables to review the decision.
- (5) The panel of Connétables must not include the Connétable who receives the notice.
- (6) The panel must review the decision and confirm or reverse the decision and, within 21 days –
 - (a) notify in writing the person and the Connétable whose decision has been reviewed of the panel's decision and the reasons for it; and
 - (b) if the panel confirms the decision of the Connétable, inform the person of their right to appeal to the Royal Court under Article 4E.

4E Appeal to Royal Court

- (1) A person who is aggrieved by a decision of a panel of the Comité des Connétables to confirm a decision on a review under Article 4D may appeal against the decision to the Royal Court.
- (2) The appeal must be made within 28 days after the panel notifies the person in writing of the decision, or within such further time as the Royal Court allows.
- (3) On hearing the appeal, the Royal Court may confirm or reverse the decision.

5 Offences under Part 2

- (1) A person who commits an offence under Article 2 or 4B in respect of more than 1 dog is liable for each dog in respect of which the offence is committed.
- (2) A Centenier may accept payment of double the amount of the fee payable for a licence instead of instituting proceedings in respect of the offences in Articles 2(4) and 4B.

PART 2A⁷

DANGEROUS DOGS

5A Register of dangerous dogs

- (1) The States Veterinary Officer must maintain a register of dangerous dogs.
- (2) The States Veterinary Officer may impose conditions upon the registration of a dog.
- (3) The register must include –
 - (a) the name of the owner of the dog;
 - (b) the address at which the dog is kept, which must be the same as the address at which the owner ordinarily resides;
 - (c) confirmation that there is insurance complying with Article 5C in respect of the dog;
 - (d) the number of the identifying microchip implanted in the dog;
 - (e) if the dog's DNA is recorded, where it is recorded; and
 - (f) any conditions imposed by the States Veterinary Officer.
- (4) The States Veterinary Officer must not register a dangerous dog if the dog has not been microchipped, unless the States Veterinary Officer –
 - (a) has determined that implanting a microchip would be harmful to the dog and has provided written confirmation of this to the owner; or
 - (b) has informed the owner that the dog must be microchipped by a particular date and has added that as a condition of registration.
- (5) The register must name only 1 person as the registered owner of the dog and that person must be aged 18 or over.

5B Prohibition on owning unregistered dangerous dog

- (1) A person must not own a dangerous dog unless the dog is registered under Article 5A within 30 days starting on –
 - (a) the day on which the person first acquires the dog;
 - (b) if the person owns the dog from the day it was born, the day of its birth; or
 - (c) in the case of a type of dog that becomes a dangerous dog after the person acquired it, the day on which the type becomes a dangerous dog.
- (2) A person who owns a dangerous dog when the Dogs Law (Jersey) Amendment Regulations 2025 come into force must register the dog within 30 days starting on the day those Regulations come into force.
- (3) The registered owner must notify the States Veterinary Officer within 7 days after any of the following –
 - (a) the name of the registered owner changes;
 - (b) ownership is transferred in accordance with an order made under Article 11B; or

- (c) the registered owner moves to a new address approved by the States Veterinary Officer under Article 5C.
- (4) A person who contravenes this Article commits an offence and is liable to imprisonment for a term of 6 months and to a fine.
- (5) The Minister may by Order prescribe a fee for registering a dangerous dog.

5C Conditions for keeping dangerous dog

- (1) The registered owner of a dangerous dog must comply with conditions imposed by the States Veterinary Officer under Article 5A and the conditions in this Article.
- (2) Unless Article 5D applies, the registered owner of a dangerous dog must –
 - (a) keep the dog at the address recorded in the register; and
 - (b) keep the dog in secure conditions that prevent it escaping.
- (3) If the registered owner intends to move to a new address, they must notify the States Veterinary Officer of the intended new address and must not keep the dog at that address unless the States Veterinary Officer approves the address.
- (4) Unless Article 5D applies, a person who is not the registered owner or a member of the registered owner's household must not look after the dangerous dog at the address recorded in the register for more than 48 hours.
- (5) The registered owner must have valid third-party public liability insurance in respect of the dog, which must be approved by the States Veterinary Officer.
- (6) A person who, without reasonable excuse, contravenes this Article commits an offence and is liable to imprisonment for a term of 6 months and to a fine.
- (7) The Minister may by Order amend the requirements in this Article.

5D Temporary address or keeper

- (1) The registered owner of a dangerous dog must not keep, or allow another person to keep, the dog at a different address from the one recorded in the register ("recorded address") unless –
 - (a) the States Veterinary Officer has been notified of the address and has confirmed in advance in writing that they consider that the premises are secure and the other person is appropriate; and
 - (b) the other person complies with any conditions the States Veterinary Officer imposes regarding the premises at the address.
- (2) A person other than the registered owner may look after the dog at the recorded address if –
 - (a) the person is aged 18 or over;
 - (b) the States Veterinary Officer has been notified by the registered owner that the person will be looking after the dog and the States Veterinary Officer has confirmed in advance in writing that they consider that the person is appropriate; and
 - (c) the person complies with any conditions the States Veterinary Officer imposes regarding the care of the dog.

- (3) The period for which a dangerous dog is to be kept at a different address under paragraph (1) or looked after by a different person at the recorded address under paragraph (2) must not exceed a combined total of 30 days in a period of 12 months, unless the States Veterinary Officer agrees a longer period.
- (4) A person who, without reasonable excuse, contravenes this Article commits an offence and is liable to imprisonment for a term of 6 months and to a fine.

5E Prohibition on breeding dangerous dogs

- (1) A person must not breed from a dangerous dog.
- (2) The registered owner of a dangerous dog must ensure the dog is neutered by a veterinary surgeon as soon as it is safe to do so and in any case before the dog is 18 months old.
- (3) If the registered owner of a dangerous dog becomes aware that the dog is pregnant, the owner must –
 - (a) no later than 3 days after becoming aware, inform the States Veterinary Officer; and
 - (b) as soon as practicable, arrange for a veterinary surgeon to terminate the pregnancy or, if the pregnancy cannot safely be terminated, painlessly destroy the litter immediately after birth.
- (4) A person who contravenes this Article commits an offence and is liable to imprisonment for a term of 6 months and to a fine.

5F Prohibition on abandoning, giving away, selling or transferring dangerous dogs

- (1) A person must not abandon, give away, sell or otherwise transfer ownership, or permit the abandoning, giving away, selling or transferring, of a dangerous dog, unless the transfer of ownership is permitted under paragraph (2).
- (2) Ownership of a dangerous dog may be transferred –
 - (a) by taking the dog to an animal shelter, if the shelter agrees to receive it; or
 - (b) in accordance with an order made under Article 11B.
- (3) A person who contravenes paragraph (1) commits an offence and is liable to imprisonment for a term of 6 months and to a fine.

5G Control of dangerous dogs

- (1) The registered owner of a dangerous dog, or any person who has control of a dangerous dog, must not allow the dog to stray.
- (2) When a dangerous dog is in a public place it must –
 - (a) be under the control of a person aged 18 or over;
 - (b) be muzzled with a muzzle suitable for the dog, unless the removal of the muzzle is necessary for the dog to receive veterinary treatment; and
 - (c) be kept on a lead of a type that adequately controls the dog and that must be held by a person aged 18 or over.

- (3) A person who, without reasonable excuse, contravenes paragraphs (1) or (2) commits an offence and is liable to imprisonment for a term of 6 months and to a fine.
- (4) For the purposes of paragraphs (2) and (3), if a dog in a public place is under the control of a person aged under 18 or is held on a lead by a person aged under 18, the offence is committed by the person who permitted the person aged under 18 to have control or hold the lead.

PART 3

CONTROL OF DOGS

6 Wearing of collar by dogs⁸

- (1) When in a public place, a dog must wear a collar with the following information inscribed on the collar or on a plate or badge attached to the collar –
 - (a) name of the dog;
 - (b) telephone number of the owner; and
 - (c) licence number.
- (2) But paragraph (1) does not apply to –
 - (a) a pack of hounds;
 - (b) a dog while it is being used for sporting purposes if wearing the collar could cause the dog harm;
 - (c) a dog while it is being used for the capture or destruction of vermin.
- (3) If a dog is in a public place without a collar and paragraph (2) does not apply, the dog's owner, any person in charge of the dog and any person allowing the dog to be in the public place commits an offence and is liable to a fine of level 2 on the standard scale.
- (4) If the dog is not in the charge of any person, a police officer may seize it and detain it until the owner has claimed it and has paid all expenses incurred because of its detention.
- (5) Despite the information required to be inscribed on a collar, plate or badge in accordance with paragraph (1), that paragraph is taken to have been complied with if, immediately before the commencement of the Dogs Law (Jersey) Amendment Regulations 2025 (the "Amendment Regulations") –
 - (a) there is a licence in force in respect of the dog; and
 - (b) the name, address and telephone number of the owner are inscribed on the collar or on a plate or badge attached to the collar.
- (6) Paragraph (5) ceases to apply and paragraph (1) takes effect if, on or after the commencement of the Amendment Regulations –
 - (a) the owner changes their name, address or telephone number; or
 - (b) the collar, plate or badge on which the information is inscribed is replaced for any reason.

7 Seizure of stray dogs by police officer⁹

- (1) If a police officer has reason to believe that a dog found in a public place is a stray dog, they may seize the dog and detain it until the owner has claimed it and has paid all expenses incurred because of its detention.
- (2) But if the police office has reason to believe that the dog is a dangerous dog, they must follow the procedure in Article 11.

8 Duty of person other than police officer taking possession of stray dogs¹⁰

- (1) If a person other than a police officer takes possession of a dog that they believe to be a stray dog –
 - (a) if they believe the dog is a dangerous dog, they must immediately notify a police officer;
 - (b) if they do not believe the dog is a dangerous dog, they must –
 - (i) return the dog to its owner; or
 - (ii) notify a police officer that they have found the dog and provide the person's name and address to the officer.
- (2) A person who notifies a police officer under paragraph (1)(b)(ii) may inform the police officer that they are willing to look after the dog until its owner is found and, if the police officer considers it appropriate, the police officer may allow the person to look after the dog.
- (3) If the person does not want to look after the dog, or the police officer considers that person should not look after the dog, it is treated as if it was seized by a police officer under Article 7.
- (4) A person who fails to comply with paragraph (1) commits an offence and is liable to a fine of level 2 on the standard scale.

9 Worring of livestock by dogs

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this Article, if a dog worries livestock on any agricultural land, the owner of the dog and, if it is in the charge of a person other than the owner, that person also, shall be guilty of an offence.
- (2) A person shall not be guilty of an offence under this Article if at the material time the livestock are trespassing on the agricultural land in question and the dog is owned by, or in the charge of, the occupier of that agricultural land or a person authorized by the occupier, except in a case where the said person caused the dog to worry the livestock.
- (3) The owner of a dog shall not be guilty of an offence under this Article if he or she shows to the satisfaction of the court that at the time when the dog worried the livestock it was in the charge of some other person whom he or she reasonably believed to be a fit and proper person to be in charge of the dog.
- (4) Where in the case of a dog found on any land –
 - (a) a police officer has reasonable cause to believe that the dog has been worrying livestock on that land, and that land appears to the police officer to be agricultural land; and

- (b) no person is present who admits to being the owner of the dog or in charge of it,

the police officer may seize the dog and detain it until the owner has claimed it and has paid all expenses incurred by reason of its seizure and detention.

10 Procedure on seizure of dogs except dogs that are dangerously out of control or are dangerous dogs¹¹

- (A1) This Article applies in relation to the seizure of a dog that a police officer has no reasonable cause to believe is –

- (a) dangerously out of control; or
- (b) a dangerous dog.¹²

- (1) Subject to paragraph (3A), where –

- (a) the telephone number of the owner of a dog that has been seized under Article 6, 7 or 9 is inscribed on the collar or on a plate or badge attached to the collar of the dog; or
- (b) the Connétable knows the owner's name or address, or is otherwise able to ascertain the identity and address or email address of the owner from the information inscribed on the collar or on a plate or badge attached to the collar of the dog or any microchip in or on the dog, or from the register kept under Article 4C,

the Connétable shall serve on the owner a notice in writing stating that the dog has been so seized and will be liable to be sold, given away or destroyed if it is not claimed within 7 clear days after the service of the notice.¹³

- (2) A notice under this Article may be served either –

- (a) by delivering it to the person on whom it is to be served;
- (b) by leaving it at that person's usual or last known address;
- (c) by sending it by post to that person at that person's usual or last known address; or
- (d) by sending it electronically to the email address (if any) specified in respect of the dog in the register kept under Article 4C.¹⁴

- (3) Where a dog is seized under Article 6, 7 or 9 and –

- (a) where –
 - (i) there is no telephone number inscribed on the collar or on a plate or badge attached to the collar of the dog so seized,
 - (ii) the Connétable has been unable to ascertain the identity and address or email address of the owner from the information inscribed on the collar or on a plate or badge attached to the collar or any microchip in or on the dog, or from the register kept under Article 4C, and
 - (iii) the dog has been detained for 7 clear days after the seizure; or
- (b) where –
 - (i) a notice has been served with respect to the dog under paragraph (1),

- (ii) the dog has been detained for 7 clear days after the service of the notice, and
 - (iii) no person has claimed responsibility for it and paid all expenses incurred by reason of its detention,
- the Connétable, or any person authorized by the Connétable in that behalf, may cause the dog to be sold, given away or painlessly destroyed.¹⁵
- (3A) If the Connétable is able to ascertain who owns the dog and considers that the dog may be returned to the owner without the need to serve a notice on the owner, the Connétable may return the dog to its owner without serving a notice under paragraph (1).¹⁶
- (4) No dog so seized shall be given or sold for the purposes of vivisection.
- (5) The Connétable of each parish shall keep a register of all dogs seized in that parish which are not transferred to an establishment for the reception of stray dogs, and such register shall contain a brief description of the dog, the date of seizure and particulars as to the manner in which the dog is disposed of.
- (6) ¹⁷
- (7) No dog so seized shall be disposed of by transferring it to an establishment for the reception of stray dogs unless a register is kept for that establishment containing such particulars as to dogs received in the establishment as are above mentioned.¹⁸
- (8) The police officer or other person having charge of any dog detained shall cause the dog to be properly fed and maintained.
- (9) All expenses incurred by a Connétable under this Article shall be defrayed out of the General Account of the parish in which they are incurred, and any money received by a Connétable under this Article shall be credited to that Account.¹⁹

11 Procedure on seizure of dogs that are dangerously out of control or are dangerous dogs²⁰

- (1) ²¹
- (2) A police officer may seize a dog in a public place if the police officer has reasonable cause to believe –
- (a) the dog is dangerously out of control;
 - (b) the dog is a dangerous dog and an obligation under Article 5B, 5C, 5D, 5E, 5F or 5G is not being complied with in relation to that dog; or
 - (c) the dog is a dog in respect of which a licence has been revoked under Article 4A and that has not been handed to the person specified by the Connétable within the period of time specified by the Connétable.²²
- (3) A police officer may apply to the Bailiff, a Jurat or the Magistrate for a warrant authorising a police officer to enter and search premises.²³
- (3A) The Bailiff, Jurat or the Magistrate may issue the warrant if they are satisfied that there exists on the premises specified in the application –
- (a) a dog that is dangerously out of control;
 - (b) a dangerous dog in respect of which there is evidence that an offence under Article 5B, 5C, 5D, 5E, 5F or 5G has been, or is being, committed;

- (c) evidence that is likely to be of substantial value, whether by itself or together with other evidence, to the investigation of an offence under Article 5B, 5C, 5D, 5E, 5F, 5G or 11A and does not consist of or include excluded items or materials; or
 - (d) a dog in respect of which a licence has been revoked under Article 4A that has not been handed to the person specified by the Connétable within the period of time specified by the Connétable.²⁴
- (3B) For the purposes of paragraph (3A)(c), “excluded items or materials” means –
 - (a) items subject to legal privilege within the meaning of Article 5 of the [Police Procedures and Criminal Evidence \(Jersey\) Law 2003](#); or
 - (b) excluded material or special procedure material within the meaning of Article 6 of the [Police Procedures and Criminal Evidence \(Jersey\) Law 2003](#).²⁵
- (4) A police officer may seize any dog on the premises specified in the application that the police officer has reasonable cause to believe is dangerously out of control or is a dangerous dog and retain anything else for which a search has been authorized by a warrant issued under paragraph (3A).²⁶
- (5) Paragraphs (3) and (4) shall not affect the power of a police officer under Article 19 of the [Police Procedures and Criminal Evidence \(Jersey\) Law 2003](#) to enter and search any premises for the purpose of saving life or limb or preventing serious damage to property.
- (6) The power to seize a dog under paragraph (2) or (4) does not arise if a dog is dangerously out of control at a time when it is being used for a lawful purpose by a police officer or other person acting in the execution of his or her lawful duties.²⁷
- (7) A dog seized under paragraph (2) or (4) shall be transferred to and detained at an establishment suitable for the reception of dangerous dogs (including any premises in the ownership or control of the States Police Force) and dealt with thereafter in accordance with this Law.
- (7A) If a dog is seized under this Article, a police officer must inform the States Veterinary Officer as soon as practicable.²⁸
- (8) Where –
 - (a) the telephone number of the owner of a dog that has been seized under paragraph (2) or (4) is inscribed on the collar or on a plate or badge attached to the collar of the dog; or
 - (b) the Connétable knows the owner’s name or address, or is otherwise able to ascertain the identity and address or email address of the owner from the information inscribed on the collar or on a plate or badge attached to the collar of the dog or any microchip in or on the dog, or from the register kept under Article 4C,

the Connétable shall serve on the owner a notice in writing stating that the dog has been so seized and will be liable to be sold, given away or destroyed or, in the case of a dangerous dog, destroyed if it is not claimed within 7 clear days after the service of the notice.²⁹
- (9) A notice under this Article may be served either –
 - (a) by delivering it to the person on whom it is to be served;
 - (b) by leaving it for that person at that person’s usual or last known address;

- (c) by sending it by post to that person at that person's usual or last known address; or
 - (d) by sending it electronically to the email address (if any) specified in respect of the dog in the register kept under Article 4C.³⁰
- (10) Where a police officer has seized a dog under paragraph (2) or (4) and a person has claimed responsibility for the dog, and –
 - (a) no representation has been made under Article 11B(1) within 14 days after the day on which the person has claimed responsibility for the dog; or
 - (b) no proceedings have been commenced in respect of an offence under Article 11A(1) within that time,the person claiming responsibility for the dog shall be entitled to have it returned to him or her after paying all expenses properly incurred by reason of its detention.
- (11) Where a dog is seized under this Article and –
 - (a) where –
 - (i) there is no telephone number inscribed on the collar or on a plate or badge attached to the collar of the dog so seized,
 - (ii) the Connétable has been unable to ascertain the identity and address or email address of the owner from the information inscribed on the collar or on a plate or badge attached to the collar of the dog or, any microchip in or on the dog, or from the register kept under Article 4C, and
 - (iii) the dog has been detained for 7 clear days after the seizure; or
 - (b) where –
 - (i) a notice has been served with respect to the dog in accordance with this Article,
 - (ii) the dog has been detained for 7 clear days after the service of the notice, and
 - (iii) no person has claimed responsibility for it and paid all expenses incurred by reason of its detention,the Connétable, or any person authorized by the Connétable in that behalf, may cause the dog to be sold, given away or painlessly destroyed or, in the case of a dangerous dog, painlessly destroyed.³¹
- (12) A dog seized under this Article shall not be given or sold for the purposes of vivisection.
- (13) A dog seized under this Article shall not be disposed of by transferring it to an establishment for the reception of dangerous dogs unless a register is kept for that establishment containing a brief description of each dog that is seized, the date of seizure and particulars of the manner in which each dog is disposed of.³²
- (14) The person having charge of any dog detained under this Article shall cause the dog to be properly fed and maintained.
- (15) All expenses incurred by a Connétable under this Article or Articles 11B or 11C shall be defrayed out of the General Account of the parish in which they are incurred, and any money received by a Connétable under this Article or Articles 11B or 11C shall be credited to that account.

11A Offence – dog dangerously out of control³³

- (1) If a dog is found to be dangerously out of control, the owner and, if different, the person in charge of the dog at the material time, shall be guilty of an offence.
- (2) In proceedings for an offence under paragraph (1) against a person who is the owner of a dog but was not at the material time in charge of it, it shall be a defence for the owner of the dog to prove that the dog was at the material time in the charge of a person whom he or she reasonably believed to be a fit and proper person to be in charge of it.

11B Orders in relation to dangerous dogs and dogs not kept under proper control³⁴

- (1) A person may make a representation to the Magistrate's Court seeking an order under paragraph (3) and alleging that –
 - (a) a dog is dangerously out of control or is otherwise not kept under proper control;
 - (b) a dog is a dangerous dog and Article 5B, 5C, 5D, 5E, 5F or 5G has not been complied with;
 - (c) a dog is a dangerous dog and a licence in respect of that dog has been revoked under Article 4A;
 - (d) a dog is a dangerous dog and the owner of the dog has died or is otherwise unable to take care of it or to comply with Article 5B, 5C, 5D, 5E, 5F or 5G.³⁵
- (2) Where a person has made a representation under paragraph (1) but the dog that is the subject of the representation is not detained at the time the representation is made, the Magistrate's Court may make such interim order as it considers appropriate for the purpose of keeping the dog under control during any period before making its decision under paragraph (3), except that no order may be made under this paragraph that would result in the dog being neutered, given away or destroyed.
- (3) After hearing representations brought under paragraph (1), or hearing evidence in proceedings brought for any offence, the Magistrate's Court may, in addition to any penalty imposed, make an order –
 - (a) that the dog is kept under proper control;
 - (b) in the case of a dangerous dog, that –
 - (i) the dog's owner complies with the obligations in Article 5B, 5C, 5D, 5E, 5F or 5G; or
 - (ii) the dog is surrendered to a person specified by the Court; or
 - (c) that the dog is destroyed.³⁶
- (4) An order shall not be made under paragraph (3) unless the owner of, or the person claiming responsibility for, the dog has been given an opportunity to be heard and to adduce evidence.
- (5) An order under paragraph (3) –
 - (a) may be made whether or not the person charged is convicted of an offence;
 - (b) may be made whether or not a representation has been made within the time limit specified in Article 11(10)(a);

- (c) may be made whether or not the dog is shown to have injured or killed or caused other harm to any person or to a domestic animal; and
 - (d) may specify the measures to be taken for keeping the dog under proper control, whether by muzzling, keeping on a lead, excluding it from a specified place or otherwise.
- (6) In making an order under paragraph (3)(a), the Magistrate's Court may make an order requiring it to be neutered if it appears to the Magistrate that neutering the dog would facilitate controlling it.³⁷
- (7) Where the Magistrate's Court makes an order under paragraph (3)(c) or (6) the owner of the dog or the person claiming responsibility for it may, within the period of 7 days from the date of the order, appeal against the order to the Royal Court, and, until the expiration of that period, or until the determination of the appeal, as the case may require, the order shall have effect as if it were an order directing that the dog shall remain in detention.³⁸
- (8) In making an order under paragraph (3), the Magistrate's Court may –
 - (a) make an order disqualifying a person from owning or keeping a dog, or type of dog, during any period the Court thinks fit; and
 - (b) if the dog is returned to the owner or the person claiming responsibility for it, make an order that the owner or person pays some or all of the expenses properly incurred because of its detention.³⁹
- (9) Where the Magistrate's Court makes an order under paragraph (8), the person against whom the order has been made may, within the period of 7 days from the date of the order, appeal against the order to the Royal Court, and, until the expiration of that period, or until the determination of the appeal, as the case may require, the order shall have effect.
- (10) Where the Magistrate's Court has made, or has refused to make, any of the orders which it is empowered to make under this Article –
 - (a) the person making the representation may, within the period of 7 days from the date of such refusal or order, appeal to the Royal Court against the decision of the Magistrate's Court in the matter; and
 - (b) if the dog is detained under Article 10 or 11 on the date the Magistrate's Court made its decision, until the expiration of that period, or until the determination of the appeal, as the case may require, any order in respect of the dog shall have effect as if it were an order directing that the dog shall remain in detention.
- (11) A person who fails to comply with the terms of an order made under paragraph (2), (3), (6) or (8) shall be guilty of an offence.

11C Orders – supplementary⁴⁰

- (1) Where the Magistrate's Court makes an order under Article 11B(3)(c) or (6), it may appoint a person to undertake the destruction of the dog or its neutering, as the case may be, and require any person having custody of it to deliver it up for that purpose and order the owner of the dog to pay all the expenses for its destruction or neutering.⁴¹

- (2) Where a person is disqualified from owning or keeping a dog by virtue of an order under Article 11B(8), he or she may, at any time after the end of the period of one year beginning with the date of the order, make a representation to the Magistrate's Court for a direction terminating the disqualification.
- (3) On hearing a representation under paragraph (2) the Magistrate's Court, having regard to the disqualified person's character and conduct since the disqualification was imposed and to whether there has been a significant change in circumstances such that it is appropriate for the original disqualification period to be varied, may –
 - (a) give a direction that terminates the disqualification or varies the disqualification period; and
 - (b) in any event, order the person seeking the direction to pay all or any part of the costs of the application,

and, where the Magistrate's Court refuses to give the direction in respect of an order, no further representations in respect of that order shall be entertained if made before the end of the period of one year beginning with the date of the refusal.
- (4) Where the Magistrate's Court refuses to give a direction terminating the disqualification, the disqualified person may, within the period of 14 days from the date of the refusal, or such longer period as the Royal Court may allow, appeal against the refusal to the Royal Court.
- (5) Part 1 of the [Civil Proceedings \(Jersey\) Law 1956](#) shall apply to the hearing of proceedings under this Article and Article 11B as if references in that Law to the Petty Debts Court were references to the Magistrate's Court.
- (6) ⁴²

11D Procedure on appeals⁴³

- (1) The Royal Court may at any stage order that appeals be heard and determined together and may give directions for that purpose as it sees fit if –
 - (a) a person has been convicted of an offence under Article 5B, 5C, 5D, 5E, 5F, 5G, 9 or 11A(1) and an order has been made under Article 11B(3), (6) or (8) in respect of the same incident; and
 - (b) the person appeals against the conviction or sentence and against the order.⁴⁴
- (2) On any appeal under Article 11B(7), 11B(9), 11B(10) or 11C(4), the Royal Court may direct that witnesses shall be heard before it at the hearing of any appeal in relation to any matter or thing relevant to the appeal.
- (3) On any appeal under Article 11B(7), 11B(9), 11B(10) or 11C(4) the Royal Court may –
 - (a) confirm, reverse or vary the decision of the Magistrate's Court;
 - (b) remit the matter with its opinion on the matter to the Magistrate's Court; or
 - (c) make such other order in the matter as it thinks just, and may by such order exercise any power which the Magistrate's Court might have exercised, and any order so made shall have the like effect and may be enforced in like manner as if it had been made by the Magistrate's Court.
- (4) The decision of the Royal Court on any appeal under Article 11B(7), 11B(9), 11B(10) or 11C(4) shall be final and without further appeal.

12 Rules of Court⁴⁵

The powers to make Rules of Court under Article 112 of the [Criminal Procedure \(Jersey\) Law 2018](#), and under Article 13 of the [Royal Court \(Jersey\) Law 1948](#), as the case may be shall include powers to make Rules regulating practice and procedure in applications and appeals under this Law.⁴⁶

PART 4**GENERAL****13 Penalties for offences⁴⁷**

- (1) ⁴⁸
- (2) A person guilty of an offence under Article 9(1) shall be liable to a fine of level 2.⁴⁹
- (3) A person guilty of an offence under Article 11A(1) shall be liable –
 - (a) to imprisonment for a term of 10 years and a fine if the dog has caused death or serious injury to an individual; and
 - (b) to imprisonment for a term of 2 years and a fine of level 3 in any other case.⁵⁰
- (4) A person guilty of an offence under Article 11B(11) shall be liable to imprisonment for a term of 12 months and a fine of level 3 on the standard scale.⁵¹

13A Power of Centenier to impose penalty⁵²

- (1) If a person is charged with an offence under an Article specified in paragraph (2) and accepts the decision of a Centenier having jurisdiction in the matter, the Centenier may impose a fine of whichever is the lower of –
 - (a) an amount not exceeding two-fifths of level 2 on the standard scale; or
 - (b) the maximum fine provided for that offence.
- (2) This Article applies to an offence under –
 - (a) Article 2(4);
 - (b) Article 4B;
 - (c) Article 6;
 - (d) Article 8;
 - (e) Article 9(1).
- (3) A fine imposed under paragraph (1) is to be paid for the benefit of the parish in which the offence was committed.

13B Expenses⁵³

Without prejudice to the power of the Magistrate's Court to award costs by virtue of Article 11C(5), all expenses reasonably incurred by a Connétable in connection with the seizure or detention of a dog under this Law shall be recoverable as a civil debt from the owner of the dog so seized or detained.

13C Regulations⁵⁴

- (1) The States may make Regulations to amend this Law.
- (2) The power to make Regulations includes the power to make any supplementary, incidental, consequential, transitional, or savings provisions, or to amend any enactment, as the States consider necessary or expedient for the purposes or in consequence of this Law.

14 Saving

- (1) ⁵⁵
- (2) ⁵⁶

15 Citation

This Law may be cited as the Dogs (Jersey) Law 1961.

ENDNOTES

Table of Legislation History

Legislation	Year and No	Commencement	*Projet No (where applicable)
Dogs (Jersey) Law 1961	L.37/1961	7 October 1961	
Dogs (Amendment) (Jersey) Law 1967	L.18/1967	8 September 1967	
Dogs (Amendment No. 2) (Jersey) Law 2003	L.15/2003	28 March 2003	P.184/2002
States of Jersey (Amendments and Construction Provisions No. 4) (Jersey) Regulations 2005	R&O.44/2005	9 December 2005	P.58/2005
States of Jersey (Amendments and Construction Provisions No. 12) (Jersey) Regulations 2005	R&O.133/2005	9 December 2005	P.217/2005
Dogs (Amendment No. 3) (Jersey) Law 2006	L.19/2006	4 August 2006	P.280/2005
Connétables (Miscellaneous Provisions – Consequential Amendments) (Jersey) Regulations 2014	R&O.81/2014	1 August 2014 (R&O.80/2014)	P.78/2014
States of Jersey (Transfer of Functions No. 8) (Miscellaneous Transfers) (Jersey) Regulations 2015	R&O.158/2015	1 January 2016	P.46/2015
Dogs (Amendment No. 4) (Jersey) Law 2016	L.7/2016	1 May 2016	P.157/2015
Criminal Justice (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Jersey) Regulations 2016	R&O.97/2016	20 September 2016	P.74/2016
Animal Health (Jersey) Law 2016	L.12/2016	1 February 2017 (R&O.2/2017)	P.17/2016
Criminal Procedure (Consequential and Supplementary Amendments) (Jersey) Regulations 2021	R&O.94/2021	1 October 2021	P.59/2021
Dogs Law (Jersey) Amendment Regulations 2025	R&O.73/2025	2 December 2025	P.63/2025

*Projets available at www.statesassembly.gov.je

Table of Renumbered Provisions

Original	Current
PART I	Part 1
PART II	Part 2

Original	Current
PART III	Part 3
PART IV	Part 4
14(1), (2)	spent, omitted from this revised edition
14(3)	14

Table of Endnote References

¹ This Law has been amended by the States of Jersey (Amendments and Construction Provisions No. 4) (Jersey) Regulations 2005 and the States of Jersey (Amendments and Construction Provisions No. 12) (Jersey) Regulations 2005. The amendments replace all references to a Committee of the States of Jersey with a reference to a Minister of the States of Jersey, and remove and add defined terms appropriately, consequentially upon the move from a committee system of government to a ministerial system of government

² Article 1 amended by L.7/2016, R&O.73/2025

³ Article 1A inserted by R&O.73/2025

⁴ Article 1B inserted by R&O.73/2025

⁵ Article 1C inserted by R&O.73/2025

⁶ Part 2 substituted by R&O.73/2025

⁷ Part 2A inserted by R&O.73/2025

⁸ Article 6 substituted by R&O.73/2025

⁹ Article 7 substituted by R&O.73/2025

¹⁰ Article 8 substituted by R&O.73/2025

¹¹ Article 10 heading amended by L.7/2016, R&O.73/2025

¹² Article 10(A1) inserted by L.7/2016, substituted by R&O.73/2025

¹³ Article 10(1) substituted by L.7/2016, amended by R&O.73/2025

¹⁴ Article 10(2) amended by L.7/2016, R&O.73/2025

¹⁵ Article 10(3) substituted by L.7/2016, amended by R&O.73/2025

¹⁶ Article 10(3A) inserted by L.7/2016

¹⁷ Article 10(6) amended by L.19/2006, deleted by R&O.73/2025

¹⁸ Article 10(7) amended by L.19/2006, R&O.73/2025

¹⁹ Article 10(9) amended by L.19/2006

²⁰ Article 11 substituted by L.7/2016, heading amended by R&O.73/2025

²¹ Article 11(1) deleted by R&O.73/2025

²² Article 11(2) substituted by R&O.73/2025

²³ Article 11(3) substituted by R&O.73/2025

²⁴ Article 11(3A) inserted by R&O.73/2025

²⁵ Article 11(3B) inserted by R&O.73/2025

²⁶ Article 11(4) amended by R&O.73/2025

²⁷ Article 11(6) amended by R&O.73/2025

²⁸ Article 11(7A) inserted by R&O.73/2025

²⁹ Article 11(8) amended by R&O.73/2025

³⁰ Article 11(9) amended by R&O.73/2025

³¹ Article 11(11) amended by R&O.73/2025

³² Article 11(13) amended by R&O.73/2025

³³ Article 11A inserted by L.7/2016

³⁴ Article 11B inserted by L.7/2016, heading substituted by R&O.73/2025

³⁵ Article 11B(1) substituted by R&O.73/2025

³⁶ Article 11B(3) substituted by R&O.73/2025

³⁷ Article 11B(6) amended by R&O.73/2025

³⁸ Article 11B(7) amended by R&O.73/2025

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- ³⁹ Article 11B(8) substituted by R&O.73/2025
⁴⁰ Article 11C inserted by L.7/2016
⁴¹ Article 11C(1) amended by R&O.73/2025
⁴² Article 11C(6) deleted by R&O.94/2021
⁴³ Article 11D inserted by L.7/2016
⁴⁴ Article 11D(1) substituted by R&O.73/2025
⁴⁵ Article 12 heading amended by L.7/2016
⁴⁶ Article 12 amended by L.7/2016, R&O.94/2021
⁴⁷ Article 13 substituted by L.7/2016
⁴⁸ Article 13(1) deleted by R&O.73/2025
⁴⁹ Article 13(2) amended by R&O.73/2025
⁵⁰ Article 13(3) amended by R&O.97/2016
⁵¹ Article 13(4) amended by R&O.97/2016
⁵² Article 13A inserted by L.7/2016, substituted by R&O.73/2025
⁵³ Article 13B inserted by L.7/2016
⁵⁴ Article 13C inserted by L.7/2016
⁵⁵ Article 14(1) deleted by L.12/2016
⁵⁶ Article 14(2) inserted by L.7/2016, spent following the coming into force of the Dogs (Licence Fee) (Jersey) Order 2019 on 1 March 2020