

# Dogs Act 1906

#### 1906 CHAPTER 32 6 Edw 7

An Act to consolidate and amend the Enactments relating to injury to live stock by Dogs, and otherwise to amend the Law relating to Dogs. [4th August 1906]

# Textual Amendments F1 Act repealed (N.I.) (19. 12. 1983) by S.I. 1983/764 (N.I. 8), art. 56(2), Sch. 2; S.R. 1983/376, art. 2. Modifications etc. (not altering text) C1 Words of enactment omitted under authority of Statute Law Revision Act 1948 (c. 62), s. 3

Liability of owner of dog for injury to cattle.

 Textual Amendments

 F2
 S. 1(1)(2) repealed and superseded (E.W.S.) by (E.W.) Animals Act 1971 (c. 22), ss. 1, 13(2)(a) and (S.) Animals (Scotland) Act 1987 (c. 9, SIF 4:6), ss. 1(8)(c), 8(2), Sch.

 F3
 S. 1(3) repealed (E.W.S.) by (E.W.) Animals Act 1971 (c. 22), s. 13(2)(a) and (S.) Animals (Scotland) Act 1987 (c. 9, SIF 4:6), s. 8(2), Sch.

 F4
 Words inserted by Dogs (Amendment) Act 1928 (c. 21), s. 1

 Marginal Citations

 M1
 1871 c. 56.

2 .....<sup>F5</sup>

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#### **Textual Amendments**

F5 S. 2 repealed by Diseases of Animals Acts 1950 (c. 36), s. 89, Sch. 5

### 3 Seizure of stray dogs. E+W

- (1) Where a police officer <sup>F6</sup>... has reason to believe that any dog found in a highway or place of public resort [<sup>F7</sup>or on any other land or premises] is a stray dog, he may seize the dog and may detain it until the owner has claimed it and paid all expenses incurred by reason of its detention.
- [F8(1A) The powers under subsection (1) of this section shall not be exercised in relation to a dog found on any land or premises other than a highway or place of public resort unless the owner or occupier of the land or premises has consented to such exercise.]
  - (2) Where any dog so seized wears a collar having inscribed thereon or attached thereto the address of any person, or the owner of the dog is known, the chief officer of police, or any person authorised by him in that behalf <sup>F9</sup>..., shall serve on the person whose address is given on the collar, or on the owner, a notice in writing stating that the dog has been so seized, and will be liable to be sold or destroyed if not claimed within seven clear days after the service of the notice.
  - (3) A notice under this section may be served either—
    - (a) by delivering it to the person on whom it is to be served; or
    - (b) by leaving it at that person's usual or last known place of abode, or at the address given on the collar; or
    - (c) by forwarding it by post in a prepaid letter addressed to that person at his usual or last known place of abode, or at the address given on the collar.
  - (4) Where any dog so seized has been detained for seven clear days after the seizure, or, in the case of such a notice as aforesaid having been served with respect to the dog, then for seven clear days after the service of the notice, and the owner has not claimed the dog and paid all expenses incurred by reason of its detention, the chief officer of police, or any person authorised by him in that behalf <sup>F9</sup>. . ., may cause the dog to be sold or destroyed in a manner to cause as little pain as possible.
  - (5) No dog so seized shall be given or sold for the purposes of vivisection.
  - (6) The chief officer of police of a police area shall keep, or cause to be kept, one or more registers of all dogs seized under this section [F10] in that area]. . . which are not transferred to an establishment for the reception of stray dogs. The 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, and every such register shall be open to inspection at all reasonable times by any member of the public on payment of a fee of [F115p].
  - (7) [F12The police shall not dispose of any dog seized under this section] 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, and such register is open to inspection by the public on payment of a fee not exceeding [F135p].
  - (8) The police officer or other person having charge of any dog detained under this section shall cause the dog to be properly fed and maintained.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Dogs Act 1906. (See end of Document for details)

(9) All expenses incurred by the police under this section shall be defrayed out of the police fund, and any money received by the police under this section shall be paid to the account of the police fund.

<sup>F14</sup> (9A)	 													
(10)														171

#### **Extent Information**

E1 This version of this provision extends to England and Wales only; a separate version has been created for Scotland only.

#### **Textual Amendments**

- **F6** Words in s. 3(1) inserted (E.W.) by Local Government Act 1988 (c. 9, SIF 81:1, 2), s. 39(2)(a)(5) and repealed (1.4.1992) by Environmental Protection Act 1990 (c. 43, SIF 46:4), s. 162(1), Sch. 15 para. 3(2); S.I. 1992/266, art. 3
- F7 Words in s. 3(1) inserted (E.W.) by Local Government Act 1988 (c. 9, SIF 81:1, 2), s. 39(3)(a).
- F8 S. 3(1A) inserted (E.W.) by Local Government Act 1988 (c. 9, SIF 81:1, 2), s. 39(3)(b)
- F9 Words in s. 3(2)(4) inserted (E.W.) by Local Government Act 1988 (c. 9, SIF 81:1, 2), s. 39(2)(b) and repealed (1.4.1992) by Environmental Protection Act 1990 (c. 43, SIF 46:4), s. 162(1), Sch. 15 para. 3(2); S.I. 1992/266, art. 3
- F10 S. 3(6): by Local Government Act 1988 (c. 9), s. 39(2)(c) new words were substituted (E.W.) for the words in brackets and by Environmental Protection Act 1990 (c. 43), s. 162(1), Sch. 15 para. 3(2) (with S.I. 1992/266, art. 3) it is provided that the amendments effected by s. 39(2) of the 1988 Act shall cease to have effect (1.4.1992)
- F11 S. 3(6): "5p" substituted (E.W.) for "one shilling" by virtue of Decimal Currency Act 1969 (c. 19, SIF 10), s. 10(1)
- F12 S. 3(7): by Local Government Act 1988 (c. 9), s. 39(2)(d) new words were substituted (E.W.) for the words in brackets and by Environmental Protection Act 1990 (c. 43), s. 162(1), Sch. 15 para. 3(2) (with S.I. 1992/266, art.3) it is provided that the amendments effected by s. 39(2) of the 1988 Act shall cease to have effect (1.4.1992)
- F13 S. 3(7): "5p" substituted (E.W.) for "one shilling" by virtue of Decimal Currency Act 1969 (c. 19, SIF 10), s. 10(1)
- F14 S. 3(9A) inserted (E.W.) by Local Government Act 1988 (c. 9, SIF 81:1, 2), s. 39(2)(e)(5) and repealed (1.4.1992) by Environmental Protection Act 1990 (c. 43, SIF 46:4), s. 162(1), Sch. 15 para. 3(2); S.I. 1992/266, art. 3
- F15 S. 3(10) repealed (E.W.) by Police Act 1964 (c. 48), Sch. 10 Pt. I

#### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C2 S. 3 extended (1.4.1992) by S.I. 1992/901, art. 4
- C3 S. 3(4)–(9) applied by Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953 (c. 28), s. 2(3)

#### 3 Seizure of stray dogs. S

- (1) Where a police officer <sup>F34</sup>... has reason to believe that any dog found in a [F35 road] or place of public resort [F36 or on any other land or premises] is a stray dog, he may seize the dog and may detain it until the owner has claimed it and paid all expenses incurred by reason of its detention.
- [F37(1A) The powers under subsection (1) above shall not be exercised in relation to any dog found on any land or premises other than [F38 in a road] or place of public resort unless

the owner of the land or premises or person having the right of possession thereof has consented to such exercise.]

- [F39(1B) In subsections (1) and (1A) above "road" has the same meaning as in the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984.]
  - (2) Where any dog so seized wears a collar having inscribed thereon or attached thereto the address of any person, or the owner of the dog is known, the chief officer of police, or any person authorised by him in that behalf <sup>F40</sup>..., shall serve on the person whose address is given on the collar, or on the owner, a notice in writing stating that the dog has been so seized, and will be liable to be sold or destroyed if not claimed within seven clear days after the service of the notice.
  - (3) A notice under this section may be served either—
    - (a) by delivering it to the person on whom it is to be served; or
    - (b) by leaving it at that person's usual or last known place of abode, or at the address given on the collar; or
    - (c) by forwarding it by post in a prepaid letter addressed to that person at his usual or last known place of abode, or at the address given on the collar.
  - (4) Where any dog so seized has been detained for seven clear days after the seizure, or, in the case of such a notice as aforesaid having been served with respect to the dog, then for seven clear days after the service of the notice, and the owner has not claimed the dog and paid all expenses incurred by reason of its detention, the chief officer of police, or any person authorised by him in that behalf <sup>F40</sup>..., may cause the dog to be sold or destroyed in a manner to cause as little pain as possible.
  - (5) No dog so seized shall be given or sold for the purposes of vivisection.
  - (6) The chief officer of police of a police area shall keep, or cause to be kept, one or more registers of all dogs seized under this section [F41 in that area] F42... which are not transferred to an establishment for the reception of stray dogs. The 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, and every such register shall be open to inspection at all reasonable times by any member of the public F43....
  - (7) [F44The police shall not dispose of any dog seized under this section] 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, and such register is open to inspection by the public F45. . . .
- [F46(7A) Where a dog is disposed of under this section to a purchaser in good faith, the sale shall vest the ownership of the dog in the purchaser.]
  - (8) The police officer or other person having charge of any dog detained under this section shall cause the dog to be properly fed and maintained.
  - (9) All expenses incurred by the police under this section shall be defrayed out of the police fund, and any money received by the police under this section shall be paid to the account of the police fund.

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Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Dogs Act 1906. (See end of Document for details)

#### **Extent Information**

**E3** This version of this provision extends to Scotland only; a separate version has been created for England and Wales only.

#### **Textual Amendments**

- F34 Words in s. 3(1) inserted (S.) by Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (c. 45, SIF 81:2), s. 128(1)(a) (i)(2)(a) and repealed (1.4.1992) by Environmental Protection Act 1990 (c. 43, SIF 46:4), s. 162(1), Sch. 15 para. 3(2); S.I. 1992/266, art. 3
- F35 Word "road" substituted (S.) by Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 (c. 54, SIF 108), Sch. 9 para. 20(a)
- F36 Words inserted (S.) by Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (c. 45, SIF 81:2), s. 128(2)(a)
- F37 S. 3(1A) inserted (S.) by Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (c. 45, SIF 81:2), s. 128(2)(b)
- F38 Words substituted by Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 (c. 54, SIF 108), Sch. 9 para. 20(b)
- F39 S. 3(1B) added (S.) by Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 (c. 54, SIF 108), Sch. 9 para. 20(c)
- **F40** Words in s. 3(2)(4) inserted (S.) by Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (c. 45, SIF 81:2), s. 128(1) (a)(ii) and repealed (1.4.1992) by Environmental Protection Act 1990 (c. 43, SIF 46:4), s. 162(1), Sch. 15 para. 3(2); S.I. 1992/266, art.3
- F41 S. 3(6): by Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (c. 45), s. 128(1)(a)(iii) new words were substituted (S.) for the words in brackets and by Environmental Protection Act 1990 (c. 43), s. 162(1), Sch. 15 para. 3(2) (with S.I. 1992/266, art. 3) it is provided that the amendments effected by s. 128(1)(a) of the 1982 Act shall cease to have effect (1.4.1992)
- **F42** Words in s. 3(6) inserted (S.) by Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (c. 45, SIF 81:2), s. 128(1)(a) (iii) and repealed (1.4.1992) by Environmental Protection Act 1990 (c. 43, SIF 46:4), s. 162(1), Sch. 15 para. 3(2); S.I. 1992/266, art. 3
- F43 Words repealed (S.) by Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (c. 45, SIF 81:2), Sch. 4
- F44 S. 3(7): by Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (c. 45), s. 128(1)(a)(iv) new words were substituted (S.) for the words in brackets and by Environmental Protection Act 1990 (c. 43), s. 162(1), Sch. 15 para. 3(2) (with S.I. 1992/266, art. 3) it is provided that the amendments effected by s. 128(1)(a) of the 1982 Act shall cease to have effect (1.4.1992)
- F45 Words repealed (S.) by Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (c. 45, SIF 81:2), Sch. 4
- **F46** S. 3(7A) inserted (S.) by Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (c. 45, SIF 81:2), s. 75(a)
- F47 S. 3(10) repealed (S.) by Police (Scotland) Act 1967 (c. 77), Sch. 5 Pts. I, II

#### **Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

- C5 S. 3 extended (1.4.1992) by S.I. 1992/901, art. 4
- C6 S. 3(4)–(9) applied by Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953 (c. 28), s. 2(3)

## [F164 Delivery of stray dogs to police. E+W

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- (2) Where a dog has been [F18 taken to a police station in pursuance of section 150(1) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990] then—
  - (a) if the finder desires to keep the dog, he shall inform the said police officer of [F19this fact and shall furnish his name and address and the police officer shall, having complied with the procedure (if any) prescribed under subsection (5) below, allow the finder to remove the dog], and thereupon the finder may remove the dog, but shall be under an obligation to keep it for not less than one month;
  - (b) if the finder does not desire to keep the dog, the said police officer shall treat it as if it had been seized by him in pursuance of section three of this Act.

- (3) If the finder [F20] removes the dog but fails to keep it for at least one month,], he shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding [F21] level 1 on the standard scale].
- [ The Secretary of State may, by regulations made by statutory instrument, prescribe the F<sup>22</sup>(4) procedure to be followed under subsection (2)(a) above and any instrument containing regulations under this subsection shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.]

#### **Extent Information**

E2 This version of this provision extends to England and Wales only; a separate version has been created for Scotland only.

#### **Textual Amendments**

- F16 S. 4 substituted by Dogs (Amendment) Act 1928 (c. 21), s. 2
- **F17** S. 4(1) repealed (1.4.1992) by Environmental Protection Act 1990 (c. 43, SIF 46:4), s. 162(1)(2), Sch. 15 para. 3(3)(a), Sch. 16 Pt. IX; S.I. 1992/266, art. 3
- F18 Words in s. 4(2) substituted (1.4.1992) by Environmental Protection Act 1990 (c. 43, SIF 46:4), s. 162(1), Sch. 15 para. 3(3)(b); S.I. 1992/266, art. 3
- F19 Words in S. 4(2)(a) substituted (1.4.1992) by Environmental Protection Act 1990 (c. 43, SIF 46:4), s. 162(1), Sch. 15 para. 3(3)(c); S.I. 1992/266, art. 3
- **F20** Words in s. 4(3) substituted (1.4.1992) by Environmental Protection Act 1990 (c. 43, SIF 46:4), s. 162(1), Sch. 15 para. 3(3)(d); S.I. 1992/266, art. 3
- F21 Words "level 1 on the standard scale" substituted (E.W.) by virtue of Criminal Law Act 1977 (c. 45, SIF 39:1), s. 31(5)(6) and Criminal Justice Act 1982 (c. 48, SIF 39:1), s. 46
- F22 S. 4(4) inserted (E.W.) (1.4.1992) by Environmental Protection Act 1990 (c. 43, SIF 46:4), s. 162(1), Sch. 15 para. 3(3)(e); S.I. 1992/266, art. 3

## [F484 Delivery of stray dogs to police. S

- (2) Where a dog has been [F50 taken to a police station in pursuance of section 150(1) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990] then—
  - (a) if the finder desires to keep the dog, he shall inform the said police officer of [F51this fact and shall furnish his name and address and the police officer shall, having complied with the procedure (if any) prescribed under subsection (5) below, allow the finder to remove the dog], and thereupon the finder may remove the dog, but shall be under an obligation to keep it for not less than one month;
  - (b) if the finder does not desire to keep the dog, the said police officer shall treat it as if it had been seized by him in pursuance of section three of this Act.
- (3) If the finder [F52 removes the dog but fails to keep it for at least one month,], he shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding [F53 level 2 on the standard scale].
- [ Where a person has taken possession of a stray dog, and kept it in accordance with subsection (2)(a) above for a period of two months without its having been claimed by the person having right to it, the person who has taken possession of it shall, at the end of that period, become the owner of the dog.]

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Dogs Act 1906. (See end of Document for details)

[ The Secretary of State may, by regulations made by statutory instrument, prescribe the F55(5) procedure to be followed under subsection (2)(a) above and any instrument containing regulations under this subsection shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.]

#### **Extent Information**

E4 This version of this provision extends to Scotland only; a separate version has been created for England and Wales only.

#### **Textual Amendments**

- F48 S. 4 substituted by Dogs (Amendment) Act 1928 (c. 21), s. 2
- **F49** S. 4(1) repealed (1.4.1992) by Environmental Protection Act 1990 (c. 43, SIF 46:4), s. 162(1)(2), Sch. 15 para. 3(3)(a), Sch. 16 Pt. IX; S.I. 1992/266, art. 3
- **F50** Words in s. 4(2) substituted (1.4.1992) by Environmental Protection Act 1990 (c. 43, SIF 46:4), s. 162(1), Sch. 15 para. 3(3)(b); S.I. 1992/266, art. 3
- F51 Words in s. 4(2)(a) substituted (1.4.1992) by Environmental Protection Act 1990 (c. 43, SIF 46:4), s. 162(1), Sch. 15 para. 3(3)(c); S.I. 1992/266, art. 3
- **F52** Words in s. 4(3) substituted (1.4.1992) by Environmental Protection Act 1990 (c. 43, SIF 46:4), s. 162(1), **Sch. 15 para. 3(3)(d)**; S.I. 1992/266, **art. 3**
- F53 Words "level 2 on the standard scale" substituted (S.) by virtue of Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1975 (c. 21, SIF 39:1), ss. 289C(4)(5), 289G and Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (c. 45, SIF 81:2), s. 75(b)(i)
- F54 S. 4(4) inserted (S.) by Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (c. 45, SIF 81:2), s. 75(b)(ii)
- F55 S. 4(5) inserted (S.) (1. 4. 1992) by Environmental Protection Act 1990 (c. 43, SIF 46:4), s. 162(1), Sch. 15 para. 3(3)(e); S.I. 1992/266, art. 3

#### **Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

C7 S. 4 extended (S.) by Animals (Scotland) Act 1987 (c. 9, SIF 4:6), s. 3(2)

5 .....<sup>F2</sup>

#### **Textual Amendments**

F23 S. 5 repealed by Dog Licences Act 1959 (c. 55), Sch.

#### 6 Burying of carcases.

Any person who shall knowingly and without reasonable excuse permit the carcase of any head of cattle belonging to him [F24 or under his control] to remain unburied in a field or other place to which dogs can gain access shall be liable on conviction under the Summary Jurisdiction Acts to a fine not exceeding [F25 level 1 on the standard scale].

#### **Textual Amendments**

F24 Words inserted by Dogs (Amendment) Act 1928 (c. 21), s. 3

F25 Words substituted (E.W.S.) by virtue of (E.W.) Criminal Justice Act 1982 (c. 48, SIF 39:1), ss. 38, 46 and (S.) Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1975 (c. 21, SIF 39:1), ss. 289F, 289G

#### 7 Definition of cattle.

In this Act the expression "cattle" includes horses, mules, asses, sheep, goats, and swine.

#### 8 Application of Act to Scotland.

This Act shall apply to Scotland with the following modifications:—

- (a) ..... F26
- (b) The expression "police officer" shall mean a constable within the meaning of [F27the M2Police (Scotland) Act, 1967]:
- (c) ...... F2:
- (d) .....<sup>F2</sup>

#### **Textual Amendments**

- F26 S. 8(a) repealed by Police (Scotland) Act 1967 (c. 77), Sch. 5 Pt. I
- F27 Words substituted by Police (Scotland) Act 1967 (c. 77), Sch. 4
- F28 S. 8(c) repealed by Statute Law (Repeals) Act 1976 (c. 16), Sch. 1 Pt. I
- F29 S. 8(d) repealed by Statute Law Revision Act 1927 (c. 42)

#### **Marginal Citations**

**M2** 1967 c. 77.

## F309 Application of Act to Ireland.

This Act shall apply to Ireland with the following modifications:—

- (a) The Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland shall be substituted for the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries:
- (b) The expressions "chief officer of the police" and "police area" shall mean . . . . the district inspector of the Royal Irish Constabulary, and the district over which he is appointed:
- (c) The expenses incurred by the police under section three of this Act shall on demand be paid to the chief officer of police out of the money in the hands of the registrar arising from the sale of licences under the Dogs Regulation (Ireland) Act, 1865, and any money received by the police under the said section shall be paid by the chief officer of the police to the registrar, and be applicable as money arising from the sale of licences.

#### **Textual Amendments**

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F30 Act repealed (N.I.) (19.12.1983) by S.I. 1983/764 (N.I. 8), art. 56(2), Sch. 2; S.R. 1983 No. 376, art. 2.
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Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Dogs Act 1906. (See end of Document for details)

#### **Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

C4 The text of s. 9 is in the form in which it was originally enacted: it was not reproduced in Statutes in Force and does not reflect any amendments or repeals which may have been made prior to 1.2.1991.

**10** .....<sup>F31</sup>

#### **Textual Amendments**

F31 S. 10 and Schedule repealed by Statute Law Revision Act 1927 (c. 42)

## 11 X1 † Short title and commencement.

This Act may be cited as the Dogs Act, 1906 . . . F32

#### **Editorial Information**

X1 Unreliable margin note

#### **Textual Amendments**

F32 Words repealed by Statute Law Revision Act 1927 (c. 42)

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Status: Point in time view as at 01/04/1992.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Dogs Act 1906. (See end of Document for details)

## F33F33SCHEDULE

<b>Textual Amendments F33</b> S. 10 and Schedule repealed by Statute Law Revision Act 1927 (c. 42)
F33

#### **Status:**

Point in time view as at 01/04/1992.

#### **Changes to legislation:**

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Dogs Act 1906.