



Dealing With Dangerous Dogs



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Please note that this is an abbreviated mobile guide and is not intended to replace force policy database and/or relevant legislation.



Would you know what to do at an incident involving dangerous dogs?



- How would you deal with dogs dangerously out of control?
- Do you know the legislation?
- Do you know the powers of seizure?
- Do you know who to contact to assist you with Dangerous Dogs?





Dealing with dogs dangerously out of control

- Protect yourselves and the public first and foremost!
- Where possible – contain the dog (in a house/ garden/ yard/ vehicle etc..)
- Consider the use of your everyday kit, which can be effective against dogs, such as:
 - PAVA spray
 - TASER (consider contingencies)
 - Fire extinguishers (especially CO2)
 - Intermediate Public Order Shields
- Ensure the FCC are updated at an early stage in order that appropriate specialist resources can be deployed quickly.



Dangerous Dog Legislation



- Section 1 Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 relates to prohibited breeds. Under this legislation the following breeds/types of dogs are prohibited;

Pit Bull Terrier



Dogo Argentino



Japanese Tosa



Fila Brasileiro



Dangerous Dog Legislation



Section 1 continued.....

If you suspect a dog is a prohibited breed, contact a Dog Handler who will advise you as to how to proceed. The force has Dog Legislation Officers (DLO) who are trained to identify banned breeds and advise on dog related investigations.

Section 3 Dangerous Dogs Act 1991

If a dog is dangerously out of control in any place (public or private), the owner and / or person in charge of the dog is guilty of an offence.

A dog can be regarded as being dangerously out of control on any occasion where it causes fear or apprehension to a person that it may injure them. If that dog does injure a person or assistance dog then the offence is aggravated (Sec.3a)

NOTE: This is an offence of strict liability. The prosecution is however required to prove that an act or omission of the defendant, with or without fault, to more than a minimum degree, caused or permitted the dog to be dangerously out of control.



Powers of Seizure



Section 5(1) DDA 1991 – Sec 1 dog found in a public place **or** a sec 3 dog found **committing** in a public place

Section 5 (1a) DDA 1991 – Section 3 dog found **committing** in a private place

Section 5(2) DDA 1991 – Section 1 or 3 dog seized on a warrant

Section 19 PACE – Evidence of an offence
Sec 22 of the Animal Welfare Act – Seize animal used in fighting

Sec 18 of the Animal Welfare Act – our power to take possession of an animal to alleviate suffering



Who to Contact



In the first instance, it is advised to contact an on duty dog handler. Whilst dog handlers are not trained to conduct a behaviour assessment, they may be able to provide advice or contact one of our specially trained Dog Legislation Officers (DLO's).

Dog Handlers will have access to specialist equipment, including:

- Bite protection suit
- Electric Dog Control Shield
- Dog Deterrent Spray
- Dog Poles



Children

When attending an incident where it is suspected a dog may present a risk to children present, a PPN must be completed.

In extreme circumstances, the Force Incident Manager can deploy Armed Response Vehicles to deal with animals which are dangerously out of control.

