

Do you know dog law?

Dangerous Dogs Act 1991

Section One

The four types of dog banned under the Dangerous Dogs Act are:

- The Pit Bull Terrier (including Pit Bull-type breeds)
- Fila Brasileiro
- Dogo Argentino
- Japanese Tosa

It became illegal to sell or breed these banned types of dogs and owners must register their dog on the Index of Exempted Dogs after a court order, or they are committing an offence. The owner of any restricted breed must adhere to strict guidelines, such as keeping the dog muzzled and on a lead at all times when in a public place, kept in a secure place so the dog can't escape, having the dog microchipped, tattooed and neutered and having the dog insured.

Section Three

It is a criminal offence (for the owner and/or the person in charge of the dog) to allow a dog to be 'dangerously out of control'. A 'dangerously out of control dog' can be defined as a dog that has injured somebody or a dog that a person has grounds for reasonable apprehension that it may do so.

If your dog injures someone, it may be seized by the police and the penalty could include a prison sentence and/or ban on keeping dogs. There is an assumption that the dog will be destroyed, unless you can convince the court that it is not a danger to the public. You may also have to pay a fine, compensation and costs.

Name two of the four banned breeds under the Dangerous Dogs Act in Britain

Students can choose from: Pit Bull Terrier, Fila Brasileiro, Dogo Argentino, Japanese Tosa

On what list must an owner of one of the banned breeds register their dog?

The Index of Exempted Dogs

Name two of the guidelines owners of dogs on the Index of Exempted Dogs must

adhere to. Students may choose from: keeping the dog muzzled and on a lead, kept in a secure place, microchipping, tattooing, neutering and insurance.

How can a 'dangerously out of control dog' be defined? A dog that has injured somebody or a dog that a person has grounds for reasonable apprehension that it may do so.

What are two of the penalties that can occur if a person's dog injures someone?

Students may choose from: prison sentence, ban on keeping dogs, fines and compensation.

Do you think this Act is enough to protect the public from dangerous dogs? Explain

why. Students answers will vary, this is asking purely for their opinion. Higher level students are given the opportunity here to evaluate both positive and negative aspects of the Act.