



AnimalsAsia
Foundation

Animals Asia Recommendations
Dog Management Regulations in China



Animals Asia recommend governing authorities work in partnership with the local veterinary community, local animal-welfare organisations, the local community (both dog-owners and non-owners), and international NGOs in the development and implementation of humane dog management regulations.

Animals Asia recommends an effective dog-management programme should be developed following an assessment of the dog population and should include a number of components including education, legislation, registration, sterilisation, vaccination, and the availability and financing of holding centres and rehoming facilities.

Animals Asia recommends the governing authority adopt the following specific recommendations:

Assessment

Provide the infrastructure, finances and resources to complete a thorough assessment of the dog population through questionnaires, street surveys and community meetings.

- Identify the number of dogs and their ownership and roaming status. (*Suggested method: Questionnaire and street survey*)
- Identify the welfare issues faced by owned and non-owned dogs
- Identify the sources of un-owned dogs (abandonment, unneutered owned roaming dogs)
- Identify the resource availability and its source for roaming dogs (i.e. garbage, hand outs)
- Identify sections of the community already involved in dog management/bite prevention, and responsible dog ownership
- Identify the social issues causing conflict i.e. dog waste, noise disturbance or dog attacks. (*Suggested method: Group meetings with community representatives*)
- Identify the history of dog bites and any correlation with regards to geographical areas. (*Suggested method: media review*)
- Identify partners within a humane dog management strategy including community groups, other government departments such as the health department and pet related businesses,
- Identify potential barriers to regulations from groups such as, civic liberty, breed groups, and dog owners
- Assess the effectiveness of current regulations

Education

Develop public education initiatives to encourage greater responsibility among dog owners for population management and the care and welfare of individual animals.

An education initiative should focus on

- appropriate pet selection
- bite-prevention and the supervision of dog and child interactions
- caring for dogs to meet their nutritional, health and welfare needs
- responsible dog ownership
- health and welfare benefits of de-sexing dogs
- promoting the importance of, and access to, preventative treatments such as rabies vaccination and parasite-control
- knowledge of normal and abnormal canine behaviour in both owned and non-owned dogs.

- compliance with licensing regulations
- behaviour training

Legislation

Develop legislation which is clear but not restrictive and provides a framework that rewards responsible ownership, and address issues such as commercial supply i.e. dog breeding

Licensing/registration

- All dogs must be licensed and issued with a licence tag including an identifying number, year of issuance, city, county, and province. A license should be issued after payment of a fee. A fee-classification system should be introduced:
 - Reduced fee for low-income dog owners
 - Reduced fee for de-sexed dogs.
 - Reduced fee for dogs owned by elderly people.
 - Fee-exemption for dogs registered as guide dogs for the blind, hearing dogs for the deaf, or other dogs that perform a service for people in need.
 - Reduced fee if dog-owners pay for more than one year of registration.
 - Reduced fee for dog owners enrolled on responsible dog ownership initiatives
 - Fee for all other dogs that do not meet the above criteria.
- Develop and manage a database to store information on all licences issued and for this to be accessible by relevant personnel within the local authority's dog management team, veterinary profession, police and both government and non-government dog shelters.
- Develop and promote registration centres (in conjunction with vaccination) within local communities
- Allow dog-owners to register more than one dog per household
- Use the revenue generated from licensing to fund educational initiatives

Dog Breeding, Sale & Kennelling Permits

Any person wishing to operate an animal establishment, breed and/or sell adult dogs or puppies must obtain a permit from the governing authority.

- Permits should be issued following an assessment of the facilities to be used for breeding and selling dogs (*criteria for such facilities should be developed based on the health and welfare needs of both adult dogs and puppies*)
- Permits should be issued upon payment of a fee depending upon the type of establishment:
 - Kennel Fee (classification system for size of the establishment)
 - Pet shop fee
 - Other animal establishment fee
 - No permit fee should be required of animal shelters.
- Renewal permits should be issued annually following a further inspection of the facility

Identification

- All dogs should be microchipped by a trained veterinarian
- Develop and manage a database to store this information and for this to be accessible by relevant personnel within the local authority's dog management

team, veterinary profession, police and both government and non-government dog shelters.

Neutering

- Provide with incentives to dog owners to have their dogs de-sexed such as reduced registration fees
- Provide financial support for low-income dog owners
- Develop the capacity of the veterinary community to help to meet the needs of the dog population
- Ensure minimum veterinary standards based on international surgical standards are reached to maintain public confidence, and minimise complications.

Vaccination

- All dogs should be vaccinated against the following:
 - Rabies
 - Canine Distemper
 - Canine Parainfluenza Virus
 - Canine Leptospirosis
 - Canine Parvovirus
 - Infectious Canine Hepatitis
- Provide financial support for low-income dog owners
- Develop and promote vaccination centres (in conjunction with registration) within the community

Holding Centres and Rehoming Facilities

With appropriate facilities and capacity roaming dogs should be impounded and confined in a humane manner. The owners of dogs with identification should be notified and conditions of collection explained. If an owned/identified dog is found roaming the authority should serve the owner with a notice of violation and impound the animal. If dogs are found to be suffering, they should be removed and placed in a holding centre at the owner's expense or to be humanely euthanised if necessary to prevent further suffering. Animals Asia recommends the governing authority:

- Provides financial resources to operate an effective holding and rehoming facility for unowned and abandoned dogs.
 - Development of such an establishment should follow international guidance on design and management of animal shelters.
 - Each centre should develop a management plan that ensures the welfare of the animals, identification and management of curable diseases and prevention of spread within the local population, and humane standards of euthanasia for dogs with incurable illnesses, suffering from untreatable injuries or major behavioural problems that prevent them being rehomed.
 - Development of clear policies on neutering, euthanasia, capacity and rehoming.
- Dogs that are not claimed within a set period should become the property of the shelter and if appropriate become available for adoption
- Disposal of an animal on humane grounds should not relieve the owner of liability for violations and any accrued charges.
- All dogs for adoption should be neutered and an adoption fee paid. In addition costs of vaccination, licensing, and additional veterinary costs may be included.

Owner Responsibility

The owner of every dog should be held responsible for the behaviour of their dog.

- All dog owners should be required to pick up and safely dispose of dog faeces.
- All dogs should be kept under control in public areas.
- Every "dangerous" dog, as determined by the governing authority, should be safely confined by their owner and securely muzzled whenever in public.
- Owners of dogs showing aggressive behaviour should be instructed to have their dogs de-sexed and socialised where possible.
- Dog owners should ensure that their dog carries identification at all times in the form of microchip, tag, or other means to allow easy determination of the owners.

Penalties

Penalties should be used to prevent animal cruelty and to enforce regulations

- Dog owners, breeders and sellers who mistreat or abandon their dogs should be subject to a fine and prohibition from raising, breeding or selling dogs for a set time period.
- Dog owners found not meeting their own responsibilities should receive a monetary fine and/or subsequent ban on keeping dogs.
- Dog owners who fail to obtain a licence should receive a monetary fine
- Dog breeders and sellers operating without a permit should receive a monetary fine and/or subsequent ban on raising, breeding and selling dogs.

Additional Recommendations

- Establishment of dog parks (designated areas within parks) for dog owners to exercise their dogs off leash if permitted
- Regulations should not encourage breed specific legislation or legislation based on height or size. Instead Animals Asia recommend:
 - appropriate laws focusing on the responsibility of the dog's owner (including generic, non-breed-specific dangerous-dog laws)
 - penalties for irresponsible owners,
 - community education in responsible dog ownership

as the most effective means of minimizing problems associated with aggressive behaviour, animal abandonment and the transmission of communicable diseases.