

Animal Welfare Laws

it's your
duty to care



The Animal Welfare Act
2006

When did the Animal Welfare Act come into effect?

From 6 April 2007 (and in Wales from 27 March 2007), animal welfare law was improved.

Not only is it against the law to be cruel to an animal, you must also ensure that all the animal's welfare needs are met.



To find out how the law affects you, visit www.defra.gov.uk





What does the Animal Welfare Act do?

It makes owners responsible for ensuring that their animals' welfare needs are met.

These include the need:

- for a suitable environment (place to live)
- for a suitable diet
- to exhibit normal behaviour patterns
- to be housed with or apart from other animals (if applicable)
- to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease

The law also increases the minimum age a person can buy an animal to 16 and prohibits giving animals as prizes to unaccompanied children under this age.

Anyone who is cruel to an animal or does not provide for its welfare needs may be banned from owning animals, fined up to £20,000 and/or sent to prison.



Published by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.
© Crown Copyright 2008.

Printed on material that contains a minimum of 100% recycled fibre
for uncoated paper and 75% recycled fibre for coated paper.

www.defra.gov.uk
Helpline - 08459 335577

PB12460