



## Vecinos Cooperando y Colaborando de España Neighbourhood Watch Association in Spain



### The Law on Dangerous Dogs

The Law on Dangerous Dogs is No 50/99 and will affect you if you own one of the listed dogs. The list of dogs considered dangerous is as follows:-

Pit Bull and all Bull breeds  
All Mastiffs  
Canary Island Prey Dog  
Caucasian Shepherd  
Bordeaux  
Brazilian Fila  
Doberman  
Rottweiler  
Corsican Can

PLUS:

All dogs over 25 Kilos in weight

All dogs that have any record of human or dog aggression or any dog that shows aggressive behaviour or any dog considered by the authorities to be dangerous, must now be registered and in possession of a special Licencia Municipal.

We strongly recommend that you seek further information from your local authority and seek further information from your vet who should be aware of the legal requirements. Spain is a Federal country and has 17 different "Comunidades" or Federal states with their own parliament, government and also laws. A law in one "Comunidad" could be different from a similar law in another "Comunidad". There are still a few Municipals areas which have not yet put this into effect therefore you should check with your local Municipality.

In Valencia, Madrid, Barcelona and other large cities a list has been made of "Perros Potencialmente Peligrosos", dogs who could potentially be dangerous, and of course the Rottweiler, Doberman, Pit Bull Terrier, Dogo Argentino, Dogo de Burdeos, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Presa Canaria, Fila Brasileiro, etc are on the list, and also **ALL their CROSSBREDS**. This means any dog crossed with any of the breeds on the list. You can only walk these dogs on a short lead of 1 metre and they **MUST ALWAYS** wear a muzzle once they are outside the home or in the car. Even if your dog is not one of those listed breeds, but has bitten a person or child in the past, it will be classified as if it was on the list of the dangerous dogs.

If you want to own a dog which is on the Dangerous List, you have to go and see a psychologist and take a test (in Spanish), similar to the test people have to pass if they want to buy a gun, the cost is around 70 euro.

If you are a resident in Spain you will have to apply for a document from the Ministry for the Interior confirming that you do not have a criminal record. If you are not a resident in Spain, you have to apply for such a document in your country of origin and have it translated into Spanish and take the originals with you to the Town Hall (Ayuntamiento).

If you want to walk your potentially dangerous dog without a muzzle, you and your dog will have to pass a test with a vet. The vet will ask you a lot of questions and handle the dog himself because he has to confirm that you will have your dog under control in whatever circumstances and also that your dog will not react in an aggressive way if he is approached by a stranger. This test is only valid for 1 year and costs about 50 euro. This certification that you can control your dog must be taken to the town hall when you register your dog.



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Dangerous dog owners are required by law to obtain a special insurance for their dogs with a public liability of at least €120,000. You will be required to take a copy of your Insurance Policy with you to the town hall.

You will also need to present 2 photographs per dog when you go to the town hall.

Your dog must have a chip for personal identification underneath his skin. You will also be required to take the form confirming that the dog has a chip with you to the Town Hall, together with the booklet which has been given to you by your vet confirming that your vaccinations are up to date and registered.

Once you have all these documents and photographs you will have to go to the Town Hall, with your passport or resident's permit and fill out 2 forms in Spanish. The first one is an application form confirming that you want to have a permit for your potentially dangerous dog. The second one is a form confirming that you want to register your dog on the municipal register. On this second form you will have to state that you have a guard dog, a dog for personal defense, a dog for personal protection or for other reasons and also if the dog has been trained, where it has been trained and by whom.

Once issued, the Licencia Municipal to own a potentially dangerous dog is valid for only 3 years.

### **FINALLY**

Each Ayuntamiento has its own forms as used by the various municipalities, these may be different but they all want as much information about you and your dog as possible.

Not every vet is qualified to subject you and your dog to the test of non aggression, only those vets who have taken the course on non aggression with their "Colegio" or professional body are qualified to supervise the test. Some psychologists are using the same tests as the ones they use for people wanting to buy a gun whilst others have changed the contents a little bit.

Some have made translations of the test on the forms, but please be cautious because some translations have huge chunks of text missing and others where the meaning of the Spanish question has been totally altered in the Dutch, French, German or English translation.

This is not an easy application and unless you are able to speak and read Spanish fluently it is strongly recommend that you first discuss this with your vet and seek his assistance on each stage and of course you should also be prepared to pay for this service.