




ANIMAL WELFARE CHARTER FOR DOGS AND HORSES

KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL





"The love for all living creatures is the most noble attribute of man."

—

Charles Darwin



This Charter applies to all people who own or keep dogs and horses living in County Kilkenny.

Kilkenny County Council supports the view that dogs and horses have the right to enjoy 5 basic freedoms:

- 1. Freedom from hunger, thirst and underfeeding**
- 2. Freedom from physical discomfort and pain**
- 3. Freedom from harm or disease**
- 4. Freedom from fear and suffering**
- 5. Freedom to their common ways and needs**

Kilkenny County Council will look to these 5 freedoms to guide them when carrying out the legal powers they have with regard to dogs and horses.

Kilkenny County Council also recognises that dogs and horses are living creatures that can enjoy a state of happiness but can also experience suffering.





Dogs

The Control of Dogs Act includes the following areas:

- Dogs must be licensed
- Dogs must wear an identification collar.
- Dogs must be micro chipped.
- Dogs may be seized and impounded if the above are not in place
- Restricted breeds (e.g. German Shepherd; Bull Terrier; Rottweiler; Doberman; etc.)



The people that own or keep dogs will be in charge and responsible for their dog ownership.

This will include the following:

- Kilkenny County Council sees the role dogs have in our community and that we must live together in a shared environment.
- Dog owners shall be responsible for the care of their dog.
- Dog owners must make sure they keep their dogs free from disease.
- Dog owners must provide a safe place for their dogs to live.
- Dog owners must make sure that their dog is trained and does not cause harm.
- Dog owners will also take responsibility to neuter their dogs as necessary.
- Dog owners must provide adequate water to be available at all times.

- Dog owners must provide healthy and suitable food everyday.
- Dog owners shall make sure their dog is exercised everyday.
- All reasonable safety measures need to be taken to stop the control and spread of infectious and contagious diseases between dogs.
- Dog owners should take plenty of care and organise regular visits to the veterinarian to take care of the dog.
- When a dog has to be put to sleep, under the advice of a veterinarian, it will be done humanely according to recommended veterinary best practice, by a veterinarian.
- Dog owners and those who keep dogs shall remove dog faeces and dispose of them in a suitable, clean manner.

Owners or keepers of dogs shall be aware of their responsibilities under the Control of Dogs Act.





Horses

The ownership and keeping of horses must be in agreement with the Control of Horses Act - Regulations 2014 (S.I. No 113 of 2014).

In summary, the Control of Horses Act includes the following areas:

- All horses must be micro-chipped and have a passport.
- Horses in public places must have a licence and bridle.
- Horses must be kept under adequate control.
- Unlicensed horses may be removed in control areas.
- Horses causing a nuisance may be seized and impounded.



The responsibilities of horse owners or those that keep horses are:

- Lands where horses are kept should be registered as equine lands with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Marine.
- Horse owners must ensure that enough water is always available.
- Horse owners must ensure that their horse has enough wholesome and suitable food is available every day.
- Where the Horse is not at grass, food shall be stored in a dry and secure place and suitable bedding material shall be available.
- Where the Horse is kept at grass, this must be maintained at all times and there must be enough grazing land and shelter for the Horse.

- Horse owners need to exercise their horse on a regular basis and rest the horse at regular intervals.
- Horse owners need to prove that there is access to adequate exercise facilities for their horse(s).
- All reasonable safety measures need to be taken to stop the control and spread of infectious and contagious diseases between horses.
- Horse owners must ensure their horses are cared for, this includes including veterinary care.
- Horse owners must ensure that their horse(s) are protected if there is a fire.
- Only equipment and tackle made for horses shall be used in connection with the Horse.
- Horse owners must provide good accommodation the storage of fodder, bedding, stable equipment and saddlery.
- Horse owners should be mindful of others in the community when disposing manure or other offensive matter.
- Manure or offensive matter shall be removed and disposed of as soon as possible.

**Our office is at
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