

2012 no. 63

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION  
OF  
ARUBA

NATIONAL ORDINANCE of December 27, 2012, containing rules on the subject of  
keeping dogs (Dog Ordinance)

Issued, December 28, 2012

The minister of Justice and Education,

A.L. Dowers

## IN NAME OF THE QUEEN!

THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR of Aruba,

Having taken into consideration:

- that due to changed circumstances in time it is desirable to stipulate new rules with regard to keeping dogs in Aruba;
- that it is also desirable to make special provisions for dangerous dogs;

Has, having heard the Advisory Council, in consultation with Parliament, laid down the national ordinance mentioned below:

## Article 1

In this national ordinance and the provisions based thereon is understood under:

Minister: the minister charged with judicial affairs;

keeper: the owner, keeper or the person in whose charge the dog is;

dangerous dog: dog, as referred to in article 5;

competent authority: the police officers as well as special policemen, insofar as they have been appointed thereto.

## Article 2

1. Keepers of dogs are obligated to provide their dogs with the necessary care. Hereunder is understood at any rate, that:

- a. the dog gets enough food of satisfactory quality on a daily basis;
- b. the dog at all times drinks enough water of satisfactory quality;
- c. the dog at all times, if necessary, gets shelter from the sun, rain and wind;
- d. the dog, if needed, gets medical care from a vet;
- e. the dog, also if he's kept on a leash, has sufficient walking space at his disposal.

2. The minister charged with public health, can lay down further rules to enforce the provisions in the first paragraph.

## Article 3

1. Dog keepers are obligated to take such measures that these dogs do not have free access to the public road or property of others.

2. Dog keepers are obligated to make sure that these dogs are no burden on neighbors.

3. The Minister can lay down rules as to enforce the provisions in the first and second paragraph.

## Article 4

1. Keepers are obligated to keep their dogs on a leash at all times on public terrain, unless otherwise indicated.
2. The Minister can indicate parts of Aruba where the leash order is not in effect.
3. The Minister can indicate parts of Aruba that are forbidden for dogs. These parts will be made known by means of signs.

## Article 5

1. By regulation of the Minister and of the minister charged with public health, dogs and dog breeds that could present danger for the safety of humans and animals, can be indicated as dangerous.
2. As dangerous dogs, as referred to in the first paragraph, can be indicated at any rate:
  - a. dogs belonging to one of the following breeds: American Staffordshire Terrier, Cane Corso, Dogo Argentino, Fila Brasileiro, Caucasian Ovcharka, Neapolitan Mastiff, Pit Bull Terrier and the Presa Canario;
  - b. all crossbreed products of breeds mentioned under a, as well as all dogs with a strong resemblance to the breeds mentioned under a.
3. By decree of the ministers mentioned in the first paragraph, as dangerous dogs can also be indicated:
  - a. individual dogs that are known to have a low biting threshold;
  - b. dogs involved in a biting incident, of which an official report has been drawn up.

## Article 6

1. It is prohibited to keep a dangerous dog without being in possession of a necessary license thereto.
2. The license referred to in the first paragraph is issued by the Head of the Veterinary Service on behalf of the ministers referred to in Article 5.
3. With the application for a license, proof is submitted from which is apparent that:
  - a. a dog for which the license is applied for, is identifiable;
  - b. for a dog a valid insurance concerning third party risks has been taken out.
4. Regulations and restrictions can be attached to a license.
5. The regulations to be attached to a license can at any rate include:
  - a. to maintain a valid insurance concerning third party risks for the duration of the license;
  - b. the regulation that a dangerous dog, as long as he is present on public terrain, is wearing a reliable muzzle;
  - c. the regulation that a dangerous dog is to be sterilized.
6. The Head of the Veterinary Service keeps a register of the licenses issued.
7. The Minister can lay down further rules as regards the manner in which a dog is identifiable.

## Article 7

1. Dogs, that in breach of the provisions in or by virtue of Articles 3 and 4 are encountered, or dangerous dogs for which no license was issued, can be captured by the competent authorities and taken into custody.

2. Dogs, which to the opinion of the competent authority form an immediate danger for the safety of humans and animals, can be killed by the competent authority.

3. The in the first paragraph referred to dogs in custody, can, if the keeper thereof cannot be found in ten workdays if the dog is identifiable and three workdays if the dog is unidentifiable, can be killed or given away. Article 6, paragraph 7, is applicable.

4. The keeper is obligated to pay the costs of custody. The Minister shall lay down the tariffs by ministerial decree.

5. The Minister can lay down further rules to enforce the provisions in this Article.

## Article 8

1. Infringement of the provisions in or by virtue of Articles 2, 3, 4 and 6 are penalized with a fine of Afl. 10,000 at most.

2. The punishable acts in the first paragraph are offenses.

## Article 9

1. The Criminal Code of Aruba (AB 1991 no. GT 50) is amended as follows:  
To Article 477, second paragraph, by replacing the period at the end of section i into a semi-colon, two new heads are added, reading:

j. the holding of dog fights or providing the opportunity to hold dog fights;

k. give the audience the opportunity to attend dog fights.

2. The Dog Ordinance (AB 1988 no. GT 1) is revoked.

## Article 10

This ordinance can be cited as Dog Ordinance.

## Article 11

This ordinance takes effect at a time to be stipulated by state decree.

Given in Oranjestad, December 27, 2012  
F.J. Refunjol

The minister of General Affairs, M.G. Eman  
The minister of Health and Sports a.i., O.B. Sevinger  
The minister of Justice and Education, A.L. Dowers