



Animal Welfare Laws

now it's your
duty to care



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Helpline - 08459 335577

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The Animal Welfare Act
2006



When does the new law come into effect?

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

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



What does the new law do?

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

Makes owners responsible for ensuring that their animal's 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 new 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.

