



Functional Skills Certificate

FUNCTIONAL ENGLISH

Component 1 Reading Level 2

Insert

The three sources that follow are:

- Source A: a news report about the Dangerous Dogs Act
- Source B: a leaflet about caring for your dog
- Source C: a webpage about a police dog unit.

**Please open the insert fully
to see all three sources**

Source A

The Dangerous Dogs Act 25 years on

By Claire Jones



25 years ago, Britain became one of the first countries in the world to ban certain breeds of dog. The Act imposed restrictions on four different types of dog traditionally bred for fighting. It also made it an offence for an owner to allow any dog 'to be dangerously out of control'.

Kerry Stevens, who suffered serious leg injuries when she was attacked by a dog, said she believes the ban on pit bulls should remain. Speaking in April 2015 she said: "I don't trust them at all. The damage done to me could've killed a toddler." When she went to stroke the dog it pushed her to the ground and locked its jaws. The dog was destroyed by a vet.

It has made my leg look deformed

The RSPCA believes the increase in the number of dog bites demonstrates the law has failed. A spokeswoman said the legislation falsely led people to believe that non-banned dogs were safe.

- 🐾 7000 dogs seized by police in England over 5 years
- 🐾 £5m spent on kennelling
- 🐾 £650 – average spent per dog
- 🐾 985 days – longest period a seized dog was kennelled

A spokeswoman for Battersea Dogs' Home said: "At Battersea we have to deal with dogs that are sentenced to be put to sleep on the grounds of their appearance, rather than anything they have actually done."

Since 1991, 30 people have died in dog-related incidents, 21 involving breeds not banned by law. Battersea had to put down 91 healthy pit bull type dogs last year because of the law. The charity believed at least 71% of them could have been rehomed as family pets due to their friendly and affectionate nature. NHS hospital admission statistics show there were 7227 hospital admissions for dog bites last year which is a 6% increase year-on-year and a 76% increase over the last 10 years.

The Act has been modified throughout the years. Measures introduced allow police and local authorities to require owners to attend dog training classes or muzzle their dog in public, a spokesman stated. "Dog attacks can have horrific consequences for victims and families, so keeping the ban on certain types of dog under the Dangerous Dogs Act is crucial to help us deal with the increased risk they pose," he said.



Source B



Caring for Your Dog



Owning and caring for a dog is a big responsibility and a long-term commitment – typically, dogs live for thirteen years, but many may live for much longer. Under the Animal Welfare Act, pet owners are now legally obliged to care for their pets properly.



Dogs need a comfortable, dry, clean, quiet place to snooze in, as well as somewhere they can hide to avoid things that scare them. Always look out for a bed that is big enough to allow your dog to go through his/her natural routine of turning around before settling.

Dogs are intelligent, so if they get bored and don't have enough to do, they can suffer. Make sure your dog can exercise outdoors every day.

If you go on a long car journey, ensure he/she gets regular stops to have a drink and go to the toilet. The temperature inside a car can soar to 47°C/117°F within 60 minutes. You should never leave a dog alone in a car. By law, if you put your animal at risk, you could face prosecution.



Your dog needs a well-balanced diet. How much your dog needs to eat will depend on things such as age, how active he/she is and his/her general health. If your dog eats more food than necessary, he/she will become overweight and may suffer.



Dog food can be wet or dry but always make sure plenty of clean, fresh drinking water is available, especially if you choose dried food. Supervise meal times and remember that most human meals don't provide dogs with the nutrition they need. Some foods – chocolate, onions, grapes and raisins – can be poisonous to dogs.

Dogs may bark for many reasons such as during play, as a greeting or for attention. But prolonged periods of barking may be because your dog is unhappy, so it's vital to find out why this is happening.

How much and what type of exercise your dog needs will depend on the dog's habits, age and health. Some dogs will need loads of exercise throughout their lives while others may be happy with the run of a garden and a daily walk.



Your dog should be taught to walk on a lead to protect him/her from traffic. Also use a lead when walking near farm animals which can often be the target of attacks by dogs. But try to find a safe area where you can let your dog off the lead for a good run around.



Dogs are amazing animals with complex needs which must be met if they are to be kept healthy and happy.

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Source C

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A Day In The Life: Dog Unit

We recently spent a day in the life of the Police Dog Unit in Glasgow's Pollok Park with Constables Kimberley Hill and Phil Farndell to learn a bit more about the role of dog handlers in Police Scotland.

The day starts early for our officers as the dogs must be fed at 5 am to get them ready for the start of their shift at 11 am. The dogs must be fed early enough to allow time for their food to go through the system properly before they start any strenuous activity.

The duties of a general purpose dog can be looking for missing persons, searching for weapons and other evidence and looking for individuals who may be evading the police.

Being a police dog handler is more than just a job, it's a vocation for life and a partnership between dog and handler that lasts 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It's the dog handler's responsibility to look after their dogs and make sure they are disciplined in their duty and in peak physical condition. Dog handlers can also be required to deal with dangerous dogs, using some specialist equipment such as electric shields.

The duties of a specialist dog such as an explosives dog would be ensuring safety at royal visits, VIP visits or sniffing out bomb threats. Some dogs have different specialist skills including being able to detect drugs, money, firearms, human remains and blood. All of these specialities require extensive training to ensure the dog is capable of successful detection.

ADITL Dog Unit

Any officer can apply to be a dog handler after their probationary period. Officers will learn about the specialist equipment that is used including bite bars, bite sleeves and bite jackets.

Being a dog handler is a unique job unlike any other. It's a very challenging and demanding task that involves a lot of work in your home life with the dogs. It's also a very rewarding role that starts with training a puppy and sharing your experiences with the dog for most of their working life.

END OF SOURCES

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**Open out this page to see
Source B and Source C**