

ORDINANCE  
OF THE STATES OF ALDERNEY

ENTITLED

**The Protection of Animals (Alderney) Ordinance, 1977 \***

*[CONSOLIDATED TEXT]*

**NOTE**

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\* Alderney Ordinance No. I of 1977; as amended by the Uniform Scale of Fines (Alderney) Law, 1989 (Ordres en Conseil Vol. XXXI, p. 306). See also the Police Force (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 1986 (Ordres en Conseil Vol. XXIX, p. 207).

# ORDINANCE OF THE STATES OF ALDERNEY

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## **The Protection of Animals (Alderney) Ordinance, 1977**

### ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

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*(Made on the 9th February, 1977.)*

## **The Protection of Animals (Alderney) Ordinance, 1977**

**THE STATES**, in pursuance of their Resolution of the seventh day of July, nineteen hundred and seventy-six, hereby order: –

### **Offences of cruelty.**

1. (1) If any person –
  - (a) shall cruelly beat, kick, ill-treat, under-feed, override, overdrive, over-load, torture, infuriate, or terrify any animal, or shall cause or procure, or being the owner, permit any animal to be so used, or shall, by wantonly or unreasonably doing or omitting to do any act, or causing or procuring the commission or omission of any act, cause any unnecessary suffering, or, being the owner, permit any unnecessary suffering to be so caused to any animal, or
  - (b) shall convey or carry, or cause or procure, or, being the owner, permit to be conveyed or carried, any animal in such manner or position as to cause that animal any unnecessary suffering, or
  - (c) shall wilfully, without reasonable cause or excuse, administer, or cause or procure, or being the owner permit, such administration of, any poisonous or injurious drug or substance to any animal, or shall wilfully, without any reasonable cause or excuse, cause any such substance to be taken by any animal, or

- (d) shall, being the owner or person having charge or control of any animal, without reasonable cause or excuse abandon it, whether permanently or not, in circumstances likely to cause the animal any unnecessary suffering, or cause or procure or, being the owner, permit it to be so abandoned;

he shall be guilty of an offence of cruelty within the meaning of this Ordinance and liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding [level 3 on the Alderney uniform scale] or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to both such fine and such imprisonment.

(2) For the purposes of this section, the owner of an animal shall be deemed to have permitted cruelty within the meaning of this Ordinance if he shall have failed to exercise reasonable care and supervision in respect of the protection of the animal therefrom:

PROVIDED that, where an owner is convicted of permitting cruelty within the meaning of this Ordinance by reason only of his having failed to exercise such care and supervision, he shall not be liable to imprisonment without the option of a fine.

(3) Nothing in this section shall apply to the commission or omission of any act in the course of the destruction, or the preparation for destruction, of any animal as food for mankind, unless such destruction or such preparation was accompanied by the infliction of unnecessary suffering.

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**NOTE**

*In section 1, the words and figure in square brackets were substituted by the Uniform Scale of Fines (Alderney) Law, 1989, section 2(2), with effect from 1st October, 1989.*

**Power for Court to order destruction of animal.**

2. Where the owner of an animal is convicted of an offence of cruelty within the meaning of this Ordinance, the Court, upon his conviction thereof, may, if it is satisfied that it would be cruel to keep the animal alive, order that the animal be destroyed at the expense of the convicted person and assign the animal to any suitable person for that purpose; and the person to whom such animal is so assigned shall, as soon as possible, destroy such animal, or cause or procure such animal to be destroyed, in his presence without unnecessary suffering:

PROVIDED that, unless such owner assent, no order shall be made under this section except upon the evidence of an authorised veterinary surgeon.

**Power for Court to deprive person convicted of cruelty of ownership of animal.**

3. Where the owner of an animal is convicted of an offence of cruelty within the meaning of this Ordinance, the Court, upon his conviction thereof, may, if it thinks fit, in addition to or in substitution for any other punishment, deprive such person of the ownership of the animal, and may make such order as to the disposal of the animal as the Court thinks fit under the circumstances.

PROVIDED that no order shall be made under this section, unless it is shown by evidence as to a previous conviction, or as to the character of the owner, or otherwise that the animal, if left with the owner, is likely to be exposed to further cruelty.

**Power for Court to disqualify persons convicted of cruelty to dogs.**

4. (1) Where a person is convicted of an offence of cruelty, within the meaning of this Ordinance, to a dog, the Court, upon his conviction thereof, may, if it thinks fit, in addition to or in substitution for any other punishment, order him to be disqualified for keeping a dog and for holding or obtaining a dog licence for such period as the Court thinks fit.

(2) Where a person who is disqualified by virtue of an order made under this section is the holder of a dog licence, the licence shall be suspended so long as the disqualification continues in force and shall, during the time of suspension, be of no effect.

(3) If any person who is disqualified by virtue of an order made under this section keeps a dog or applies for or obtains a dog licence while he is so disqualified, he shall be guilty of an offence and liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding [level 1 on the Alderney uniform scale] or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months or to both such fine and such imprisonment.

(4) A person in whose custody, charge or possession, or in whose house or premises, a dog shall be found or seen shall, unless the contrary is proved, be deemed for the purposes of this section to be the person who keeps that dog.

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**NOTE**

*In section 4, the words and figure in square brackets were substituted by the Uniform Scale of Fines (Alderney) Law, 1989, section 2(2), with effect from 1st October, 1989.*

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**Power for Court to disqualify persons subsequently convicted of cruelty to animals.**

5. (1) Where a person who has been convicted of an offence of cruelty within the meaning of this Ordinance to any animal is subsequently convicted

of such an offence to any animal, the Court by which he is convicted on the subsequent occasion may, if it thinks fit, in addition to or in substitution for any other punishment, order him to be disqualified for having custody of any animal or any animal of a kind specified in the Order for such a period as the Court thinks fit; and where any such disqualification relates to the custody of a dog the order shall be deemed to include an order made under subsection (1) of the last preceding section and the provisions of subsections (2), (3) and (4) of that section shall apply accordingly.

(2) If any person has custody of any animal in contravention of an order made under this section, he shall be guilty of an offence and liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding [level 1 on the Alderney uniform scale] or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months or to both such fine and such imprisonment.

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**NOTE**

*In section 5, the words and figure in square brackets were substituted by the Uniform Scale of Fines (Alderney) Law, 1989, section 2(2), with effect from 1st October, 1989.*

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**Further provisions relating to disqualification.**

6. (1) A Court which has ordered the disqualification of a person in pursuance of the provisions of sections four or five of this Ordinance may, if it thinks fit, suspend the operation of the order –

- (a) for such period as the Court thinks necessary for enabling arrangements to be made for the custody of any animal or animals to which the disqualification relates, or
- (b) pending an appeal.

(2) A person who is disqualified by virtue of an order made under sections four or five of this Ordinance may, at any time after the expiration of twelve months from the date of the order, and from time to time, apply to the Court by which the order was made to remove the disqualification, and on any such application the Court may, as it thinks proper, having regard to the character of the applicant and his conduct subsequent to the order, the nature of the offence of which he was convicted, and any other circumstances of the case, either –

- (a) (i) in the case of a disqualification under section four of this Ordinance, order that, as from such date as may be specified in the order, the disqualification be removed, or
  - (ii) in the case of a disqualification under section five of this Ordinance, order that, as from such date as may be specified in the order, the disqualification be removed or the order be so varied as to apply only to animals of a kind specified in the order as varied, or
- (b) refuse the application:

PROVIDED that where on an application under this subsection the Court orders the variation of the order or refuses the application, a further application thereunder shall not be entertained if made within twelve months after the date of the order, or, as the case may be, the refusal.

**Appeals.**

7. (1) There shall be no appeal against any order made under section two of this Ordinance or against any order or refusal made under subsection (2) of

section six thereof.

(2) An appeal shall lie from any order made under sections three, four or five of this Ordinance in the same manner as against a conviction.

(3) Where there is an appeal by the owner of an animal from an order to which the last preceding subsection applies, the Court may order him not to sell or part with the animal until the appeal is determined or abandoned, and to produce it on the hearing of the appeal if such production is possible without cruelty; and a person who fails to comply with an order under this subsection without satisfactory excuse shall be guilty of an offence and liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding [level 1 on the Alderney uniform scale].

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**NOTE**

*In section 7, the words and figure in square brackets were substituted by the Uniform Scale of Fines (Alderney) Law, 1989, section 2(2), with effect from 1st October, 1989.*

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**Powers of officers of police.**

8. (1) An officer of police may detain any person who has committed, or whom he has reasonable cause to suspect of having committed, an offence under any of the provisions of this Ordinance.

(2) Where a person having charge of an animal is [detailed] by the officer of police for an offence under this Ordinance, it shall be lawful for that or any other officer of police to take charge of such animal, and to place it in some place or safe custody until the termination of the proceedings or until the Court shall order such animal to be delivered to the person charged or to the owner, and the reasonable costs of the detention of such animal, including the reasonable costs of veterinary treatment where such treatment is required shall, in the event of a conviction in respect of the said animal, be recoverable from the owner as a civil debt, or, where

the owner himself is convicted, shall be part of the costs of the case.

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**NOTE**

*The word in square brackets in subsection (2) shown, incorrectly, in the printed version of this section as "detailed" should read "detained".*

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**Interpretation.**

9. (1) In this Ordinance, unless the context otherwise requires, the following expressions have the meanings hereby respectively assigned to them, that is to say –

**"animal"** means any domestic or captive animal,

**"authorised veterinary surgeon"** means a veterinary surgeon authorised to practice as such in this Island according to the law for the time being in force,

**"captive animal"** means any animal (not being a domestic animal) of whatever kind or species, and whether a quadruped or not, including any bird, fish, or reptile, which is in captivity, or confinement, or which is maimed, pinioned, or subjected to any application or contrivance for the purpose of hindering or preventing its escape from captivity or confinement,

**"domestic animal"** means any ass, cat, cattle, dog, goat, horse, mule, poultry, sheep or swine, or any other animal of whatsoever kind or species, and whether a quadruped or not which is tame or which has been or is being sufficiently tamed to serve some purpose for the use of man; and the expressions **"cattle"** includes any bull, cow, ox, heifer or calf; and **"poultry"** includes any domestic fowl, turkey, goose, duck, guinea fowl, partridge, pheasant or pigeon,

**"dog licence"** means a licence issued under the Dog Licences (Guernsey) Law, 1969<sup>a</sup>, as extended to Alderney by the Alderney (Application of Legislation) (Dog Licences) Ordinance, 1969<sup>b</sup>,

**"officer of police"** means a member of the salaried police force of the Island of Guernsey and, within the limits of his jurisdiction, a special constable appointed by the Court of Alderney under section sixty-five of the Government of Alderney Law, 1948<sup>c</sup>.

(2) The Interpretation (Guernsey) Law, 1948<sup>d</sup>, shall apply to the interpretation of this Ordinance as it applies to the interpretation of an enactment in force in the Island of Guernsey.

(3) Any reference in this Ordinance to any other enactment shall, except where the context otherwise requires, be construed as including a reference to that enactment as amended, repealed or replaced, extended or applied by or under any other enactment including this Ordinance.

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**NOTES**

*In accordance with the provisions of the Police Force (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 1986, section 2(2), with effect from 19th August, 1986, the reference herein to a member of the salaried police force of the Island of Guernsey shall include a reference to a member of a force present in the Island by virtue of an agreement made under section 1 of the 1986 Law.*

*The Government of Alderney Law, 1948 has since been repealed by the*

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**a** Ordres en Conseil Vol. XXII, p. 296.

**b** Recueil d'Ordonnances Tome XVI, p. 202.

**c** Ordres en Conseil Vol. XIII, p. 416.

**d** Ordres en Conseil Vol. XIII, p. 355.

*Government of Alderney Law, 1987, section 63(1), Schedule 3, with effect from 1st August 1987, subject to the savings and transitional provisions in section 63 and section 64 of the 1987 Law. In accordance with section 63(2) of the 1987 Law, and pursuant to amendments made by the Government of Alderney (Amendment) Law, 2000, section 2, with effect from 19th June, 2002, the reference in the definition of the expression "officer of police" in subsection (1) to a "special constable appointed by the Court of Alderney under section sixty-five of the 1948 Law" shall be construed as a reference to a special constable appointed or deemed to be appointed pursuant to the provisions of an Ordinance made under section 46A of the 1987 Law. The Government of Alderney Law, 1987 has since been repealed by the Government of Alderney Law, 2004, section 63(1), Schedule 3, with effect from 1st May, 2005, subject to the savings and transitional provisions in section 63(2) and section 64 of the 2004 Law.*

*The Interpretation (Guernsey) Law, 1948 has since been repealed by the Interpretation and Standard Provisions (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2016, section 28(a), with effect from 1st October, 2018.*

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**Repeal.**

10. Section five of the Dogs (Alderney) Ordinance, 1974, is hereby repealed.

**Citation.**

11. This Ordinance may be cited as the Protection of Animals (Alderney) Ordinance, 1977.

**Commencement.**

12. This Ordinance shall come into force on the tenth day of February, nineteen hundred and seventy-seven.