



Keeping a dog in connection with hunting





Photo : Fredrik Luvrigsson/Johnér

Hunting with a dog in Sweden

Welcome to Sweden! We hope you enjoy your stay here. We would like to take this opportunity to inform you about the animal welfare rules that apply to anyone who has a dog in this country.

The purpose of these provisions is, of course, to ensure that the dog is happy and healthy. Dog owners are required by law to care for their dog so that it is healthy, has sufficient food and water, and is housed in a good space. If the dog is sick or injured, it must receive care from a veterinary surgeon. If the dog is kept outdoors when not in use, it must have protection from the elements in the form of an insulated kennel with an exercise yard or similar. The dog must not be kept in a cage other than temporarily in connection with an ongoing hunt. The space in which the dog is kept must also be sufficiently large.

The County Administrative Board sometimes receives reports about hunters who are not taking good care of their dogs. The County Administrative Board's inspectors can then go out and conduct

an unannounced check on how the dog is being looked after. If deficiencies are found, the County Administrative Board can, in the worst case, take the dog into custody, which it is empowered to do by law. The dog owner will then be charged the cost of taking the dog into custody. If there are less serious deficiencies, the keeper may be allowed a period of time in which to remedy them. Here is a presentation of the main rules for keeping a dog.

Body fat/food/water

A dog should receive sufficient food for it not to become thin or fat. A normal level of body fat will enable you to feel the ribs when applying slight pressure, the waist is visible from above, and the hip bones are gently rounded. The thinner the dog, the more prominent the parts of the skeleton such as the hip bones, ribs and spine. The fatter the dog, the less visible the skeleton

will be. When a dog is used intensively for a number of days, it is natural that the dog will become slimmer. It is then important to try to compensate the dog's energy loss with more food. A dog must have sufficient water every day. If the dog is indoors, it must have access to water at all times.

Veterinary care

If you have a dog that is sick, injured or needs care and/or medication for any other reason, you as a dog owner are obliged to contact a veterinary surgeon. This also applies to old dogs that have age-related problems or diseases. In Sweden, dogs which are severely distressed because of circumstances which cannot be alleviated must be destroyed. It is therefore not permissible to allow them to die by themselves. After the veterinary surgeon's visit, it is important to follow the surgeon's recommendations.

It is forbidden for anyone other than a veterinary surgeon to operate on or sew up the wounds of a dog. The only exception is if it is done for life-saving purposes or to alleviate suffering. Veterinary surgeons may not distribute or prescribe medicinal products with an anaesthetic effect to an animal owner. If life-supporting or palliative treatment as described above has been carried out by a non-veterinarian, a veterinary surgeon must be contacted as soon as possible, so that the animal can be examined and any further treatment considered.

Sleeping areas and space requirements

In Sweden, it is not permitted to keep dogs in cages other than in certain instances, e.g. in connection with transport. During transport, dogs may be left in the means of transport when it is stationary for no more than three hours. The means of transport may not, however, be used as a storage space. This means that dogs must be kept in an exercise yard or indoor space at night time and whenever they are not being used for hunting.

Dogs may be kept in cages in connection with an ongoing hunt. This means that a dog can be kept in a cage while, for example, hunting is taking place with another dog, while awaiting its turn. When hunting is over for the day, the dog must be kept in an approved space, such as an exercise yard, box or indoors in a home. In this context, it is also not permitted to keep a dog restrained on a leash, rope or chain, either indoors or outdoors.

All dogs kept in Sweden must have access to a dry and clean sleeping area that comprises a soft surface. Dogs being kept in an exercise yard must have access to either an insulated, well-ventilated kennel or a heated indoor space, a so-called box. How big an exercise yard, kennel and indoor space should be depends on how big the dog is and how many dogs are being kept in the same space. The requirements for the size of these spaces may be found below. An exercise yard must also be provided with a raised sleeping area and visual barriers if required, to enable dogs to keep away from

dogs in neighbouring exercise yards. All spaces for dogs should be easy to clean and, if necessary, be disinfected

Controls and the County Administrative Board's work

The County Administrative Board is the government agency in Sweden that is responsible for conducting animal welfare controls in accordance with the Swedish Animal Welfare Act. Controls are conducted in order to check compliance with animal welfare legislation.

The County Administrative Board can conduct what are known as planned and risk-based controls. In this case context, it is primarily food-producing animals, animal transport activities and activities with animals that require a permit that are checked. In addition to this, the County Administrative Board can conduct controls upon receipt of a report. The report can come from the general public, a veterinary surgeon, the police, etc.

During the control, the Inspector and the animal owner together review how the dog is being looked after. The Inspector documents the control by means of photos or videos if necessary. The Inspector can also take measurements e.g. of spaces, ammonia levels, etc. In some cases, the County Administrative Board only focuses their control on a certain aspect of how animals are being kept.

The County Administrative Board has the right to have access to all areas relating to the keeping of animals, as well as access documentation needed for the control, and to take samples. If access is denied,

the Inspector may enlist the help of the police.

If the Inspector notices deficiencies that are serious and need to be urgently remedied for the dog's animal welfare, a verbal injunction may be issued. specifies what measures need to be taken and by when these measures must be completed. Such a decision is legally binding and can be appealed within three weeks.

In the event of really serious deficiencies, the dog or dogs may be taken into custody immediately, see more about decisions below.

What can happen after a control

After an animal welfare control, the dog owner will receive a control report stating what has been checked and the result of the control.

In the event of serious deficiencies, or if the dog owner is unwilling to remedy the problems highlighted, the County Administrative Board can decide on an injunction. In the event of an injunction, the County Administrative Board decides by when the deficiencies must be remedied. Particularly serious deficiencies, or if the County Administrative Board has had to make repeated demands on the person who is keeping dogs, may result in the dogs being taken into custody. Taking into custody can take place immediately, or after the keeper has been given a period of time to respond.

When a dog has been taken into custody, the County Administrative Board assumes responsibility for the dog and decides what is to happen to the dog. During or after a period of custody, the dog will be examined by a veterinary surgeon. After the veterinary examination and any other necessary examinations, the County Administrative Board will decide whether the dog is to be sold, transferred, in some other way or destroyed.

All costs incurred during and after a period of custody are charged to the keeper.

Space requirements in tabular form with definitions

All tables and definitions are taken from the Swedish National Board of Agriculture's regulations and general recommendations on the keeping of dogs and cats (SJVFS 2019:28). If you would like to read more about the rules for keeping a dog in Sweden, you can visit jordbruksverket.se

Definitions

Box - Indoor storage space for dogs

Storage space - An enclosed indoor or outdoor space where dogs are kept for a certain period of time or at recurring intervals. This could be for example, a box, a residence or part of a residence, a residential plot of land or another area enclosed within a fence.

Keeping - taking care of your own or other people's animals.



Photo: Mostphotos

Kennel - A small storage space for dogs that is kept outdoors and is intended to provide animals with the opportunity for privacy and a sleeping area with protection from the elements. A kennel is normally located outdoors in an area enclosed within a fence or in another suitable location.

Exercise yard - A storage space, enclosed within a fence, for dogs that is demarcated by a fences or similar, in such a way that animals can observe the surrounding area outside it.

Transport - The movement of animals performed by means of one or more means of transport and associated procedures, including loading, unloading, re-loading and rest, until the unloading of the animals is completed at the destination. The destination refers to the final destination of the transport activity.

Exercise yard or other outdoor space

Wither height of the dog	Single dog	Pairs or groups: The largest dog	Pairs or groups: For each additional dog, the floor area must be increased by*
<25 cm	7 m ²	7 m ²	4 m ²
25-35 cm	10 m ²	10 m ²	6 m ²
36-45 cm	15 m ²	15 m ²	8 m ²
46-55 cm	16 m ²	16 m ²	10 m ²
56-65 cm	18 m ²	18 m ²	12 m ²
>65 cm	20 m ²	20 m ²	18 m ²

* For each additional dog that is added to the area according to the row that corresponds to the wither height of the dog.



Box

The minimum space for dogs in a box is specified in the table below. The dimensions refer to the smallest available floor area of the box in square metres. In this context, a bitch with puppies is counted as a dog until the puppies have reached three weeks of age.

Wither height of the dog	Single dog	Pairs or groups: The largest dog	Pairs or groups: For each additional dog, the floor area must be increased by*
<25 cm	2 m ²	2 m ²	1 m ²
25-35 cm	2 m ²	2 m ²	1,5 m ²
36-45 cm	2,5 m ²	2,5 m ²	1,5 m ²
46-55 cm	3,5 m ²	3,5 m ²	2 m ²
56-65 cm	4,5 m ²	4,5 m ²	2,5 m ²
>65 cm	5,5 m ²	5,5 m ²	3 m ²

*For each additional dog that is added to the area according to the row corresponding to the wither height of the dog.d.

Sleeping space for dog in a kennel

Length	Width	Height
Dog length measured from the tip of the nose to the point of attachment of the tail multiplied by 1.1	The dog's wither height multiplied by 1.1	The dog's wither height multiplied by 1,2

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