

FAQ's on the changes to the Domestic Animals Regulations

What is the new legislation?

The amendments to the Domestic Animals Regulations prescribe the collar required to be worn at all times by restricted breed dogs.

Why has this suddenly happened?

Changes to the *Domestic Animals Act* in 2011 introduced the requirement for a restricted breed dog to wear a collar but required the collar to be prescribed in the Regulations. This has now been done to link the two together. It is not a sudden change but one that was flagged in November 2011. The Government is providing free collars to all responsible registered owners to ensure they do not get 'caught out' without the newly prescribed collar and risk receiving a penalty.

What is the collar?

It consists of red stripes alternately spaced with yellow stripes each being of a width of 25 mm and set diagonal to the rim of the collar at an angle of 45 degrees; and

- at least one of the two colours reflects light in the dark; and
- it is made of durable materials; and
- it is able to be securely fastened; and
- it has a facility to attach a leash; and
- it has a minimum width of—
 - (i) 25 mm for a dog weighing less than 20 kgs; or
 - (ii) 40 mm for a dog weighing between 20 kgs and 40 kgs; or
 - (iii) 50 mm for a dog weighing more than 40 kgs.

Is that the same collar as for dangerous dogs?

Yes.

Can I put the collar on any other dog?

An owner of a dog must not put on a dog, other than a dangerous dog or restricted breed dog, a collar resembling the collar. Penalty: 2 penalty units.

Why did the Government decide on the same collar for dangerous and restricted breed dog?

To save confusion by the general public, in particular children it was decided to make the one collar that identifies dogs that have special requirements under the legislation.

How will I get a collar?

Owners of registered restricted breed dogs will be provided a free collar by the Government these will be distributed shortly from by your local council. Any dogs declared after 4 June or any person who requires a new collar will have to contact council to enquire how to purchase a collar in the future. For details of suppliers of collars contact your local council, or phone the DPI Customer Service Centre on 136 186.

I know of a pit bull terrier that does not appear to have on a collar. What can I do?

Call the Local Council or the Government hotline (1300 101 080). An Authorised Officer will inspect the premises and review the breed of the dog. Heavy penalties can be applied for offences of attacking, being at large and not being kept according to the law on confinement, identification and management of such dogs.

When walking a restricted breed dog, the dog must be muzzled and on a chain, cord or leash when in public places. A restricted breed dog must not be in the control of a person under 18 years of age and there is a requirement for a restricted breed dog to wear a characteristic collar.