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Information for dog owners



Länsstyrelsen
Norrbotten



Photo: Mostphotos

Permits

If you carry on a commercial or extensive activity involving the use of dogs, you must have a dog keeping permit from the County Administrative Board.

The person responsible for the animals must possess a knowledge of the behaviour and needs of dogs, as well as their diseases and stress factors. In addition, the person responsible for the activity must possess a knowledge of current animal welfare legislation.

A permit will be required if:

- You carry on commercial activity involving the use of dogs, regardless of how many dogs are involved.
- You keep ten or more dogs which are more than 12 months old. 'Keeping' means that you look after your own dogs or those of others.
- You breed three or more litters per year.
- You sell dogs from three or more litters per year which you or others have reared.

- You make available three or more dogs per year. 'Make available' means that you lend dogs in return for reimbursement, e.g. sled dog rental.
- You mind or feed four or more dogs. 'Minding' is an activity where you simultaneously and regularly take in other dogs in return for reimbursement, e.g. day care for dogs.

If you run a sled dog business, you will in principle always be required to have a permit, as such businesses often involve large numbers of dogs and/or welcome tourists in return for payment, i.e. commercial activity. If there are facilities for dogs in locations other than where you normally keep dogs, e.g. if you have constructed exercise yards along a route for sled rides or similar, you must also apply for a permit for these locations.

When you submit your application, remember to attach drawings of the facilities for the dogs and a description of your procedures and the activities you carry on. If you carry on guiding, breeding and keeping of dogs, you must apply for a permit for all aspects of your business in a single application.

You can apply for a permit to the County Administrative Board of Norrbotten, www.lansstyrelsen.se/norrbotten.

When you apply for a permit, the County Administrative Board will carry out an inspection of your dogs and facilities.

Facilities

All areas which are used in the activity involving the use of dogs are considered to belong to the facility. This means that these areas must comply with animal welfare legislation relating to dogs.

Permanent outdoor facilities

Sled dogs are often kept in permanent outdoor facilities. This means that the dogs are mainly kept in exercise yards when they are not training or competing.

Exercising

Dogs which are permanently kept in a yard must be exercised in another location at least once a day. Exercising dogs in another location may involve taking them for a walk or releasing the dogs in another, larger enclosure on the property.

Areas and maintenance

Areas where dogs are kept must be kept sufficiently clean and be easy to clean. It is therefore important to have a pro-

cedure for cleaning the areas used by the dogs to ensure that urine and faeces do not accumulate.

Exercise yards, exercise enclosures and other areas where dogs are kept must be free from objects or substan

Environmental enrichment

The areas must be sufficiently large and be equipped with raised sleeping areas, environmental enrichment and, if necessary, visual barriers. Visual barriers may for example be needed to enable the dogs to avoid each other.

Raised sleeping areas must be provided in a size and/or quantity which ensures that all dogs which are kept together can lie on them in a natural position at the same time. The surface of the sleeping areas must be non-slip and free from sharp edges.

Protection from the elements

The dogs must have access to protection against precipitation, sun and wind. This can be ensured through the provision of a heated indoor area or an insulated and well-ventilated kennel in the exercise yard.

If necessary, kennels must be equipped with 'wind locks' to ensure that the wind cannot blow straight into them and cause draughts inside the kennels. Inside the kennels, the dogs must have access to soft surfaces on which they can make a bed using straw or other similar materials. If the dog has a kennel, it must be able to enter and exit it freely.

Food and water

When the temperature is above 0°C, dogs kept permanently in the yard must have unrestricted access to water. When temperatures fall below 0°C, dogs must be given water sufficiently often to ensure they consume the volume of water that they need and at least twice a day.

Dogs must be given suitable feed in a quantity which ensures they do not become too thin or too fat. If several dogs are fed at the same time, provision must be made to enable each dog to eat undisturbed.

Dimensions of dog areas

All tables are taken from the Swedish National Board of Agriculture's regulations and general recommendations on the keeping of dogs and cats (SJVFS 2020:8), case no. L102.

MINIMUM DIMENSIONS OF EXERCISE YARDS

Wither height of the dog	Single dog	Pairs or groups: The largest dog	Pairs or groups: For each additional dog, the ground 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	14 m ²

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

MINIMUM DIMENSIONS OF BOXES

Wither height of the dog	Single dog	Pairs or groups: The largest dog	Par- eller grupphållning: For each additional dog, the ground area must be increased by*
<25 cm	2m 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 which is added to the area according to the row which corresponds to the wither height of the dog.

SLEEPING AREAS FOR DOGS 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

If several dogs share a kennel, the kennel must be sufficiently large to ensure that all dogs in the kennel can lie down in a natural position at the same time.

Tethering of dogs

It is not permitted to keep dogs tethered to a chain or similar, instead of having them in an exercise yard or indoors.

However, you may temporarily tether your dog outdoors under certain circumstances. Dogs must not be tethered indoors.

Dogs may be temporarily tethered outdoors during competitions and during rest or overnight stops while travelling. Dogs may also be temporarily tethered in areas where dogs are not normally permitted to stay. Dogs must always be tethered safely. The dog must not be exposed to any risk of injury as a result of the tethering and it must be able to lie down in a natural way. The dog must also not be at risk of getting too cold or hot. The sleeping area must be arranged so that it is clean, dry and soft.

Travelling with dogs

If you are travelling with dogs across international borders, it is important to check the rules that apply. The rules that apply to imports and entry into Sweden can be found on the Swedish Board of Agriculture's website. The rules vary depending on whether you are travelling with a pet dog, whether the dog is travelling without its owner, the number of dogs you are travelling with, the purpose of the trip (there are simplified rules when travelling to/from competitions, exhibitions, etc.) and the country from which the dog is travelling.

Generally for dogs which are permanently brought into Sweden from another EU country or from third countries with EU conditions, they must:

- Be ID-marked (with a micro-chip if the marking was carried out after 3 July 2011)
- Have a valid vaccination against rabies (except for dogs coming from Norway)
- Have a valid EU passport
- Be registered in the central dog register

Additional rules apply in connection with the trading of dogs. In such cases, the dogs must also be inspected in the country from which they are travelling and have a TRACES certificate. The animal(s) must also be declared to customs when they are brought into the country.

Diseases, disease control and care of dogs

Vaccinations

RABIES

Rabies is a deadly disease for both humans and animals. The disease does not exist in Sweden and it is vital that it is not brought into the country.

Dogs which are brought into Sweden must be vaccinated against rabies. There are a few exceptions, such as dogs from Norway. Dogs must be at least 12 weeks old and be ID-marked in order to receive their basic vaccination. The basic vaccination consists of one or two doses three weeks apart, depending on the vaccine used.

After the basic vaccination has been administered, at least 21 days must pass before the animal is permitted to travel to another country. This means that a dog must be at least 15 weeks old before it can be brought into Sweden. The validity of the vaccination may vary both between vaccines and due to the differing vaccination interval requirements of different countries. It is important to check the rules that apply to the vaccine that was used and the destination country.

Repeat vaccination must be carried out in accordance with the recommendations of the vaccine manufacturer. Otherwise, the basic vaccination must be repeated in order for the vaccination to be valid.

DISTEMPER, HEPATOMA (HCC) AND CANINE PARVOVIRUS

There is no statutory requirement concerning vaccinations for dogs which are kept in Sweden. However, in order to keep the incidence of serious diseases at a low level, dogs should be given the basic vaccination, with an initial dose at 7 to 8 weeks of age and follow-up vaccinations at 12 weeks and 1 year of age, and no more than every three years thereafter.

Other requirements may apply for participation in competitions, for example. Check with the organiser. The recommendations regarding vaccinations have been introduced because the diseases concerned can have very serious consequences in terms of suffering for the animals and lead to a high mortality rate if they affect a kennel or other large dog-keeping facility.

PARASITES

Parasites can easily spread in large dog-keeping facilities. As a dog keeper, you should have a plan for checking whether the dogs have worms and/or other single-celled parasites. To supplement this, procedures should also be established for the deworming of puppies in particular, along with procedures for the cleaning of exercise yards, so that particularly sensitive individuals, such as puppies, do not become infected.

TAPEWORM – ECHINOCOCCUS MULTILOCULARIS

This parasite can occur in foxes, dogs and, in rare cases, cats. The animals themselves do not become ill from it. However, people can become very seriously ill as a result of, for example, severe liver problems, which can necessitate a liver transplant and lifelong drug treatment to prevent fatal consequences caused by the infection.

Infection can occur by ingesting worm eggs from the dog's fur or something in the environment which is contaminated with worm eggs. The parasite is widespread among animals in Central and Eastern Europe and has also been detected in Småland, Västra Götaland, Södermanland and Dalarna. To prevent the prevalence of the parasite from increasing, it is vital that all dogs that are brought into Sweden are dewormed using a preparation which acts against echinococcus multilocularis.

INFECTION CONTROL IN DOG KEEPING

Regardless of whether it is a question of vomiting and diarrhoea, vermin, coughing or anything else that is contagious, it is important that you as a dog keeper have good procedures and the right conditions in place to ensure that sick dogs can be isolated and cared for appropriately as soon as possible. This applies both to ensure that sick dogs can be given appropriate care and to minimise the risk of other dogs being affected. Remember that many viruses and parasites can persist for a long time in exercise yards, boxes and kennels, so you must have a plan for keeping them clean.

CARE AND TREATMENT OF DOGS

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 give necessary treatment or to euthanized. 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 euthanized. 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 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.

The treatment of dogs using prescription drugs must be prescribed by a veterinary surgeon and be intended for the particular dog or group of dogs that needs to be treated. This means that you as a dog owner may not on your own initiative commence treatment with any prescription drugs which are available at home. It is also not permitted to order medicines on the internet or bring medicines into the country from abroad. The exception is medicines which a veterinary surgeon has prescribed for a specific dog for a limited period of time.

Transporting dogs

General

If you transport individual dogs in the passenger compartment of your car, you must ensure they are transported safely. The dog can be transported in the luggage compartment of your car if it is closely supervised throughout the journey. There must be no risk of the dog being injured or suffering during the journey. You must therefore ensure that the dog is adequately secured, e.g. by using a transport cage or seat belt which is suitable for dogs.



The dog must not be left unattended in the vehicle if it is possible that the temperature inside the car will exceed $+25^{\circ}\text{C}$ or drop below -5°C . During the journey, the dog must be exercised and be given water at least once every six hours. It must also be fed at intervals of no more than 24 hours. The dog must not be left in a vehicle. It is therefore not permitted to use the car as a storage space for dogs during, for example, an overnight stay or while you are at work. However, the dog may occasionally be left in your vehicle when stopping during a journey. This might for example be the case when the driver has to stop in order to go into a shop or similar.

Your vehicle must be suitable for transporting the dog. If you transport the dog in a cage or similar, it must be designed and positioned in such a way that the dog has sufficient shade and good ventilation.

Signs must be affixed to motor vehicles and trailers to indicate that they are carrying animals. Swedish-registered vehicles must have signs on both the front and rear of the vehicle. The signs must be easy to read from a distance and it must be clear that there are live animals in the vehicle. The text can be in either Swedish or English. The requirements regarding signs do not apply to cars.

MINIMUM DIMENSIONS

If you use a cage or similar to transport dogs in a car, each dog must have at least the following space available to it:

- Length = length of the dog from the tip of its nose to its buttocks when the dog is standing in a normal position multiplied by 1.10.
- Width = chest width of the dog multiplied by 2.5. The dog must be able to lie down and turn freely.
- Height = the dog's height above the head when the dog is standing in a normal position.



BITCHES AND PUPPIES

Bitches in season must be transported separately from male dogs.

A pregnant bitch may not be transported for the two weeks immediately prior to the due date of whelping. Bitches may not be transported any earlier than one week after whelping. Exceptions apply to pet dogs transported in passenger cars and journeys of less than 50 kilometres.

Puppies must be at least one week old, and the navel should be fully healed before they are transported.

SICK OR INJURED DOGS

In urgent cases, you may transport a sick or injured animal to a veterinary surgeon even if you do not meet the transport requirements. You must also consider the health of the dog when determining whether or not it can be transported. If you have any doubts as to whether it is appropriate to transport the dog, you must contact a veterinary surgeon for advice.

Transporting several dogs

In addition to the above rules, additional provisions apply to the transporting of several dogs. If you transport a significant number of dogs or dogs which are not pets, or you transport the dogs in anything other than an ordinary car, you must follow the regulations set out below. icle.

REQUIREMENTS REGARDING THE TRANSPORT OF SEVERAL DOGS

The vehicle that is used for transport must have a compartment which is specifically designed for the transport of dogs. This compartment must be separated from the passenger compartment by a grill or mesh, and be designed so that the animals can stand up and lie down in a natural position. If necessary, you must be able to insert partitions in order to protect the dogs.

The compartment must also be designed so that it protects the dogs from sunlight. It must also be ventilated mechanically with a fan which also operates when the vehicle's engine is switched off. Suitable equipment must be used when loading and unloading the dogs. During the journey, either you or someone you consider suitable must be able to care for the dogs. In the event of an accident, evacuation must be possible via more than one escape route without difficulty or delay. Dogs must not be kept permanently in any vehicle.

TRANSPORT OF DOGS ON FLATBEDS OR SIMILAR

If you transport sled dogs on a truck flatbed or similar, the dogs must be transported in cages or similar. The cages must be both draught-free and well-ventilated. You must ensure that there are no draughts in the vehicle's direction of travel and that no exhaust fumes are sucked into the cages. The cages must be adequately secured to the flatbed and protect the dogs from adverse weather conditions.

Information

If you have any questions, please contact us at the County Administrative Board of Norrbotten via our helpline: 010 225 54 99 or via e-mail: norrbotten@lansstyrelsen.se.

Animal welfare legislation, the Animal Welfare Act, the Animal Welfare Ordinance and regulations regarding dog husbandry and training can be found on the Swedish Board of Agriculture's website.

LINKS

www.jordbruksverket.se

www.sva.se

www.lansstyrelsen.se/norrbotten

