



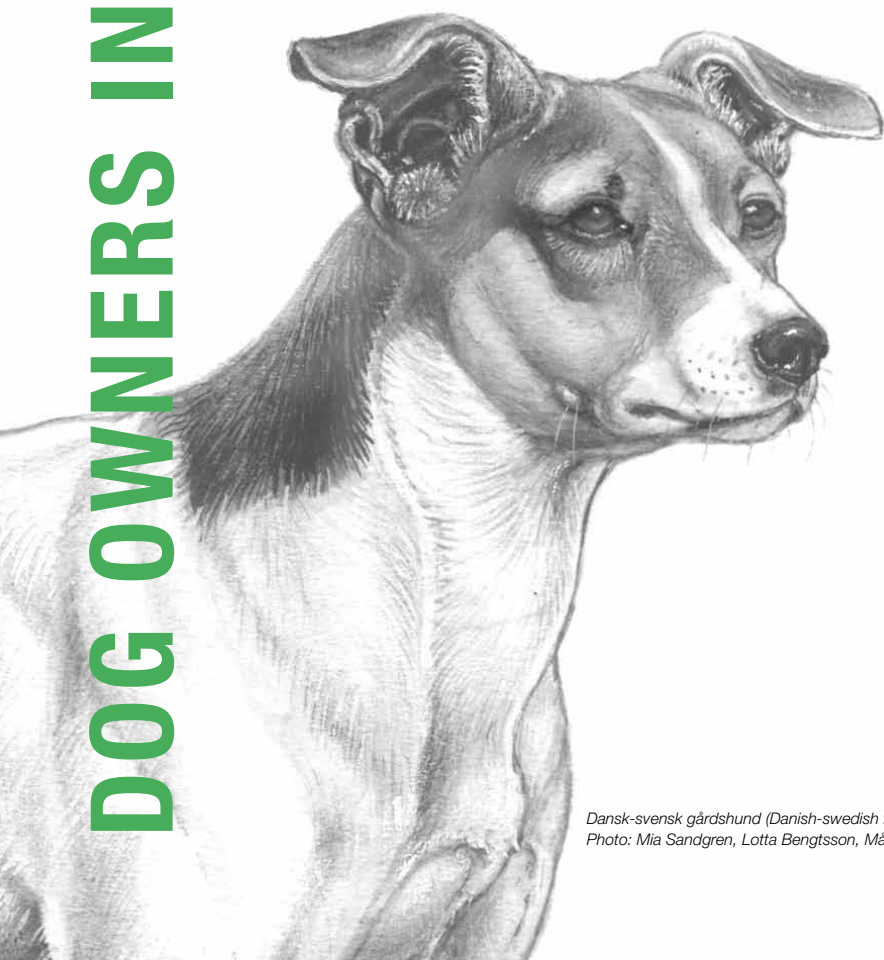
DOG OWNERS IN THE CITY

Information about keeping a dog in urban areas

SVENSKA KENNELKLUBBEN

DOG OWNERS IN THE CITY

*"Of course you can keep a dog
if you live in a city. You just have to
adapt to the situation and realise
that you have a great responsibility
to other people."*



Dansk-svensk gårdshund (Danish-swedish farmdog)

Photo: Mia Sandgren, Lotta Bengtsson, Måns Engelbrektsson



Living with a dog in the city

Many people would like to have a dog, but think they cannot because they live in a city or a built-up area. If you are one of them, then this brochure is for you. Of course you can keep a dog if you live in a city. You just have to adapt to the situation and realise that you have a great responsibility to other people. That is why we have produced this brochure, which looks at some of the things

to bear in mind for dog owners in general and dog owners in the city in particular. It contains some tips to help you and your dog coexist happily with neighbours, landlords and other dog owners.

There are also some useful tips for those who already live with a dog in the city.



Of course you can have a dog even if you live in a flat

Many people believe that dogs are an unsuitable pet to have in a flat. For the dog, it doesn't make much difference whether it lives in a house or a flat. What matters is how it is cared for and how it gets exercised.

On its walks, a city dog has the opportunity to meet both with people and dogs. It is stimulated, for example, by smelling exciting new smells, by taking the bus, underground and tram and by discovering new environments. A dog owner in the city cannot just open the door and let the dog out. Every walk will be beneficial and fun for both dog and owner. Many puppies living in flats are also easier to house-train, as their routines are more scheduled and planned.

There is no legal basis for a general ban on dogs. It is only if the dog causes a disturbance or pollutes the stairwell or the courtyard, etc. that the dog becomes a public nuisance and

the owner may be called to account.

Physical and mental stimulation

Your dog needs to go outside four or five times a day. Not just to do its business, but equally to get exercise and stimulation for body and soul. At least two of these occasions should involve long walks and activities. One lap around the block is not enough for even the least active breeds and an understimulated dog can become stressed out, barking and prone to bite through things. The need for physical and mental stimulation varies greatly between breeds. So you need to find out how much exercise your particular breed needs and what kind of activities are suitable.

Look for parks and green spaces where other dog owners go with their dogs. Your local authority can advise you where to find dog

parks and larger recreational areas, where you may be able to let your dog off the lead under supervision. Always respect the fact that not all dogs either want or need to say hello to one another!

Retractable leads are popular when you cannot have your dog running loose. But all too often the owner does not have enough control when the dog is five, six or eight metres out on the lead. What happens if it sees a cat on the other side of the road or rounds a street corner first? There have also been horrible accidents when the dog and handler end up on either side of a closed lift door!

Waiting outside shops

We advise against leaving your dog outside shops, pharmacies and places where dogs are not allowed to enter. "Opportunity makes the thief" they say, and in the space of just a few seconds, your dog can be stolen. A

dog that is left alone and tied up can also feel threatened if anyone approaches it and, in the worst case scenario, may react with aggression to defend itself because it is

frightened. Your dog can also be injured by others if you are not watching it.

"Always respect the fact that not all dogs either want or need to say hello to one another!"

Home alone

A dog is not just good company for humans. It also has a great need for companionship itself. So it is important that it is not left alone

for too long. Start training your dog to be alone for short periods when it is young. Gradually increase the time it spends alone. After a long walk and maybe feeding, an adult dog can be left alone for about four to five hours. If you go out to work, it may be a good idea to leave your dog in dog daycare or get a dogsitter. According to the Swedish Board of Agriculture, dogs should be exercised at least every six hours during the day, puppies and older dogs more often.





Take responsibility for your dog

Vaccinations

It is particularly important for dogs who live in cities and come into contact with lots of other dogs to have proper vaccination protection. All puppies should be vaccinated against parvovirus, canine distemper and infectious canine hepatitis (HCC), in a so-called triple vaccine. Puppies can also be vaccinated against kennel cough at the same time.

The triple vaccine should be given at 8 weeks of age and at 12 weeks of age, then at 12 months of age. Svenska Kennelklubben (SKK) recommends routine vaccination thereafter every four years. To prevent the spread of parvovirus, it is important that you clean up after your dog.

Before travelling abroad, contact the Swedish Board of Agriculture (www.sjv.se) or the

country's embassy for the latest information about vaccination.

Kennel cough

The risk of getting kennel cough increases when several dogs come into contact. Always keep an eye on the health of your dog and note any changes. If it starts to cough, keep it away from other dogs to prevent the spread of infection. Contact your vet for more information.

Fleas, lice and ticks

It is more common than you think for dogs to get fleas and lice. If your dog does, it is important that you bathe it using a shampoo that removes vermin. You also have a duty to tell other dog owners that your dog has had vermin. This will give them the chance

to bathe their dogs, so as to minimise the spread. Shampoo can be purchased without a prescription at pharmacies. Prescription preparations are also available that prevent both lice and ticks

ID tags and registration of ownership

Since 1 January 2001, it is compulsory for your dog to be ID-tagged and for you to register your ownership in a central register, whether you own a pedigree dog or a mixed-breed dog. The central register of dog owners is maintained by the Swedish Board of Agriculture. If your dog is not ID-tagged, do this immediately.

SKK also has a register of dog owners, DjurID.se, where you can register your dog ownership. DjurID.se is mainly used to find lost dogs and cats, but also to enable breed clubs to contact the owners of a particular breed and send out health surveys, as well as for a variety of other purposes. DjurID.se

is available around the clock. If your dog is not ID-tagged, do this immediately.

If your dog is lost and then found it can be quickly identified by its ID-tag and ownership registration. The police have access to the register around the clock.

Your dog is ID-tagged using a microchip or tattoo. Microchip implants can be inserted by a vet or a trained tagger. Tattoos can only be applied by a vet, as the dog must be given a sedative to allow ID-tagging using a tattoo/tongs to take place.

Dogs must be tagged before they are four months of age (or within four weeks if you buy a dog after it is three months of age). Dogs registered with SKK must be tagged before being supplied and therefore before eight weeks of age. Having your dog ID-tagged and your ownership registered with SKK at DjurID.se is invaluable if your dog is lost.

”Think ahead and make sure you have good insurance cover”





Insurance

Think ahead and make sure you have good insurance cover, as veterinary care can be very expensive! Dog insurance is essential if your dog becomes ill or is injured. You should also check whether your home insurance includes liability insurance that also covers your dog. Remember that you are liable for anything your dog may cause.

Responsible dog ownership

Show consideration

Being a dog owner is a huge responsibility. We dog owners must always show respect and consideration for our environment. Be particularly considerate of people who do not like dogs, those who are allergic and also other dog owners. When travelling on public transport, take your dog to a designated location.

Showing consideration includes you and your dog not using too much space in public areas. Responsible dog owners are the best advertisement for dogs, and perhaps also the best way of discouraging unnecessary restrictions on dog ownership.

Clean up after your dog!

Do not exercise your dog right outside your door, on pavements, walkways and other similar places. Repeated urination and dog poo creates unnecessary irritation. Always keep a plastic bag with you to pick up dog poo with. The easiest way to pick it up is to slip the bag over your hand, pick up and then pull your hand out while still holding on with your other hand. Tie the bag tightly and place it in a dog waste bin or litter bin.

Not all dogs want to say hello

Respect instructions to keep your dog on a lead in public places such as streets, parks, exercise trails and other outdoor areas. Females in heat must always be kept on a lead and preferably kept away from other dogs. Do not allow your dog to hunt either wild or domestic animals uncontrolled.

Not all dogs either want or need to say hello to one another. Respect the dog owner who asks you not to let your dog off the lead near his dog on the lead. There could be many reasons for this. The dog may be sick or in heat or may not like other dogs. If dogs on

leads want to say hello, it is important that both dogs are given a slack lead, so that potential conflicts are avoided.

The best and most natural way is to allow dogs to be off the lead when they say hello to one another. Let passers-by be the ones to initiate contact with the dog instead of the other way around.

Not everyone wants dirty paw prints on their clothes.

Remember too that the constant barking of a dog on an evening walk or a group of playful dogs may be also perceived by others as a disturbance.

Treat your dog with respect

Never leave your dog in a hot or cold/freezing car. Never tie your dog's lead to the car bumper. Despite repeated warnings, tragic accidents still happen!

Keep your dog away from fireworks. Firecrackers and fireworks can be frightening and can damage your dog for life.

Always treat your dog with the greatest of

respect. A dog is not a toy or an accessory.

Courses, training

As a dog owner, you could benefit greatly from attending a course with your dog. There are clubs and private instructors across the country who organise courses for dogs

and dog owners of all ages who want to learn more. The earlier you start training your dog the better. Ordinary everyday obedience is about walking nicely

on the lead, coming when called, remaining in contact with the owner, socialising with other people and dogs. In short, everything a dog needs to be able to do to live in a modern society.

SKKs magazine Hundsport contains advertisements for courses. Svenska Brukshundklubben offers courses at all levels, breed clubs usually arrange puppy training classes and many of our special clubs, county clubs and local kennel clubs organise courses of various kinds. You can of course also look online, but be careful when choosing an instructor.

*"A dog is not a toy
or an accessory"*





Laws, regulations and rules

As a dog owner, you have a great responsibility. You not only have to ensure that your dog is healthy and well looked after; you also have a duty to society. All dog owners are required to familiarise themselves with the laws and regulations that apply.

Strict liability applies

The dog owner or the person in charge of the dog has “strict liability” and is always liable for damages, regardless of how the accident happened. This strict liability applies even if a loose dog comes into your garden and fights with your own dog. It does not matter that you have fences, that your dog is tied up, etc. If the other dog is injured, as your dog’s owner you are liable for damages, even though the other dog should not have been on your land. This responsibility can be offset, however, as the other dog owner also has strict liability and should therefore be considered partly to blame. Make sure that

your home insurance also includes liability insurance, as it might otherwise be very expensive if your dog causes any problems.

Swedish Animal Welfare Act

The second paragraph of the Swedish Animal Welfare Act reads: “Animals should be treated well and protected from unnecessary suffering and illness.” The purpose of the Animal Welfare Act is to protect animals. All dog owners should be aware of the Swedish Board of Agriculture’s regulations on the care and supervision of dogs. The Animal Welfare Act addresses, among other things, the rules for keeping dogs in cages and dogs on leads.

Swedish Supervision Act

The new Act on the Supervision of Dogs and Cats came into force on 1 January 2008. The law requires that dogs and cats are kept under supervision and looked after in such a way as is necessary to prevent them

causing damage or considerable nuisance, taking into account their nature and other circumstances.

If there are any failings in the supervision or care of a dog, the police authority may issue the injunctions and banning orders necessary to prevent damage or considerable nuisance. Injunctions and banning orders may involve fines. The police may also decide that a dog should be confiscated.

The police authorities may issue a banning order preventing ownership of a dog to someone committing a serious failure in the supervision of a dog or who has committed a supervision failure before. The dog ownership banning order may be for a fixed period or until further notice. Anyone violating a dog ownership banning order can be sentenced to a fine or imprisonment of up to one year for such a violation.

Find out more about your responsibilities as a dog owner on the police website, www.polisen.se.

1 March to 20 August

Between 1 March and 20 August, dogs must be kept under adequate supervision to prevent them from running loose on land where there are wild animals. If you do not have total control of your dog, we recommend keeping it on a lead.

During the rest of the year, dogs must be kept under adequate supervision to prevent them from chasing or stalking wild animals, unless they are being used for hunting. The government or the authority appointed by the government may issue regulations that differ from the above. Where required for the protection of wildlife, such regulations may stipulate that dogs must be kept on leads.

Local rules and regulations

Local regulations set out the local rules of each municipality regarding keeping dogs

on leads, visiting play areas, bathing areas, graveyards and shopping centres, as well as the responsibilities of the dog owner when your dog has done its business. They also provide information about where you can find dog parks and places where you can let your dog off the lead under supervision. Many municipalities have an information leaflet for dog owners. Contact the municipal office and ask for the rules for your local area.

Dogs in houses

The Swedish Rent Act does not contain any specific provisions relating to dogs. As always, though, you should make sure that neither you nor your dog cause a disturbance.

Dogs in restaurants

The taking of a dog into a restaurant is governed by the Swedish National Food Agency's Hygiene Regulation. Dogs/pets are not allowed into any room where food is prepared or handled. However, there is nothing generally to prevent them being in the service area of the restaurant. It is up to the restaurant owner to decide whether or not they want to have dogs in the restaurant. If you are able to take your dog in, it is particularly important that you do not abuse this trust.

Opportunities in the city

The city contains many challenges for dogs and their owners – there are a lot of unexpected sounds and new smells, traffic and pedestrian crossings, revolving doors and escalators, dangerous picnic leftovers, neighbours who use the stairwell and unfamiliar people and dogs everywhere. It can certainly be tough living with a dog in the city, but city life also has many advantages! Dogs thrive on stimulation in moderation, just like people do – and in the city often all you need to do is open the door!

12 SMART RULES FOR DOG OWNERS

Pick up the litter!

Pick up after your dog –
dog mess creates irritation!

Keep your dog on a lead!

Show respect for your surroundings –
don't let your dog run free in public places!

No barking dogs!

Not everyone appreciates loud barking!

No hunting!

Neither wild nor domestic animals should be
hunted uncontrolled by your dog!

Travel with your dog!

Please sit/stand in a designated area when
using public transport. Don't ever leave your
dog in a warm or ice-cold car or
fastened to a car bumper!

Insure your dog!

Always insure your dog – it's worth it!

Show respect towards other dogs!

Please respect that not all dogs want or
should meet!

Show respect towards other people!

Please show consideration in public places!

Don't expose your dog to fireworks!

Fireworks can frighten your dog for life!

Show your dog respect!

A dog is neither a toy nor an accessory!

Dog owner registration!

To have your dog ID-chipped and registered
in DjurID.se is invaluable if your dog
gets lost!

Never leave your dog unattended outside a shop!

Your dog can both hurt others and be hurt
itself. Opportunity also makes the thief!

Don't blame the dog!

As a dog owner, you want to be treated with
understanding and respect. This respect can never be
expected to exceed the respect we ourselves give to our
fellow man. Society's attitude to dogs often depends on
how we dog owners conduct ourselves and how we take
society into consideration. Responsible dog owners are
the best ambassadors for dogs and dog ownerships.
Be a good dog owner – that way everyone wins!





BECOME A MEMBER!

BECOME A MEMBER

in Svenska Kennelklubben

Svenska Kennelklubben (SKK) is made up of county clubs and breed clubs throughout Sweden. The clubs work to help all dogs be brought up healthy and live a good life, but also to help you do fun and exciting things with your dog.

As a member, you can take part in shows and competitions, trials, courses and much more. Which clubs you should join depends on what you are interested in doing with your dog.

As a member of SKK, you can help to influence the situation for all dogs and dog owners in Sweden. You will also be part of a large community – we now have over 300,000 members!

To find out which club is best for you and your dog, please visit www.skk.se, call us on +46 (0)8 795 30 50 or e-mail medlem@skk.se. On the website you will also find links to the clubs and you can register your membership of a county club

BREED CLUB

Membership gives you:

- *The chance to take part in shows, trials and competitions organised by the club.*
- *Free advice on dog issues, including legal advice, through SKC's office.*
- *Discount on SKC-branded products.*
- *Various discounts and benefits. Contact the club you are interested in for information about their specific benefits and offers.*

COUNTY CLUB

Membership gives you:

- *Hundsport magazine, Sweden's no. 1 magazine for dog lovers.*
- *Free advice on dog issues, including legal advice, through SKK's office.*
- *The opportunity to take part in county club shows, obedience tests, competitions, activities and courses, to listen to lectures and to be involved in the Stockholm International Dog Show.*
- *Discount on entrance fees for all county club shows.*
- *Discount on SKK-branded products.*
- *Discount on dog insurance from Agria Djurförsäkring.*
- *Discounts at several other companies – you can see the latest offers on our website at www.skk.se/medlem.*

www.skk.se
+46-(0)8-795 30 50
medlem@skk.se

Useful contact details

[illegible]

Svenska Kennelklubben is the national organisation for dog owners and represents all dogs and dog owners in Sweden. With our 300,000 members, we are one of the country's largest interest groups. We distribute information, educate and encourage debate – and we show the great pleasures and benefits of owning a dog!



SVENSKA KENNELKLUBBEN

HUNDÅGARNAS RIKSORGANISATION

POSTAL ADDRESS | SE-163 85 Spånga
VISITING ADDRESS | Rinkebysvängen 70
TELEPHONE | +46-(0)8-795 30 00
FAX | +46-(0)8-795 30 40

www.skk.se

Agria 
Djurförsäkring

Proud partner since 1964