

The Legislator

"One must spend time in gathering knowledge to give it out richly"



Volume 3 Issue 2 April- June 2012

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The Dangerous Dogs Act

The purpose of the Dangerous Dogs Act is to prohibit persons from importing and breeding dangerous dogs, to impose other restrictions in respect of dangerous dogs, to regulate the manner in which dangerous dogs are kept by their owner or keeper, and to make further provision to ensure that such dogs are kept under proper control so as to ensure public safety.

The aforementioned Act was passed in June 2000 and assented in August 2000 (Act No. 32 of 2000); however, this Act was never proclaimed because it was deemed "too draconian." Under the present administration the Act will be proclaimed by the President as coming into force on August 1, 2012 because of the great harm and injury being caused to law-abiding citizens when 'dangerous dogs' are not properly secured and controlled.

According to the Dangerous Dogs Act, 'dangerous dogs' are defined as follows:-

- The Pitbull Terrier or any dog bred from the Pitbull Terrier;
- The Fila Brasileiro or any dog bred from the Fila Brasileiro;
- The Japanese Tosa or any dog bred from the Japanese Tosa.

Nevertheless, the Act is being revisited because several animal welfare organizations disagree with certain provisions within the Dangerous Dogs Act. For further reading on this Act and its provisions please view the following link: <http://www.ttparliament.org>.

In recent years, there have been numerous attacks on citizens by pitbulls and facts have shown that these dogs have escaped and attacked several persons causing severe injuries and in some cases death. Statistics have proven that five people have been killed and at least fourteen persons mauled by pitbull attacks between 1995 and 2002.

In conclusion, the Dangerous Dogs Act of Trinidad and Tobago was formulated to protect citizens from vicious attacks by ferocious and harmful dogs.



TALK YUH MIND!

"Do you think all types of dogs should be covered under the Dangerous Dogs Act of Trinidad and Tobago? and Why?"



**Astraea Stoute-
In-service Trainee**

I am in agreement that all dogs should be covered under the Dangerous Dogs Act because all dogs have an innate aggressive characteristic even if they appear to be docile and if triggered can cause harm or death to any individual. Therefore, it would be illogical to make provisions and penalties for the three dogs provided in the former Act alone.



**Bryan Basdeo-
In-service Trainee**

The Dangerous Dogs Act should not apply to any dog, since the intention behind the legislation is to eliminate the breeds of dogs that it applies to, mainly the pitbull. If all dogs were to be included under the Dangerous Dogs Act, many owners would be forced to abandon their dogs due to the onerous fines and insurance coverage imposed upon them. Instead new legislation should be proposed to cover all dogs, with its aim being responsible ownership and control of dogs.



**Renata Joseph-
In-service Trainee**

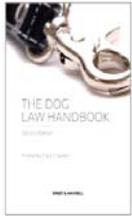
Yes, the law should bring all dogs under its purview in order to achieve its objective of securing public safety. To make it inclusive of only specific breeds of dogs would be unconstitutionally unjust to those owners, insofar as these specific breeds have maimed and killed in the past, so has every other breed. All types of dogs should be licensed and fees can be varied based on the specie of dog. All dangerous dogs should be covered by a certain quantum of insurance.



**Martin Jadoonanan-
In-service Trainee**

Yes. The environment in which a dog is housed is the essential determinant of the danger which that dog poses. Thus, all dogs have the potential to be dangerous. Dog owners must shoulder a high degree of responsibility if we are to adequately prevent the mauling of innocent lives.

Book Talk



The Dog Law Handbook 2nd ed.

Author: Clayden, Paul

ISBN:978-0-414-04818-8

Price: £80.00

This book is a practical guide which draws together the considerable and diverse body of law relating to dogs and their activities. This text:-

- Outlines the law relating to the ownership, theft, and sale of dogs
- Details owners' responsibilities under the strict liability and negligence rules
- Deals with nuisances, byelaws and hygiene regulations
- Looks at dogs and diseases, dangerous dogs, and guard dogs
- Covers dogs on the road, trespassing dogs, and stray dogs
- Deals with dog welfare issues, including killing and injuring dogs, and boarding and breeding kennels - and discusses enforcement powers, prosecutions and post-conviction powers
- Looks at various miscellaneous areas, such as performing dogs, dogs and game, and the import and export of dogs

<http://www.wildy.com/isbn/9780414048188/the-dog-law-handbook-2nd-ed-paperback-shaw-sons-ltd>

Library Display

The Ministry of the Attorney General's Library hosted a display of new legal and non-legal materials from Wednesday 14th March 2012-Wednesday 21st March 2012.



Statistics of Materials Received by the Library for the months of April-May, 2012.

ITEMS	DPP	AG
Books	0	28
Legal Journals/ Periodicals	21	125
Judgments	0	80
Other Publications (Statutes/Law Reports)	5	24

Resource Tip - **Caricom Treaties**

http://www.caricom.org/jsp/secretariat/legal_instruments_index.jsp?menu=secretariat

This website has documents on **treaties**, **protocols**, **MOUs**, **declarations**, **instruments of ratifications** and others to which member states of CARICOM are part, and the secretary-general of CARICOM exercises depository functions, as well as agreements involving member states and the Caribbean Community for which the secretary-general of CARICOM does not exercise depository function.

It is an important resource for practitioners of international, commercial and other types of law.

Welcome In Service Trainees to the MoAG



Group A: Kimberley Superville, La Toya Smith, Cindy-Lou Bruce, Wrenerson Lochan, Aleah Lawrence, Ravita Persad, Sharlene Waterman and Stefan Jaikaran



Group B: Laurissa Hosein, Crystal -Ann Phillip-Senart, Jade Charles, Maltie Jagmohan, Rebecca Trim, Nicole Ohn-Heeralal and Karen Brathwaite



Group C: Keneisha Browne, Trisha Dassrath, Leselli Simon, Martin Jadoonan, Astraea Stoute, Sarika Swarath and Letisha Agostini



Group D: Ladalee Teelucksingh and Bryan Basdeo
(Law Reform Commission)



Group E: Candace Subero, Shahana Ali, Melissa Mano, Rhea Sookhansingh, Kezia Redhead and Narendra Latchman
(DPP North)



Group F: Daneia Mayers, Chantal Paul
(DPP South)

Comments & Feedback

We would like to thank all individuals for their contribution and continued support as well as IT, the Communication Department, the participants of the Opinion Poll, and a special thank you to the In Service Trainees.

Let's hear from you, our valued readers. Share ideas and suggestions! Email our editorial team at: jpierre@ag.gov.tt, vimaharaj@ag.gov.tt or kjones@ag.gov.tt