
Federal Law No. (22) of 2016

Issued on 12/12/2016

Corresponding to 13 Rabi' Al-Awwal 1438 H

REGULATING THE POSSESSION OF DANGEROUS ANIMALS

We, Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates,

Pursuant to the perusal of the Constitution

Federal Decree Law no. (1) of 1972 on Competencies of the Ministries and Powers of the Ministers and its amendments;

Federal Law no. (6) of 1979 on veterinary quarantine and its amendments;

Federal Decree-Law no. (9) of 1983 regulating the hunting of birds and animals

Federal Law no. (5) of 1985 issuing the Civil Transactions Law and its amendments;

Federal Law no. (3) of 1987 issuing the Penal Code and its amendments;

Federal Law no. (35) of 1992 issuing the Penal Procedures Law and its amendments;

Federal Law no. (24) of 1999 on the protection and development of the environment and its amendments;

Federal Law no. (11) of 2002 on the regulation and control of international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora;

Federal Law no. (6) of 2007 on the establishment of the Insurance Authority and the regulation of its operations and its amendments;

Federal Law no. (16) of 2007 regarding animal protection;

Federal Law no. (8) of 2013 on the prevention and control of contagious and epidemic animal diseases; and

Based on the proposal of the Minister of Climate Change and Environment, the approval of the Cabinet and the ratification of the Federal Supreme Council,

Have issued the present Law:

Chapter 1

Article 1 – Definitions

In application of the provisions of the present Law, the following words and expressions shall have the meanings assigned thereto unless the context requires otherwise:

State: The United Arab Emirates

Ministry: The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment.

Minister: The Minister of Climate Change and Environment.

Competent Authority: The local authority concerned in each Emirate.

Dangerous Animals: Animals that cause a kind of harm or damage to humans or other animals and are all specified in Annexes (1) and (2) of the present Law, including predators, hybrid animals and semi-dangerous animals.

Predators: Animals that live by killing and eating other animals.

Hybrid Animal: Offspring of two animals of two different breeds or species, and they are specified in Annexes (1) and (2) of the present Law.

Semi-dangerous Animals: Animals that are not dangerous in nature but would change their behaviour to become aggressive and cause harm to humans.

Abandoned Animal: Unowned animal, found in a certain location, self-reliant and not subject to control and care of any possessor.

Stray Animal: Animal that moves around freely without restriction and supervision of its possessor even if it knows how to come back to the place of his possession.

Animal Possessor: Natural or legal person who permanently or temporarily owns, possesses, keeps, harbours, provides care for, or guards animals.

Trade: All transactions of sale, supply, marketing, promotion, transport, import, export or re-export, swap or borrowing.

Breeding: Reproduction or any other activity to increase the reproduction of dangerous animals.

Facility: Any place for harbouring, keeping, detaining, breeding, raising, reproducing, or treating dangerous animals.

Zoo: Facility which possesses, keeps, and breeds live animals for show and entertainment purposes, in order to protect their species or for educational or research purposes.

Animal Parks: Gardens with ample space allowing the animal to have freedom of movement, resembling to its natural environment and enabling the visitor to move around in purpose-built vehicles.

Circus: Any place where animals are kept for show or entertainment purposes.

Euthanasia: The process of putting an animal to death in an expeditious manner and with the least possible pain and suffering.

Electronic Chip: A small electronic wafer installed under the skin of the animal to identify it with specific numbers and codes.

Article 2 – Objectives of the Law

The present Law aims at achieving the following:

- 1- Organising the ownership, possession, trading and breeding of dangerous animals.
- 2- Protecting humans and other animals from the harm of dangerous animals and the transmission of their diseases and their causes to them and to other animals.
- 3- Ensure that the animals are receiving good care.

Chapter 2 Regulating the Possession and Trade of Dangerous Animals

Article 3 - Prohibition of Dangerous Animals

Every natural or legal person shall be prohibited from owning, possessing, trading or breeding dangerous animals.

Article 4 – Granting and Cancelling a Facility Licence

1- By way of exception from the provisions of the preceding article, the Facility licence shall be only granted to zoos, animal parks, circuses, breeding centres as well as the specialised care and harbouring centres and the scientific research centres and institutions whose work requires availability of dangerous animals, in accordance with the conditions and controls set in the implementing regulation of the present Law.

2- The government, federal or local security or military authorities shall be exempted from the licensing condition mentioned in the preceding clause.

Article 5 – Prior Consent

The Facility may not:

1- Organise exhibitions, competitions or shows of dangerous animals without obtaining the consent of the competent authority and in accordance with the conditions set forth in the implementing regulation of the present Law.

2- Move dangerous animals from one place to another within the State or transport them within the territory of the State as transit before obtaining the consent of the Ministry and the competent authority in accordance with the procedures adopted, provided that such moving or transport is done by safe and appropriate means of transport that ensure the safety and comfortability of the animal, and that they meet the required technical conditions set in the implementing regulation of the present Law.

Article 6 – Obligations of the Facility

The Facility shall undertake to carry out the following:

1- Providing insurance, with one of the licensed insurance companies in the State, against the risks of dangerous animals.

2- Providing health care and immunisation against diseases and giving a document proving this matter including the medical history of the dangerous animal. The implementing regulation of the present Law shall determine the diseases requiring immunisation.

3- Providing safe and suitable shelters for dangerous animals in accordance with the requirements specified in the implementing regulation of the present Law.

4- Feeding dangerous animals with food that is appropriate to their age and type and in sufficient quantities.

5- Providing appropriate training to the Facility's employees.

Article 7 - Registers

Registers for the licensed Facilities shall be established at the Ministry and the competent authority. The implementing regulation of the present Law shall specify the types of registers as well as the controls and data of each register.

Chapter 3 Reporting on Dangerous Animals

Article 8 – Reporting about an Abandoned or Stray Animal

Whoever finds and abandoned or stray animal shall immediately report the matter to the Ministry or the competent authority or to the nearest police station.

Article 9 – Reporting a Possession without a Licence

Whoever is aware of the existence of a dangerous animal with any possessor who is not licensed for such possession, shall immediately report the matter to the Ministry or the competent authority or to the nearest police station.

Article 10 - Cases of Reporting by the Ministry

The Facility shall inform the Ministry or the competent authority about any matter that arises with respect to a dangerous animal, such as:

1- Finding an animal affected by infectious or epidemic diseases or suspecting such affection.

2- Death of an animal.

3- Transfer of an animal's possession to another Facility.

4- Loss of an animal.

5- Discovering that a person has been injured or killed as a result of an animal attack.

6- The Facility's desire to abandon an animal or its inability to protect, harbour or provide care for such animal.

Chapter 4 Detention and Provision of Care to Dangerous Animals

Article 11

1- The Ministry and the competent authority shall detain any abandoned or stray or stray dangerous animal, and take appropriate actions with respect to said animal according to the provisions of the implementing regulation of the present Law.

2- In coordination with the Ministry, the competent authority shall establish centres for harbouring and providing care for animals detained as mentioned in the preceding clause. The Ministry and the competent authority may dispose of them in accordance with the provisions of the implementing regulation of the present Law.

Chapter 5 Possession of Dogs

Article 12 - Licensing and Obligations for the Possession of Dogs

No one may possess a dog without having obtained a licence from the competent authority. The implementing regulation shall specify the relevant conditions and requirements.

Article 13- A Register for the Dogs

A register for the dogs whose possession is licensed shall be created at the competent authority. Said register shall contain all the data related to each dog and its possessor, including:

- 1- The name, ID number, address, age, nationality, and place of residence of the dog's possessor.
- 2- The dog's origin, type, colour, and distinctive marks, if any, as well as the number of the electronic chip and the vaccination record.

Article 14 - Dealing with Dangerous Dogs

Without prejudice to Article (4) of the present Law, every natural or legal person shall be prohibited from possessing, or trading or breeding any of the dogs classified as dangerous and specified in Annex (2) of the present Law.

Article 15- Leashing the Dogs

Dogs must be leashed during hiking or when taken outside the boundaries of their shelters with appropriate collars in a manner to control them; otherwise, they shall be detained and disposed of as prescribed in the implementing regulation of the present Law.

Article 16 – Moving around with Dangerous Animals

Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 15 of the present Law, no one may move around with a dangerous animal outside the licensed Facility.

Chapter 6 Penalties

Article 17

1- Whoever has used a dangerous animal to attack a human shall be sentenced to imprisonment for no less than three years and no more than seven years should the attack have caused a permanent disability.

2- The penalty shall be life imprisonment should the attack have caused death.

3- The penalty shall be imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year and a fine of no less than AED (10,000) and no more than AED (400,000), should the attack result have not reached the degree of seriousness mentioned in the preceding clauses.

4- In case the dangerous animal has attacked a third party without such attack being intended by his possessor at the time of its occurrence, the possessor shall be subject to criminal punishment for involuntary manslaughter or involuntary injury as prescribed in the Penal Code as the case may be.

5- In all cases, the animal referred to in the present Article shall be kept and the court may decide confiscating it according to the medical test's results during the period in which the animal is kept, while the possessor and the Facility shall bear the keeping expenses.

Article 18

Whoever uses a dangerous animal to instil terror in people shall be sentenced to imprisonment and to a fine of no less than AED 100000 and no more than 700000 or to either of said two penalties.

Article 19

Whoever possesses dangerous animals for trafficking purposes shall be sentenced to imprisonment and to a fine of no less than AED 50000 and no more than 500000 or to either of said two penalties.

Article 20

Whoever violates any provision of Articles (3), (5), (10), (14) and (16) shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a period of no less than one month and no more than 6 months; and to a fine of no less than AED 10000 and no more than 500000 or to either of said two penalties.

Article 21

Whoever violates any provision of Article (6) shall be sentenced to a fine of no less than AED 10000 and no more than 500000.

Article 22

Whoever violates any provision of Articles (12) and (15) shall be sentenced to a fine of no less than AED 10000 and no more than 100000.

Article 23 – No Prejudice to any Harsher Penalty

The imposition of the penalties set forth in the present Law shall not prejudice any harsher penalty set forth in any other law.

Article 24 – Law Enforcement Authority

The employees selected by a decision of the Minister of Justice in agreement with the Minister or the head of the competent authority shall be granted law enforcement authority to prove the offenses committed in violation of the provisions of the present Law, its implementing regulation and the decisions issued in implementation thereof, within the scope of competence of each of them.

Chapter 7 General Provisions

Article 25 – Identification Label

The dangerous animals shall bear a permanent identification label as prescribed in the implementing regulation of the present Law. Should they be caught without such label, the competent authority shall confiscate them and they may not be delivered to their possessor until they pay the costs arising from their detention. Should 10 days lapse from the date of their detention without being checked by their possessor or without him paying the costs, they may be disposed of according to the procedures prescribed in the implementing regulation of the present Law. The possessor shall not have the right to request any compensation.

Article 26 – Regularisation of Status

Whoever possesses any dangerous animal shall regularise his status in accordance with the provisions of the present Law and its implementing regulation within a period not exceeding 6 months from the date of coming into force of the present Law.

Article 27 – Registration

The owner or possessor of dangerous animals shall register them at the competent authority within a period not exceeding 30 working days from the date of coming into force of the present Law.

Article 28 – Data related to the Existing Facilities

The competent authorities shall ensure providing the Ministry with the data related to the facilities existing on the effective date of the present Law.

Article 29 – Amendment of the Annexed Tables

The Ministry may, in coordination with the competent authority, amend the tables annexed to the present Law by adding or deleting any type of the animals listed therein.

Article 30 – List of Administrative Measures

A list of administrative measures to be imposed by the Ministry or the competent authority in case of violation of any provision of the present Law and its implementing regulation shall be issued by virtue of a Cabinet decision upon a proposal by the Minister.

Article 31 – Offences to which Conciliation May Apply

1- No criminal proceedings may be instituted for the offences set forth in the present Law, and which are only punishable by a fine, unless by virtue of a written request from the Ministry or the competent authority.

2- Conciliation may apply to the offences referred to in the preceding clause before referral of the lawsuit to the competent court in return for an amount not exceeding half the maximum limit prescribed for each offence.

3- The Cabinet shall issue a decision specifying the conciliation controls and the amount to be paid in return for conciliation for any of the offences referred to in Clause 2 of the present Article.

Article 32 – Decision Specifying the Fees

The Cabinet shall issue a decision specifying the fees prescribed for the application of the provisions of the present Law and its implementing regulation.

Article 33 – Implementing Regulation of the Law

Based on a proposal by the Minister, the Cabinet shall issue the implementing regulation of the present Law within 6 months as of the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

Article 34 – Abrogation of Conflicting and Contradicting Provisions

Every provision that conflicts with or contradicts the provisions of the present Law shall be abrogated.

Article 35 – Publication and Application of the Law

The present Law shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall come into force as of the day following its date of publication.

Issued by us in the Presidential Palace - Abu Dhabi

On 12/12/2016

Corresponding to 13/ Rabi' Al-Awwal/1438 H

The present Federal Law was published in the Official Gazette, issue no. 609, p. 49.

ANNEXES TO FEDERAL LAW NO. 22 OF 2016 REGULATING THE POSSESSION OF DANGEROUS ANIMALS

Annex (1)

The Dangerous Animals

Types	Mammals
Marsupials	All types
Primates	All types
Edentates	All types
Carnivores: The following:	
Family Canidae	All types except for the Allowed Pet dogs and those authorised according to Article 12 of the present Law
Family Felidae	All types except for the Domestic and Hybrid Pet cat
Family Hyaenidae	All types
Family Mustelidae	All types

Family Procyonidae	All types
Family Ursidae	All types
Family Viverridae	All types of Family Viverridae
Family: Ailuridae	All types
Sea mammals	All types
Hyraxes	All types
Chiroptera	All types of Bats
Colugo	All types
Manidae	All types of Pangolin
Rodents	All types except for Domesticated Hamsters, Guinea pigs, rats and mice.
Family Elephamtidae	All types
Aardvark	
Odd- toed Ungulates: The following types	
Family Equidae	All types of Zebra - Przewalska horse - African wild donkey – Onager - Tibetan Wild Ass
Family Rhinocerotidae	All types
Family Tapiridae	All types
Even – toed ungulates: The following types	
Antilocapridae:	Pronghorn
Family Bovidae:	All types except for domestic cattle, goats, and sheep
Family Camelidae:	Wild Bactrian camel – Llama – Alpaca- vicuna - guanaco
Family Cervidae	All types
Family Giraffidae	All types
Family Hippopotamidae	All types
Family Suidae	All types
Family Tayassuidae	All types
Birds: The following species:	
Family Struthionidae	All types
Family Casuariidae	Cassowaries
Family Dromaiidae	The Emu

Vultures	All types
Seagull	All types
Penguins	All types
Reptiles: The following Types	
Crocodilia	All Types
Lizards, snakes, and vipers	All Types
The Invertebrates: The following types:	
Spiders	All types
Scorpions	All types

ANNEX 2
List of Dangerous Dogs

1- Pit Bulls	Staffordshire Bull Terrier Breed of dog
	American Pit Bull Terrier Breed of dog
	American Staffordshire Terrier Breed of dog
	American Bully
	Any mixed breed of above breeds of dog or their Hybrid
2- Mastiff Dogs	Brazilian Mastiff (Fila Brasiliro)
	Argentinian Mastiff (Dogo Argentino)
	Any Mastiff or Hybrid
3- Tosa	Japanese tosa or Hybrid
4- Rottweilers breed or hybrid	
5- Doberman Pinschers	
6- Presa Canario	
7- Boxer	