

ANIMAL WELFARE & CONTROL REPORT (S.R.7/2026): RESPONSE OF THE COMITÉ DES CONNÉTABLES

Findings

The findings generally refer to the animal welfare legislation and animal control and are noted.

	Findings	Comments
	Dog-control issues largely arise from public confusion caused by inconsistent regulatory categories, unclear or insufficient signage, and a general lack of awareness about when and where dogs must be on leads.	Dog ownership responsibilities have been included on the dog licence application form for more than 12 years. These responsibilities include the restrictions in the Policing of Roads, Parks and Beaches Regulations. Signs erected by the Department for Infrastructure at all beaches clearly display the requirement for dogs to be on a lead at certain times. Signs at park entrances also advise when dogs are not permitted or are allowed subject to certain restrictions. In 2026, 93% of dog owners purchased their dog licence online and, in doing so, are required to confirm they have read and understood the dog owner responsibilities.

Recommendations

	Recommendations	To	Accept / Reject	Comments	Target date of action/ completion
5	Within 6 months of the Panel's amendment to the Dogs Law being adopted, the Comité des Connétables should conduct a public awareness campaign of the amendment and should advise livestock owners to install signage in grazing areas to ensure dog-owners understand when dogs must be kept on a lead and the consequences of failing to do so.	CdC	Accept	The legislation was adopted on 31 March 2026. By 30 September 2026 the Comité des Connétables will - - Ask the States Veterinary Officer (SVO) to forward to all livestock owners a letter advising that they install signage in grazing areas. The SVO holds data for bovines, caprines, ovines, poultry (including captive birds) and swine but not registration details for equines; horse owners will also be contacted and where possible dog groomers, dog walkers etc. - Write to all dog owners (by email to 93% online; by post to other 7%) to inform of changes to legislation.	30/9/2026

6	The Comité des Connétables should establish a shared reporting mechanism to capture all animal-related incidents attended to by the States of Jersey Police and Honorary Police, including those resolved informally, to support policy development and enforcement evaluation by June 2027.	CdC	Partially accept	The Comité des Connétables will consult with the Honorary Police and the States of Jersey Police to understand whether there are gaps in the reporting mechanism and, if so, how these might be addressed.	30/6/2027
7	Before the end of the next term, the Comité des Connétables should agree a definition of “proper control” and amend the Dogs Law 1961 to align with the animal control provisions within the Policing Regulations.	CdC	Partially accept	The Dogs Law (Article 1C) already defines a dangerously out of control dog as one that is causing/has caused death, injury or harm to a person, domestic animal or livestock or where its behaviour gives rise to alarm or apprehension for the safety of a person, domestic animal or livestock. The Comité des Connétables will consider whether or not “proper control” can be better defined in the Dogs Law and aligned to the Policing Regulations (see recommendation 8 below).	June 2030
8	Before the end of the next term, the Comité des Connétables should amend the Dogs Law 1961 to require that a dog must be kept under “proper control” by its owner or person in charge at all times appropriate to the public place it is in, with failure to do so constituting an offence with a penalty not exceeding Level 1 on the standard scale.	CdC	Partially accept	The Dogs Law defines “public place” as any place to which the public or any section of the public has access, whether on payment or otherwise, and whether the access is as a matter of right or by virtue of express or implied permission. The Comité des Connétables notes the Policing Regulations (Beaches, Parks and Roads) contain provisions relating to control as follows – • Beaches - not let your dog rush at, worry or otherwise interfere with the safety, comfort or convenience of any other person on the beach. • Roads – within the ring road keep a dog on a lead and not let it stray on the road. • Beaches, roads and parks – remove and dispose of dog faeces.	June 2030

9	The Comité des Connétables, in partnership with the relevant Ministers, should undertake a coordinated review of the Policing of Roads, Parks and Beaches Regulations to identify any areas requiring further alignment across the wider animal-control framework.	CdC MINF MSED	Accept	The Comité des Connétables notes the Minister for Sustainable Economic Development has accepted the petition Amend restriction times for dogs on beaches - Petitions and is preparing the necessary legislation for the States Assembly to consider. The Minister also announced that he is working with the Minister for Planning and Regulation who is actively looking at reforming the rules applying to dog owners more broadly and will also work with the Comité de Connétables to update this legislation. In relation to reviewing the seasonal restrictions on dogs on beaches, the Comité notes the response to the oral question in the States Assembly - OQ-19-2026.pdf – about a consultation especially related to the Marine Spatial Plan as off-lead dogs can disturb shore birds and migratory waders that use the intertidal zones for feeding and resting causing them to flee repeatedly, expending extra energy or abandoning young. When considering any changes to the seasonal restrictions, the impact on children’s rights must be considered and a full CRIA should be prepared. The Comité is also asking the Minister for the Environment whether any progress has been made by the States Veterinary Officer to specify in legislation the standards to be adopted, in place of the current guidelines, about dog walkers.	September 2028
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10	A single, accessible source of guidance on dog-control requirements across all public spaces should be developed collaboratively by the Comité des Connétables and the Ministers responsible for the Policing Regulations and published by 31st December 2027.	CdC MINF MSED	Partially accept	Dog ownership responsibilities have been published with the dog licence application form for more than 12 years and are available here - Jersey Dog Licences - Dog ownership responsibilities. These set out the requirements in the Policing Regulations and in the Dogs Law. The Comité des Connétables is updating the responsibilities to include the 2026 amendments to the Dogs Law relating to the worrying of livestock. In 2026, 93% of dog owners purchased their dog licence online and, in doing so, are required to confirm they have read and understood the dog owner responsibilities. The Comité will consult with the Ministers regarding further amendments that may be desirable.	31/12/2027
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