

THE LAWS OF JAPAN APPLY TO ALL DOGS OFF-BASE

I. Major Laws Related to Dogs

• Rabies Prevention Law

Prevents the occurrence, spread, and eradication of rabies.

• Act on Welfare and Management of Animals

Promotes awareness of animal welfare and prevents harm to humans and livestock caused by animals.

• Municipal Dog Ordinance

Prevents harm caused by pet dogs to humans, animals, and others.



It is a crime to abandon/mistreat animals.

II. The owner's responsibilities

1. Register the dog at the municipal office and obtain a registration tag.
2. If the registration tag is lost or damaged, apply for a replacement at the municipal office.
3. Vaccinate the dog against rabies every year. Municipal offices conduct group vaccinations between April and June. Call the Office for more information. You can also vaccinate the dog at a local veterinary clinic/hospital.
4. Present the vaccination certificate at the municipal office and obtain a rabies vaccination tag.
5. If the rabies vaccination tag is lost or damaged, apply for a replacement at the municipal office.
6. Do not allow the dog to roam freely. Keep your dog in a fenced area and on a chain.
7. Ensure the dog always wears the registration tag and vaccination tag.

Failure to comply may result in penalties under Japanese law.

III. In addition to the above responsibilities, owners of “dangerous dogs” must comply with the following rules

1. Provide appropriate training to the dog so that the dog obeys the owner’s or handler’s commands.
2. Keep dangerous dogs confined in cages and secure them with chains or other restraints.
3. If kept in a cage, the cage must be lockable, and the owner or caretaker must control the keys.
4. The cage must be placed in a location where people passing by on public roads cannot come into contact with the dog, and where unauthorized persons cannot easily enter.
5. Display visible signs such as “Beware of Dangerous Dog 猛犬注意” in prominent areas.
6. When walking a dangerous dog, avoid crowded areas or peak hours. The use of a muzzle is recommended.
7. When transferring ownership of a dangerous dog, the new owner’s information should be reported in advance to The Prefectural Animal Welfare and Management Center.

Definition of Dangerous Dog

Fighting dogs, large size dogs that are prone to causing harm to humans, such as American Pit Bull Terriers, Rottweilers, Tosa-ken, and other large breeds.

IV. If your dog escapes...

Immediately contact the local police station, municipal office, and the Prefectural Animal Welfare Management Center.

V. Retrieving your dog from the Prefectural Animal Welfare and Management Center

Captured dogs are kept at the Center for 7 days (excluding weekends and holidays).

A fee is required for retrieval. Please inquire about the cost. The fee must be paid using Prefectural Certificate stamps or “ken-shoshi” only. No cash nor credit cards are accepted. The ken-shoshi are available at local banks or at the first floor of the Public Hygiene Center, a beige, two-story building located on the left from the gate of the Prefectural Animal Welfare and Management Center. (To purchase the Ken-shoshi, however, you need Japanese Yen cash.)

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Kin Town Office Residents’Life Section TEL : 098-968-2460