

Some guidance to dog law in France.

Further information is available from www.service-public.fr (click on vacances and then animaux) and www.ambafrance-uk.org clicking on the consulate for London.

1. Categories of dogs.

There are 2 categories of *Dangerous Dogs* recognised in France.

Category 1 includes non-pedigree American Staffordshire terriers (Pit-Bulls), Mastiffs (Boer-Bulls) and Tosas.

Category 2 includes pedigree American Staffordshire Terriers, Tosas plus Rottweiler and dogs of similar morphology with or without pedigree.

Category 2 dogs must be:

- Identified by identichip or tattoo
- Registered with the Mairie where you will stay.
- Vaccinated against rabies all the time you are in France.
- Insured third party.
- On a lead and muzzled when in public place
- Children under 18 years, convicted criminals and anyone who had had their dog confiscated because of public endangerment cannot own a category 1 or 2 dog.

The owner of a category 2 dog must also

- attend a compulsory aptitude course.
- produce a certificate of examination by a vet regarding the dog's behaviour. The Mairie or DDSV holds a list of vets willing to produce these certificates

NB The Staffordshire bull terrier is a separate breed to the Staffordshire terrier and American Staffordshire terrier. It is not in category 1 or 2. If you have a Staffordshire bull terrier it is important that your vet writes Staffordshire bull terrier in the passport and throughout your pet's paperwork.

2. Importing your dog to France.

To import a dog into France from the UK it must be over 3 months of age, identified, have a passport and have a current rabies vaccination at least 3 weeks before travel.

Category 1 dogs cannot be imported.

3. Owning a dog in France.

All dogs over 4 months old must be identified by tattoo or identichip. Identichipping is preferred because from 2011 tattoos will no longer be recognised as a means of identification.

If your dog bites a person, you must consult your Mairie and vet immediately who will explain the procedures to follow.

Any queries on this factsheet please contact your vet or Diana James at vet2u@wanadoo.fr