

Ministry of Health, the Environment, Energy and Climate Change

## PRESS RELEASE

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## Dog legislation package

Two pieces of legislation, a Bill, and Regulations, have been published today in the Gibraltar Gazette, both relevant to dog owners.

In both cases, these have been drafted in consultation with the Responsible Pet Owners' Association and the GSPCA, both of which welcome the initiatives, as well as environmental officials, the Environmental Agency and the Gibraltar Veterinary Clinic.

An amendment to the Seashore Rules will allow beach access to dogs during the winter season, from 1 November to 15 March, in the section of Eastern Beach north of the central groyne.

A Bill to amend the Animals and Birds Act will require all dogs to be microchipped in line with practice in many European countries. Most dog owners in Gibraltar already microchip their dogs to assist in identifying the animal if it goes missing or if it strays but, under the Bill, there will be period of grace to allow time for the remaining dogs to be microchipped.