

What is Legal Shelter for a Dog?

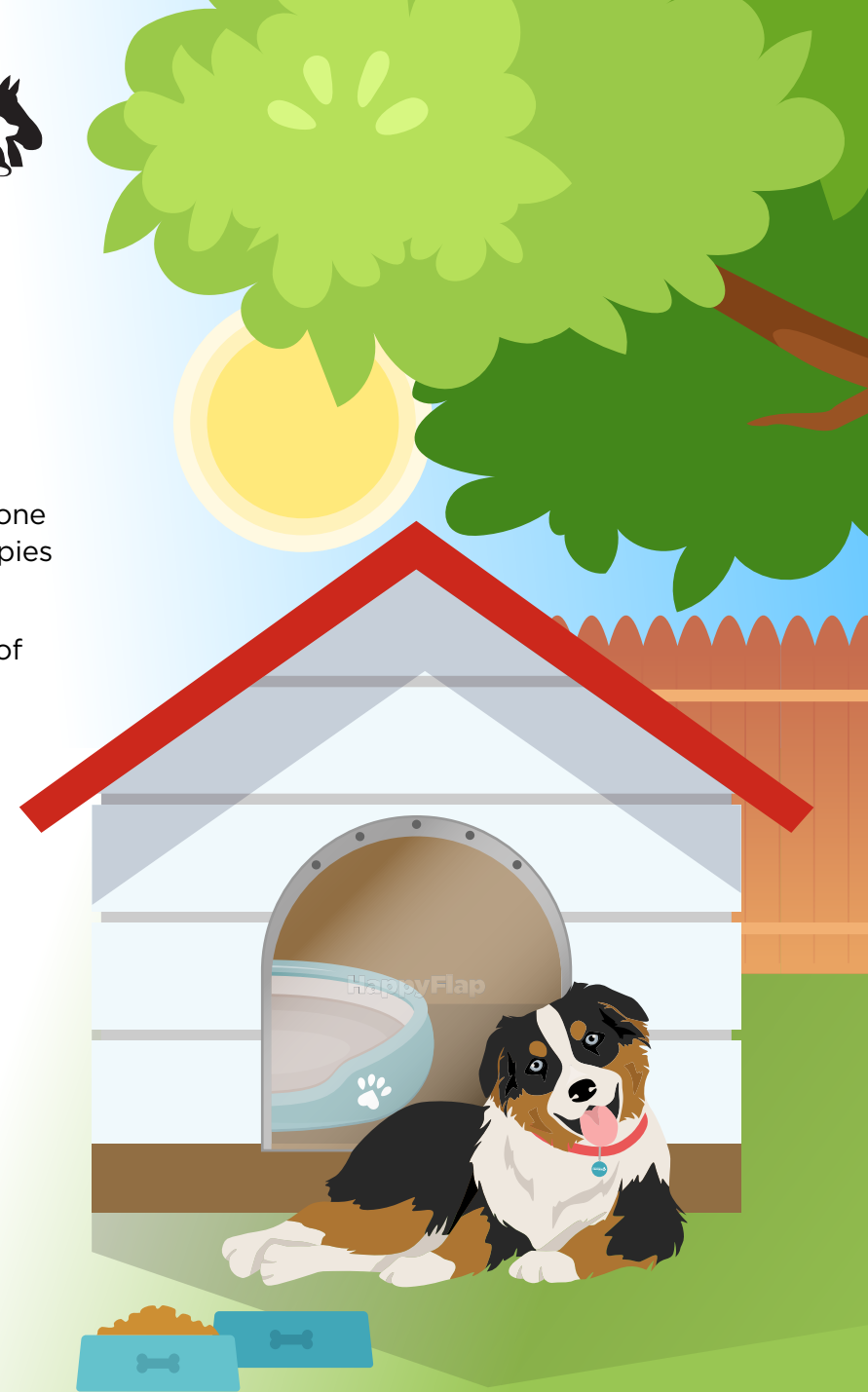


The following reflects California State Law regarding proper dog housing and shelter:

- **Dog Shelter Requirements**

Dogs are social, loving animals who want to be a part of the family — not left alone outside. Not all dogs are suited to be kept outdoors, including senior dogs, puppies and small or short-haired breeds.

- **Whenever your dog is housed outdoors,** they must have access to weatherproof shelter of adequate size. The shelter must be well-constructed and have a roof, three sides, a doorway and a solid, level floor raised at least 2 inches from the ground. There should be no cracks or openings other than the entrance, and the shelter must be windproof and rainproof. The entryway must be protected by a self-closing windbreak, an offset outdoor or a flexible door flap.
- **In warm weather, dogs need protection from the sun and heat.** The shelter should be placed in adequate shade, and the opening should not face the sun. Rainproof openings for ventilation are acceptable in hot weather.
- **The shelter should be large enough** so the dog can stand with their head up, turn around easily, and sit or lie down comfortably.
- **Dog shelters must have sufficient bedding** and protection when the weather is colder than the breed can comfortably tolerate. Bedding material must be kept clean, dry and sanitary.
- **Water requirements:** Dogs must have access to clean, fresh water at all times.
- **Feeding requirements:** Dogs must be provided sufficient food daily to maintain proper body weight and good general health.



To report inadequate housing or suspected animal cruelty or neglect in your neighborhood, please call San Diego Humane Society's Humane Law Enforcement at **619-299-7012 (press 1)**. For more information, visit sdhumane.org/humanelaw.