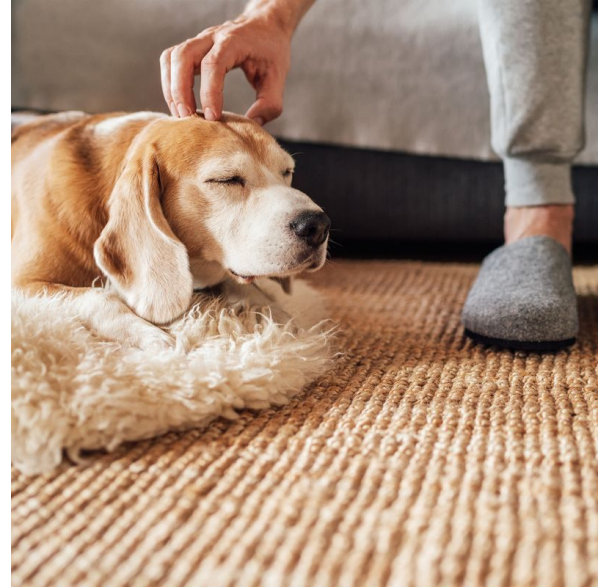




MEMBER OF THE FAMILY



Scan to review worksheet

Expemo code:
1A5X-X1LF-MG68

1 Warm up

Look at the photos. Discuss the questions in groups.



1. How do you think the lives of the dogs in the photos differ? What rights should animals have?
2. Do you think the dogs in the photos have the same rights? Why/why not?

2 Focus on vocabulary

Part A: Match the vocabulary to the definitions.

I

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1. <u>hereby</u> (adv.) | a. make a very strong request for something |
| 2. <u>demand</u> (v) | b. sent with a letter |
| 3. <u>enclosed</u> (adj.) | c. the process of using a court to decide an argument or to deal with a complaint |
| 4. <u>commencement</u> (n) | d. beginning |
| 5. <u>proceeding</u> (n) | e. as a result of this statement, and in a way that makes something legal |



II

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. <u>require</u> (v) | a. an amount of money that a court decides a person or an organisation has to pay to somebody as punishment for having harmed them |
| 2. <u>attempt</u> (n) | b. an act of trying to do something, especially something difficult |
| 3. <u>resolve</u> (v) | c. find an acceptable solution to a problem or difficulty |
| 4. <u>liable</u> (adj.) | d. legally responsible for paying the cost of something |
| 5. <u>punitive damages</u> (n) | e. make somebody do or have something, especially because it is necessary according to a particular law or set of rules |

Part B: Now complete the following sentences with a word from Part A.

1. The plaintiff _____ that you return her automobile to her immediately as she did not agree for you to keep it longer than a week.
2. The _____ of the trial is set for a week from Monday.
3. For your reference, _____ is a copy of the contract.
4. The court cannot _____ defendants to be represented by their own legal advocate, but it is recommended.
5. If we must begin a legal _____, we will, but it would be better to negotiate a settlement ourselves.
6. The defendant's behaviour was quite horrible. I'm certain there will be _____ to pay.
7. I remember the judge's words exactly. She said, "The court _____ finds for the plaintiff in this case."
8. If you cause an accident, you will be _____ for the repairs to all the cars.
9. Even if you don't succeed, the fact that there was an honest _____ to negotiate a settlement will be in your favour.
10. It's possible that we can _____ this between ourselves since neither of us wants to pay for an attorney.



3 Understanding a demand letter

Skim the letter. Answer the questions.

1. Who wrote the letter? Who is this person?

2. Who is the letter to?

3. What is the Action mentioned in the letter?



DEMAND LETTER

Emma Thorne, Esq.
Bicester Road, Richmond TW9 4QL, UK
Email: ethorne@law.legal.co.uk

29th day of April 2022

Howard Kilby
Burhill Road, Hersham, Walton-on-Thames KT12 1LP, UK

Dear Mr Kilby,

I represent Ms Calista Stinson, owner of cocker spaniel Wolfgang Austin. Ms Stinson hereby demands that you return her family pet, Wolfgang Austin, cocker spaniel.

For your reference, enclosed is a copy of a photograph of Wolfgang Austin on your property as proof of your possession of the dog.

Please note that if commencement of legal proceedings is necessary to require your performance of the Action, this letter will be offered in court as evidence of your failure to attempt to resolve this matter. Furthermore, you may be liable for any court costs, fees and damages, including punitive damages.

You have the right to contact legal counsel to discuss your legal rights and responsibilities.

Yours sincerely,
Emma Thorne



Part B: Now read the letter carefully. Read the questions and write down your answers.

1. Who is represented and by whom?

2. What does the represented person want?

3. What is the evidence included in the letter that shows that the Action is needed?

4. What will happen if Mr Kilby doesn't do what is asked?

5. How will this letter be used if Mr Kilby doesn't do what is asked?

6. What might Mr Kilby have to pay?

4

A demand letter: writing

Look at the letter again. In groups, discuss the following questions.

1. What is the purpose of each of the three paragraphs? Why do you think the information is organised into these three paragraphs?
2. What words, phrases or other languages can you identify that makes this letter formal?



Writing a demand letter

Read the situation and write a demand letter. Make notes to help you. You can choose the addresses and date for your letter.

Ms Lesley Sullivan promised to adopt the dog of Mr Brian Marlowe because he was moving to China and was unable to take his dog with him. At the last minute, Ms Sullivan refused to adopt the dog. You represent Mr Marlowe. He relied on Ms Sullivan's promise and did not make other plans for his dog. Now he has to pay for the dog to be kept in a safe place until he can find a new home for it. He has been paying for the dog's care by cheque. He would like Ms Sullivan to pay for the dog's care until he finds it a new home. If she doesn't pay, he would like to begin legal proceedings against her.

- First paragraph / Action:

- Second paragraph:

- Third paragraph:



5

Legal vocabulary

Part A: Complete the chart with the correct forms for the different parts of speech.

verb	noun	adjective
(1)	abductor / (2)	(3)
(4)	crime / (5)	criminalised
protect	protector / (6)	(7)
(8)	prioritisation / (9)	X
(10)	approach	approachable
destruct	(11)	destructive / (12)
(13)	jail / jailing / (14)	(15)

Part B: Read and complete the sentences with words from the table above.

1. The _____ of the building by the storm was unexpected.
2. _____ by strangers is rare. Most children are _____ by a family member.
3. _____ are full of people who have harmed society and other individuals.
4. It's important that we _____ your goals because I don't think we can achieve all of them.
5. Children are a _____ group, so anyone who harms a child will face stronger penalties.
6. We need to think carefully about our _____ to our first day in court because that will make a big impression on the judge.
7. Although it is a _____ to steal someone's pet, the penalties should be more serious.



6 Reading: understanding the author's opinion

Read the first three paragraphs (page 8). What is the author's attitude toward the UK's pet theft law?

1. Animal lovers should be very happy about this law because it protects animals.
2. This law is a very good step, but more needs to be done to protect animals.
3. The concerns of some animal lovers are not reasonable, but this law is a good one.
4. This law seems to help animals, but it doesn't really do all that much for them.

7 Finding vocabulary

Scan the article and find words or phrases which mean the same as the following.

- a. _____ the illegal taking of something that does not belong to that individual (n, para. 1)
- b. _____ to make sure something happens (v, para. 2)
- c. _____ mental pain that results from someone else's behaviour (n, para. 3)
- d. _____ the general health and happiness of a person, animal or group (n, para. 4)
- e. _____ not shown to or seen by others (adj., para. 4)
- f. _____ to make someone experience or be affected by something that is usually unpleasant (v, para. 5)
- g. _____ when two ideas or things are not acceptable or possible to be together because they are very different in basic ways (adj., para. 5)
- h. _____ being kind toward people and animals so that they do not suffer (adj., para. 6)



Part of the family

Protecting animals

1. From community parks to celebrity neighbourhoods, "pet theft" is on the rise. The abduction of Lady Gaga's French bulldogs, Koji and Gustav, brought publicity to this problem, but many ordinary people and pets have also been affected.
2. Recognising this problem, the UK government plans to criminalise pet theft. This law would offer greater protection to pet theft victims as it would ensure they receive compensation for the emotional distress of losing an animal they may have thought of as a member of their family.
3. Although animal lovers will celebrate this as a step in the right direction, it may not actually be the win they had hoped for. By criminalising pet theft, the government wants to recognise that it is a serious crime, that animals are more than property, and that the law should protect their welfare. Thus, the government claims this law prioritises animal welfare. Yet some animal law and ethics research suggests that it does not go far enough. In fact, the approach to animal welfare taken by the UK government may harm animals in the future.
4. Firstly, the law will continue to treat animals as property, as most legal systems do. Animals will still be owned, bought and sold, as they always have been. We might have a growing cultural awareness that animals are unique individuals with meaningful inner lives, but in legal terms, stealing a dog is like the theft of a bicycle or backpack.
5. In other words, our legal system tells us we should protect the welfare of animals, but it also says that animals should continue to be subject to the laws of property. Many animal law experts argue that these two positions are incompatible and that truly recognising the rights of animals in law requires giving them legal rights that go further than just protecting their welfare.
6. A second issue is that animals that are pets are usually given different legal treatment compared to farmed animals. In the UK, the Animal Welfare Act imposes a duty to ensure an animal's welfare needs are met. The act specifically states that this duty does not prevent the "destruction of an animal in an appropriate and humane manner". What this looks like for farmed animals and pets is very different in practice.
7. It is common to think of appropriate and humane killing of a pet occurring when their health is failing significantly or when they are experiencing extreme pain. However, this is not the case for farmed animals, which are often killed when young and healthy. Thus, while society is making progress in offering protections to pets, improving the welfare for farmed animals is much more difficult to achieve.
8. A final issue is that criminalisation may not be the best way to achieve animal protection. Animal law researcher Justin Marceau has written about the harm caused by criminalisation and jailing. Marceau believes that using this model to protect animal welfare will only contribute to the problem of full jails and makes little use of community-based responses to crime.
9. So, before celebrating this new law as a win for animals, we must ask who is being helped by this law. Those who are critical of the law say that it focuses too heavily on the interests of human victims, like Lady Gaga, when it ought to be more focused on improving the lives of dogs like Koji and Gustav. And perhaps the law should also include ways to protect the billions of farmed animals who are nameless.

Sources: BBC, *The Conversation*, *the Human League*



8 Reading comprehension

Read the article and decide if the sentences are true or false.

1. The UK government passed this law only because Lady Gaga's dogs were abducted. _____
2. The law will make sure that people who lose a pet to theft receive payment to make up for the harm the abductor caused. _____
3. Because people now understand that animals have important inner lives, this law is more likely to protect them. _____
4. According to the article, animal rights experts think that animals should have legal rights beyond the protection of their welfare. _____
5. Under the law, it is illegal to kill farm animals or pets. _____
6. The author believes that the welfare of farm animals needs to be improved. _____
7. Animal law researcher Marceau is not in favour of the criminalisation of pet theft in this way for two main reasons. True (The article says, "Marceau believes that using this model to protect animal welfare will only contribute to (1) the problem of full jails and (2) makes little use of community-based responses to crime.")
8. One criticism of the law is that it focuses on the rights of celebrities and not the animals themselves. _____

9 Talking point

Discuss in pairs or small groups. Give reasoning.

1. Do you think animals should be treated as property? Why or why not?
2. Do you think that different treatment of pets and farm animals is justified? Why or why not?

10 Optional activity/Homework

Write a paragraph (300 words). Ensure that you check your grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

The lesson focused on how pets and animals are treated in the UK. What is animal law like in other countries that you know about? How does it compare to the information you learnt about animal law in the UK? Which treatment of animals do you think is better for animals and their owners? Why?