



## China's Social Credit: Pick Up Poo Or We Take Your Dog

This new dog management system is a modification of the nationwide social credit system already in place. Cameras everywhere will report you if you don't immediately pick up your dog's poo, at the risk of having your dog confiscated. Technocrats are obsessive/compulsive about micromanaging anything and everything. □ TN Editor

[Chinese](#) cities are launching a scoring system for dog owners where anyone found failing to care for their pets could be forced to pay a fine - or even have their dog confiscated.

[The credit system](#) is already being enforced in the [Chinese](#) city of Jinan, and requires anyone with a dog to register with the police - with only one dog permitted per person.

The licence starts with a dozen points and is embedded as a QR code on a dog's collar.

Points are then deducted for various infractions, such as walking a dog without a leash or tag, not cleaning up poo, or being reported for a disturbance. Owners are docked three points if dogs are walked without a leash, for example, which must be less than 1.5 metres in length and

under the control of someone at least 18 years of age.

Dogs are not allowed to play in public water fountains, and they are banned from government buildings, public transport, schools, hospitals, parks, public squares, gyms, hotels restaurants, markets and shopping centres.

Repeat offenders can see as many as six points subtracted in one go, though owners can earn points back with good behaviour such as volunteering in kennels.

Losing all 12 points means saying goodbye to the dog, the most severe punishment authorities can levy. Once a dog is confiscated, owners must pass an exam about responsible pet ownership before being reunited.

Since the programme was introduced last year, 1,430 dog owners had been fined, according to state media.

Of those, 122 lost the full dozen points, and subsequently their dogs; most, however, passed the exam and got their pets back. Local police say the number of complaints lodged about dogs has dropped significantly.

Other Chinese cities are now also beginning to roll out the dog owner social credit programme, reported state media.

“With proper implementation [of the system] and training, the overall quality of the dog owners will be raised,” said Miss Hu, 35, a consultant in Beijing who owns a black Labrador retriever.

“It can reduce the risk of my dog being attacked by other dogs that are poorly kept,” she said, declining to give her full name. The programme might also lower “the number of stray dogs and unleashed dogs, and eventually the number of people bitten by such dogs.”

Dog bites have long been a concern in China, which has the world’s second-highest number of reported rabies cases in the world, according to the World Health Organisation.

But that has not stopped millions of Chinese from owning dogs, leading

to a boom in the pet care industry offering everything from doggie spas to pet funerals.

The dog-owner social credit system is similar to the government's [nationwide social credit system](#) launched in 2014.

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