

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ كَمَا هُوَ أَهْلُهُ وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى سَيِّدِ أَدَمَ كَمَا يُحِبُّ وَيَرْضَى بِأَنْ يُصَلَّى عَلَيْهِ

Allah Almighty, in Whose Name we begin, The Most Compassionate,
The Most Merciful

All Praise is due to Allah Almighty, Countless Peace and Blessings be upon
His Beloved Messenger – *may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him* – his family & his
companions – *may Allah be pleased with them all*

When it is Haraam to keep a Dog

There are only three reasons that one is allowed to keep a dog. To protect one's farm, to protect one's home and for hunting purposes. One is prohibited to keep a dog for sport and play, to keep them for racing purposes, to keep them for dog fighting purposes and merely for fun. There are many Ahadith which appear in this regard.

1. Hadrat Sayyiduna Abdullah ibn 'Umar - *may Allah be pleased with him* - narrates that Sayyiduna Rasoolullah - *may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him* - has stated that, "Whoever keeps a dog for anything else besides protection from wild animals (or self-protection) or hunting purposes, every day, his reward is decreased by two Qiraat." (This is a special scale by which one's reward and good deeds are weighed). (At Targheeb)

2. Hadrat Sayyiduna Abu Hurayrah - *may Allah be pleased with him* - narrates that Sayyiduna Rasoolullah - *may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him* - has stated that, "Besides for protection against wild animals and for protection of one's crop, if a person keeps a dog for any other purpose, his reward is decreased by one Qiraat." (At Targeeb)

3. Hadrat Sayyiduna Buraydah - *may Allah be pleased with him* - reports that once Jibra'eel Ameen did not appear to Sayyiduna Rasoolullah - *may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him*. Sayyiduna Rasoolullah - *may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him* - asked him the reason for this and he replied, "We, the Angels, do not enter a house in which there is a dog." (At Tagheeb)

4. Hadrat Sayyiduna Abu Hurayrah - *may Allah be pleased with him* - narrates that once Sayyiduna Rasoolullah - *may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him* - explained, "Jibra'eel Ameen appeared in front of me and informed me that during the previous night he could not enter my house because there were pictures of people on my front door and there was a dog in the house. He also informed me, 'Please give command that the heads of these pictures be cut so that they become like trees and pertaining to the cover material (on which these pictures appeared), they should cut into two pieces and used as mats so that they can be placed on the floor and walked upon. Please also command that the dog be removed as well.'"

This was a small dog which belonged to Hadrat Sayyiduna Imam Hasan - *may Allah be pleased with him* - and Hadrat Sayyiduna Imam Husain - *may Allah be pleased with him* - which was below their bed. This dog was immediately removed. (At Targheeb from Imam Abu Daud and Imam Tirmidhi)

Bear in mind that all of these things were present before the law appeared that it was Haraam to have these objects in one's house. The appearance of Jibra'eel Ameen and the appearance of Angels also encouraged the fact that these objects should not be found inside the house of a Muslim. After this strict prohibition, it became Haraam for Muslims to keep the picture of any live object or a dog in one's house.

As we have already mentioned, there are specific times when one is allowed to keep a dog and besides for these reasons, it is Haraam to keep a dog. Muslims should also endeavour to protect themselves from these un-Islamic actions. There is no doubt that

true salvation in both worlds can only be achieved through strictly following the Islamic Shari'ah.