

## WEEKLY HOMEWORK NEWSLETTER

### Who keeps the dog after divorce?



That is something the Spanish courts will now decide under a new law that **considers** a pet's **welfare** when couples divorce or break-up.

The legal change comes after similar moves in France and Portugal and **obliges** judges to consider pets as living beings rather than objects or **property owned** by one or the other partner - something that is still in place in most countries.

"Animals are part of the family and when a family decides to separate, the **fate** of the animal must be regulated with the same importance as the fate of other family members," said lawyer Lola Garcia, 42.

In October, a Madrid judge gave **joint custody** of a dog to an unmarried couple after they separated. The dog spends a month with each of them and both are legally responsible.

Previously, a lawyer **seeking** joint custody of a pet had to **prove** both members of a couple owned the animal as an object, giving **advantage** to whoever had registered the pet.

Garcia, whose Rights&Animals firm **handled** the case, considers the reform a major first step in a series of **forthcoming** legal changes **governing** people's relationship with animals.

#### Glossary

considers - bierze pod uwagę, rozważa  
welfare - dobrostan, dobro  
obliges - obliuguje  
property - własność  
owned - posiadany  
fate - los  
joint custody - opieka naprzemienna  
seeking - ubiegający się  
prove - udowodnić  
advantage - przewaga  
handle - zajmować się  
forthcoming - nadchodzące  
governing - regulujący, zarządzający

**Complete the sentences with seven highlighted words from the text:**

1. How does your department ..... customer complaints?
2. After getting divorced they got ..... of their child.
3. I tried to ..... him wrong but he wouldn't listen to me.
4. Now that they found him guilty his ..... is doomed.
5. You mustn't take away any of the old bricks. They are public .....
6. Jana..... moving abroad by the end of this year.
7. No one seems to care about the ..... of immigrants.

**Answer key:**

1. handle 2. joint custody 3. prove 4. fate 5. property 6. considers 7. welfare