8A COMMUNICATIVE Good laws?

a Read about some existing laws in different countries. In pairs or small groups, discuss whether you think each law is a good one, and whether you would like to have it in your country.

b For each section write one new law that you would like to see introduced in your country.

Animals

1 Poland
If you have a dog, it must always wear a muzzle and be kept on a leash when you take it for walks.

2 Sweden
All animals that are kept inside a house / apartment must have access to natural light.

3 New law

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The environment

1 Norway
When you buy a bottle or a can of drink you have to pay a deposit. When the bottle or can is empty, you take it back to a recycling center where your deposit is refunded.

2 Mexico
There is a complete ban on free plastic bags in Mexico City. Customers are charged if they want them, and the bags must be biodegradable.

3 New law

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On the road

1 Germany
People who want to get a driver's license have to take a first-aid training course. They must also carry a first-aid kit in their cars.

2 Spain
Car drivers are not allowed to wear flip-flops while driving.

3 New law

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Food and health

1 Brazil
All Brazilian state-school children are given one free meal at school every day. 70% of this food has to be fresh, and the other 30% must come from local family farmers.

2 Japan
There is a special tax on food or drink which the government considers to be unhealthy. People who want to buy these things have to pay a lot more than they would for healthier options.

3 New law

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In the street

1 Iceland
Teenagers between the ages of 13 and 16 are not allowed to be outdoors after 10:00 at night unless they are on their way home from a recognized event organized by a school, sports organization, or youth club. During the summer months, they can be outdoors for two hours longer.

2 United States
In most places in the US, people can take pictures of anyone they want to in a public place without getting their permission.

3 New law

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