

Responsible Dog Ownership



Owning a dog is a big responsibility. As well as love, food, shelter and exercise, dogs need to be looked after and cared for. Before buying a dog and even while you have your dog, you need to consider a number of things that will help you and your dog have a happy time together.

Commitment

Dogs are expensive and they require a lifelong financial commitment. As well as food, toys, bowls, collars and leads you should also consider other expenses such as dog insurance, veterinary bills and kennel fees.

It also pays to sit down and think about how much time you can give your dog. You should consider issues such as how you can look after a dog or puppy if you are working full time. Is there someone who can walk or feed your dog during the day or could you call in at some point yourself? You will also need to think seriously about the type of dog you would like. Is your house and garden big enough for a larger dog and how much exercise would your dog need?

Our Responsibilities

As a statutory body, we are required by law to undertake a number of measures to protect you, your dog and your community.

The legislation we are required to act under includes:

- Environmental Protection Act 1990 (Stray Dogs)
- Environmental Protection Act 1990 (Noise Control Order)
- Dangerous Dogs Act 1989
- Dogs Fouling of Land Act 1996
- Pet Animals Act 1951

Your Responsibilities

As a dog owner you have a number of legal responsibilities.

You should have a basic understanding of how the law affects you and what you can do about it. Acts that have a direct bearing upon dog owners include:

- Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 - requires you to clean up after your dog.





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- Control of Dogs Order 1992 – states that while in a public place, a dog should wear a tag/collar containing its owners' contact details.
- Dangerous Dogs Act (DDA) 1991 - dogs classed as dangerous must be neutered, microchipped and registered.
- Road Traffic Act 1988 – dogs must be kept on leads while on roads.
- Dogs Act 1871 - if a complaint is made about a dangerous dog, the owner must take action to keep it under control.
- Town Police Clauses Act 1847 - unmuzzled dangerous dogs must not be allowed to in public places unaccompanied.

Training a dog properly is vitally important. Your dog needs to know its boundaries and only you can teach it what these are. As well as teaching the basic commands, you also need to teach your dog how to behave in terms of excessive barking and obeying your commands.

For the health of you, your dog and your family it is paramount that you ensure your dog as healthy as possible. This includes worming your dog on a regular basis, ensuring that it has its inoculations on time and that you take good care of his teeth, paws and coat. And never underestimate how much exercise a dog needs. Lots of fresh air and brisk walking are vital.

What we can do

We offer a range of services to help be a responsible dog owner. As well as distributing poop scoops to parish council for public use we also provide a single contact number for all dog related enquiries including dog fouling, stray, nuisance and dangerous dogs. In addition, we currently offer free dog microchipping and, in conjunction with the Dogs Trust a free dog neutering scheme. Our qualified environmental wardens are also available to answer any questions or queries you may have about your dog and how to be a responsible owner.

What you can do

Dog owners can do a great deal to make sure their dogs remain safe and healthy. Make sure that you can afford your dog both in terms of money and time and that you can offer it plenty of exercise and stimulation. You should keep your dog under proper control, ensure that it wears a collar and tag and try to have it registered. And always remember to clean up after your dog.



Useful contacts:

Envirocall

Tel: 0191 527 5040



Dogs Trust

17 Wakley Street

London EC1V 7RQ

Tel: 0207 837 0006



Kennel Club

1 - 5 Clarges Street

Piccadilly, London W1J 8AB

Tel: 0870 606 6750



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