

How to be a **responsible dog owner**



Tips for Responsible Dog Ownership

- Train your dog in elementary obedience.
- Feed your dog at regular times and a nutritionally balanced diet.
- Feed your dog from his own dish.
- Keep your dog on a lead anywhere near a road, or where there are other animals.
- Train your dog not to foul in public places – if it does “Scoop the poop”!
- Remember your dog’s bark can be a nuisance.
- Provide your dog with his own bed.
- Never take your dog into a food shop – always tie its lead to a post.
- Keep your dog clean and regularly groomed.
- If you do not want your dog to have puppies, obtain advice from your vet.
- Make sure someone is caring for your dog when you go on holiday and that he knows the Environmental Health Department’s phone number.
- Register your pet with a vet of your choice.

Every dog should be protected against potentially fatal diseases.

- First vaccinations are given at about eight weeks. Puppies should not be allowed on the street or mix with other animals until your vet advises.
- Always keep your dog’s vaccination certificates. You may need them in the future.
- Regular booster vaccinations are necessary, at least once a year.
- Roundworm and tapeworm (intestinal parasites) can affect dogs at any age, so they should be treated regularly for worms.

Worms can cause sickness and diarrhoea in young animals but adult dogs may show no signs. Worming is easy, effective and costs little using a worming preparation obtained from your pharmacist, vet or pet shop. Follow the manufacturer’s instructions carefully. Adult dogs should be wormed at least every 6 months. Pregnant bitches and bitches with young puppies should be wormed more frequently. It is essential that puppies are wormed when they are about two weeks old and then treated at regular intervals until they are at least six months old. Always seek veterinary advice before worming your puppy.

How to be a responsible dog owner

Dog mess can contain a number of things which can make people ill – best known of which is infection with *toxocara canis*, which is a roundworm. If the eggs of this worm are swallowed, this can result in a range of symptoms from aches and pains to bronchial conditions. In rare cases, eye sight can be damaged.

The risk to human health is small. You can reduce it further by:

- Worming your dog regularly;
- Always clearing up after your dog;
- Good hygiene practice.

Local Dog Control Measures

In January 2008, under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, NNDC introduced a Dog Control Order (The Fouling of Land by Dogs Order 2008). This Order designates all land open to the air (which includes land that is covered but open to the air on at least one side) and to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access with or without payment, as a poop scoop area. If land is designated under this Act and you don't clean up after your dog, you may be asked to pay a fixed penalty of £80 and taken to Court for the offence if the fine is not paid.

Countryside Code

The main countryside rule is - **DOGS MUST NEVER WORRY LIVESTOCK**. Even letting your dog walk in the same field as farm animals may be considered as "worrying". Remember – the farmer is entitled to kill your dog if it is worrying livestock.

Stray Dogs

You must keep your dog under control at all times. Make sure you know the telephone number for Environmental Health so that you can contact them if your dog goes missing. The local authority has the responsibility to collect strays and will charge the dog's owner, upon collection of the dog, for kennelling the dog, so act quickly to ensure you aren't put to unnecessary expense. If a dog is not claimed within seven days the authority has the right to find a new home for the animal.

Training Your Dog

A well trained dog is a happy dog and he will not be a nuisance to others if he's under control. You must never allow your dog to be dangerously out of control – he must not injure anyone or frighten anyone into thinking that they might be injured. It is an offence to let your dog behave in this way.

Start training your dog when he is a puppy. It's never too late to train but an older dog may need professional help from a dog training class. The Kennel Club can supply a list of clubs or look in the local newspaper or ask at your vet or library.

Environmental Health



Teach your dog to:

- walk beside you on and off the lead
- stay when told to sit
- come when called
- not foul indiscriminately in public

All dogs must wear a collar and clearly displayed tag in public places.

The tag must bear the name and address of the dog's owner.

Dog owners and non-dog owners have the right to live side-by-side. There are however, several rules which should be followed. Most are straightforward and many are concerned with safeguarding the environment, for the benefit of everybody. It is hoped the information contained in this leaflet will help achieve an harmonious environment for us all.

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Our switchboard - 01263 513811 operates from:

8:30am to 5pm Monday to Thursday

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