

Dog Warden Service

Promoting Responsible Dog Ownership



Dogs in Our Environment

Short History

Dogs did not suddenly become domesticated at a particular time or place. Domestication is likely to have been a gradual process, started and abandoned many times by early man. Scientists are generally agreed that an early form of the Asiatic Wolf was the first canine to form a close association with humans over 9000 years ago. During this period both man and dog were hunters, scavengers, nomadic, and lived in their own family groups. Man and dog would always be contesting with their respective groups for the leader status. Co-existence between man and dog has arisen through a common need which could be pursued to a common benefit. Remember that for a dog to survive it would have to **HUNT, CHASE** and **KILL**.

Dogs only see in shades of black and white, they have a greater sense of smell and hearing, they also have better vision in darkness. One year in a dog life is equivalent to approximately seven years in a human life. Dogs do not have human emotions, and do not understand our language.



Thinking of Getting a Dog?

Answer these questions honestly and you
may think again

1. Can I afford the approximate £10 a week to feed a dog; plus vet fees - bedding - collar and lead - toys and feed bowls, etc?
2. Do I require permission to keep a dog (Council Tenant etc)?
3. Can I exercise my dog two or three times a day - in all weathers?
4. Is my home big enough for the family and a dog?
5. Can I find the time to groom and generally care for my dog?
6. Will I be able to clean up after my dog when it fouls (some people cannot)?
7. Are any of my family allergic to animals (asthma etc)?
8. Dogs can live to fifteen years plus - am I willing to make that commitment?
9. Who will look after the dog when I am on holiday?

If you have made up your mind to have a
dog then please read on



The Law and Your Dog

1. All dogs when outwith your property must wear a collar and disc. Not having a collar and disc on your dog is an offence.
2. It is an offence to allow your dog to foul public parks, play areas, footpaths, adjacent grass verges, pedestrian precincts. All parks in Angus have dog bins situated for you to deposit dog waste. (This does not apply to owners of guide dogs).
3. Any dog found straying by the Angus Council Dog Wardens or the police will be seized and placed in kennels. Kennelling costs are recoverable from the owners of dogs when claimed.

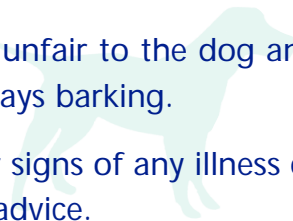
Angus Council also levy an administration charge in addition to kennel costs. Dogs which are not claimed within seven days of seizure will hopefully be rehomed or subsequently humanely destroyed by the Veterinary Surgeon.

4. If your dog is straying and seized by the Dog Warden and has a disc with the address upon it then your dog shall be returned to you whenever possible. You will be sent a bill for the cost.
5. Remember stray dogs cause many road traffic accidents, indiscriminate fouling and livestock worrying.
6. All tenants should check their tenancy agreement before getting a dog.

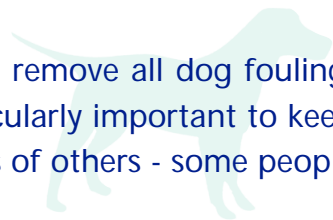


You have decided to purchase a dog or puppy - here are some useful tips

1. Check your Deeds Tenancy Agreement to see if you are allowed or need permission to keep a dog.
2. Select a dog suitable to the surroundings that it will be living in.
3. Feed your dog an adequate diet according to size and age.
4. Have your dog vaccinated against killer diseases and wormed every six months - puppies more frequently.
5. Ask your vet about having your dog neutered/spayed to avoid unwanted puppies.
6. Give your dog plenty of exercise, but keep it under control. If it strays, it may cause a road accident or damage property. You are legally responsible for its conduct. Consider some form of Pet Care/Public Liability Insurance.
7. Read and observe all laws, rules and regulations which apply to dogs on public roads, pavements, footpaths and in public parks, children play areas and all other public open spaces.
8. It is a criminal offence for your dog not to wear a collar with the owners name and address inscribed on a metal tag or disc attached to it.
9. Do not allow your dog into any childrens play area, sportsfield, ornamental garden, school or educational establishments.
10. Never leave your dog alone all day. It is unfair to the dog and to your neighbours, especially if it is always barking.
11. Regularly groom your dog and check for signs of any illness or injury requiring treatment or veterinary advice.



12. Never let your dog foul on a pavement, footpath, sportsfield, childrens play area, ornamental garden or cemetery. Train your dog to foul in your own garden. Should your dog foul in any public place and you or the person in charge of the dog at the time, fail to uplift the fouling you are committing a criminal offence. Use a bag or other means to lift and then bin it.
13. Respect other peoples property by not allowing your dog to foul in other peoples gardens or urinate against their driveways.
14. Never allow your dog to be a nuisance to other dogs or people.
15. Never allow your dog to stray or wander unsupervised.
16. Ensure that your dog is on a lead when on or adjacent to a public highway and when in close proximity to other dogs.
17. Avoid leaving your dog at or tied up outside a doorway when shopping.
18. Train your dog basic obedience and consider joining a Dog Training Club as your dog should be sociable with other dogs and people.
19. Never leave your dog in a car in warm weather even with a window open. Dogs can easily die from heat exhaustion.
20. When you are away arrange to have your dog looked after by someone who is experienced with dogs, or book into Boarding Kennels.
21. Should you take your dog to a beach remove all dog fouling. When beaches are crowded it is particularly important to keep your dog on a lead. Respect the rights of others - some people may not like dogs.



22. Never abuse, neglect or goad your dog or any other dog.
23. Should your dog go missing or you find somebody else's dog please contact the Dog Warden and Police as soon as possible.
24. Remember your dog is part of your family for life.

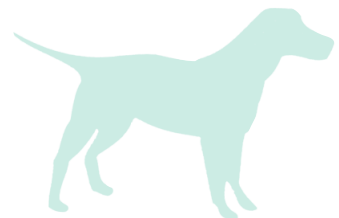
Dog Barking Complaints

All complaints relating to dog barking should be reported to your local environmental and consumer protection office.

There is available a specific leaflet on this subject which can be sent out to householders.

Cruelty, Neglect, Abuse

All complaints relating to dogs being neglected or abused should be reported to the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA).



ANGUS COUNCIL



Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003

£40 Fixed Penalty Notice

It is an offence for any person in charge of a dog who fails to immediately remove and dispose of appropriately any excrement after a dog has fouled in a public place.

This Act also applies to any common passage, close, court, stair, green, garden, yard or other similar common area, communal area or any place which is open to the air to which the public or any section of the public has access, on payment or otherwise, as of right or by virtue of expressed or implied permission.

Offenders will receive a Fixed Penalty Notice of £40, rising to £60 if not paid within 28 days. If after a further 14 days where the £60 has not been paid, a Sheriff Officer will be authorised to recover monies due. This could include arresting your wages or bank account.

The Dog Wardens, other authorised Local Authority Officers and Police Officers will issue these Fixed Penalty Notices. Certain offenders can also be reported direct to the Procurator Fiscal and on conviction could be fined a sum not exceeding £500.

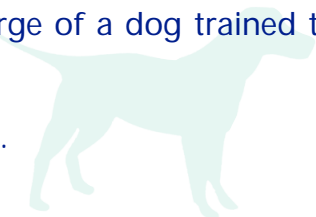
ON BEING GIVEN A FIXED PENALTY NOTICE: The Authorised Officer will show their identity and give you a Statement Of the Offence. You will be told that the Officer reasonably suspects you of contravening section 1 of the above Act and that you are going to be given a Fixed Penalty Notice of which you are required to pay within 28 days to the District Court. You will also be told that a copy of the Notice will be sent to your Home address within 7 days. Details of how to make payment and how to request a hearing will be contained within the Notice. You will also be told that in terms of section 5, subsection 2, of the above Act you are required to provide your name and address and you will be warned that it is an offence to fail to provide these details which is punishable by a fine. (On conviction a sum not exceeding £500).

Being unaware of your dog fouling (whether by reason of not being in the vicinity or otherwise) or not having a device for or other suitable means of removing the faeces shall not be a reasonable excuse for failing to remove the faeces.

Your own refuse bin, a dog waste bin, public litter bin or any receptacle provided for the purpose, or for the disposal of waste, shall be sufficient removal from the place.

Exceptions to offence: shall not apply to a blind person, a person in charge of a working dog being used to drive or tending sheep or cattle, a person in charge of a dog on official military, Customs & Excise, Police or emergency rescue work duties. This exception also applies to a disabled person who is in charge of a dog trained to assist that person.

This Act does not apply to agricultural land.

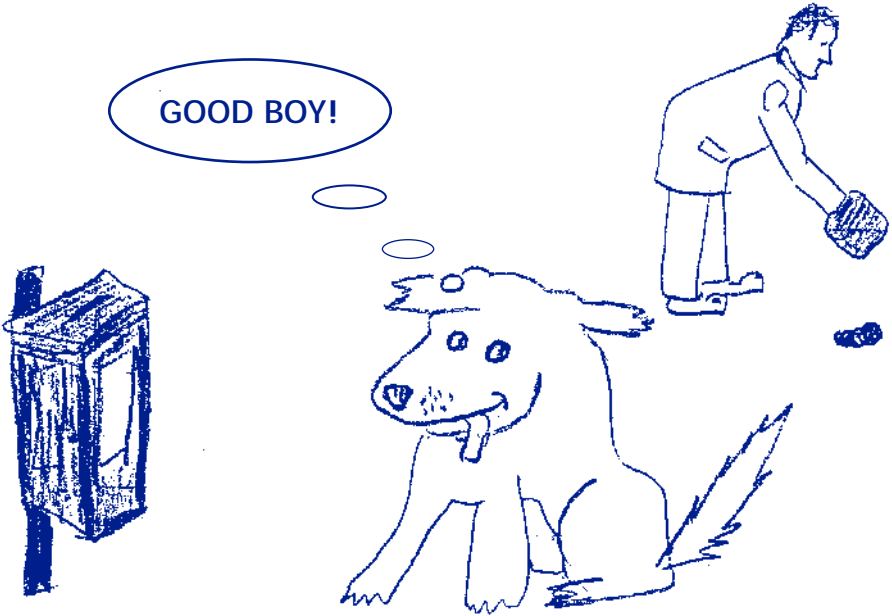


YOUR DOG MUST WEAR A DISC ON ITS COLLAR - BEARING YOUR NAME ADDRESS AND OR TELEPHONE NUMBER



CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR DOG

BAG IT AND BIN IT



BAG IT AND BIN IT



Dog Diseases

There are in this country five diseases of dogs which can kill and for which vaccination is available, through your veterinary surgeon.

They are:

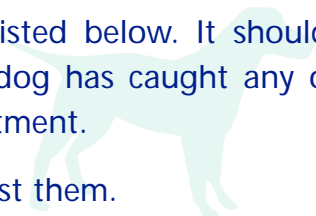
1. Canine Distemper (Hardpad Disease)
2. Canine Parvovirus Disease
3. Leptospira Icterohaemorrhagiae (Rubarth's Disease)
4. Leptospira Canicola (Veil's Disease)
5. Infectious Canine Hepatitis

All unvaccinated dogs are at risk from these diseases and the first two are particularly common in Angus.

Vaccination usually consists of a course of two injections with an interval of 2-4 weeks between them. yearly boosters are required to retain protection. Exact details of vaccination will vary from area to area and the best person to ask about this is your veterinary surgeon who will have a knowledge of the local disease patterns.

The main signs of the five diseases are listed below. It should, however, be pointed out that once your dog has caught any of these infections IT MAY DIE in spite of treatment.

EARLY VACCINATION is the best fight against them.



Canine Distemper

Distemper is a very contagious virus disease which can affect dogs, foxes, ferrets and mink. The virus is passed from an infected dog in the air it breathes out. Some dogs that have had distemper can shed virus for months. If an unvaccinated dog breathes in distemper virus it stands a very good chance of catching the disease. Within a few days the dog becomes ill. It is usually miserable and will not eat. Its eyes and nose will commonly produce thick discharges and the dog will have a high fever. It may have diarrhoea, sickness and a cough. Occasionally the skin of its pads may become thickened. Distemper virus can also damage nerves and this can cause muscles to twitch regularly, especially those on the top of the head. Some dogs become paralysed following distemper and some will start having fits. These signs of nerve damage may not happen until several weeks after the dog first caught distemper.

Canine Parvovirus Disease (CPD)

CPD is a relatively new disease, having first appeared over 20 years ago. It is shed by infected dogs for about 2 weeks and can survive in the environment for years.

Unvaccinated susceptible dogs which pick up parvovirus develop a severe sickness and diarrhoea, these often consisting of foul smelling bloody fluid. They have a high fever and are commonly profoundly depressed.

Leptospirosis

There are two Leptospiral organisms in this country which can cause severe illness in dogs.



The first (called Icterohaemorrhagia), is usually found if rats are about. It causes a hepatitis (liver disease). The dog will suddenly become very ill, run a fever, will not eat and is usually sick. Touching its stomach will often cause a lot of discomfort. The dog will usually develop jaundice. Blood may appear in the sickness and in diarrhoea.

The second (called canicola), is passed from one dog to another in the urine. It causes kidney damage and affected dogs are generally miserable, pass water frequently, may have sickness and diarrhoea and are often very sore if touched in the stomach.

Infectious Canine Hepatitis

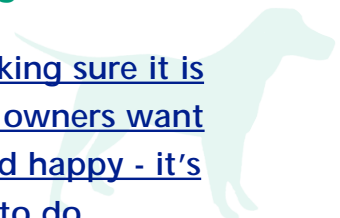
This is a virus disease which damages the liver. Dogs which have recovered from it can pass the virus for at least 6 months and it can survive outside the dog for weeks and even months.

A susceptible dog which picks up the virus will run a fever within a few days and may pant a lot. It will be miserable, off its food, thirsty and may develop discharges from the eyes and nose. It may also vomit. Dogs which recover from the disease will sometimes develop cloudy eyes (blue eye). This will nearly always disappear in time.

Be Responsible

Worm Your Dog

Caring for a dog includes making sure it is wormed regularly. Good dog owners want to keep their pets healthy and happy - it's the responsible thing to do.



Why Worm?

Because roundworms can affect any dog at any age. They can cause sickness and diarrhoea in young animals but adult dogs may show no symptoms. In rare cases roundworm larvae can cause eye damage to children. Worming your dog is easy, effective - and costs very little.

What To Do

Adult dogs should be wormed at least every 6 months. Pregnant bitches and bitches with young puppies should be wormed more frequently. Puppies should be first wormed when they are about 2 weeks old (at this early stage this is essential) and then treated at regular intervals until they are at least 6 months old. The treatment required depends on your dog's weight. Follow the makers' instructions carefully. If in doubt, always ask your vet or pharmacist for advice.

Where to Obtain Worming Treatments

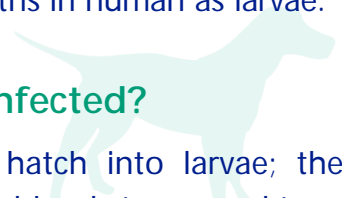
You can get worming treatments from your pet shop and, of course, your vet. Don't forget, cats need worming too.

Toxocariasis

Toxocariasis is a disease in humans caused by swallowing the eggs of the parasitic worm toxocara - carried by most dogs. The eggs have a life of four years in the soil and many months in human as larvae.

How Do We Become Infected?

By swallowing the minute eggs which hatch into larvae; they burrow through the stomach wall into the blood stream and travel



on to other organs. After eating they excrete toxins which cause inflammation.

What are the Symptoms?

Stomach pains - fever - malaise - enlarged spleen or liver - wheezing as with asthma - seizures as with epilepsy - encephalitis (inflammation of the brain). If the larvae reach the eye they will cause loss of sight. A toxocaral infection can be confirmed by a blood test. Unlike other diseases, one infection does not provide immunity. There is no easy cure. Drugs used against this disease have side effects so prevention is supremely important. 2% of the UK population is already infected.

What Can We Do?

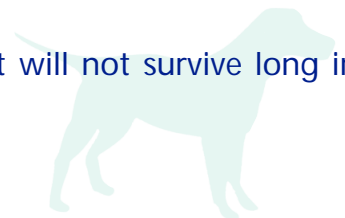
Remind children to wash their hands before eating, at home and at school. Wash hands after stroking pets. Change out-door shoes to indoor at home and at school. Spread a clean sheet on the carpet for babies to crawl on.

Changing house? Inspect the garden for indiscriminate fouling by pets. Consider not buying the fitted carpets.

Ask Councils to implement the poop-scoop bye-law in parks and playing fields. Support those Councils who agree, and push those who don't. Discourage owners who allow their pets to foul freely.

All waste should be bagged and binned or disposed of in a dog loo in the garden, or burnt.

The egg enjoys moist damp conditions; it will not survive long in dry warmth.



Angus Council
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£40 Fixed Penalty

It is an offence not to immediately remove and dispose of to a dog bin or some other suitable receptacle any excrement after a dog you are in charge of has fouled in any public place.

Angus Council Dog Wardens, Parks Supervisors and Tayside Police Officers are authorised to issue these penalties.

Dog Warden Contacts:

Angus Council ACCESS Line on: 08452 777 778

or

by telephone (01241) 435600

or

your local Police Office