

The Microchipping of Dogs (England) Regulations 2015

By the 6th April 2016 all dogs must be microchipped with the correct details of the habitual keeper and it is a maximum fine of £500 if this is not complied with. The habitual keeper is considered to be the person with which the dog normally resides.

The legislation applies to all dogs over the age of eight weeks old no matter what breed or type. All breeders have to microchip their puppies before transferring keepership for all breeds including crossbreeds and whether the litter was intentional or accidental. This is a criminal offence not to do so whether they are sold or given away.

Animal Welfare Act 2006

Anyone who is cruel to an animal, or does not provide for its welfare needs, may be banned from owning animals, fined up to £20,000 and/or sent to prison.

Information regarding your responsibilities as a pet owner can be found at: www.defra.gov.uk or www.rspca.org.uk

Dangerous Dogs

The Dangerous Dogs Act 1992 prohibits four breeds:

- Type known as the Pit Bull Terrier
- Japanese Tosa
- Dogo Argentino
- Fila Brasileiro

ANY breed of dog can be considered to be dangerous under the Dangerous Dogs Act if it harms a person or if there are grounds for reasonable apprehension that it may do so.

The Police should be contacted concerning dangerous dogs or banned breeds.

The Dogs Act 1871 states that the owner must ensure a dog is not dangerously out of control.

This can include attacks on other dogs. Swindon Borough Council and the Police both enforce this act.

Animals Act 1971 & Protection of Livestock Act 1953

You must not allow your dog to worry or chase livestock. Always keep your dog on lead when in the same field as livestock.

Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

Under this legislation Councils can make Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs). In stated areas you may have to keep your dog on a lead, stop your dog going into areas such as children's playgrounds and clear up after your dog.

Non-compliance can result in a Fixed Penalty Notice of £100 or a court fine up to a £1000. Details of PSPOs in Swindon Borough can be found at www.swindon-csp.org.uk

Other sections under this legislation that apply to irresponsible dog owners include Community Protection Notices (CPN). This is aimed at preventing unreasonable behaviour that is causing a problem in the community including nuisance dogs. An example may be a dog that is persistently straying, attacking cats in an area, being used in an intimidating fashion and so on. This notice may state that a fence has to be fixed, the dog has to be muzzled and/or kept on lead or anything that is considered necessary to stop the unwanted behaviour.

A breach of a notice can result in a Fixed Penalty Notice of £100 or a court fine up to £2500 as well as possible forfeiture of the dog.

This information is available on the internet at www.swindon.gov.uk It can be produced in a range of languages and formats (such as large print, Braille or other accessible formats) by contacting the Customer Services Department.

Tel: 01793 445500 Fax: 01793 463982
E-mail: customerservices@swindon.gov.uk

Stray Dogs



Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 a dog by itself in a public place or on private land without permission can be seized as a stray and removed to the pound.

Why are stray dogs seized?

Stray dogs can be a hazard to traffic, foul and cause a nuisance in the neighbourhood. Even a friendly dog may act differently if it is out by itself and can cause harm to people or other animals.

What happens if my dog is seized?

It shall be taken to a holding kennels where it will be cared for 7 days. If emergency veterinary treatment or treatment for parasites is required this will be given. As the owner you will be liable for these costs.

How do I get my dog back?

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 states that the owner shall not be entitled to have the dog returned to them unless they pays all the expenses incurred by reason of its detention.

Under the Environmental Protection (Stray Dogs) Regulations 1992 there is a statutory £25 fine for a stray dog. This is in addition to any other costs.

All fees must be paid therefore before a stray dog can be claimed. Details of current fees can be found on our website. www.swindon.gov.uk

How do I get my dog back (cont.)?

As soon as you realise your dog is missing Contact the council on 01793 445500 during the daytime and 01793 466453 in the evenings and weekends (please note: out of hours staff will only be able to take information regarding lost dogs and do not have access to the found dog register).

During working hours, if we have your dog in the pound we will be able to advise you of the cost so far. You then need to come to Wat Tyler House, Beckhampton Street, Swindon, SN1 2JH to pay the fine and collect release papers.

At this point you will be advised as to which kennels your dog is being held at and given directions.

You cannot collect the dog direct from the kennels nor can they accept payments on behalf of the council.

What happens if I don't collect my dog?

You shall still be liable for all costs incurred and shall be billed for these. If your dog has to be destroyed after 7 days you will also be charged for this. Unpaid invoices shall be forwarded to our debt collection team.

Being a responsible owner

Ensure your dog is well trained. Use only positive reward based training methods – contact the Council for details of local classes.

Feed your dog a balanced diet.

Ensure your dog receives veterinary care when required and is checked at least once a year. Consider getting pet insurance to cover potentially very expensive vet bills.

Consider getting your dog neutered – every hour an unwanted dog is destroyed in the UK as too many have been bred. Please don't add to this problem!

Ensure your dog gets regular exercise appropriate to its needs and is socialised with people and other animals.

Contacts

Swindon Borough Council:

01793 445500

www.swindon.gov.uk

RSPCA: 0300 1234 999

Wiltshire Police: 101

Defra: www.defra.gov.uk

Other Legislation

Control of Dogs Order 1992

Every dog when in a public place must wear a collar with the name and address of the owner inscribed on it. Although not stated in the Act it is advisable to also have at least one telephone number on the tag.

Furthermore, under The Microchipping of Dogs (England) Regulations 2015 all dogs must be microchipped (see over). **Be advised that both the above requirements are mandatory.**

Failure to comply is a criminal offence. If prosecuted you could be fined up to £5000 and/or up to 6 months imprisonment!

