

Other information

Insurance:

Pet insurance could help you with the bills for veterinary treatment if your dog becomes ill or is injured in an accident or attack. Many providers also offer help in the event of death, theft, or third party liability - vital if your dog causes injury or distress to another person, property or animal.

Vaccinations:

Vaccinating your dog protects it against various diseases which can cause pain, distress and could prove fatal. Regular booster vaccinations are necessary to keep your dog's immunity levels high enough to protect against disease throughout its life. Speak to your vet for more information.

Neutering:

Neutering is the most responsible and safest thing to do to prevent unwanted pups being born. It can also bring health, and in some cases, behavioural benefits to your dog. For more information visit: www.dogstrust.org.uk or talk to your vet.



For more information:

Visit: www.westoxon.gov.uk/dogs
Call: 01993 861000

Useful contacts:

RSPCA

www.rspca.org.uk
0300 1234 999

Dogs Trust

www.dogstrust.org.uk
0207 837 0006

Blue Cross Animal Sanctuary

www.bluecross.org.uk
01993 822483

Kennel Club

www.thekennelclub.org.uk
0870 6066750

PDSA

www.pdsa.org.uk
0800 731 2502

Thames Valley Police

www.thamesvalleypolice.uk
101

We are happy to provide this information in other formats. Please contact us if this is required.

Considering getting a dog or a puppy?

Please remember to consider if your lifestyle is suitable first. If you are out at work all day and can't make provisions for its mental and physical welfare during this time, perhaps owning a dog isn't the best option for you until your circumstances change.



WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

www.westoxon.gov.uk

Responsible dog ownership

Advice and legal requirements



Owning a dog brings a great deal of enjoyment but also carries with it many legal responsibilities.

The Animal Welfare Act 2006 places a legal duty on anyone who is responsible for a dog to care for it properly and to meet the five welfare needs:

- 🐾 A proper diet, including fresh water
- 🐾 Somewhere suitable to live
- 🐾 For any need to be housed with or apart from other animals
- 🐾 The ability to express normal behaviour
- 🐾 Protection from, and treatment of, illness and injury.

Being a responsible dog owner is not just about feeding and walking your dog properly and taking it to the vet if it's sick or injured. You have many legal responsibilities too and, if you ignore these, costs can soon add up.

Control:

Your dog must be kept under control at all times in a public place. A court may order a dog to be put to sleep if it is found to be threatening to the public.

You could also face a criminal prosecution if someone is injured by your dog.

If you are concerned that someone is not keeping their dog under control, and that it is dangerous, call Thames Valley Police on 101.

Any dog found worrying livestock could be shot without warning by a farmer, and as the owner, you could face prosecution.

Barking dogs:

A constantly barking dog could lead to a court hearing and a fine of up to £5,000.

We are legally bound to act to reduce or stop the noise when a dog's barking is found to be unreasonable or excessive.

Dog fouling:

If you do not clear up your dog's mess you can be issued with a fixed penalty notice, currently £50, or you could be taken to court and face a fine of up to £1,000.

Allowing your dog to foul without clearing it up is unpleasant for others and can be dangerous. Dog faeces carry eggs of the Toxicara Canis Worm, which can cause serious illness. Use a poop scoop or bag to pick up the mess.

Identification:

You could be fined up to £5,000 if your dog does not wear an identification tag.

Dogs must wear a collar and tag with the name and address of its owner on when out in a public place. This identification can help people contact you if your dog strays and could save you expensive kennelling charges. We do not recommend including the dog's name on the tag.

Microchipping:

From 6 April 2016, microchipping will be compulsory. It only takes a few minutes and will last forever. A tiny microchip is inserted under the animal's skin, giving the dog their own unique code. This is registered on a national database, and can be used to quickly trace the owners should the dog be lost or stolen.

Microchipping is inexpensive and some dog charities even offer it for free. Search online or contact your vet to find out more.

Remember, you can only be reunited with a missing pet if your details are up to date. If you move house or change your telephone number, make sure you amend your details with the relevant microchipping database operator.

Stray dogs:

Even the most obedient and well looked after dog can disappear on occasion.

Any dog will be treated as a stray if it's not under anyone's control. Stray dogs cause accidents, injure themselves and are liable to foul public areas without anyone there to pick up after them.

We are responsible for dealing with and collecting stray dogs, including those found out of hours. We aim to return them to their owners as soon as possible. However, it is important that you act quickly if your dog is missing as we charge a daily rate for kennelling.

If unclaimed, the stray dog will be kept for 7 days and then usually rehomed via an animal rescue centre (unless the dog is too sick, vicious or has other behavioural issues).

If you think your dog has been stolen call Thames Valley Police on 101.

Reporting a stray or lost dog:

You are legally obliged to report and return a stray dog.

If you find a stray dog, or have lost your dog, please report it to us:

Call: 01993 861000

If your dog is found after reporting its loss to us, please let us know so we can update our records.

Recovery fees

The collection and return of stray dogs is not a free service. We will charge you for the return of your dog to cover any fees incurred by the Council.