



DOG CONTROL SERVICE

- Fact Sheet

Dogs can be mans' best friend or public enemy number one – depending on their owner and who you ask.

Most dogs are well looked after, never cause any bother, and give their owners and their families enormous pleasure and companionship.

Responsible owners make sure their dogs never foul public places and if fouling occurs they clean up after their dog. They also keep their dog under control at all times (whether on or off the lead), and make sure their pet never strays. Of course, accidents do happen, and pets can escape, but your dog is at risk if left to roam, and a family pet could easily be injured or cause an accident.

In the countryside, a farmer is entitled to shoot a loose dog if he fears it may attack livestock.

Stray Dogs

Wardens regularly patrol all parts of Rugby and will seize and detain any stray dog that they find in a public place. Strays on private land can also be captured, with the landowners consent.

Under the Government's Control of Dogs Order 1992 all dogs in a public place are legally required to wear a collar and tag giving the name and address of the owner. It is an offence for your dog to be without this identification. As a collar and tag can easily become lost it is advisable to consider having your dog micro-chipped. A micro-chipping service is offered to Rugby Residents at a very competitive rate, currently £12.50 for one dog or £10 each for three dogs or more. The Dog Control Officer will even visit you and your pet at home to carry out the service. Dogs with suitable identification will be returned to their owners free of charge on the first occasion.

Dogs found without adequate identification, or which have strayed before, will be taken to the kennels and kept there for a statutory seven day period. If unclaimed they will be made available for re-homing. Before the dog can be reclaimed by its owner, a fine, daily boarding charges and any veterinary fees incurred must be paid. Reclaim fees must be paid in full before a dog can be released. No installment payments of reclaim fees will be accepted.

Responsible Dog Ownership

Micro-chipping is a quick and painless procedure which involves implanting a tiny chip below the skin in the scruff of the dog's neck. The micro-chip contains a unique bar code, which when read by our Warden's scanner provides instant details of the dog and its owner, thereby making it possible to quickly re-unite the two in the event of the dog straying.

Rugby Borough Council has a Dog Control Service which aims to:

- Deal with lost or stray dogs
- Deal with complaints about nuisance dogs (i.e. dog barking, fouling)

- Promote responsible dog ownership
- Offer a competitive micro-chipping service
- Enforce the Rugby Borough Council Dog Control Orders
- Enforce other dog-related legislation or support other agencies e.g. the Police when dealing with dogs.

Dog Control Orders

We have introduced new Dog Control Orders under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 which came into force on the 27th July 2009.

Penalty

The penalty on conviction for an offence is a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale (maximum £1,000). However an authorised officer who has reason to believe that a person has committed an offence may give that person notice offering him the opportunity of discharging any liability to conviction for the offence by payment of a fixed penalty. The penalty will be set at £80 with a discounted sum of £50 if paid within 10 days.

The Council will not hesitate to prosecute anyone who fails to pay a fixed Penalty. The Dog Control Officer is authorised to issue fixed penalty notices, as are the Council's Community Safety Wardens, Environmental Protection Officers and Park Wardens.

If you would like to report a stray or lost dog, make a complaint or enquire about any of the dog control services please contact the Council during normal office hours. Monday - Friday, 9am to 5pm, on (01788) 533857.

In addition if you know somebody that allows their dog to foul or who contravenes any of the orders mentioned please contact us and request a Dog Control Report Form. This form can also be used to report problem areas. Every month the reports are used to identify priority patrol areas across the Borough.

Dog Control Orders

Order one - The Fouling of Land by Dogs (Borough of Rugby) Order

The effect of this order is that if a dog defecates at any time on the land listed in the order, which includes most public land, and a person who is in charge of the dog at that time fails to remove the faeces from the land, that person will be guilty of an offence. There will be exemptions for blind persons with guide dogs and disabled persons using trained assistance dogs.

Order two - The Dogs on Leads (Borough of Rugby) Order

A person in charge of a dog will be guilty of an offence if he does not have his dog on a lead in certain designated areas. In a nutshell, this is where there are public roads, Council-owned cemeteries and Caldecott Park.

Order three - The Dogs on Leads by Direction (Borough of Rugby) Order

The effect of this order is that a person in charge of a dog will be guilty of an offence if at any time, he does not comply with a direction given to him by an authorised officer to put and keep the dog on a lead. This order applies to the whole Borough.

Order four – The Dogs Exclusion (Borough of Rugby) Order

If an owner takes a dog into a designated area where dogs are excluded he will be guilty of an offence. Designated areas are all enclosed childrens' play areas and Warwickshire County Council controlled schools.