

PAWS ON PATROL NEEDS YOU!



Your canine friendly Street Wardens are inviting all dog owners to join **Paws on Patrol**

We aim to give dog walkers the tools and confidence to act as the 'eyes and ears' for their community, whilst out exercising their dogs.

We are not asking *Paws on Patrol* members to step in and take action themselves. *Paws on Patrol* is simply about providing the Police and Council with information, so together, local communities and authorities can help make neighbourhoods safer for residents and their four legged friends.

Members will receive quarterly newsletters - keeping you updated with local matters

To join *Paws on Patrol* please call 01594 810000 or email street.wardens@fdean.gov.uk



Forest of Dean
— DISTRICT COUNCIL —

A Guide to Responsible Dog Ownership



Visit the Forest of Dean District Council website www.fdean.gov.uk

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The Animal Welfare Act 2006 stipulates five welfare needs for your dog:

1. A suitable living environment
2. A suitable diet
3. To be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns
4. To be housed with, or apart, from other animals
5. To be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease.

The Responsibilities of Dog Ownership



Owning a dog is a life-long commitment and expense, as most dogs can live for up to 15 years or more. Spending time with your new pet can be fun, but you need to be prepared that owning a dog will take up a great deal of your time as your pet will require lots of attention; mental stimulation and exercise.

We encourage all owners to attend dog training classes to allow your pet to meet others in a controlled environment and to learn basic commands. Both you and your dog will be happier if he or she is socialised with people and other animals.

Protect your Dog with Micro-chipping

Micro-chipping your dog gives your pet the best chance of being returned to you should they become lost or stolen.

A tiny identification micro-chip the size of a grain of rice is inserted under the dog's skin in a quick and relatively painless process. Should the dog be picked up by the Street Wardens or taken to a vets or kennels, the dog can be scanned for a micro-chip and the owner will be contacted through the address details provided.

The law currently states that all dogs need to be micro-chipped and must wear a collar and tag, which needs to display the owner's address details. For more information on micro-chipping or to book an appointment to have your pet chipped, call the Street Warden Team on 01594 810000.



Stray Dogs (Lost and Found)

If you need to report a lost or stray dog, contact the Council on 01594 810000 during normal office opening hours (9am to 4.30pm) or email council@fdean.gov.uk. Stray dogs found outside of these hours can be taken to the local kennels. The kennels are open from 8am to 11pm, including weekends and bank holidays. For more information call the kennels on 01594 832536 or 0787 664 1854.

Dog fouling

Allowing your dog to foul in a public place and then failing to remove the waste is an offence and could result in you receiving a fixed penalty of £80 and possible prosecution if you fail to pay the fine.

Rain water does not wash dog faeces away and it is every owners legal duty to clean up after their dog by picking it up in a bag and disposing of the waste responsibly. This means by placing small quantities in litter bins, or where possible we encourage residents to take the waste home and dispose of it in with your domestic rubbish or flush it down the toilet.

As well as being unpleasant and unsightly, dog faeces is a risk to human health as it carries a parasite which can cause an infection called Toxicariasis. At its worst Toxicariasis can result in blindness, particularly in children.



Barking dogs

Barking is a natural part of a dogs life, but constant barking or whining can be a noise disturbance for your neighbours. Often this problem occurs when you are out of the house and you may not realise that you dog is barking until someone makes a complaint.

Dogs are social animals so we encourage owners not to leave their pets alone for long periods of time. If you have to leave your pet, see if there is someone who can visit your dog during its time alone, or maybe that person could take the dog for a walk or let them out in to a garden for exercise.

If you discover that your dog is causing a noise nuisance by repeatedly barking and whining then try some of the following suggestions:

Leave at differing times during the day, that way your dog may not be so concerned each time you leave. Don't make a fuss of your dog before you leave them.

Try putting the dog on its own in another room for a few minutes, then gradually build up the time that you leave your dog alone. Do not return to the dog unless they are quiet for a period of time. Praise your dog when you return.

Some dogs will settle only if they can hear a human voice. Try leaving the radio or the television on at a low volume as company for your pet whilst you are out of the house.

If you require further information or advice on barking dogs contact the duty officer at Environmental Regulatory Services (ERS) on 01594 810000 or email ers@publicagroup.uk