



Dog Straying

Unsupervised dogs are a hazard. They can cause a danger to traffic, they may foul, they may attack people or other animals and they may also get injured or killed themselves.

Dog owners can be fined if their dogs are picked up by our Dog Wardens and they can be prosecuted by the Police if their dogs cause a road traffic accident. The Police can also get involved if a dog displays aggressive behaviour to a human or it attacks livestock. However, if a dog attacks someone else's pet (such as another dog or a cat) then this would be a civil matter between the animals' owners.

Identification

Dog owners are legally required to ensure that their dog wears a collar with an identity tag detailing the owner's name, address and telephone number. Whilst microchips are also an excellent idea in case a dog loses its collar or if the dog is stolen, they are only useful to someone with a scanner that detects them, whereas a tag on collar can be read by anyone assisting owners in getting their pet back much quicker. Also, the law makes no mention of microchips, only tags, and so a pet owner can be fined for not putting a collar and tag on their pet, even if it has been micro-chipped.

What is a stray?

Our dog wardens can seize any dog that is out in a public place without an owner. Such dogs are classed as 'strays'. We can also collect strays that have been contained by a member of the public on private premises.

What happens to strays?

In most cases dogs seized or collected by the Dog Warden will be taken to the kennels used by the Council to board our strays. If the dog is micro-chipped or the owner can be identified, all reasonable effort will be taken to contact the owner or serve a notice where applicable.

Once at the kennels the dog will remain there for 7 clear days unless claimed by its owner. If the owner does not come forward and the dog can be re-homed all efforts will be taken to do so.

When the owner is identified, they will be required to go to one of the Council offices in Pershore, Evesham or Droitwich. They can confirm the identify of their dog from a photograph taken of the dog at the kennels. To have their dog returned owners must pay a £25 statutory fine, any kennelling fees incurred (at £11.00 per day or part day) as well as an administration fee of £15. Following payment a receipt is provided which they would take to the kennels enabling them to collect their dog. If we are certain who the dog belongs to, we can arrange to take the payment over the phone if the owner has a valid credit card.

What do I do if I see a stray?

Between **9.00am to 4.30pm from Monday to Friday**, excluding Bank Holidays telephone (01386) 565015 and a Dog Warden will attempt to come out as soon as possible. Obviously it can take some time for a Dog Warden to reach the area in question, so if the public can catch or contain the dog (without risk to themselves) until we get there this is extremely helpful.

Outside office hours Dogs can be handed in at Evesham Community Contact Centre, Abbey Road, Evesham during their opening hours:

Monday to Friday 8am-8pm

Saturday 9am-5pm

Sunday 10am-4pm

If this is not practicable then please contact Worcestershire Telecare on 08450 568035 and advise them of the details. Telecare will liaise with the out-of-hours dog warden and arrange for the dog to be collected. Please note, that out of office hours we are unable to collect any uncontained dogs.

What about dogs which are allowed to stray on a regular basis?

If a dog is let out or is able to escape on a regular basis then please telephone and tell us about it. We will ask you to keep written records to aid us in our investigation. If you tell us who owns the dog we can also write to them to remind them of their responsibilities. We can also patrol the areas in question if the dog continues to stray and will seize persistent strays wherever possible.

What if I own a dog which strays and I need help?

Contact us on (01386) 565015. Our dog wardens can give practical advice on the dog's home environment and any training that may be required. If you no longer want to keep your dog or are struggling to manage with your dog we can assist you in finding a new home for it.

What if I find a stray and I want to keep it?

This is possible, but you must contact us so that we can make all efforts to find the owner. We will come and scan the dog for a microchip, photograph it and check its description against our database. There are also national databases which can be checked as well. We will complete some paperwork with you, check that you will provide a suitable home and give you any advice you may need with regard to caring for the dog. If we cannot find the owner and they do not come forward, after 31 days the dog becomes legally yours.

Contact: Environmental Protection Section, Environmental Services, Civic Centre, Queen Elizabeth Drive, Pershore, WR10 1PT

Telephone: 01386 565015 Fax: 01386 561826 Email: environmental.health@wychavon.gov.uk

Web: www.wychavon.gov.uk/es

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