



ABERDEEN  
CITY COUNCIL

# LIVING WITH DOGS



## Introduction

### Reasons why people choose a dog as their pet-

- Dogs and people build up unique friendships.
- A dog can provide the perfect companion for you or your family.
- The exercise a dog requires helps keep the owner fit.
- A dog can take away the stresses and worries of modern life and give us the friendship we need.

But what about our part in this friendship: what should we be doing for our dogs? The purpose of this booklet is to inform dog owners and potential owners of the duties and responsibilities involved in caring for a dog.



## Responsible Ownership

Owning a dog has its fair share of surprises. The biggest surprise about responsible ownership is that it starts long before you first set eyes on your dog.



# Points to consider before buying a dog

## 1. Can I afford to keep a dog?

Looking after a dog involves spending money on food, vets bills, boarding costs, etc.

## 2. What breed of dog should I choose?

Different breeds of dog grow to different sizes. They may also have different habits, temperament and lifespans.

## 3. Do I have the room?

You must have space in your house for a dog. Always ask yourself when you see a puppy – “how big will it be when it is fully grown?”

## 4. Will I have time to look after a dog?

It takes time to look after a dog properly.

Time for exercising, training, taking it to the vets, etc. Part of being a responsible owner means that someone will have to be able to look after it during the day and when on holiday.

## 5. Am I fit enough to keep a dog?

Dogs need exercise (as we do!). To be a responsible owner you must exercise your dog regularly and you have to be fit enough to do it. Less active people should consider acquiring an older dog as these are also in general, less active and by obtaining an older dog from the Dog and Cat Home, you may save it from being put down. (It is more difficult to find new homes for older dogs as most people desire puppies or younger dogs).

## 6. Am I prepared to train and control my dog adequately?

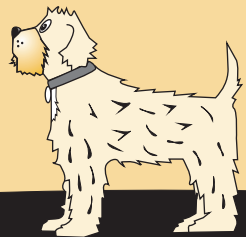
Dogs have to be taught how to behave. You can't expect them just to know how to do things properly. This includes toilet training!

Without proper training you may never have proper control over your dog (and the law says you must control your dog)

## 7. Will I clean up after my dog?

Allowing your dog to foul without cleaning up the excrement is an offence.

Dog faeces may cause public health problems so remember ALWAYS “scoop the poop” and use the dog bins provided.

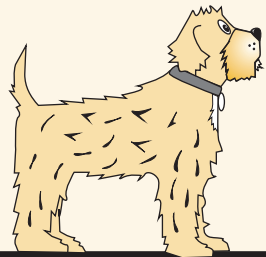


## Dogs and the Law

1. Every dog while in a public place must wear a collar with the address of the dog's owner inscribed on a plate or tag attached to it.
2. Allowing your dog to foul without cleaning up may result in a fixed penalty fine.
3. You must not allow your dog to stray or enter a childrens play area.
4. All dogs must be under the control of a responsible person.
5. You must not allow your dog to be a source of danger or annoyance.

There are special laws concerning dogs bred for fighting.

**In Aberdeen byelaws have been introduced to exclude dogs from the central area of Aberdeen Beach. Please observe the signage.**



## Registration

The City Council has set up a local registration scheme. It is a condition of new consents that any dog kept in City Council property **MUST** be registered. All City residents are encouraged to join in the registration scheme.

## Microchipping

This is undertaken as part of the registration scheme and involves the insertion of a tiny, harmless "chip" under the dog's skin at the back of its neck. This area can be scanned to reveal a code which allows access to the owner's name and address. Straying dogs may then be returned to their owners with the minimum of delay.

If you are interested in having your pet registered then please contact the Dog Warden Service of the City Council for advice.



# Health

- **Vets**

Register your dog with a vet- Don't wait for your dog to fall ill then try to find a vet who can help.

- **Vaccinations**

These are the only way to help protect your pet against some of the most dangerous diseases that affect dogs.

Your vet will give your pet its first "jabs" when it is about 8 weeks old – don't let it go out until it has had these! You vet will also advise you when a booster "jab" is necessary. (Always keep your dogs vaccination certificates)

- **Worming**

Worms can affect dogs at any age – especially in young dogs where they can cause sickness and diarrhoea.

Worm your puppy when its about 2 weeks old and continue to treat it regularly until it is 6 months old. Ask your vet for advice before worming your dog.

Don't worry – worming is easy and isn't too expensive.

- **Fleas**

As soon as your dog shows signs of having fleas then treat your pet and it's sleeping area with a reliable flea spray or powder. If

you experience any difficulties then contact your vet.

- **Grooming**

The only way to keep your dog clean is by grooming it at least once a week. Also bathe it when necessary. Too much bathing may cause skin problems. Use dog shampoos only.

- **Neutering**

If you are absolutely sure you want your bitch to have puppies and that you can find good homes for them then fine. Otherwise, you should consider having her spayed . Speak to your vet about spaying or hormonal control of the bitch's seasons, if not spayed. Also consider castration of male dogs if you live in a densely populated area. Castrated dogs are generally more content and homely, and will not pester you to get out every time a bitch is in season. The majority of dogs picked up by the Dog Wardens are males patrolling their patch.



# Council Tenants

Council Tenants must have permission to keep a dog in a Council house. You must apply for permission from the City Council's Neighbourhood Area Teams (Shelter) before keeping a dog in the house.

The conditions include-

- 1. The dog must be registered under the City Council's Registration Scheme.**
- 2. The dog must be kept under control at all times and not allowed to roam free.**
- 3. The dog will bear its owner's name and address at all times by means of a suitable disk or collar.**
- 4. You must always clean up after your dog has fouled.**
- 5. Only one pet is allowed per household.**
- 6. A new application is required if your pet dies or you move house.**



The Council will consider the personal circumstances of the tenants plus whether the dog is neutered or not whilst considering an application.

It must be noted that permission will, other than in exceptional circumstances, be withdrawn at any time if the above conditions are not complied with or the dog is otherwise causing an annoyance to neighbours.

Pets are not permitted in certain types of Council property.

Further information regarding dogs and Council dwellings may be obtained from the City Council's Neighbourhood Area Teams (Shelter) via the Council's main switchboard 522000.



## .....And Finally

### **Barking**

It is natural for a dog to bark. However, constant barking or whining can cause a nuisance to neighbours and the dog owner may face legal action if no steps are taken to stop the noise.

Dogs may bark due to loneliness – they often regard their owners as their family. Other reasons for them barking are – boredom, attention seeking, defending their territory, and medical problems. The best way to resolve this problem is to train your dog properly – all part of being a responsible owner.

Further advice regarding dog barking may be obtained from the Council Dog Wardens.

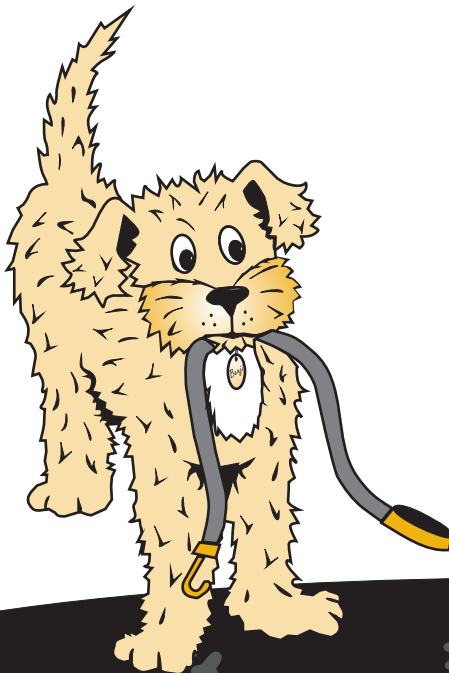
### **Dog Wardens**

The City Council employs Dog Wardens to uplift “stray” dogs and deal with other dog related problems. They are also able to offer useful advice about taking proper care of your dog.

Further details regarding the Dog Warden Service may be obtained from Neighbourhood Services (Central).

### **Training**

There are various dog training organisations within Aberdeen City. Details of these may be obtained from the City Council’s Neighbourhood Services (Central).



## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Aberdeen City Council Dog Warden Service **01224 523737**

Aberdeen City Council main switchboard **01224 522000**

Mrs Murray's Home for Stray Dogs and Cats **01224 483624**

People's Dispensary for Sick Animals (PDSA) **01224 632042**

Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals **01224 581236**

Grampian Police **0845 500 6700**

Vet

Kennels

For more information on becoming a responsible dog owner contact-

**01224 523737**

[www.aberdeencity.gov.uk](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk)

