Solutions to dog fouling

- When walking your dog always take an adequate amount of poop scoop bags.
- Worm your dog regularly.
- Report regularly fouled areas to the Neighbourhood Enforcement Team.
- Should you witness someone letting their dog foul, failing to clear it up and you know the person responsible for the dog; please report it to the Neighbourhood Enforcement Team, providing full details.

Animal Welfare Act 2006

The Animal Welfare Act 2006 is enforced by the council and the police. The RSPCA investigates complaints on cruelty or neglect. As an animal owner you are legally required to provide your animal with the 5 freedoms:

- Freedom from hunger and thirst - by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour
- Freedom from discomfort - provide an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area
- Freedom from pain, injury or disease - by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment
- Freedom to express normal behaviour - provide sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal’s own kind
- Freedom from fear and distress - provide conditions and care which avoid mental suffering.

Contacts

Slough Borough Council
Neighbourhood Enforcement Team 01753 875255
RSPCA’s Hillingdon, Slough, Windsor and Kingston branch 01895 833417
Thames Valley Police 101
RSPCA 0300 1234 999

Useful websites

- www.slough.gov.uk
- www.rspca.org.uk
- www.rspcahillingdonclinic.org.uk
- www.thamesvalley.police.uk
- www.defra.gov.uk
Stray dogs

Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 allowing your dog to stray in a public place or onto private land where permission has not been granted is an offence and you could face prosecution or a fine. Slough Borough Council provides a confined stray dog collection service 24 hours a day. Current contact details for the stray dog collection service can be found on the council’s website.

Any dog that is seized by the council as a stray is scanned for a micro-chip and checked for tattoos and tags which may identify the owner.

If an owner cannot be found or contacted the dog is transported to kennels and held for up to seven days. If the dog is not claimed during this time it will be assessed for re-homing. The owner, whether they claim back their dog or not must pay a statutory fine of £25, a collection fee, kennelling fees and any other associated costs. Further details of these costs can be found on the council’s website.

The best way to ensure that your dog is returned to you should it be collected by the council is to have it micro-chipped and ensure the details are kept up to date.

Why are stray dogs a problem?

Stray dogs can:
- cause road traffic accidents
- attack people
- attack other animals
- foul public and private areas
- damage property

How to stop your dog from straying?

- Make sure your garden is securely fenced and if necessary supervise your dog when in the garden
- Ensure that your dog has a collar with your details engraved on it, or a tag
- Micro-chip your dog
- Ensure that your details are up to date on the micro-chip
- Do not allow your dog to run loose on its own
- Report dogs that regularly stray to the Neighbourhood Enforcement Team.

Out and about with your dog

Taking your dog out into a public place without a collar that includes the name and address of the owner is an offence. The council can seize the dog as a stray and prosecute the owner resulting in a fine of up to £5000.

You must also be able to put your dog on a lead should you be asked to do so by a Community Warden or any other Neighbourhood Enforcement Team officer.

Dangerous dogs

Under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, which is enforced by the police, it is an offence to own, keep, breed, sell, give away or abandon any of the types of dogs listed below:
- American Pit Bull Terrier
- Japanese Tosa
- Fila Braziliero
- Dogo Argentino

It is important to note that in the UK dangerous dogs are classified by ‘type’, not by breed label. This means that whether a dog is considered dangerous and therefore prohibited will depend on a judgment about its physical characteristics and whether they match the description of a prohibited ‘type’. It is also an offence under this act for a dog to be ‘dangerously out of control’ in a public place such as a street or park. If you see a dog in a public place that looks likely to cause serious injury, report it to the police on 101.

Dog fouling

Dog mess left in public places is unpleasant to see, smell or tread in. It is particularly offensive on school routes, children’s play areas and sports fields.

The faeces from a dog can carry diseases such as Toxocariasis which can cause severe health problems such as blindness. Those particularly susceptible are the young and elderly.

If you fail to clear up after your dog in a public place you may be issued with a fixed penalty notice. Failure to comply with the notice may result in a fine on summary conviction in a magistrates court of up to £1000.