

Tipperary County Council wants to promote responsible dog ownership around the County. To this end we are willing through our Veterinary Officers, Dog Wardens and other Environmental Staff to visit schools, residents groups and any areas in the county where we can educate children and the general public by showing them the value of pets and proper interaction with them.

Your Dogs Health

It is essential that your dog is fed the correct diet, exercised regularly and has a suitable place to sleep. Puppies need to be vaccinated at eight and twelve weeks and a booster given annually. All dogs need to be vaccinated and have a health check-up with your local vet once a year. Worm your dog twice yearly but monthly for puppies and young dogs. Exercise is vital for a happy, contented dog. The amount of exercise depends on the size and breed of the dog.

Spaying & Neutering

All dogs which are not intended for breeding should be sterilised to prevent them having unwanted puppies. Many of these unwanted puppies end up in Local Authority dog pounds for rehoming. Spaying your female dog will prevent her coming into season and creating a nuisance and offers health benefits. Neutered male dogs are less likely to wander or display aggression. Veterinary Ireland promotes a "spay week" each year where local Veterinary Practitioners reduce the cost of neutering for that week.

Dog Licence

In order to obtain a dog licence, you must be over 16 years of age. It is an offence for you to keep a dog unless you have a licence. All dogs over four months must have a licence. Your dog must be accompanied by and be under your effective control or the control of another responsible person when in a public area. You can be

requested by a dog warden to produce evidence of your dog licence and failure to do so can result in an on-the-spot fine. The cost of a dog licence is €20.00. A life time licence is €140.00.

Identification

It is important that your pet is traceable if it goes missing. A microchip is the most reliable method of identification and can be inserted for a small fee by your local veterinary surgeon. It will be obligatory to microchip all dogs and puppies from September 2015 and all dogs from March 2016. Your dog must have a collar and name tags at all time. Failure to have identification on a dog can result in an on-the-spot fine issued by a Dog Warden.

Tipperary County Council employs two Dog Wardens. Dog Wardens have the power to request the name and address of a person suspected of an offence under the Control of Dog Act 1986.

Dogs which require special care

The following breeds of dog and cross breeds of same require extra control when in public places:-

- American pit bull terrier
- Bull Mastiff
- Doberman Pincher
- English Bull Terrier
- German Shepherd (Alsatian)
- Japanese Akita
- Japanese Tosa
- Rhodesian Ridgeback
- Rottweiler
- Staffordshire Bull Terrier
- Bandog

These dogs must be securely muzzled, must be kept on a chain or leash less than 1 metre long. And be led by

someone over 16 years who is capable of controlling the dog.

A cleaner neighbourhood - Dog Fouling

Dog fouling is a health hazard and spoils walkways and amenities for everybody. Pooper scoopers are available free of charge from **Tipperary Recycling Centres and Civic Offices in Nenagh and Clonmel, Tipperary/Cashel Municipal District, Clonmel Municipal District, Carrick on Suir Municipal District and Templemore/Thurles Municipal District.** Section 22 of the Litter Pollution Act, 1997 makes it an offence for the person in charge of a dog not to clean up if the dog fouls in a public place. A person guilty of an offence under this section is liable to an on-the-spot **fine of €150 or a maximum of €3,000 on court conviction.** Some day your child might be affected by someone else's failure to 'do the right thing'. Young children are particularly at risk to this hazard.

If your dog defaecates in a public place you must 'scoop the poop' and dispose of it in a suitable sanitary manner.

The importance of training

Being a responsible dog owner means more than making sure your dog is well fed and looked after. Dogs must be trained and part of this is toilet training. It is best to train when the dog is still a puppy. But older dogs can learn too. A puppy goes to the toilet very frequently so begin by putting him outside in a suitable spot if you think he seems to want to go. Keep repeating this and praise him when he finishes. If you can't get outside, get your puppy to use a litter tray. Get your dog used to a routine. Build up regular times when you take him out – in the morning after a meal and at night. Use a command word such as 'clean' or 'busy' just as he is about to go to the toilet. Always use the same tone of voice and praise him when he has finished. Training him means he will go where you want him to – and not in unsuitable places. If you have a garden, then why not screen off a small area where you can train your dog to

go. You can then bury the mess in the garden or pick it up by using a poop scoop. The poop scoop will hold the mess and you can dispose of it with your normal household waste. If you don't have a garden and your dog is not large, try training your dog to use a litter tray. Dispose of the contents of the litter tray by wrapping it in plastic bags or newspapers and dispose of it with your normal household waste. If your dog needs to go while you are out 'scoop the poop'. If you use a poop scoop, you will not need to touch the mess directly.

What can I do about barking dogs?

Excessive barking which causes a nuisance to any person is an offence. If you are bothered by persistent barking you could first contact the owner and make them aware of the nuisance caused by their dog. If this is unsuccessful a complaint should be made to the District Court on the appropriate form available from Tipperary County Council.

Attacks on livestock There have been a number of attacks on livestock in recent years. Dog owners are liable for damages where animals are killed or injured and should ensure their dog is kept under control at all times. Keep your dog secure at night time as it may be a killer around farm animals. Your dog may be an "angel" but in the company of other dogs, this can change.

Stray dog – A 'stray dog' is a dog which is in a public place and not accompanied by the owner or other responsible persons. Stray dogs may be seized by the Dog Warden and kept for 5 days before they can be rehomed or disposed off.

When you find a stray dog you can (a) return the dog to its owner if you can get the owners details easily and safely from the dog's collar or (b) If you are unable to find the owner you can contact your local Dog Warden

If you have lost your pet please contact

Environment Section, Tipperary County Council at 0761-06-5000.

Your local Veterinary Practice

TSPCA



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

