

Where can I walk my dog?

Dogs can't always go everywhere we can.

Under the same PSPO, restrictions are in place where dogs must be kept on leads or can't go in the district. Information on where these

restrictions apply can be found on our website at www.dover.gov.uk/PSPO.

In summary, the PSPO:

Excludes dogs from:

- enclosed children's play areas
- some beaches at certain times of year
- specific sporting or recreational facilities
- certain nature reserves

Requires dogs to be kept on leads:

- within certain churchyards and cemeteries
- on specific seafront promenades and seafront gardens
- at some memorial sites

Dog owners have the responsibility to ensure they comply with these requirements. Being unaware of restrictions or not seeing the Council's signage would not be considered a reasonable excuse.

Any breach of the order could result in a fixed penalty notice or being taken to court and receiving a fine on conviction of up to £1,000 and a criminal record.

Noise

Dogs bark for various reasons. Barking and whining can disturb neighbours, often when the dog owner is out of the house.

The odd bark shouldn't be a problem, however frequent barking or howling could be considered a noise nuisance under section 79 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

If complaints are made about dog barking to our Environmental Protection Team, we will investigate. If there is a real problem with your dog barking or whining and you do

not take steps to resolve it, then formal action may be possible.

More information and advice on how to prevent noise nuisance can be found on our dog barking webpage at www.dover.gov.uk/dogbarking.



KEEP YOUR DOG SAFE

happy and healthy

DOG RELATED LAWS

See inside for information on microchipping, collars and tags



You can report stray dogs at:

www.dover.gov.uk/dogwarden

Telephoning: **01304 872289**

Emailing: envcrime@dover.gov.uk

ENVIRONMENTAL
CRIME TEAM



ENVIRONMENTAL
CRIME TEAM



Animal Welfare Act

We all want to look after our pets and make sure they are happy and healthy. **The Animal Welfare Act puts this into law to help ensure all owners meet their pet's five welfare needs for:**

- **Health** – Protection from pain, injury, suffering and disease and promptly treated if they become ill or injured.
- **Behaviour** – the ability to behave naturally for their species e.g. Play, run, dig, jump etc.
- **Companionship** – to be housed with, or apart from, other animals as appropriate for the species. i.e. company of their own kind for sociable species like rabbits or guinea pigs, or to be housed alone for solitary species like hamsters.
- **Diet** – a suitable diet. This can include feeding appropriately for the pet's life stage and feeding a suitable amount to prevent obesity or malnourishment, as well as access to fresh clean water.
- **Environment** – a suitable environment. This should include the right type of home with a comfortable place to rest and hide as well as space to exercise and explore.



If you suspect animal cruelty

It is an offence under the Animal Welfare Act to cause an animal unnecessary suffering. This includes both cruelty, such as deliberately hurting an animal, and neglect, where someone doesn't take action to prevent suffering.

The Act also lays out specific laws about mutilations and cruel operations (prohibited surgeries such as ear cropping), tail docking,

dog fighting and poisoning. Anyone who lets their dog suffer can be prosecuted and face a criminal conviction, potentially facing prison time fines or a ban from keeping animals.

If you suspect cases of animal neglect or cruelty, please report to the RSPCA (England and Wales), by either:

- **Visiting www.rspca.org.uk**
- **Telephoning 0300 1234 999**

Collar and ID Tag

Under the Control of Dogs Order 1992, **all dogs must wear a collar and ID tag when out in public**, which must detail their owner's name and address, including postcode. **This applies whether your dog is on a lead or not.**



- **Microchip** – Under the Microchipping of Cats and Dogs (England) Regulations 2023, it is also a legal requirement across the UK to have your dog microchipped by the time they are eight weeks old, and to keep your contact details up to date on one of the government standard registers. You should ask for proof a microchip has been implanted before buying a dog.

If your dog was to be picked up as a stray or scanned by the dog

warden for another reason, you could be served a notice requiring you to chip your dog within 21 days to avoid a fine.

- **Check their chip** – It's important to check that your dog is microchipped when you bring them home and that **you keep the details on their microchip up to date throughout their lives.** Your vet can check their chip and provide help and advice.

Cleaning up after your dog

The Dover District Council Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) makes it an offence if you do not clean up after your dog straight away.

The Order, made under the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014, applies to all land in our district where the public has access, whether or not warning signs are displayed.

Any breach of the order could result in a fixed penalty notice or being taken to court and receiving a fine on conviction of up to £1,000 and a criminal record. Please note that not noticing your dog going to the toilet or not having a poo bag are not considered a reasonable excuse.

As well as keeping our parks, streets and open spaces tidy, it means you won't be responsible for passing on some nasty parasites that can harm people and other animals.

