

How to stop your dog from straying



Stray dogs are a nuisance.

They can cause accidents and damage people's property, for which the owner of the dog may be liable.

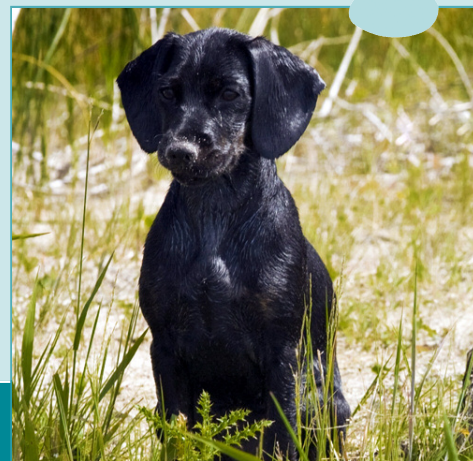
Not only that, but stray dogs can harm themselves, other animals and people. They may also foul public areas and pavements.

Owners have a responsibility to keep their dogs under control and prevent them from straying.

Pembrokeshire County Council collects around 350 stray dogs every year, and the owners of these will find themselves with a large bill to recover their dog, or may even have their dog re-homed.

This leaflet gives some ideas on stopping your dog from straying, and explains some of the laws that dog owners need to be aware of.

more likely to run off and stray if bored!



Some Simple Steps to Stop Your Dog Straying

A dog can go missing for all sorts of reasons – a moment's inattention, a missing panel in the garden fence, a door or gate left ajar, fireworks or other sudden loud noises. An un-neutered male dog in particular is more likely to stray from an owner's property if there is an un-spayed female dog in 'season' in the area. All these and more can cause dogs to find themselves lost.

To help stop your dog from straying

- Make sure all fences around your home are secure, and that gates have a closing device
- Train your dog not to run off when you are out walking, and don't let it run off where you can't see the dog.
- Give your dog plenty of exercise and provide toys etc. – they are more likely to run off and stray if bored!
- Do not let your dog out to roam – always make sure there is someone with the dog that can keep it under control.
- Neuter your dog – it's better for its health, and helps to stop it wanting to escape

The Control of Dogs Order 1992

This law requires any dog in a public place to wear a collar with the name and address of the owner engraved or written on it, or engraved on a tag. Your telephone number is optional (but advisable).

We would always recommend that your dog is micro-chipped, as this can help the dog warden locate the owner of the dog. This doesn't replace the need for a collar and tag– but it is useful if your dog manages to lose their collar!

Our Dog Control Service offers low – cost micro-chipping, and watch out for local Neutering and Micro-chipping events run by the Dogs Trust, in conjunction with Pembrokeshire County Council.

Some more laws dog owners need to be aware of

The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005

Under this Act (and the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996), Local Authorities can fine you if you allow your dog to foul, or if the dog enters any land where it is banned or required to be on a lead. If your dog strays, you may find yourself being fined for allowing your dog to foul etc. as well as paying to reclaim the dog.

The Road Traffic Act 1988

It is an offence to have a dog on a designated road without it being held on a lead.

Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953

Your dog must not worry (chase or attack) livestock (cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, horses and poultry) on agricultural land, so keep your dog on a lead around livestock. If your dog worries livestock, the farmer has the right to stop your dog (even by shooting your dog in certain circumstances).

Dogs Act 1871

It is a civil offence if a dog is dangerous (to people or animals) and not kept under proper control (generally regarded as not on a lead nor muzzled). This law can apply wherever the incident happened, and action can be brought by the police, a local authority, or members of the public. The dog can be subject to a control or a destruction order and you may have to pay costs.

Dangerous Dogs Act 1991

The police are responsible for investigating reports of attacks by dogs on people. The police have the power (at their discretion) to take formal action against the dog owner.

Getting further information

If you are concerned about how to stop your pet from straying, your vet is a good place to start – especially if your dog hasn't been neutered or micro-chipped yet.

For further information and advice, you could try:

The Dogs Trust (www.dogstrust.org.uk)

The RSPCA (www.rspca.org.uk)

The Kennel Club (www.the Kennelclub.org.uk)

If you would like to speak to your local dog warden, you can contact us as follows

Tel: 01437 764551

Email: Dogcontrol@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

