

Animal Warden Service
Public Protection Partnership (PPP)

On behalf of the Animal Warden Service, we would like to thank you for your support in reuniting lost dogs with their owners, and for providing care and support for dogs that have been neglected or abandoned, particularly outside of office hours and at weekends.

You will hopefully appreciate that the law states that stray dogs are the responsibility of the Local Authority, and that Veterinary surgeries have no statutory obligation to take a stray dog in or to scan the microchip of dogs which are brought to them by members of the public, but we are very grateful for their help in obtaining any information they can which will assist us in identifying found dogs and their owners.

We are, however, concerned that in some instances dogs are being returned to owners without a report being made to the Animal Warden Service, which prevents us from taking the opportunity to educate owners as to their legal responsibilities. There is also a potential risk that a dog may be returned to the wrong owner. Also we are aware that there are dogs who have been found straying on multiple occasions and returned to owners, which have not been drawn to our attention.

In order that we can work together more effectively, we have prepared an Aide-memoire. It lists some information that we would find helpful, as well as reminding you of your legal responsibilities when a stray dog is brought to you. If this could be made available to any and all relevant persons who may have dealings with a stray dog.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone again for any assistance that is given us.

Animal Warden Team

Stray dog aide-memoire

If a lost dog is brought to your attention, please obtain the following information:-

- Date, time and location of where found (Ideally including a postcode)
- Name and contact details of finder
- Brief description of dog - breed, distinguishing marks etc
- Details recorded on microchip, if any

Please then report this information to the Animal Warden Service, **as soon as possible** on **01635 519171** (during office hours 8:30am to 5pm Monday to Thursday, or Friday 8:30am to 4.30pm)

Outside of these times, including Bank Holidays, please call Out of hours **0844 4996063** (West Berks/Wokingham), or **01344 352000** (Bracknell-Forest)

Please note:

The law states that only the initial finder can keep a found dog, once the appointed dog warden has completed certain prescribed legal requirements with them, and not before.

It is illegal to pass a found dog on to a third party for them to keep or look after it. (This does not include a finder passing a found dog into the temporary care of veterinary practice.)

If you require further information or assistance, please contact Animal Warden on 01635 519171 during office hours or by email to ehadvice@westberks.gov.uk

