



## What you should know about dogs



**In Epsom & Ewell**

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# Scoop the Poop!

## Clear up after your dog

How can you, as a responsible dog owner, do your bit to help reduce dog mess on the Borough's streets and parks

### Training your dog

Dogs need to be toilet trained as puppies, but older dogs can learn too.



To train your dog, put him outside in a suitable spot if you think he wants to go. Praise him when he finishes and repeat as often as necessary.

If you do not have a garden, teach him to use a litter tray. It is helpful to build up a regular routine for your dog so take him out at the same times each day if you can.

Use a command word when he is about to go to the toilet.

This means that in time he will go where and when you want him to and not in unsuitable places.

### Dogs in public places

Dogs are welcome in many of Epsom and Ewell's parks and open spaces – details are posted on the entrances. If you are in a public space and your dog needs to go to the toilet, you must **"scoop the poop"**. The Council has provided waste bins in those areas where dogs are allowed but you may want to carry your own scoop and plastic bag for the mess.

Using a scoop prevents you having to touch the mess directly, but always wash your hands as soon as possible after scooping as a precautionary measure. Dog mess can cause infection which, although rare, can be dangerous. Reduce this risk by worming your dog regularly, and always clearing up after your dog.

## Poop scoop and the law

It is in everyone's interest that dog fouling is not left lying where people might tread or sit in it.

The Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996, requires you to generally clear up after your dog has defecated. There is a maximum fine of **£1,000** for a person who allows their dog to foul, and does not **straightaway clear up** the fouling.

If you know the address of a dog owner who is committing an offence, the Council will write to them to remind them of their responsibilities as a dog owner. Your details remain confidential, unless the problem continues and then you would be asked to be a witness, if the case goes to court.



## Barking

Constant barking can be very disturbing and annoying. Often dogs bark when the owner is out so the owner does not know until someone complains. In law, barking can be a noise nuisance and owners can be prosecuted. Your dog may bark because he is lonely, bored, frustrated, attention seeking, defending his territory or if he is unwell.

Here are some simple tips to try to alleviate the problem:

- Training can help enormously. Start by leaving your dog alone for 10 minutes before returning. Over the next few days gradually increase the length of time that he is left on his own. The dog will soon realise that you always come back and will be less likely to bark during the absence.
- It may help to put him somewhere where he cannot see outside, as he may bark because he wants to get out.
- Some dogs settle as long as they can hear a human voice, so leave a radio on at low volume.
- Try not to leave him for long periods. If you have to, ask someone to pop in and perhaps take him for a walk or let him out into the garden. If you have to leave him alone for a while feed and exercise him before you go out, leave him lots of fresh water, make sure he has somewhere comfortable to sleep, leave him his toys, check the room temperature is good and that there is adequate ventilation and leave a light on if you will not be back until after dark.
- If all else fails, take him to the Vet who can check his health and also, perhaps, refer him to an animal behaviourist.

## Stray dogs

The Council is obliged to seize and detain stray dogs found in public places (or on private land without the owner's consent).

We are then required to recover the cost incurred in picking up and looking after the dog, together with the fee prescribed by the Government. These costs are recovered from the owner before the dog is returned to its owner. These costs can be in excess of £100.

If your dog does not have an identification tag, please ensure that you put one on him as soon as possible. **It is an offence for a dog to be loose on the highway without such a tag.**

Please do not let your dog roam – it can be costly and dangerous!