

Dog Control Orders allow additional control over dogs in public places and aim to deal more effectively with dog fouling, nuisance dogs and the protection of children and others using our public spaces and facilities.

## Dogs on leads

Dogs are required to be walked on a lead in certain public parks, tourist and leisure facilities, community centres, cemeteries and burial grounds.

## Dog exclusion

Under this Order, a person in charge of a dog will be guilty of an offence if they take their dog into or permit it to enter, any play parks, football and artificial pitches, multi-use games areas, bowling greens or tennis courts.

The introduction of new controls allows authorised officers to require a dog to be put on a lead if the officer believes that such a restraint is reasonably necessary to prevent a nuisance or behaviour by the dog likely to cause annoyance.

## Our aim

To achieve a balance between the interest of dog owners and the general public, taking into account the need for people, in particular children, to have access to dog free areas and areas where dogs are kept under strict control.



### More information:

visit our website at  
[www.fermanaghomagh.com](http://www.fermanaghomagh.com)

Email [info@fermanaghomagh.com](mailto:info@fermanaghomagh.com)

Call 0300 303 1777

Visit

**Omagh Connect Centre**  
16 High Street, Co. Tyrone BT78 7BS

**Enniskillen Connect Centre**  
County Buildings, 15 East Bridge Street,  
Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh BT74 7BW

# Responsible Dog ownership

## A guide for dog owners



Fermanagh & Omagh  
District Council

Comhairle Ceantair  
Fhear Manach agus na hÓmaí

If you own a dog, you are responsible for how it behaves at home and in the public. By law, you must look after it properly. If you don't you could be fined or banned from keeping animals. As a dog owner, you need to know about dog laws and your responsibilities to protect yourself and others around you.

## Dog licensing

The Dogs (NI) Order 1983 requires all dog owners to possess a valid dog licence and renew it on an annual basis. It is also a legal requirement to microchip your dog, a dog must be microchipped before a dog licence can be obtained.

*It is an offence to keep a dog without having a valid dog licence and a fixed penalty for £80 can be issued.*

## Did you know....

Your licence fee is reduced if your dog is sterilised.

## Stray dogs

A stray dog is any dog which is outside its owner or keeper's property and is unaccompanied. Stray dogs may cause problems such as road traffic accidents, attacks on people and other animals, and they pollute our footpaths and open spaces with dog fouling.

The law requires the owner or keeper of any dog to make sure it is kept secure at

all times, anyone who allows their dog to stray is guilty of an offence and may be fined £80.

Be a responsible dog owner by ensuring your dog is under supervision and control at all times.

## Dog fouling

It is the responsibility of dog owners to clean up after their dog. If you do not pick up, you can be fined £80. Your dog, your job!

## Dog attacks

It is an offence to allow any dog to attack or cause injury to a person, livestock or any other animal. The definition includes your dog behaving in such a manner as to cause a person apprehension of being attacked.

If there is sufficient evidence and a public interest, some cases can proceed to court for prosecution. In other circumstances the Council can impose control conditions such as the dog must be kept under control (leashed) when in a public place etc.

## Dog Control Orders

The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (NI) 2011 introduced a number of new powers for District Councils to deal with environmental issues.

