

Dog Control Order

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers (FAQ's)

What is dog control?

Dog control is a way that councils can introduce restrictions as to where dogs are allowed, when dogs have to be on a lead and where it is an offence to allow a dog to foul without cleaning it up.

What is a Dog Control Order?

A Dog Control Order is an optional measure for controlling potential dog related issues as described above.

Where do Dog Control Orders come from?

The Clean Neighbourhood & Environment Act 2005 gave Councils new powers to deal with the control of dogs by way of fixed penalty notices. The Act replaced the previous system of Byelaws for the control of dogs and also the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996, which has been repealed (cancelled). The Act seeks to give communities the power to control problems caused by dogs and carry out enforcement in a quick and efficient manner.

What can Dog Control Orders cover?

- Exclusion of dogs from certain areas
- A requirement for a dog to be on a lead
- Power to request that a dog is put on a lead
- Power to make failure to clear up after a dog has fouled an offence

What Dog Control Orders are the council considering?

- Dog Exclusion Order for sensitive areas such as children's playgrounds, sports courts and marked pitches
- Dogs On Lead order for roads, footpaths, car parks, communal areas on estates, church yards and some public parks or parts of parks / gardens
- Dogs On Lead Direction Order for the whole of the borough which would give officers the power to request that dogs are placed on a lead.
- Fouling of Land by Dogs Order to cover the whole borough

Why are we are we doing this?

During the past two years we have worked within an award winning partnership which include the RSPCA, Battersea Dogs and Cats Home, the Police, Wood Green Animal Shelter, Friends of Parks and other stakeholder groups to promote responsible dog ownership. As a result of this work residents, police and friends of parks groups have raised with us their concerns over dogs that appear to be out of control and how intimidating this can be.

How can residents get involved or make their views known?

We will be drafting formal consultation documents soon. Now we are carrying out informal consultation and testing how people feel about the proposed controls. We have not drafted any dog control orders as yet as we want to hear from residents first.

Do my views matter?

Yes very much so, your ideas and suggestions are very welcome and will be considered in order to develop our proposals. Your views will determine whether we proceed with Dog Control Orders and the form that they will take.

Who is being consulted?

- Residents
- Police
- Animal welfare groups
- Friends of Parks groups and other stakeholders.

What will happen next?

The informal consultation which will end in April 2012. We will evaluate the information from this process and develop a set of proposals. In May 2012 we plan to carry out a formal consultation based on these proposals.

The Government is going to issue further guidance on dangerous dogs and we will need to consider this if relevant.

How it would work?

Once the powers are in place enforcement will be carried out jointly by the police with council and Homes for Haringey staff.

Anyone who contravenes an Order is liable to be issued a fixed penalty notice. We are not an authority which aims to issue large numbers of fixed penalty notices, our preferred approach is to encourage responsible behaviour and to only issue fixed penalty notices where there are clear breaches of the Orders.

Aren't there adequate powers at the moment?

The Dog Fouling of Land Act has limitations. Therefore, it is ill-equipped to tackle some of the issues our residents are concerned about.