

## When is a dog a stray?

A stray dog is one, which is out alone and not under the control of its owner or guardian. Stray dogs are a serious problem -

- They are a danger to traffic
- They can frighten, attack or intimidate children, adults and other animals
- They foul public areas

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 gives the council the authority to seize any stray dog, even if it is wearing a collar or identification tag, and charge for its return. The dog is held for seven days. Any dogs not claimed after this period are rehomed or in very rare circumstances humanely destroyed.

## Your dog and the Law

The Control of Dogs Order 1992 requires all dogs to wear a collar with a tag or disc, which has its owner's name and address, inscribed on it. Failure to do so could result in prosecution under the Act. Dog owners are also encouraged to have their dogs permanently identified (Microchipped).

## Why dogs stray

Dogs stray generally for the following reasons:

- Non secure premises
- Boredom
- A bitch in season - attracting male dogs or encouraging bitches to find a mate
- Latch Key dogs

## If your dog must be kept out of doors, or cannot be stopped from roaming

Ensure that your fencing is secure, and of a height that will prevent your dog from jumping over. No dog should spend its life chained up, they can get very lonely, bored and unhappy. Dogs left alone for a long time are likely to bark and howl constantly because they are frustrated. It is always better not to tether a dog, but to set up a kennel with a strong wire-mesh enclosure. Alternatively, a running chain is a good method (details available from the RSPCA or the Council's Dog Wardens). Dog neutering is simple, painless and safe. Amorous dogs can be a real handful and no one enjoys having to confine their pet. Neutering removes the frustration of hormone activity, and therefore, prevents the problem.

## Facts

### National Figures

April 2000 to 31 March 2001

- There were 113500 stray dogs in this period - 14800 (13%) of which were destroyed.
- There was 1 stray dog for every 510 people.

### East Anglia Figures

There were 1.3 strays per 1000 population.

- 3% were humanely destroyed
- 42% were reclaimed by their owners within 7 days

- 17% were returned directly to their owner without kennelling
- 17% were rehomed by the local authority
- 21% were passed onto welfare organisations

For all dog related problems  
contact your Dog Wardens

**Braintree District Council**  
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# Stray Dogs



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