

LEAD

LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS ON DOGS



**HEDDLU
GWENT
POLICE**

Let's work together
to be responsible
dog owners.

TAKING A LEAD ON DOGS

Local Environmental Awareness on Dogs – LEAD® – is an initiative founded in the London Borough of Sutton in South West London to encourage responsible dog ownership of all breeds of dog.

It seeks to provide advice to the public on dog issues, improve dog safety and dog welfare. It also deals with anti-social and inconsiderate behaviour by individuals with dogs in a way that protects and reassures the public. It is aimed at all dog owners in your area, whether in private or rented accommodation.

This work is being promoted through engagement with dog owners during regular patrols and through day-to-day contact with owners of dogs that come to our attention.

The initiative is supported by all Community Safety Partners including Gwent Police; the Local Authority; Community Landlords, Health Board; Fire Service and Third Sector.

WORKING WITH DOG OWNERS

We are:

- recording all incidents involving negative dog behaviour including dog attacks on people and animals; dog welfare and dog fouling. This is important to create a documented history should enforcement be necessary.
- encouraging owners (if a social housing resident) to register their dog with their landlord.

WHEN IT'S TIME FOR POLICE INTERVENTION

As well as encouraging responsible dog ownership and giving advice, there are times when it is necessary for police to intervene, initiate control measures and ultimately prosecute offenders.

We will intervene when:

- dogs are used by owners to commit crime.
- dogs are linked with anti-social behaviour.
- prohibited types / breeds come to notice, utilising the Dangerous Dogs Act.



CONTROL MEASURES, SANCTIONS AND LEGISLATION

We will act to enforce the law and protect the public whenever necessary and where legislation permits. Measures include:

FIRST WARNING LETTER

This will include key details of the incident - details that will be shared with relevant partners. Letters will be sent with supporting literature.

FINAL WARNING LETTER

Should the dog's behaviour come to notice again, a second letter will be hand delivered by the local Neighbourhood Policing Team. At this stage the dog owner will also be given the opportunity to accept the offer of an educational course to improve their understanding of responsible dog ownership. If the dog owner is a contract holder or tenant with a community landlord, the information surrounding the anti-social behaviour will be shared with all relevant partners. This could result in action being taken against them. Continued anti social behaviour, could result in permission to have a dog being withdrawn or even the property being repossessed.

ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOUR CONTRACT

If further reports are received, within 6 months of the final warning letter the dog owner will automatically be referred to the Strike 3 Intervention Group, this group is represented by all key partner agencies who deal with ongoing anti-social behaviour cases. The core group includes but is not exclusive to: Police, Community Landlords, Community

Safety, Education, Youth Offending Service, Youth Service and Social Services. Within this meeting your case and the incidents relating to your conduct will be discussed. If it is deemed by the Strike 3 Intervention Groups Chair that your conduct does constitute ongoing anti-social behaviour you will be offered an Acceptable Behaviour Contract.

Acceptable Behaviour Contract's are a voluntary agreement between The Community Safety Partnership and the individual. If this is declined, the Neighbourhood Police Team will monitor the dog's behaviour for 6 months.

ENFORCEMENT

Following further reports within 6 months the dog owner will be referred to the 'Strike 4 Group'. The group is attended by all who attend the Strike 3 intervention Group meeting as well as Legal Services.

Within this meeting your case will be reviewed and if deemed appropriate it will be referred for enforcement action. Such action could include Contingent Destruction Order on conviction under the Dangerous Dogs Act or Control Order, Dogs Act 1871 or a variety of Enforcement measures that are included in the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014:

- Community Protection Warning / Notice (CPW/N)
- Anti-Social Behaviour Injunction (ASBI)
- Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO)
- Closure order

Please note that the above measures can be sought at any time during the process

WHY WAS LEAD STARTED?

LEAD was started after a woman was attacked and killed by a dog in Sutton in December 2010. Police in Sutton set about working with key partner organisations to launch the LEAD initiative as a structured and coordinated approach to encourage responsible dog ownership.

We have recognised that this initiative is needed in the area and for LEAD to work effectively we needed to adjust the initiative to incorporate how we work in Wales and include a Community Safety Partnership focus.

It is important to us that we can incorporate a commitment from all agencies to make sure it's a priority for us all.

LEAD ACCOMPLISHMENTS

LEAD has been recognised nationally as being best practice for promoting responsible ownership of all breeds of dog whilst tackling anti-social and inconsiderate behaviour by individuals with dogs in a way that protects and reassures the public.

LEAD has been endorsed by the Kennel Club and supported by major charities including the RSPCA and Battersea Dogs Home. LEAD was used as a case study by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) for their new "Dealing with

Irresponsible Dog Ownership" Practitioners Manual which accompanies the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Police Act (October 2014).

WHO TO CONTACT

- Call your local authority for noisy dogs, dog fouling, illegal breeding or stray dogs.
- Call Gwent Police on 101, or message us on Facebook or Twitter, for illegal breeds, organised dog fights, dangerous dogs or anti-social behaviour with dogs.
- In an emergency, always dial 999.
- Call your landlord for nuisance dogs or anti-social behaviour with dogs if you are in rented accommodation, including social registered landlords
- Call the RSPCA on 0300 1234 999 for concerns for the health and welfare of dogs.

HELP US MAKE GWENT SAFER

By working together and sharing information, knowledge and experiences we want to make our communities safer for everyone to enjoy.

For more information scan here:

