

Responsible Dog Ownership

Be the owner that your dog deserves.



SDCC

Comhairle Contae South Dublin
Átha Cliath Theas County Council

Is a Dog right for me?

Owning a dog is a long-term commitment. Ask yourself these key questions before making a decision.

1. Is my home right for a dog?

Consider whether your living conditions are suitable for a dog, and whether you require permission to keep a dog at your place of residence.

2. Is my lifestyle suited to caring for a dog?

Consider how a dog would fit into your lifestyle. Would a change in your life circumstances impact on your ability to care for a dog?

3. Do I have the financial resources to cover expenses?

Responsibly caring for a dog requires owners to budget for expenses including but not limited to:

- dog food
- bedding and accessories
- a dog licence
- microchipping
- veterinary care, vaccination, neutering

Responsible Sourcing, Re-home a Dog

Consider adopting from a local authority dog shelter or animal welfare charity.

Details of the SDCC Dog Shelter can be found at <https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/environment/animal-welfare/dogs/>

If sourcing your dog from a Dog Breeding Establishment (DBE), first check the premises is registered with the relevant local authority. A registered DBE will have a registration certificate on display in the premises.

Never agree to collect a dog without seeing the dog in its home environment and do not rush into making a decision.

Dog Licences

Every dog has to have a licence. **Annual Licences, renewable every year, cost €20 while Lifetime Licences cost €140.**

They can be purchased at any Post Offices or online at www.licences.ie. If you do not have a dog licence the Dog Warden can issue an **on-the-spot fine of €150**. Failure to pay this fine can result in prosecution with a **maximum fine of €2,500** and/or up to 3 months imprisonment if convicted.

Identification and Microchipping

All dogs must be identifiable by a badge or plate attached to their collar with the name and contact details of the owner. If you do not have identification for your dog, you are liable to receive an **on-the-spot fine of €200**. Failure to pay this fine can result in prosecution with a **maximum fine of €2,500** and/or up to 3 months imprisonment if convicted.

It is a legal requirement for your dog to be microchipped, and dog owners must be in possession of a printed Microchipping Certificate. Microchipping may assist with the retrieval of your dog if it ever gets lost.

Keeping Your Dog Under Control

Dogs must be kept under control at all times. It is a legal requirement that dogs are accompanied and kept under 'effectual control' in public places.

It is recommended to keep your dog on a lead in public spaces and make sure your dog does not cause a nuisance to others. All dogs must be leashed in SDCC owned parks.

You will be held legally responsible if your dog injures another person or animal.

The following types of dogs **MUST** be muzzled and leashed at all times when out in public:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1. American Pit Bull Terrier | 8. Rhodesian Ridgeback |
| 2. Bull Mastiff | 9. Rottweiler |
| 3. Doberman Pinscher | 10. Staffordshire Bull Terrier |
| 4. English Bull Terrier | 11. Ban Dog (or Bandog) |
| 5. German Shepherd | 12. Any crossbreed of the above. |
| 6. Japanese Akita | |
| 7. Japanese Tosa | |

You are liable to an **on-the-spot fine of €300** for non-muzzling, non-leashing, or allowing these dogs to be led by a person not over the age of 16 years.

Failure to pay this fine can result in prosecution with **a maximum fine of €2,500** and / or up to 3 months imprisonment if convicted.

On 1 February 2025, it became illegal to own an XL Bully dog unless you have a Certificate of Exemption.

If you break the rules of the XL Bully ban, you could be:

- Fined up to **€2,500**
- Imprisoned for up to 3 months
- Both fined and imprisoned

Dog Fouling

Dog faeces is a health hazard and may cause Salmonella or an infection called Toxocariasis which can pass to humans through contact with contaminated faeces. Allowing dogs to foul in public places is not acceptable.

Under the Litter Pollution Act 1997, dog owners are legally obliged to clean up after their dogs if they foul in public places.

ALWAYS BAG IT AND BIN IT.

If you do not clean up after your pet, you are liable to receive an **on-the-spot fine of €150**. Failure to pay this fine can result in prosecution with a **maximum fine of €4000** if convicted.

Contact the **Litter Warden** on **01 414 9000** to report dog owners who do not clean up after their pets.

Noise Pollution

Excessive dog barking that causes a nuisance is a legal offence. If you are bothered by persistent barking, talk to the owner in question. If this does not work, under the Control of Dogs Act 1986, you can lodge an official complaint with your local District Court on the appropriate form.

Stray Dogs

Stray dogs may be seized by the Council's Dog Wardens. They will be brought to the Dog Shelter where they will be kept for five days in order for their owners to reclaim them. Stray dogs are photographed and pictures are posted on the Council's website and on the shelter Facebook Page to help owners find their lost pet. Contact **Dog Wardens** for re-strays **01 414 9213** or **info@sdblincoco.ie**.

Suspected Dog Cruelty

Suspected cases of dog cruelty or animal welfare concerns should be reported to the **DSPCA: cruelty@dspca.ie** or contact number **01 499 4700**.

For details on the current **SDCC Dog Shelter**, and all **SDCC Control of Dogs** matters, please visit <https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/environment/animal-welfare/dogs/> or scan the QR Code.



My dog MUST

- ☐ Be microchipped with an up-to-date registration on an approved database.
- ☐ Have a certificate of registration from the microchip database.
- ☐ Have a valid dog licence issued by An Post.
- ☐ Wear a collar or harness with my contact details attached.
- ☐ Be under my effectual control both in urban and rural public places.
- ☐ Have access to clean water and appropriate food suitable to my dog's needs.
- ☐ Be kept in a manner that safeguards my dog's health and welfare.
- ☐ Be kept in a manner that does not threaten the health or welfare of another animal.
- ☐ Be kept in a manner that safeguards the health and welfare of people.