



Update 17.04.2020 Responsible Dog Ownership

Are you a responsible dog-owner? Do you clean up after your dog?
Please keep our streets and open areas clean from dog-poo, especially now during the current Coronavirus pandemic.

If you are walking your dog, please remember:

- avoid large gatherings
- maintain social distancing
- please take litter and dog-foul home.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council seeks to promote and encourage responsible dog ownership. Responsible dog ownership means more than simply owning a dog. Dog ownership requires significant commitment of the owner's time and energy as well as appreciation that dogs need to be exercised, trained, provided with mental stimulation and socialised.

Responsible dog ownership also means that your dog must be under control at all times and that you should clean-up after it.

Controlling your dog in public

If you are the person in charge of a dog, then you are responsible for controlling the dog's behaviour in public. If you or the dog owner need help with dog training, you should contact a dog trainer.

When a dog is 'under control'

A dog is considered 'under control' if it is on a lead held by someone able to control the dog. For example, a large dog would not be under control if its lead was held by a child who would be unable to restrain the dog if it strained against the lead. Dogs off leads are not under control and this is an offence under NI

Chief Executive, Marie Ward

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legislation. Dogs off leads can also lead to attacks, and may also lead to a prosecution.

It isn't necessary for dogs to be leashed at all times. However, dogs must be kept on a lead in designated pedestrian zones and on land where livestock is present. Newry, Mourne and Down District Council have bye-laws to show the areas where leashing is required, such as in public parks.

Check list for responsible dog owners:

Legal requirements

- A dog is licensed and microchipped
- A dog wears a collar and has a name/ID tag
- Owner cleans-up any dog mess deposited by their dog

Other requirements

- A dog has regular meals and is exercised regularly as part of a daily routine
- Owner carries and uses 'dog-waste bags' and makes sure these are placed into an appropriate bin
- A dog is vaccinated and free of fleas, ticks and worms
- A dog understands the 5 basic commands: **SIT, STAY, DOWN, COME, HEEL**
- A dog is neutered
- A dog has a dog bed that is clean and dry.

To report any problem with Dog Fouling in your area, please contact a member of our Enforcement Team on 0330 137 4047.

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