

Mr David Beardmore
 Newcastle –Under- Lyme Borough Council
 Civic Offices
 Merial Street
 Newcastle-Under-Lyme
 Staffordshire
 ST5 4AG

Dear Mr Beardmore,

NEWCASTLE UNDER-LYME RESOURCES DIRECTORATE	
DATE RECEIVED	
23 JAN 2013	
REPLY NEEDED YES/NO	DATE OF REPLY
DEALT WITH BY	FILE REF:

Dogs Trust has been made aware that Newcastle –Under- Lyme Borough Council is planning to create a series of Dog Control Orders. As the UK's largest dog welfare charity, we would like to make some comments for consideration.

1. Re; Dog Exclusion Order:

- Dogs Trust accepts that there are some areas where it is desirable that dogs should be excluded, such as children's play areas, however we would recommend that exclusion areas are kept to a minimum and that, for enforcement reasons, they are restricted to enclosed areas. We would consider it more difficult to enforce an exclusion order in areas that lack clear boundaries. We are especially concerned at the proposal to exclude 'open space owned by parish and town councils as this appears vague, potentially extensive and no justification is given why this is necessary.
- Dogs Trust would highlight the need to provide plenty of signage to direct owners to alternative areas near by in which to exercise dogs.

2. Re; Fouling of Land by Dogs Order:

- Dogs Trust consider 'scooping the poop' to be an integral element of responsible dog ownership and would fully support a well-implemented order on fouling. We urge the Council to enforce any such order rigorously and to provide ample signage and disposal points for responsible owners to use.

3) Re; Dogs on Leads Order:

- Dogs Trust accept that there are some areas where it is desirable that dogs should be kept on a lead, however, clearly such legislation can only be effective if properly enforced.
- Dogs Trust would urge the Council to consider the Animal Welfare Act 2006 section 9 requirements (the 'duty of care') that include the dog's need to exhibit normal behaviour patterns – this includes running off lead in appropriate areas. Dog Control Orders should not restrict the ability of dog keepers to comply with the requirements of this Act.
- The Council should ensure that there is an adequate number, and a variety of, well sign-posted areas locally for owners to exercise their dog off-lead.
- See our comments above on 'open space owned by parish and town councils'.

4) Re; Dogs on Lead by Direction Order:

- Dogs Trust enthusiastically support Dogs on Leads by Direction orders (for dogs to be put on and kept on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised official).
- We consider that this order is by far the most useful, other than the fouling order, because it allows enforcement officers to target the owners of dogs that are allowing them to cause a nuisance without restricting the responsible owner and their dog. As none of the other orders, less fouling, are likely to be effective without proper enforcement we would be content if the others were dropped in favour of this order.

Whilst we believe that the vast majority of dog owners are responsible, Dogs Trust would be happy to talk to the Council about ways we could work together to encourage responsible behaviour amongst the small minority of owners who may cause problems.

We work with Councils across the UK in a variety of ways to help them to promote Responsible Dog Ownership. I enclose further information on our Dogs in the Community Campaign. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss this matter.



We would also be very grateful if you could inform us of the outcome of the consultation process and of subsequent decisions made in relation to the Dog Control Orders.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kirsty Scott".

Kirsty Scott
Campaigns and Community Officer



'Dogs in the Community'

Dogs Trust is currently working with over 300 local authorities in the UK, each with different local issues. In a time of shrinking council budgets, Dogs Trust is helping to fund local campaigns that address dog-related problems.

Through our Dogs in the Community campaign we are offering every Council and Housing Association in the UK:

- ✿ **Free microchips*** to help set up and promote a free chipping programme in Social Housing. Plus **1 free scanner, 2 free implanters, 1 sharps bin, poop scoop bags and enough microchip books and forms to log your microchipped dogs**
- ✿ **Free services of dog law specialist, Trevor Cooper**, to help with any particular problems with dogs within Social Housing, and consider ways in which tenancy agreements and pet policies can be used to promote responsible dog ownership
- ✿ **Free microchipping training** for Council/Housing association staff
- ✿ **Free advice on how to set up Responsible Dog Ownership events** and free microchipping events in your area, and **materials to help you promote** these to tenants
- ✿ **Free Responsible Dog Ownership leaflets** – colourful, easy to understand and informative leaflets that are ideal for any target audience**
- ✿ **Dogs In The Community training for Councils, Housing Associations, Police, Park Rangers etc.** (at a nominal fee per person). This include modules on dogs and the law, dog behaviour, handling difficult dogs, health and safety, approaching dogs and lots more. These courses can be tailor to suit the audience, according to their needs.

*Up to 400 free chips can be sent out initially. More can be supplied as needed. **Free up to 50 leaflets per Council with the option to purchase more at a supplemented price. Dogs Trust reserves the right to amend this offer at any time.

If you would like to take up any of this offer, or have a particular dog related concern, do contact us directly as we can very much tailor our support to your needs:

Contact:

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Claire Jacobs

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