

### Contact Details:

**ISPCA (Irish Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals)**

Tel: 043 3325035    [www.ispca.ie](http://www.ispca.ie)

### Dogs Trust

Tel: 01 8791000    [www.dogstrust.ie](http://www.dogstrust.ie)

### Last Hope Animal Charity

Tel: 085 7172024    Email: [info@lasthope.ie](mailto:info@lasthope.ie)

### Contact for Dog Pound

Tel: 087 0973911    [www.meath.ie](http://www.meath.ie)

### Dog Warden Service, Environment Section

Meath County Council, Buvinda House,

Dublin Road, Navan, Co. Meath.

Tel: 046 9097200    Email: [environment@meathcoco.ie](mailto:environment@meathcoco.ie)

Web: [www.meath.ie](http://www.meath.ie)



### Schedule of Fines:

Offence	Fines since 1st Dec 2023	If you don't pay the fine
No dog licence	On-the-spot fine: €150 paid to your local authority	You can be prosecuted in the District Court with a maximum fine of €2,500 or 3 months imprisonment (or both)
No identification on dog	On-the-spot fine: €200 paid to your local authority	You can be prosecuted in the District Court with a maximum fine of €2,500 or 3 months imprisonment (or both)
Stray dog	On-the-spot fine: €150 paid to your local authority	The pound will hold a dog for at least 5 days. Dogs not re-claimed from the dog pound within 5 days may be put down, rehomed or transferred to an animal welfare group.
Dog not kept under control	On-the-spot fine of €300 paid to your local authority	You can be prosecuted in the District Court with a maximum fine of €2,500 or 3 months imprisonment (or both)
Breach of bye-laws (setting out times when dog may be unleashed in public)	Fines up to €2,500 on conviction.	N/A
Dog fouling public place	Owners or dog handlers who do not dispose of dog faeces in a responsible way may receive an on the spot fine of €150	You can be prosecuted in the District Court with a maximum fine of €4,000, and €600 per day for continuing offences on summary conviction.

# RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP



## A GUIDE ON HOW TO BE A BETTER DOG OWNER



comhairle chontae na mí  
*meath county council*



## Dog Fouling

Under Section 22 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997, where faeces has been deposited by a dog the person in charge of the dog shall immediately remove the faeces and shall ensure that it is properly disposed of in a suitable sanitary manner.

Dog faeces is the most offensive type of litter and poses a significant health hazard. Dog faeces can carry infections including Toxocarasis which can pass to humans through contact with contaminated faeces. Human Toxocarasis is a potentially serious illness which can result in eye disorders which may lead to blindness. It is caused by roundworm in a dog's intestine which can be prevented when dogs are wormed regularly. Allowing dogs to foul in public places such as public roads, footpaths, parks and playgrounds is not acceptable. Any bag can be used when cleaning up after your dog. Please place the filled bags in any public bin or bring home to place in your household waste bin. If you do not clean up after your dog, 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 €4,000 if convicted.

## 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. Excessive barking/noise pollution does not come under the remit of the Dog Warden Service.

## Dog Licences

Under Section 2 of the Control of Dogs Act 1986, it is unlawful for any person to keep a dog unless they hold a dog licence for that dog. Licences cost €20.00 for a Single Licence and €140.00 for a Lifetime Licence and these licences can be purchased online from An Post at the following website – [www.licences.ie](http://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. Single Licences must be renewed annually.

## Identification of Dogs

Under Section 6 of the Control of Dogs Regulations 1998 all dogs must be identifiable by a badge or plate attached to their collar with the name and contact details of the owner.

## Microchipping

On the 1st April 2016 it became a legal requirement for all dogs to be microchipped once they are 12 weeks old. The microchip is about the size of a grain of rice, and is painlessly inserted under the skin by a vet or suitably trained person. Furthermore, it is a requirement to register a microchipped dog on one of the approved registration databases as per above regulations and obtain your certificate from the provider. There are currently 4 authorised databases: Animark, Fido, The Irish Coursing Club and the Irish Kennel Club. If you do not have an identification for your dog, you are liable to receive an on the spot fine of €200.



## Keeping Your Dog Under Control

Under Section 9 of the Control of Dogs Act 1986 the owner or any other person in charge of a dog shall not permit the dog to be in any place other than the premises of the owner, the premises of such other person in charge of the dog or the premises of any other person with the consent of that person, unless such owner or such person in charge of the dog accompanies it and keeps it under effectual control. Dogs left to roam loose can be a danger to people, other animals and themselves. You are liable to an on the spot fine of €300 and/or up to €2,500 fine and/or 3 months in prison on prosecution.

Under Section 5 of the Control of Dogs Regulations 1998 all dogs specified must be muzzled at all times and be led by a sufficiently strong chain or leash, not exceeding two metres in length by a person over the age of sixteen years who is capable of controlling the said dog within a public place.

The following type of dogs must be muzzled at all time when out in public:

American Pit Bull Terrier, Japanese Tosa, Japanese Akita, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Rhodesian Ridgeback, Bull Mastiff, Doberman Pinscher, Rottweiler, German Shepherd, English Bull Terrier or any crossbreed of the above.

You are liable to an on the spot fine of €300 for non muzzling, non leashing, or allowing these dogs to be lead 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.

## How to Make A Control of Dogs Complaint

To make a Control of Dogs related complaint you can contact Meath County Council through its Dog Warden Service on 046 9097200 or email your complaint to [environment@meathcoco.ie](mailto:environment@meathcoco.ie)

## Vet Services

Spaying and neuter are the surgical procedures used to stop dogs from having puppies. These procedures are performed by your local vet. Vets will also vaccinate dogs against a range of diseases.

## Rehome a Dog

Dogs which are suitable for rehoming are available from the pound, fee is €80.

## Stray Dogs

Stray dogs may be seized by the Councils Dog Warden. They will be brought to the Councils Dog Pound where they will be kept for 5 days in order for the owner to claim them. Stray dogs are photographed and their photos is displayed on the Pounds website to help owners to find their stray pet. The reclaim fee is €100 (€120 if you don't have a licence)