



St Cuthbert (Out) Parish Council

c/o Monitoring Officer Mendip District Council

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PARISH GUIDE

Lost and Stray Dogs

The Law

The Control of Dogs Order 1992

Failure to comply with the law can result in fines up to £5,000.

A dog must:

- Be fitted with a microchip by the time it is 8 weeks old. Microchips must be fitted by a trained professional, and details entered on an approved national database. A local veterinary centre can perform the procedure.
- When in a public place, wear a collar and tag with the owner's name and address (and preferably a contact number).

Keeping a stray dog

You must return a stray dog to its owner if you know who the owner is. If you do not know who the owner is, you should contact Mendip District Council. If the Council cannot find the owner, you may be allowed to keep the dog.

Mendip District Council DO NOT have a Dog Warden. All dog-distress related services are sub-contracted by the Council to SBK Environmental. **In the first instance, you should contact Environmental Health at Mendip District Council** who are solely responsible for providing a found dog service.

Tel: 0300 303 8588 (this number is only available during office hours)

Alternatively, SBK direct numbers are:

Tel: 08444 828 327 during office hours

Tel: 08444 828 346 out-of-hours

SBK are very helpful and will provide good advice and arrange for a stray dog to be collected. Dogs rounded up in the Mendip area go to kennels near Weston-super-Mare where they stay for a week or two to see if their owners turn up. If not, they are handed into the care of **Blue Cross** for re-housing. Stray dogs are not put down unless there is a compelling humanitarian reason.

Lost dogs

Follow the advice above to report a lost dog.

So long as your dog has a collar and tag and/or is microchipped, Mendip District Council or SBK may be able to identify the owner of a dog that comes into their care.

Local veterinary practices can also offer advice and if asked will scan a stray dog for its microchip ID. Local practices co-operate in identifying owners of stray dogs where they have prior knowledge/medical records for a dog.

For further advice, visit the **Blue Cross** Website.

Website: <https://www.bluecross.org.uk/>